



SAR

The Fredonia Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, held its bi-monthly meeting March 10 at the Hotel Fredonia. Lt. Col. Todd Reichert, left, professor of military science at Stephen F. Austin State University spoke about the ROTC program mission at the university and gave an inspirational talk about the historic origins of the oath taken by newly commissioned officers. The chapter's next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. May 12, at the hotel. Also pictured is Fredonia Chapter President the Rev. Farrar Bentley (Col. USA Ret.) For information, call 564-3191 or go to: <http://fredonia-sar.org>.

Sisters

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Gettysburg, Pa., and Atlanta, Ga., along with several in the East Texas and Louisiana areas. Strong mentors, both men and women, have influenced both girls' lives, they agreed. Farrar and MaryAnn Bentley, teacher and headmaster respectively at Regents Academy, have been instrumental in influencing their choices for higher education and military training and have been supportive in helping the girls complete the massive documentation and paperwork necessary for college application, as have other instructors at Regents.

Divine intervention

The two recalled their meeting for the first time right before their first year at Regents Academy.

"We struck up a conversation about the value of reading Harry Potter," Adrienne said with a laugh. "I guess at 12 I thought that was a great conversation starter. But it worked.

"It was a really good time for her to come into my life, because that was the summer Diana left," Adrienne said. "She was the oldest, and she was the first to leave of the four girls. It was a time when I really needed a friend, and there was Ashli."

Their "sisterhood" includes the four Duke sisters — Diana, Kelley, Adrienne and Haley — along with Ashli and Beth Perry, who is Kelley Duke's best friend.

People who know the two girls typically refer to them together ... 'AdrienneandAshli,' as if it's one continuous word.

"But the funny thing is, as much as we are alike, we're so different in our approach to things and the way we get things done," Adrienne said. "But it works. We make a good team."

Since they met, the two have never been apart for more than three weeks at a time.

"So this is going to be interesting," Ashli said.

"When I think about the typical pre-teen girl 'What-are-you-going-to-do-with-your-life' discussions," Adrienne said, "I think about being in Ashli's big walk-in closet where we would sit in there for hours and just talk about all our plans with the military academies."

They talked about wedding dresses and shoes, and they also talked about Army boots and Air Force helmets ... while they did each other's hair and painted their nails.

"I think it's safe to say we've both been preparing to get into

these academies since the seventh grade," Ashli said.

"I'm a lot more quiet about it than some people are about their goals," Adrienne said. "Ashli is a lot more open — she will tell you exactly what she wants to do, and she goes after things with a lot of gusto. I admire that."

The next question from one of their good friends after learning of their appointments was "who's going to do the academy transfer first?"

"Because you can switch cadets for a semester," Adrienne said. "All I said was 'she is.'"

Only the military academies interchange cadets for one semester.

The future

Because both military academies require five years active duty and three years in reserves minimum following graduation, both girls see themselves still in active duty five years down the road, both having recently graduated as second lieutenants in their respective disciplines.

While they joke about their hopes of being stationed in Hawaii together, living side-by-side in tiki huts, they know their future will likely take a much more serious path.

"Especially since we are both majoring in things that would make us real assets in the current political climate," Adrienne said.

"We're both going to have jobs that are going to require us to make sacrifices," Ashli said, "but we're both going to be very honored to do that. I hope to make a career out of the Air Force."

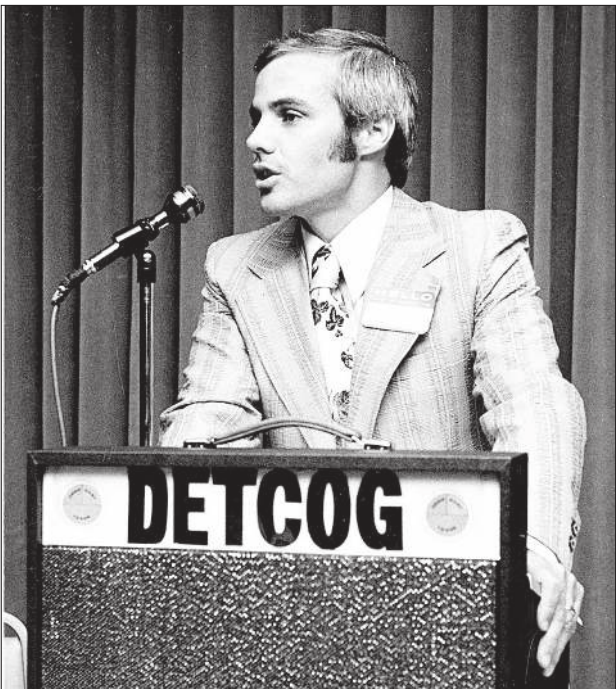
"We take this seriously," Adrienne said. "We joke about our plans, but we're very aware this is a serious situation, and what we're doing requires a lot of commitment."

"Ashli was inspired by my older sister, and of course, so was I," she said. "We're seeing classmates of Diana's who graduated from West Point who have now deployed and have either been seriously injured or killed. But we very much want to serve our country and honor those who have already paid the ultimate price."

"It means the world to me to know that Adrienne and Kelly and Diana, and probably Hailey, one day, but we'll let her make her own decision ... my sisters ... are fighting the same fight that I am," Ashli said. "That will make all the difference."

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East Texas Research Center



Looking back

"Hello, my name is..." This unidentified speaker addressed the Deep East Texas Council of Governments in 1975, but forgot to write his name on his name tag. Do you know who he is? (Photo P60Zz:3, East Texas Research Center) Can you identify those pictured? If you have information, call the East Texas Research Center, located in Steen Library on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus, at 468-4100 or e-mail: asketrc@sfasu.edu.

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Fishing

Free rainbow trout harvest at Texas Freshwater Fisheries

Visitors to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center can harvest rainbow trout at no charge through the end of the season in late April.

Regular admission charges will still apply, but no additional fee will be charged for harvesting rainbow trout. Up to five rainbow trout per person can be harvested.

Harvesting channel catfish will still require payment of a \$10 fee to harvest up to five fish.

All fishing tackle and bait

are provided, and no fishing license is required. Anglers who bring their own equipment must mash down the barb on all hooks, and only single hooks are allowed. No treble hooks may be used.

Those who intend to harvest fish should bring a small cooler and ice. No ice is available on site.

The fishery is at 5550 FM 2495 in Athens. For information or directions, call 903-676-2277 or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc.

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