

Letters to the Editor

Visitor impressed with July 4 festivities

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the Ooltewah-Collegedale community for the excellent Fourth of July program which was presented July 3. I am a visitor to your community, visiting Don Dick, a retired professor from Southern Adventist University, and his wife, Joyce Dick, editor-in-chief of Chicken Soup magazine published quarterly by Memorial Hospital.

In my 75 years, I have viewed many Fourth of July programs, and yours need not take a back seat to any of them. Your program was enhanced by the proximity to Veterans Memorial Park, and the huge flag flying in view of everyone present. There are few WWII veterans left, and I appreciated the emphasis placed on our veterans.

Most programs have only the fireworks with perhaps a radio station playing songs not necessarily patriotic; your program had the added complement of the East Tennessee Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra added much to the program, playing a wide variety of well-chosen songs. Richard Hickam, music director and conductor, is to be congratulated upon the fine performance. Holly Greer performed without a single flaw in singing a very difficult song, "The Star Spangled Banner." The ETSO Choir also performed well and enhanced the evening's enjoyment.

The sound system worked as it should, and the words could be understood throughout the venue. Those responsible should feel proud of that accomplishment.

The fireworks display was outstanding, and I appreciated the Symphony playing during the display. The crowd was appreciative and well-behaved. Your many sponsors should be applauded and your community is to be congratulated.

Merlyn Mead,
Lincoln, Nebraska