

Heisler Sings...from Page 1A



Sheriff Mack Mason and others stood in rapt attention as Heisler performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" for local law enforcement on July 29.

"After I heard it, I thought that I need to invite those people here. It wasn't to sing, I just wanted to invite them here, and I wanted them to come and enjoy this for a weekend. I'm inviting them because of what she is doing for the police, and she is in her driveway singing for these cops."

On their way back home from a performance in Chicago last week, Sonia and her father Stephen Heisler stopped in for a special local performance here in Union County.

The young singer is no stranger to the limelight, having used her natural talents to sing the national anthem in public for the first time at a nationally televised hockey game that helped her overcome stage fright.

"She has been singing for years now," her father said. "She has been singing in our church the entire time, and in eighth grade, she was singing in the college choir at Valencia

College. She has been singing at churches for the last three years besides our own church."

"She has been to Chicago, Alabama and other places in the country, and all around Florida. When the pandemic started, we saw a report about them doing the anthem in another county, and we had the equipment. We rolled it out, and she started singing."

At the beginning of the pandemic, Heisler sang in her driveway for her community, which brought in larger and larger crowds to watch her and enjoy her voice.

"It started as just the anthem, then I sang more as people started coming," she said. "We got the email from Fox & Friends and we were excited. I started singing more songs, but I mostly like Christian music, and I sing in Spanish and English."

Heisler plans on releasing an album on iTunes later this year that will consist of

Christian songs that she wrote, as well as a few covers.

Various members of both the Union County Sheriff's Office and Blairsville Police Department attended the event and were thankful for the appreciation dinner and live performance at Jaegle's residence last week.

"If we don't have the support of the community and the citizens that we serve, we couldn't do our job," Mason said. "Instead of having 40 sets of eyes, we have thousands out in the county."

"We have a good rapport with them, and they trust us to do our job like we are supposed to. In these times, the people that have any sense at all know that the police are needed and we serve a function. Some people are talking about defunding the police, and that is an anarchist movement."

Added Mason, "We do appreciate the people that appreciate us. It is not something that is given; we have to earn their respect and their trust. I've been doing this since 1972, and I have never seen a time where people are more appreciative of law enforcement than they have been in the last three years."

Sonia Heisler will continue singing at churches and other gatherings through the year, as she hopes to share her music and the word of God with others.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

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law enforcement people. In fact, we have several medals that we can award to individual law enforcement officers, fire and rescue heroes and others. This was for the whole department."

Georgia Society SAR President Bill Dobbs also made an appearance for the award presentation, showing that the entire organization supports law enforcement and the invaluable service they provide in communities around the state and country.

"Just as our military protect us abroad, our local law enforcement officers protect us here, and they put themselves in harm's way for us," Dobbs said. "They don't know when they head out to duty if they are coming home at night, especially during this time and day."

Sheriff Mason said he and other members of his office aim to work with the community to protect the area in the most effective way possible, and he expressed his gratitude for the Sons of the American Revolution and others who highlight their efforts.

"We have the support of the community because we try to do our very best to protect and serve like we are supposed to," Mason said. "We are successful



Local SAR President Jared Ogden, right, speaking with Union County deputies on July 28. Georgia Society SAR President Bill Dobbs, left, also attended the presentation.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

mainly because the citizens of the county support us, and we are thankful for the outpouring of people that have supported us here of late during this pandemic. We are just very appreciative of it."

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR plans on awarding law enforcement officers in Gilmer, Fannin and Towns counties to show the areawide support for those who protect and serve.

"We are going to the different cities, too, to give the awards to the different police departments," Ogden said. "We just want to let our law enforcement agencies know that we are standing behind them and we appreciate civility."

SAR is a fraternal and civic organization whose members are descendants of Revolutionary War patriots. For more information about the local chapter, contact Jared Ogden at 770-855-0007 or JaredOgden007@gmail.com.