

THE DAILY CITIZEN



Currently **75**
H: 91 L: 70
Click for more weather

WEATHER SPONSOR
 InDalton.com

[Buy A Classified](#) | [Homepage](#) | [Local News](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Dalton Magazine](#) | [Media Kit](#) | [Special Sections](#) | [Online Forms](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Wheels](#) | [Homes](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Video: Highschool Football Highlights](#) | [Celebrations](#) | [Gad zoo Pets](#) | [Coupons](#) |

Published: June 04, 2008 10:33 pm

Friends & Neighbors: Anne Moore and Sharon Gray

By **Lara Hayes**
Dalton Daily Citizen

Patriotism was everywhere in the days following the terrorist attacks of 9-11. Emotions ran high, and Americans displayed the flag anywhere they could as a sign of unity and love of country. "United We Stand" was the catch phrase.

However, as the Iraq war evolved into a lengthy battle, some Americans' fervent determination began to dwindle until it all but disappeared.

Don't tell Anne Moore and Sharon Gray that, though. The mother-daughter team's patriotism still burns brighter than ever.

Moore, 68, doesn't remember not being patriotic. Her mother, the late Beatrice Richardson, was known for her strong love for country. Richardson wore an American flag pin on her lapel every day. At her funeral in January 2003, the family requested that a flag stand at the head of her coffin in remembrance of her patriotism.

"Mom's patriotism was so passionate it was contagious," said Moore. "I can remember watching parades, seeing the flag go by and standing and saluting. Other people were just standing there. In life you learn to pay attention to what America stands for, and you start to realize the prices that are paid to offer that to us."

Moore, in turn, passed down her passion to Gray.

"When I went to school, we stood up every day and said the Pledge of Allegiance. We had prayer before we had lunch," said Gray, 46. "My most poignant memory was the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979. It stuck with me because this is the country I live in and I have a John Wayne attitude. Don't spit on my country."

Gray tried to send things to the troops during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s but was unsuccessful.

Photos



Anne Moore, left, and her daughter Sharon Gray look through letters and pictures from soldiers stationed in the Mideast. The pair sends supplies needed by American Soldiers via www.anysoldier.com. **None/Misty Watson** (Click for larger image)

Resources

- Print this story
- E-mail this story
- Discuss this story

More from the Local News section

[Area Dems welcome Obama win](#)

Get back to doing the things you love.
 Gordon Hospital Rehabilitation Services

monster

Find the perfect set of wheels

Find a business:
Location: Hyperlocal
Maps, Menus, Store hours, Coupons, and more...

North Georgia **MARKETPLACE**
Find Your Local Advertisers

Popular business directory searches

- [See our Coupon Guide](#)
- [See our Physician Directory](#)
- [See our Dining & Entertainment Guide](#)
- [See our Real Estate Guide](#)

"You have to know how the military does things, and I didn't," she said.

Gray, a self-confessed Fox News "junkie," got the proper instructions after seeing a news report on Fox about www.ansoldier.com. The Web site gives detailed directions on how to mail items to the troops in all branches of the military as well as posts from the soldiers themselves about what they need.

Three or four months into Operation Enduring Freedom, Gray began sending packages twice per month to the troops in Iraq who posted on the Web site. Moore was intrigued by her daughter's zeal for the project and decided to pitch in. The two work on the packages at Gray's home.

Shipping packages to the military is costly, so how do they pay for it?

"We're both Christian women and we tithe to the church, but instead of doing that, we take our tithes and spend it on the troops," said Moore. "They're over there fighting for our freedom to worship."

Moore and Gray try to send items that meet the needs of the soldiers. One of the groups they send to is a group of Marines stationed close to the Syrian border. They have a locker-freezer that they store goods in and do laundry in trash cans and garbage bags.

"We try to send things that remind them of home," said Gray. "Some of them have a microwave, so we sent a bunch of Betty Crocker cakes. They need toiletries and soap because their soaps melt in the heat. We also try to think of things for entertainment, like magazines, books, DVDs and CDs."

The troops were touched by their generosity. Sgt. Dedrick J. Clark with the group near the Syrian border e-mailed them a note of thanks: "Sometimes the news makes us wonder if anybody really cares about us by showing everything that's wrong about the war but never anything right about it ... It's because of friends like you who actually care, which makes it a lot easier for us to do our job."

Area businesses have also gotten involved. Logan's Roadhouse donated 300 bags of peanuts during the holiday season last year. Moore's employer, Burtco Enterprises, provides shipping materials. Other Burtco employees bring books and magazines, condiment packets, plasticware, straws and travel-sized toiletries.

"We get people who say 'That's good that you're doing that' but they never offer to contribute," said Moore. "Americans throw away a bunch of stuff that the soldiers need. We're so wasteful and take stuff for granted."

The duo says anyone can do what they do. All it takes is concern for the troops, a desire to help and assistance from www.ansoldier.com. Area residents may also call Moore at (706) 629-3673 and leave a message.

Gray believes that the ardent patriotism Americans showed after 9-11 faded "because we live in a 'me' society," but that doesn't stop hers from bubbling up.

"Whenever I hear the national anthem, the hair on the back of my neck stands up," she said. "Old Glory may be tattered and torn, but she still flies."

[Dalton voters to decide fate of rec tax](#)

[Dalton veteran Monroe Blackwell remembered](#)

[Splashing around](#)

[New Web site helps Georgians find local health services](#)

Premium Jobs

Real Estate and Investment Accounting Mgr

Local firm now accepting resumes for a Real Estate & Investment Accounting Manager. This position will report to the CFO...>[MORE](#)

Red Clay Resort

Lifeguard needed.
Red Clay Resort Cohutta GA
Bilingual speaking Spanish and English. Must have valid lif...>[MORE](#)

TFY Medical

TFY Medical Staffing is seeking nurses and healthcare professionals to work full time, part time, or per ...>[MORE](#)

[See all ads](#)

Premium Homes

Westside Area

WESTSIDE
3238 Lower Gordon Springs Rd. small 3 bd 1 ba, \$82,500, \$2,500 dw. \$700 per mon
Just remodeled!!...>[MORE](#)

[See all ads](#)



• [Click to discuss this story with other readers on our forums.](#)

FREE coupons TV WEEK

© 2007, The Daily Citizen
308 South Thornton Avenue; Dalton, GA 30720
706-217-NEWS (6397); [Contact us by email](#)

Popular Business directory links - [Dalton Apartments](#) | [Dalton Attorneys](#) | [Dalton Auto Dealers](#) | [Dalton Auto Parts](#) | [Dalton Auto Repair](#) | [Dalton Beauty Salons](#) | [Dalton Car Rental](#) | [Dalton Dentists](#) | [Dalton Doctors](#) | [Dalton Flowers](#) | [Dalton Hotels](#) | [Dalton Insurance](#) | [Dalton Loans](#) | [Dalton Mortgages](#) | [Dalton Movers](#) | [Dalton Pizza](#) | [Dalton Realtors](#) | [Dalton Restaurants](#) | [Dalton Storage](#) | [Dalton Tax Preparation](#) | [Dalton Travel](#) | [Dalton Featured](#) | [More...](#)

Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. • CNHI Classified Advertising Network • CNHI News Service
Associated Press content © 2008. All rights reserved. AP content may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Our site is powered by Zope and our Internet Yellow Pages site is powered by PremierGuide.
Some parts of our site may require you to download the Flash Player Plugin.
[View our Privacy Policy](#)
[Advertiser index](#)

