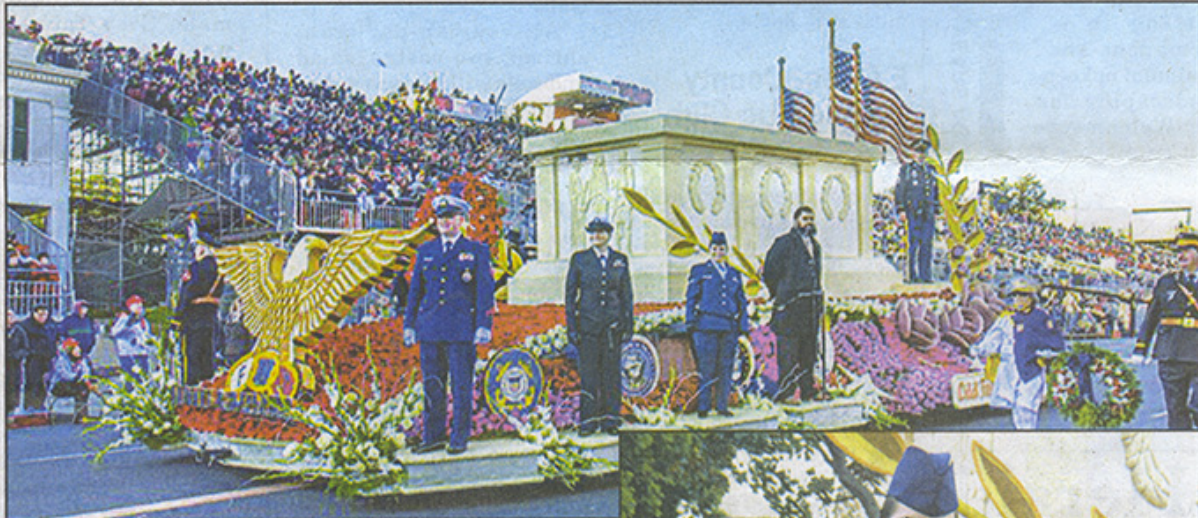


Galt soldier participates in 2015 Rose Parade



Photos courtesy Lorna Hemphill

Sarah Delaney (third from left) rides on the Odd Fellows and Rebekah's float during the 2015 Rose Parade.

Delaney chosen to ride on float

The Rose Parade may be Pasadena's pride and joy, but Galt had the opportunity to be represented in the nationally recognized annual event.

Sarah Delaney, a 2009 Galt High School graduate, was invited to participate on the Odd Fellows and Rebekah's Rose Parade float entitled "Always Remember."

The 35-foot-long, 16-foot-tall float was an artistic replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Virginia. A bald eagle fronted the float, which included a replica of the tomb complete

with two former tomb guards brought out of retirement to assume a post on the parade float. Representatives from each of the country's military manned the float with soldiers from the Army, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force, of which Delaney belongs. Joining Delaney and her comrades at arms were two wounded soldiers.

"This was an honor and privilege to be a part of such a remarkable event," said Delaney. "This is an experience I will never forget."

Stationed in Alabama, Delaney flew into California just days before the parade and was able to help with the finishing touches on the float.

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Delaney

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Normally, when the floats enter the grandstand area, the crowd cheers wildly but things were quite different for the Odd Fellows and Rebekah's float. Delaney and the other officers saluted while "Taps" was played as the float entered the area. Delaney recalled the crowd was silent as they watched the float travel past.

Although the experience brought Delaney great pride, that isn't the only opportunity she walked away with. At the end of the parade route, as parade participants gathered for their goodbyes, Delaney was able to meet this year's Bachelor!



Mother and daughter Terry and Sarah Delaney, both from Galt, place blueberries on a portion of the Odd Fellows and Rebekah's 2015 Rose Parade float. Sarah represented the U.S. Air Force, and Galt, on the float during the parade.

