

LAKE NORMAN & MOORESVILLE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Daughters of the American Revolution chapters to honor Holocaust victims with flowers

HIGHLIGHTS

Project is part of National DAR Day of Service and group's 125th anniversary

Daffodil Project seeks to plant 1.5 million daffodils as a monument to the children who lost their lives in the Holocaust





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The official Daffodil Project sign provided to one DAR chapter by the Atlanta base of the project will explain the significance of the daffodils to parkgoers. COURTESY OF DEBORAH EARLY

BY MARJORIE DANA
Correspondent

On Oct. 11, five chapters of the Charlotte-area district of Daughters of the American Revolution will plant daffodils at parks and landmarks around Charlotte and Mooresville.

The purpose of the daffodil-planting is twofold: it is the chapters' chosen service projects to celebrate the DAR's 125th anniversary as well as being the National DAR Day of Service, and it also is part of the globally-conducted Daffodil Project to honor children who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Daffodils will be planted at Marshall Park by the Piedmont

Patriots chapter, at the Camp Greene Monument by the Mecklenburg and Clear Creek Militia chapters, at the Charlotte Museum of History by the Halifax Convention chapter and at the Mooresville War Memorial Center by the Mary Slocumb chapter.

The Piedmont Patriots chapter of DAR is one of the youngest of the 13 DAR chapters in the Charlotte-area district at 60 years old. Mooresville's Mary Slocumb chapter is the fourth-oldest chapter in North Carolina. It was chartered in 1904. There are over 6,000 DAR members statewide.

Deborah Early of west Charlotte, a member of the DAR for 10 years and Charlotte native, has always loved and collected daffodils. She suggested the service project to her DAR chapter as a result of her visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. in June 2014. During her time there, she discovered the Daffodil Project when she bought a bracelet in the museum's gift shop and read the information that came with it.

She was also dismayed to discover how her own family would have been affected by the Holocaust.

"It became very personal for me that day when I learned that families with an inherited disease that runs in my family were completely eliminated," said Early.

The Daffodil Project seeks to plant a living monument to the 1.5 million children who lost their lives in the Holocaust by planting

1.5 million daffodils all over the world. The Atlanta base of the project assisted the DAR service project by providing half of the bulbs that will be planted on Oct. 11.

“I have always loved daffodils. They are the first flowers that bloom in the spring. They are so tenacious, you will see them blooming in the snow, and they are my favorite color, yellow. And that is exactly why they were chosen,” said Early.

The Daffodil Project explains the choice of daffodils in several ways: “The shape and color of the daffodils represent the yellow stars that Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust. Yellow is the color of remembrance. Daffodils represent our poignant hope for the future. They are resilient and return with a burst of color each spring, signifying hope, renewal and beauty. The daffodils also honor those who survived the Holocaust and went on to build new lives after this dark and difficult period.”

Early said she has bought and distributed about 100 of the project’s daffodil bracelets, which help support the project’s goals. To her and the participating DAR chapters, educating people about what happened in the Holocaust and the service project to plant daffodils locally fit perfectly with the DAR’s goals of educating and promoting historical preservation and patriotism.

Another part of the education and historical preservation Early’s chapter plans for this service project is putting painted stones with the names of the Holocaust victims painted on them at an

alternate location in Marshall Park. Members of the public will also be able to paint names on the stones.

“We are using a list put together in 1999 by Yad Vashem as part of his campaign ‘Unto Every Person There is a Name.’ The Nazis took away the names of their victims and replaced them with numbers; his project was to return their identities,” said Early.

“Each stone with a name will become a memorial and will be handled with care and respect. We will be placing them at a later date.”

Early said she and the participating DAR chapters are grateful to Ken Carlson and Tim Turton of Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation for their support of the project.

What other community service do local DAR chapters do?

“...We collect items to be distributed at the VA hospital, books for Blue Star families (children with a parent in the military), baby gift items for residents of Florence Crittenton Home, clothes for the battered women’s shelter, and food for the Loaves and Fishes,” said Early. “There are DAR schools that provide homes and education for children who would have no other place to go. Two are close by – we have one in N.C. (Crossnore) and one in S.C. (Tamassee).”

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WANT TO HELP?

The DAR's Daffodil Project planting will be held at 2 p.m. Oct. 11 at Marshall Park, the Camp Greene Monument, the Charlotte Museum of History and at the Mooresville War Memorial Center. Members of the public are welcome to attend and help. For more information on the Daffodil Project or to buy bracelets, go to www.daffodilproject.net.

For more information on North Carolina chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution or to join, go to <http://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/chapters-by-state/NC>.

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