**NEWSLETTER** 

**NOVEMBER 2019** 



# Platinum membership gives more to 'Rettes

SRDesignsTexas created this necklace exclusively for Platinum Rangerettes Forever members. PHOTO/ LISA WALKER

KILGORE COLLEGE RANGERETTES



Rangerettes Forever launched a new membership level at Homecoming 2019. The new Platinum level offers an additional opportunity to support the Rangerettes. The \$500 tier includes lifetime membership in the organization,

plus exclusive K-Girl jewelry, a member decal, member number, a VIP event and priority access for Revels and Christmas-show tickets.

Classic Lifetime membership is available for \$200. This level

Please see more **Platinum** on page 5.

#### CHRISTMAS KICK-OFF

Order your tickets now for the Rangerettes' holiday show

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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

# New president starts term with thanks

I am thrilled to lead the Rangerettes
Forever organization for this celebratory year.
I know that with about 3,000 Forevers, my
story is a fraction of the big, beautiful story that
makes up the world of Rangerettes Forever.
Nevertheless, I thought I'd take a quick moment

to give you insight into my Rangerette story and pay tribute to the impactful people who led me to Kilgore.

Lisa Owens Miller, 34th Line, was my high school drill-team director, my role model in dance and life and — without a doubt my fashion hero. She was everything I wanted to be,



LISA MCCUTCHEON WALKER 45TH LINE

and when I learned she had been a Rangerette, I set my sites on Kilgore.

And what a life-changing two years it was. From 1984–86, I traveled to the Shrine Bowl for the first Rangerette appearance and to Carnival in Nice, France, for that first silly-stringed parade appearance. I also met Bob Hope, Rock Hudson, Sting and Prince Charles!

When I went to Kilgore, I brought my high school best friend, and when I left, I had over 80 Rangerettes sisters.

Rangerettes led to Mike Miller, and my life changed again. Mike's legacy is the stuff of Oscar-winning movies, and he demonstrated many impactful ideals that have guided and stayed with me in life, including the importance of giving back.

When I was asked to lead the Rangerettes Forever organization, I realized that I had the perfect vehicle to honor Mike's legacy and give back to this group that did so much for me, and for Lisa Owens Miller before me.

So I am humbly opening up this newsletter

But the BIGGEST thank you goes to the leadership of the Rangerette organization.

to tell all the Rangerettes Forever: THANK YOU. Thank you for your support of the Forever organization. Thank you for funding so many tribute scholarships. Thank you for recently increasing your commitment in the Forever organization by becoming Classic or Platinum members. And THANK YOU for joining me on the field or in the stands for the 80th-anniversary Homecoming performance.

But the BIGGEST thank you goes to the leadership of the Rangerette organization. Dana Blair and Shelley Wayne, known collectively as Blair/Wayne, have taken an organization known for perfection and precision and found ways each and every year to make it better. I'm in awe of the talent and the choreography that is beautifully crafted and mesmerizing to watch. PRIDE is just not a big enough word to relay how it feels to see these beautiful girls dance. This is our legacy, and it is in GREAT HANDS.

I don't believe that we can ever thank Blair/ Wayne (or Gussie Nell Davis or Deana Bolton Covin before them) enough for what they do daily and where they have brought the Rangerette organization. And I know that I cannot repay them for letting me dance at the stadium flanked by both my little sisters, my big sister in the stands, my favorite Rangerette travel group, almost the entire current board, my current and four of my former adoptees, my roommate and 11 other members of my 45th Line and eight DECADES of Rangerette sisters who were crying right alongside me as we walked off the field to the Kilgore fight song. THAT is a day and a memory and a feeling that I

Please see more President on page 6.

# RANGERETTES FOREVER PUBLISHES THIS NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF RANGERETTES.

Please send any physical address changes or email address changes to the Kilgore College Alumni Association at alumni@kilgore.edu. Please include your full name and maiden name, if applicable, associated with your college record to ensure a proper match of the information. We do not distribute or sell our alumni data, including emails, to any outside organizations.

Send news tips to RetteForeverNews@gmail.com Newsletter designer/editor: Kathryn Morton ('01)

### RANGERETTES FOREVER OFFICERS:

Lisa McCutcheon Walker ('86) president

Laura Barnett Davis ('77) president-elect

Patty Verhetsel Harris

('76) secretary

Audrey Hold Lambert

('88) treasurer

Velma McCollum Yount
('76) past president

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Lisa Fortenberry ('85)
Mandy Hamilton-O'Neill ('96)
Kacie Stanfield Hawkins ('14)
Nancy Hollabaugh Greer ('78)
Marina Haake Jefferis ('77)
Tena Royal ('83)
Jennifer Jordy Woods ('84)
Regina Hodge Wyatt ('76)

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# Officers, directors add talents to Forever board

Rangerettes Forever officers and board members newly elected in August are:

#### LAURA BARNETT DAVIS

(presidentelect) was a Rangerette lieutenant and Swingster. Davis directed the South Garland High



DAVIS

School Southern Belles and was later an assistant director and choreographer of the Kilgore College Rangerettes. Davis instructed and directed dance/ drill team camps and competitions through NCA Superstar and owned Starmakers Dance and Performance Camps Inc. Davis is in her 16th year as event producer and director of the Contest of Champions Nationals at Walt Disney World. She owns Spirit of America Productions, which provides performance opportunities for dancers and cheerleaders in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Davis is a proud member of the Texas Dance **Educators Association Hall of** Fame.

# PATTY VERHETSEL HARRIS (secretary) is from

South Texas and now lives in the DFW metroplex. As a lifetime educator, Harris has channeled her tenacity,



**HARRIS** 

learned from Gussie Nell Davis and Deana Bolton Covin, into



The Rangerettes Forever honored outgoing long-term board members Beverly Rochin Swatzell, second from right; Pill Harmon Malm, right; and Mazie Mathews Jamison, not pictured. Presenting the plaques are President Lisa Walker, left, and outgoing President Velma McCollum Yount. PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA WALKER

helping thousands of students succeed. Harris earned Texas superintendent and mid-management administrator certifications and has been published in anthologies. She owns A+ Academy Driving School, with locations in Arlington and Grand Prairie. She is mother of four children and grandmother of three.

#### LISA FORTENBERRY

(board) is former vice-president

and CFO of Mike Miller and Associates – Special Events. Fortenberry taught for NCA Super-



**FORTENBERRY** 

star (1984–93), and co-directs the Rangerette summer camp for elementary and middleschool students. Her tireless efforts as a volunteer and contributor are seen in her involvement as a foster parent and at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. She is the Rangerettes' team-builder and motivational speaker.

#### **KACIE STANFIELD**

HAWKINS (board) was right middle lieutenant of the 73rd Line. She is from Pearland and now resides in



**HAWKIN** 

McKinney with her husband and two dogs. She has shared her love of the drill-team world by teaching summer camps for Encore Creative Productions, serving as the assistant director for the Trinity Christian Trojanettes, and providing leadership instruction for high school dancers. Hawkins is a speech language pathologist for Sherman ISD.

MARINA HAAKE JEF-FERIS (board) was one of 11 36th Line freshman Rangerettes chosen to travel with the sophomores to Hong Kong, Korea, and Hawaii in 1975. After raising her children, Jefferis checked a big item off her bucket list: She worked for the Houston Astros, having been a huge fan since 1980. Jefferis has

chaperoned Rangerette high school mini camp for nine years, the past two as head chaperone.



**JEFFER** 

**JENNIFER** 

JORDY WOODS (board) is a principal engineer for Dell. She is responsible for multimillion-dollar data-center migrations around the world.

She has more than 20 years of project- and programmanagement experience in the information-technology sector.



WOODS

She is an avid volunteer for local schools, recently serving as senior activities chair at Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas and fundraising chair at Dallas International School. Originally from The Woodlands, she now resides in Dallas.

The six join officers Lisa McCutcheon Walker, president; Audrey Hold Lambert, treasurer and immediate-past director; Velma McCollum Yount, past president; Nancy Hollabaugh Greer, director and immediate-past treasurer; Regina Hodge Wyatt, director and immediate-past secretary; and directors Mandy Hamilton-O'Neill and Tena Royal. ★



## Add pride to your ride

Purchase a Kilgore College Rangerettes license plate or extend the term of an existing one at



MyPlates.com. To order your plates, **click** here or call 888-769-7528.

# IS YOUR FOREVER-ADOPTEE CONNECTION EXTRA SPECIAL?

All Forever-adoptee relationships are special, but have you experienced one that lasted well beyond the adoptee's time in uniform? Perhaps you now work together, vacation together, are godmother to her child? We'd love to hear about what made your adoption relationship extra special. Email RetteForeverNews@gmail.com and include contact information for you and the person you adopted.





FRESHMAN LEADERS: Elisabeth Eckles of Whitehouse, left, is sergeant, and Kali Rochford of Midlothian is treasurer of the 80th Line.

#### KICK IN FOR RANGERETTES WHILE YOU SHOP

When you use **AMAZON SMILE**, a percentage of your total goes toward Rangerette scholarships. Pick Kilgore College Foundation as your charity at smile.amazon.com.

USE CODE RANGERETTES to save 10 percent off your order AND donate 10 percent to the Kilgore College Rangerettes when you purchase clothing and accessories from ElleLain.com. Owner Lauren Williams Oliver is daughter of Sue Davis Williams, 34th Rangerette Line, and Terry Williams, a manager for the 33rd and 34th Lines.

Visitors can check out fashions in person at 635 W. Campbell Road in Richardson, but the code is valid online only. ★

**★** RANGERETTES FOREVER

Platinum continued from page 1

includes lifetime membership, a Rangerettes Forever plaque and early access to Revels tickets.

"The Classic lifetime benefits have not changed," Rangerettes Forever President Lisa Walker said. "We just created another level of giving at the request of the leadership of the Rangerettes."

Any Forever in good standing can **click here** to purchase a Forever membership online.

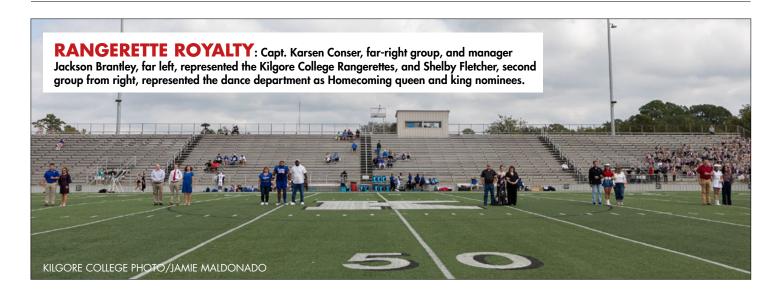
Memberships at any level make great gifts for the holidays or Revels. Questions about membership? Click here to contact the Rangerettes Forever. ★

#### **DONATE ANY DAY**

It's always a good time to give to the Kilgore Rangerettes Forever Foundation. **Click here** to kick in.



he 34th Line engraved a granite bench to commemorate its 45th-anniversary reunion. Commemorative benches in Kilgore College's Mike Miller Plaza offer an opportunity to honor classes, officer lines and other Forevers. Bench customization requires a single or collective donation of \$2,500 for basic engraving or \$2,850 to list all names in a class. About a third of the benches have been purchased, so don't wait to start yours. For details, contact 903-988-7523 or akinsey@kilgore.edu. \*



## **CHAPTER HAPPENINGS**









TOP ROW, LEFT: East Texas Forevers hosted a pizza night during the Rangerettes' work week before Show-offs. TOP ROW, RIGHT: In October, ETF gathered at The Back Porch in Kilgore to prepare surprises for current Rangerettes. SECOND ROW, RIGHT: In November, the ETF treated East Texas active Rangerettes to dinner at The Back Porch in Kilgore. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTHA HALE DEAN SECOND ROW, LEFT: DFW Forevers provided red, white and blue popcorn to the Rangerettes to celebrate their first football game in August. With the patriotic treats are Joanne Rambo Hankins, Sixth Line, left, who works at the Gussie Nell Davis Rangerette Residence, and Betty Cobb Longacre, residence manager. PHOTO COURTESY OF KIT ROYAL BOLTE

## SHARE NEWS FROM YOUR RANGERETTES CHAPTER

Send an email to RetteForever News@gmail.com. If possible, include a high-resolution, color photo and caption information.

President continued from page 2

will never forget and no one can take away from any of us. IT WAS PERFECT.

As we move into the holidays and praise God for the gift of salvation through his son, please know that I and the current board of directors are thankful for ALL you are

doing to make a difference in the lives of the next generation.

You, me, ALL OF US, we are the lucky ones. Thank you for the honor of representing you.

Lisa McCutcheon Walker, 45th Line, Rangerettes Forever president 2019–20





# Show-offs provides tradition, announcements as 80th year begins

he Kilgore College Rangerettes' first performance was an evening of tradition and a preview of the celebratory year ahead. Freshmen and

sophomores separately performed this year's field routines for the first time, new members walked the stage, and new officers received their batons during Show-offs Aug. 16 in Dodson Auditorium.

The evening began with election of new Rangerettes Forever officers and board members (see "Officers, directors ...," page 3) and a behind-the-scenes video from the Rangerettes' summer trip to Italy, Pre-training and Sign Drop.

After their introductions, freshmen performed the kick and their sophomore song. Sophomores performed this season's field kick and jazz.

Sophomore Liz White of New Braunfels was named social-media manager.

After a months-long tryout process, officer candidates from the 79th Line performed the strut in combinations. Outgoing

## SHOW-OFFS SCENES

Click here to view additional Kilgore College photos from the event and here from Frozen in Time Photography. Click here to watch the 80th-anniversary promotional video.



officers passed their batons to Right End Lt. Kendal DeVillier of Nederland, Right Middle Lt. Kelee Norris of Longview, Left Middle Lt. Emma Strange of Flower Mound, Left End Lt. Kayla Parker of Pearland and Capt. Karsen Conser of Tyler. Read more about the officers on page 20.

Managers this year are Jax Brantley, Jacob Lucas, Kyle Stallard, Kaleb Tarpley and Elijah Williams.  $\bigstar$ 



Homecoming 2019 brought hundreds of Kilaore College Rangerettes **Forever** to R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium for a halftime performance. **KILGORE** COLLEGE PHOTO/ IAMIE MALDONADO

# HOME AGAIN

### Performance brings hundreds back to R.E. St. John

#### **FLASHBACKS**

Click here to view additional Kilgore College photos; here, here and here from Frozen in Time Photography; and here from M Hampton Photography. Click here to watch the 80th anniversary performance. Click here to watch news coverage of the event. Click here to visit the Forever Facebook group for more.

ome completed their Rangerette tenures in the past few years. Others are grandmothers or great-grandmothers. Kilgore College Rangerettes Forever spanning the team's eight decades of innovation, dedication and perfection came home Oct. 19 to perform once more at R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium.

With patriotic streamers in hand, they danced to "If My Friends Could See Me Now" with their mothers, daughters, sisters, classmates — and friends old and new.

Coast2Coast Productions, led by Angela Falcone Aulds, 68th Line, and Megan De-Hoyos, 66th Line, orchestrated the Homecoming event that doubled as a fundraiser for the Rangerettes. Forevers assembled Saturday morning for an on-field practice. Some donned outfits from their Rangerette days or crafted new shirts just for the occasion. A pin-sign made an appearance. Channeling their inner freshmen, dancers polished the choreography learned via video and, in many cases, practiced in regional rehearsals.

A lunch at The Back Porch

offered more opportunities for catching up and raising money for Rangerette scholarships.

The Crim mansion, Gussie Nell Davis Rangerette Residence and Rangerette Showcase and Museum offered additional backdrops for photos and conversation. In a tradition new to this year, Forevers joined active Rangerettes in the Deana Bolton-Covin Rangerette Gymnasium for a pregame Fight Song.

About 300 Forevers strode onto the field, and more joined them in the final eight-counts for a K-Girl ending position.

Read on for a handful of memories made on this historic day. ★



**Hundreds of Rangerettes** Forever practice their streamer performance to "If My Friends Could See Me Now" hours before Homecoming on Oct. 19 at R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium. Groups organized practice throughout Texas prior to Homecoming weekend. **RANGERETTE PHOTO** 



# Putting it together



PHOTO/MARSHA EPPLEY OF FROZEN IN TIME PHOTOGRAPHY Megan DeHoyos, left, gives instructions to Forevers during their morning practice. With her are Kelsey Little, 78th Line, and Madeline Doerr, 75th Line, who assisted with the anniversary event.

There's an essence about Rangerettes that I know we share but can rarely describe. I'd spoken with these women for about a year via email and phone. To finally be able to meet them face to face was incredible, BUT to see all decades come together the morning of rehearsal was indescribable. The essence of Rangerettes spanning 80 years was swirling around us. It was a complete joy and honor to help in the celebration of our legacy.

—MEGAN DEHOYOS, 66TH LINE AND CO-OWNER OF COAST2COAST PRODUCTIONS, WHICH ORCHESTRATED THE ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE

I think my fondest memory will be the practice ... honestly! It was so fascinating seeing so many Forevers from different decades come back and get in "fresh mode" as if they were transported back to their time as a Rangerette. Their professionalism in practice truly encapsulates the phrase "Once a Rangerette, always a Rangerette!"

-ANGELA FALCONE AULDS, 68TH LINE AND CO-OWNER OF COAST2COAST PRODUCTIONS, WHICH ORCHESTRATED THE ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE

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Well, I am absolutely blown away by the events of Homecoming 2019! There was definitely a lump in my throat all day long ... beginning with watching the 300 former Rangerettes as they began their practice on the field. You were already Rangerette perfect in the first 8 counts! You had practiced and prepared and came to show the world that you you've still got it! Wow! So proud to be associated with you ladies! I wish I could have visited with all of you, but it was obvious that you had the best time visiting with each other. Miss Davis and Mrs. Covin were beaming from above, and I KNOW they had a say in our gorgeous weather! Congratulations!

-**DANA BROWN BLAIR**, 42ND LINE,
AND DIRECTOR OF THE KILGORE COLLEGE RANGERETTES



# Mothers, daughters keep each other in line

I've always enjoyed dancing and performing with my mom. It's something we still occasionally get to do, but there was something extra special about performing on the field at R.E. St. John with her. It really was hilarious watching her jump right back into that lieutenant mindset. I felt like a "line babe" that should be saying "Yes ma'am, thank you, Ms. Patterson." We truly had an amazing time with each other and with all of the other fabulous women. It's obvious we will all forever be Rangerettes at heart!

-LAURA PATTERSON SMITH, 61ST LINE

Performing at the 80th anniversary of the Rangerettes for Homecoming with my daughter, Laura Patterson Smith, standing beside me in the kick line was an amazing experience. She kept laughing at me because I was trying to make sure that the lines were all straight. I guess you can take the girl out of the Rangerettes but you can't take the Rangerette out of the girl. We had so much fun seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It truly was the experience of a lifetime. When we hit that final K-Girl pose and the crowd went crazy — well, there's nothing like the thrill of it! I truly felt like Gussie Nell Davis and Deana Bolton Covin were looking down on all of us and smiling!

-NICKI TRIBBEY PATTERSON, 37TH LINE



The 80th performance created a special opportunity for us to perform beside each other as mother and daughter for the first time on the Ranger football field! It was a field we both have very fond memories of, just a few years apart (35th Line versus 69th Line)! Hearing the fight song, wearing the red lipstick, curly hair and dancing with our heads held high was nothing short of spectacular and a memory we will always cherish!

-VELMA MCCOLLUM YOUNT, 35TH LINE

# Hopefuls witness history

Dancing on the field again was a thrill. A 3-inch height and 23-year age difference didn't stop us from performing right next to each other! Sharing this experience with a future 95th Line Hopeful was absolutely priceless!

#### -MICHELLE BROOKS FOLDETTA,

42ND LINE

From left: Heather Wiggins Hays, 65th Line; her daughter, Harper Hays, 95th Line Hopeful; and her mother, Michelle Brooks Foldetta, 42nd Line PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE BROOKS FOLDETTA



\*



What a wonderful weekend! Sharing the field with my mom was extra special! My mom encouraged me to try out in 1985, and what a blessing it was and still is to share these special experiences together that only a Rangerette can truly grasp. Mothers and daughters have a special bond, and sharing Rangerette traditions and experiences with my mom adds another ribbon to our bond. During the 80th reunion, I danced behind an 82-year-old Rangerette Forever! Inspiring! Two words come to mind for Rangerettes, no matter the age: strength and gracefulness — in word, heart and action!

-MIKA CONNER DAVIS.

46TH LINE

# Reunited and grateful

The day of events was a great time for all of us to hug, laugh and express our love for one another and the terrific experiences we shared as Rangerettes.

-KIM CHAPMAN ODEN, 36TH LINE

Classmates, from left: Kim Chapman Oden, Brenda Jones Alexander, Debra Pullen Roth, Marina Haake Jefferis, Beverly Rochin Swatzell and Laura Barnett Davis.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINA HAAKE JEFFERIS



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Yes, it starts with dancing, but in the end, it is more about the people that make being a Kilgore College Rangerette so special. This weekend was just one more experience that brought decades of women together. It was my pleasure to dance next to the same women I danced next to 43 years ago. It was also my extreme pleasure to dance next to a woman who was a Rangerette 52 years ago. I loved her spirit and joy! It was such a special event!

-MARINA HAAKE JEFFERIS, 36TH LINE



Back row, from left: Jaclyn Allison Simmons and Elizabeth Eldridge Davis, 61st Line; Dana Calhoun Kracker and Tammy Wilbur Alexander, 60th Line; and Angela Brown Cade, 59th Line. Front row, from left: Erin Hargrove Boyer, 59th Line; Chloé Torres Woodford and Sarah Noel Moody, 60th Line, and Mandy Everitt Tutt, 59th Line. PHOTO COURTESY OF MANDY EVERITT TUTT

This weekend ... what can I even say? Blessed. Beyond. Measure. I found myself thanking God multiple times throughout the day for allowing me this tremendous opportunity. I thanked Him for my perseverance, my fight, my ability when I readied myself for Rangerette tryouts in 1998. I thanked Him for the day I saw my #79 on the sign drop on 8/19/98. Gosh, what a dream come true that was! I'm tearing up as I type this. To be on the field, again, living my dream, and sharing in that moment with 300 AMAZING other Forevers including two fellow 59th Line members, two of my 'Rette sisters, my sophs and my fresh, WAS A DREAM! My heart is full. My arms and legs are sore, my skin a little sunkissed. But man ... how blessed. I could literally do this every single day for the rest of my life.

-MANDY EVERITT TUTT, 59TH LINE

# Moms of 'Rettes relive best times

It's been such an honor and blessing to share this entire experience with my daughter. I know how hard the Rangerettes work, and I also know how rewarding the entire experience is.

-MATILDE RUBIO-PADILLA, 53RD LINE, MOTHER OF ALICIA PADILLA, 79TH LINE



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATILDE RUBIO-PADILLA



I was blessed twice getting the opportunity to perform for the 80th anniversary. I'm incredibly honored to have worn the Red, White and Blue 30 years ago and even more honored watching my daughter perform as a current Rangerette and member of the 80th Line. I loved seeing all the Forevers come back for such a memorable event.

-TAMI BUSH PREVETT, 49TH LINE, MOTHER OF SHYANNE PREVETT, 80TH LINE

My daughter, Bailey Stark, is a freshman Rangerette. For me, the only thing better than being a Rangerette is being a Rangerette mom. It's kind of like getting to relive the best two years of your life all over again, only through your daughter's eyes. Getting to perform on the same field during the same halftime was the ultimate blessing. When we hit the K-Girl at the end of our performance, I thought to myself: the only thing better than this would be to have Bailey next to me!

-ANNETTE BAILEY-STARK, 46TH LINE, MOTHER OF BAILEY STARK, 80TH LINE



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNETTE BAILEY-STARK

RANGERETTES FOREVER ★

# Siblings share special moment

I did not perform on the day of the event. I did pay as a performer, but decided to work the event and assist as needed. I believe strongly that Rangerettes helped mold me into the person I am today. I had the privilege of watching my sister be a Rangerette for two years, and knew I wanted to follow in her footsteps. Spending the weekend with so many Forevers that have a love for the organization was amazing. However, watching my sister have the time of her life as she reunited with her classmates and fellow Forevers, as they performed "just one more time" on R.E. St. John Memorial field was the icing on the cake.

-LISA FORTENBERRY, 44TH LINE



Lisa Fortenberry, 44th Line, left, and Laura Lyn Fortenberry Benoit, 41st Line. PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA LYN FORTENBERRY BENOIT

My sister's passions, time and talents have always remained faithful to the Rangerettes. Returning to the Kilgore field with my sister, Lisa, was a surreal experience. I'm so proud of her continued dedication to an exemplary organization that changed both of our lives forever. And I love that we have this special shared honor of being a member — forever! The experience was one I'll treasure forever! Thank you to each and every dedicated Forever that made all our hearts so full!

-LAURA LYN FORTENBERRY BENOIT, 41ST LINE



Tena (Pullen Simone) and I did not perform that day, but we were there. Other obligations kept us from being able to make the morning rehearsal, so we drove in for the game that morning. Tena was part of the 40th Line, and I'm part of the 36th. Although we did not perform that day, driving in that morning was a great road trip of reminiscing. Not only do Tena and I share the Rangerette bond, but Tena's daughter, Jacklyn Simone, was part of the 70th Line. To say Rangerettes is a part of our family is an understatement. Even my granddaughter's nanny is the mom of a current sophomore Rangerette, Kaitlin Reynolds.

-DEBRA PULLEN ROTH, 36TH LINE

**14** ★ RANGERETTES FOREVER

# Sisters cherish one more time

#### IN MEMORY OF AMANDA SIMPSON REILLY

OCT. 3, 1976-OCT. 21, 2019



When we think about our final days and memories with a loved one, we would hope it to be filled with joy, love and fulfillment. That is exactly what we experienced with our oldest sister, Amanda Simpson Reilly ('95-'97),

as we had the cherished opportunity to perform at the 80th Rangerette anniversary performance. We remember the "swoosh" of the streamers as we turned from front to face the back, popping our streamers into a high V. During practice, the sun shimmered off of the streamers, and cheers came from Forevers equally excited about the performance. Amanda commented on how surprised she was that she was more relaxed and not as nervous about

#### HONOR AMANDA

Donate to The Simpson Family Rangerette Scholarship by sending your check payable to Kilgore College Foundation and referencing the Simpson Family Rangerette Scholarship to: Kilgore College Foundation, 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, TX, 75662

the performance like she would've been as a freshman! She paved the way for us, and we are so blessed to have experienced Rangerettes both individually and as a family. We thank our parents, Rod and Brenda Simpson, for allowing us to follow our dreams and for their support in the organization. They created The Simpson Rangerette Scholarship, and since Amanda's passing, numerous people have generously donated to the scholarship in our sister's honor. We see God's beautiful timing in having the three of us together "just one more time!"

-CAITY SIMPSON RUTLEDGE, 62ND LINE, AND MOLLY SIMPSON WEBB, 65TH LINE

# Relatives revel in opportunity

Being a Rangerette was such an honor and a great experience for me. What a blessing when Leslie became a Rangerette 50 years later! Performing together on the 80th anniversary was such a thrill for us both.

-BEVERLY BRUNSON TALLENT, 24TH IINE

> Beverly Brunson Tallent, 24th Line, left, is grandmother of Leslie Rowe Finnegan, 74th Line. PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE ROWE FINNEGAN



I had a blast performing one more time on the field with some of my classmates, but it was even more special to share the field for the first time with a fellow Forever, my grandmother. The feeling of hitting the K-Girl in front of a cheering crowd next to her is a moment I will never forget!

-LESLIE ROWE FINNEGAN, 74TH LINE





After my time at Kilgore, I was for sure that my last moment performing on the field would be the last, but it wasn't, and I was thankful for the opportunity to have "that" feeling again. It was fun to be able to perform right next to my sisters, since we were spread across the kickline as 'Rettes. If the opportunity comes around again, we will definitely be there!

-HAYLEY HOFFMAN MITCHELL, 64TH LINE

Right: Jean Beaty Newell, second from left in the front row, was a Ranaerette before this K-Girl pose became a team trademark. She hits the position at Homecoming 2019 along with hundreds of Rangerettes Forever. PHOTO/MARSHA **EPPLEY OF** FROZEN IN TIME **PHOTOGRAPHY** 

> Below: Newell with her family at Homecoming. PHOTO COURTESY OF SU WOODLEY



# 'Thrilling and happy'

ean Beaty Newell, who hung up her uniform in 1949, represented the earliest Rangerette line to participate in the 80th-anniversary performance.

everybody."

JEAN BEATY

**NEWELL** 

1948-49

Her daughter, Su Woodley, alerted her about the Homecoming opportunity.

"She called me and said, 'I've set it up for you," Newell said. The day became a family event, with children, a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter traveling to watch Newell strike a K-Girl pose at the end of the routine.

This was not Newell's first time back on a football field since her time at Kilgore. The Kerrville resident recalled her Cotton Bowl performances as a Forever — and in uniform.

"We were the first Rangerettes to be invited to the Cotton Bowl," she said of the 1949 performance. After a well-heralded 1950 Sugar Bowl appearance, the Rangerettes returned to

"Being a
Rangerette
has been
a really
wonderful
thing for
the Cotton Bowl in 1951 and have performed
consecutively ever since.

Newell attributes her confidence to her time under founder Gussie Nell Davis' direction.

"Being a Rangerette has been a really wonderful thing for everybody," she said, "but it has given tremendous confidence in all of us that we didn't have when we went in there."

Newell, who turned 89 on Nov. 27, said she doesn't know if she'll perform in the future.

"I was just very happy at this age and stage to be there again," she said. "That was really thrilling and happy. I was sorry that some of the women in my line and before me didn't come, but everybody, we were just all very comfortable with each other like we just knew each other." \*

# Beautifully busy

From performances to good works, Rangerettes keep packed schedule





#### STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

Sophomore Rangerettes helped open **THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS**. **Click here** to watch their Sept. 27 performance. Some Rangerettes volunteered at the fair the following month.



#### SAFFE DAY

Rangerettes posed for photos and visited with participants at the Special Abilities Family Fun Event, also known as **SAFFE DAY**, hosted by the Kilgore Fire Department on Sept. 21.

#### **RAHAB'S RETREAT & RANCH**

In October, Rangerettes delivered care packages containing hygiene items, brushes, perfume, toothbrushes, and more to women at **RAHAB'S RETREAT & RANCH**, a Kilgore program serving victims of sex trafficking and women in the sex industry. "Each bag was different and just made the girls feel very special to be poured into," Karen Childress, intake coordinator, said. "They got to choose their own bag and were very appreciative."

# KILGORE DERRICK LIGHTING





### **BIRMINGHAM INT'L TATTOO**

The Rangerettes dazzled with their high kicks and pageantry at the **BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO** Nov. 23–24 in Birmingham, England. The team continued to London for sight-seeing, before returning home. **Click here** to watch the kick, and **click here** to watch the skirt routine. Read the next edition of the Forever Newsletter for more about the trip.



The Rangerettes shared R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium with high school dancers Sept. 28 for Coast2Coast Productions' **DRILL-TEAM DAY**. Megan DeHoyos, 66th Line, and Angela Falcone Aulds, 68th Line, own the company.

\*

## SEE THE 'RETTES NEXT

christmas show: The Rangerettes' annual holiday show runs 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, in Dodson Auditorium. All seating is reserved, and tickets to "A December to Remember" are \$15. Purchase tickets in the Rangerette box office in the Deana Bolton-Covin Rangerette Gymnasium. Call the Rangerette box office at 903-983-8179. Details: www.Rangerette.com Support the Rangerettes and start your holiday shopping at a Kendra Scott popup in the Gussie Nell Davis Rangerette Residence that day.

**GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL CLASSIC**: Watch the Rangerettes' 70th consecutive Cotton Bowl performance Dec. 28. Details: www.Cottonbowl.com

**GUSSIE NELL DAVIS DANCE CLASSIC COMPETITION**: The contest Feb. 8 at Kilgore College raises money for Rangerette scholarships.

**REVELS 2020**: The annual Rangerette Revels show runs 7:30 nightly April 15–18 and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18. All seats are reserved, and \$25 tickets will be available via Rangerette.com. Wednesday and Thursday are dance/drill-team nights. Contact shelleywayne@rangerette.com for details.













# Kicks & Cadence

Tales from the continued adventures of Forevers and supporters

The 34TH LINE celebrated its 45th anniversary with a reunion during Homecoming. The weekend started Friday night with dinner at Papacita's Mexican Restaurant in Longview. A few of the class' sophomores from the 33rd Line joined the group. "It was a very special weekend as we had several 34th Line members returning to Kilgore for the first time in 45 years," class member Kit Royal Bolte said. The group marked the milestone with a commemorative bench on the Kilgore College campus (see "A benchmark moment," page 5). PHOTO COURTESY OF KIT ROYAL BOLTE





DEZIRAE BURNETT
MCGEE, 73rd
Line, is a new
e-commerce website
content manager for
Birmingham, Ala.-based
Hibbett Sporting Goods.



KACIE STANFIELD HAWKINS, 73rd Line, is a new speech language pathologist with Sherman Independent School District.



KRISTEN
CRAWFORD
HUTSON, 75th Line,
founded Texarkanabased KH Events and
Floral Design, serving
all of Texas with
wedding-planning and
floral packages.



MADELINE DOERR, 75th Line, is a new dance assistant for the Radio City Rockettes education department in New York City.



KORINNE
MANJARRES, 75th
Line, is dancing on
tour with Catapult, a
shadow-illusion dance
and acting company.
Click here to view the
group's tour schedule.

Please see more Kicks & Cadence on page 27.

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### Kicks & Cadence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26



**ASHLEY (MARTIN) ATWOOD**, 61st Line, starred in Lifetime's "Who Stole My Daughter?" as Adrienne Ross.



JODI LAWRENCE SHIPPEY, 61st Line, started teaching fifth grade at Veritas Christian Academy in Wayland, Mass.



Texas Highways magazine interviewed **SHELLEY STOECK WAYNE**, 46th Line and assistant director and choreographer of the Rangerettes, about Kilgore. **Click here** to read the piece.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA BARNETT DAVIS

56th Line, portrayed Detective Jackie Leyland in the pilot and fourth episode of "All Rise" on CBS. Watch for her at District Attorney Brown in two upcoming episodes of CW's "Dynasty" series; as Mandy in season 5 of "Lucifer" on Netflix; and as cowgirl Teri in a firstseason episode of "9-1-1: Lone Star" on Fox. Parade Magazine wrote about her experience with breast cancer and depression. Click here to

ERIN CUMMINGS,



Kilgore Mayor

RONNIE SPRADLIN,
a manager in the
mid-1970s, is the first
recipient of the Kilgore
Chamber of Commerce
& Visitors Bureau's
Impact Award. Click
here to learn more
about the honor.



MEREDITH ODEN
ROOT, 64th Line,
moved to her third
overseas assignment,
in Colombia, where
she works at the U.S.
Embassy. In May, she
received a Global Award
for excellent support in
the field.

Please see more Kicks & Cadence on page 28.

#### SHERISE MATLOCK RALSTON, 45th

Line, designed and manufactured Spirit of America's cheerleader uniform, left, for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. ROCHELLE RODRIGUEZ, 56th Line, designed and manufactured SOA's dance-production costume, right. "And, as always, we have many incredible former Rangerettes serving as staff members for us in every capacity." LAURA BARNETT DAVIS, 36th Line and SOA owner/event producer, said.

RANGERETTES FOREVER ★ 27

read the article.

#### *In loving memory:*

**SHIRLEY HENDERSON** JOHNSON, Fourth Line, passed away in August. Click here to read her obituary.

#### **ANNE DEPEW** FONTAINE-SHEAFFER,

37th Line, passed away in August. Click here to read her obituary.

**DILCIE KILLINGWORTH FLEMING**, Seventh Line, passed away in August. Click here to read her obituary.

#### **NANCY CHRISTIAN**

YOUNG, 22nd Line, passed away in August. Click here to read her obituary.

**MOLLY STRUDWICK SUMROW**, 44th Line, passed away this fall. Click here to read her obituary.

**AMANDA SIMPSON REILLY**, 56th Line, passed away in October. Click here to read her obituary.

#### TAMMY DAVIS GIBSON,

47th Line, passed away in October.

#### ALICE FLEMING STULTZ,

a member of the Flaming Flashes under director Gussie Nell Davis, passed away in October. She shared her Flash experiences with Rangerettes and Forevers and participated in DFW Forever events. Click here to read her obituary.

**DOROTHY CECILE** WHALLEY SCOTT, Eighth Line, passed away in October. **Click here** to read her obituary.

**SHIRLEY WHITTER EDMONSON**, 14th Line, passed away in November. Click here to read her obituary.

### Kicks & Cadence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27



LAUREN CHAPMAN, 71st Line, is a third-year veteran Houston Texans Cheerleader.



EMILY SHYMKIW, 75th Line, is a rookie Dallas Stars Ice Girl.





PHOTO/HOUSTON TEXANS CHEERLEADERS

**OLIVIA THOMPSON**, 74th

Line, is a second-year veteran Houston Texans Cheerleader.

She was one of six Texans

Cheerleaders to travel to

Football League game. She

of the Tiger Belles of Klein

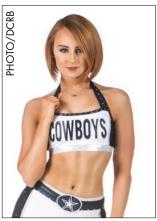
is also the new head director

Collins High School in Spring.

London for a National



AMBER MCMILLAN, 74th Line, is in her second year as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader. She is also a member of DCC's Show Group.



**MARYELLE STEPHENSON**, 75th Line, is in her second year with Dallas Cowboys Rhythm & and Blue.

**◆ ROBIN RICHARDSON**, 73rd Line, is the new sunrise reporter for KPLC and FOX29 in Louisiana.



Austin360 profiled JAMIE SHIVES WALLACE-**GRINER**, 59th Line, and her nonprofit animal rescue, Safe in Austin. Click here to read the article.

Please see more Kicks & Cadence on page **29**.

### Kicks & Cadence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28



BROOKE FULLER
LOWDEN, 59th Line, is the founding director of the Rosettes dance team at the new Moe & Gene Johnson High School. She is also a dance teacher at the school in Buda.



BRENDA

RODRIGUEZ

ECORD, 60th Line, is the new nurse at

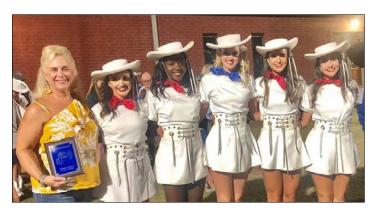
Walsh Middle School in
Round Rock.



The Longview News-Journal included the late **PEGGY CROWDER COGHLAN**, Seventh Line and first assistant director of the Kilgore College Rangerettes, as one of the most influential women in Longview's history. **Click here** to read the profile.

### SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES! We

want to hear about your new jobs, promotions and achievements. Email your news to RetteForeverNews@gmail.com. Include a high-resolution, color photo and caption information.



# 'Faithful' supporter honored

Shary Lasater Anderson, left, became an honorary lifetime member of the Rangerettes Forever in mid-September. "During Shary's four decades in the drill-team industry, her standard of excellence has been the Rangerettes," Forever President Lisa Walker said. "She faithfully supports the organization and attends Rangerette Show-offs, Homecoming and Revels every year. Shary is a top recruiter of talented young Hopefuls that come to Kilgore to follow their drill-team dreams." Anderson is one of only three non-Rangerettes to judge Rangerette officer tryouts, Walker said. \*\*

# KICK IN FOR REVELS

Any class, group or individual can sponsor Rangerette Revels. All donation levels are appreciated. Contact shelleywayne@ rangerette.com or visit Rangerette.com and click the About tab then Sponsorship for details.

#### **VOLUNTEER FOR ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT RANGERETTES**

DFW Forevers will provide active Kilgore College Rangerettes with a **HEALTHY SNACK** again when the team is the Dallas/Fort Worth area for the Cotton Bowl late this year. Volunteers can participate by buying snacks, contributing

money for snacks, assembling the snack boxes and/or helping with distribution. To volunteer, contact Carole Cahill, 35th Line, at carolecahill@yahoo. com.

Interested in chaperoning at **RANGERETTE SUMMER** 

CAMPS at Kilgore College? The annual summer camps for elementary, middle and high school/college ages raise money for Rangerette scholarships. Click here to inquire about available positions via the Rangerette website. ★



**PROTECT K-GIRL, 'RETTE LOGO**: To report unauthorized use of the Rangerette logo or K-Girl image, email Kilgore College's marketing department: malmanza@kilgore.edu.