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Nokesville resident sings for veterans



{Photo submitted}

Ginger Harvey performs at Operation Stand Down in Nashville, Tenn., earlier this fall.

By Julia LeDoux

Published: December 8, 2009

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Ginger Harvey's road to country music stardom is getting brighter.

The Nokesville resident with more than 18 years of singing experience has a new CD, "Ginger Harvey: In America," and is coming off an acclaimed performance at Operation Stand Down in Nashville, Tenn., earlier this fall

"It was fun," she said of the event. "There were more than 400 veterans there."

Operation Stand Down is the primary nonprofit resource for veterans in middle Tennessee and provides veterans with life-changing social services including transitional housing, or referrals, employment readiness training and placement assistance. Its clients are honorably discharged veterans, with an emphasis on veterans who are homeless. The group's ultimate goal is to give veterans in need the tools to rejoin their community as productive, responsible citizens.

"They focus on homeless veterans," said Harvey.

The veterans that attended the event wildly applauded Harvey, who didn't let a little thing like not having music stop her from performing.

"There was a problem with the equipment, so the CD with the music on it couldn't play," she said. "I'm used to signing a cappella, so I said 'I'm going on.'"

Helping veterans is a passion of Harvey's, whose father is a Vietnam veteran. She served as publicity coordinator for the first Veterans Day Parade in Manassas last month, and is an active member of several local veterans organizations.

"You can't do enough for our veterans," she said.

She sang the national anthem twice at the Manassas parade—once to kick off the parade and a second time to begin the Armed Forces Community Covenant signing which immediately followed it.

In the lead-up to the parade, Harvey donated proceeds from the sale of her CD to the effort.

"I didn't tell anybody I was doing that," she said. "It was a surprise to the parade organizers."

The CD includes two songs, "In America" and "I've Been There Too," in which Harvey sings of her love of the country. The CD can be purchased at gingerharvey.com.

Military editor Julia LeDoux can be reached at 703-369-5718.

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