

## Benjamin Lyon's Dazzling Daughter

by Susan Supak



I first became aware of the DAR and my Revolutionary War ancestor, Isaac Garrison, through my paternal grandmother, Eathel Franklin. It was her dream, that would later become a dream of my own, that I join the DAR in pride of my heritage and to serve an organization with such a worthy mission. I held my grandmother's photograph in my hand on the day that I was welcomed into the Benjamin Lyon Chapter so that she could be part of a very important day for me. From that time on, I have continued to be amazed by the character and contributions of the women who make up the membership of our chapter. They are truly the Dazzling Daughters of the DAR and an inspiration to me as I learn more about the organization and the best ways that I can contribute my time and talents.

My patriot ancestor is Isaac Garrison, who has a DAR chapter named after him in Missouri. He served as a Revolutionary War soldier from a North Carolina regiment, eventually combining with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania regiment after the death of his commander, serving at Valley Forge and numerous other battles during the Revolution. Remarkably, Isaac moved with his sons from North Carolina to Missouri at the age of 100 and lived to 104 years of age. According to family tradition, it was a great source of pride for him that he knew both Daniel Boone and George Washington, joining Washington on surveying trips in his younger days.

My family lineage in the United States military is long and strong. I am an "Army brat," born in Nuremberg, Germany, while my father was stationed there. My father, the late LTG Charles D. Franklin, was a highly decorated Vietnam War veteran. He retired as a 3-Star General after having served as the Army's Congressional Liaison and Third Army Commander. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, my husband, Darrell, retired as an Army Colonel, after serving at duty stations around the world, to include Europe, the Far East and the Middle East. His last duty station was as Chief of the Enlisted Accessions Division, serving on the Army Staff at the Pentagon with responsibilities for the recruitment and retention of over 300 military occupational specialties, and the Montgomery G.I. Bill, among many other areas important to the active and reserve components of the U.S. Army.



*Darrell Supak, Army*

I was formally educated and licensed as a Speech and Language Pathologist, and hold a Master's Design Certificate in graphic design. I am also a graduate of the Defense Information School (DINFOS), a Department of Defense (DOD) school for DOD civilians and military personnel for training public affairs professionals. I worked as a spokesperson responding to requests from national and international news media and community relations issues for the Departments of the Army, Navy and the DOD Onsite Inspection Agency (OSIA). OSIA was formed to manage inspections of the elimination of U.S. and Soviet Intermediate-Range Nuclear missiles agreed upon under the INF Treaty. We were tasked at the OSIA Public Affairs Office to promote and establish the agency's credibility and public confidence in the inspection process. It was a challenging assignment in that the treaty did not allow for public observation of the eliminations and it was important we communicate our ability to carry out our treaty obligations to "trust but verify."

One of the highlights of my public relations career was being given the opportunity to travel to the former Soviet Union to provide media training to U.S. inspectors assigned there. After working with military public affairs, I edited an international newsletter published by Contemplative Outreach, founded by Thomas Keating, a principal architect and teacher of the Christian contemplative prayer movement.

My current project involves co-writing an autobiography for a media communications industry pioneer who has gone from high school dropout to billionaire, using his fortune to finance significant educational and health initiatives, providing advancements in cancer research and media innovations, to name but a few.

I am honored and excited to be the host of a podcast by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of North Texas entitled *OLLI at UNT Podcast*. The episodes feature discussions with OLLI faculty and members on a variety of topics ranging from scientific research into the benefits of mindfulness, memories of the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, to recent research findings on memory and aging. The OLLI at UNT podcast episodes can be found at the following link: <https://olli.unt.edu/podcast>.