

Maggie Stewart

Margaret Sanders Stewart, affectionately known to all as “Maggie”, is an only child. At that time San Antonio Hospital did not have a maternity unit, so Maggie made her debut at the Ontario birthing unit in 1921.

In due course Maggie attended Grammar School, Central School, Vina Danks Junior High and in 1939 graduated from Chaffey Union High School. She went on to Chaffey College where she received her AA degree. Though she was offered a Speech Therapy scholarship at Northwestern University she turned it down when her dad, a patriot, wanted his only child to contribute her talents to the war effort.

Maggie went to work for CAL-Aero Flight Academy in Ontario as a secretary to the Maintenance Chief and Army Engineering Officers, leaving in 1943 to work as a secretary for General Electric.

Walter Stewart, Maggie’s childhood friend, the son of a family of citrus ranchers in the area, had known each other since 5th grade when they played in the school orchestra; Maggie the piano and Walter the violin. When Walter went to Flight Training School and then to the South Pacific, as a Marine Fighter Pilot they maintained their friendship through correspondence. Upon his return home he and Maggie were married.



Maggie and Walt had three daughters: Sandra Lee (deceased), Carol Hawkins and Shirley Preston; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Maggie and Walt were married for 59 wonderful years before Walt passed away in 2004.

Maggie’s interest in the Republican Party began with the California Young Republican when she and Walt formed the Chaffey District Young Republicans in 1950. During the next 15 years the membership grew from the original 14 to 446.

She served as president of Chaffey Community Republican Women in 1984 and Editor of the “Trumpeter” newsletter for five years. Maggie is the founder of our annual membership event, “The Holly Berry Happening”. She has put in many hours at the various headquarters in addition to calling and walking precincts, plus driving voters to the polls on Election Day.

Maggie organized and directed three successful campaigns for her husband’s City Council race beginning in 1962. From 1957 through to the present Maggie has been a member of steering committees and a worker for a myriad of Republican candidates for School Board, City Council, and State and Federal Legislative offices, including those of Congressman David Dreier, Senators Jim Brulte and Bob Dutton, and Chuck Bader.

It is impossible to list all of the activities Maggie has been involved in, however, a few are stand-outs: Registrar of Voters for 15 years, Republican National Convention Delegate in 1988 and 1996; Co-Chairman of the Pete Wilson for Governor Campaign in 1990 and Chairman of the San Bernardino County Central Committee. She led San Bernardino County as Co-Chairman for: Bush Quayle in 1992; John Seymour for Senator in 1992 and the Dole-Kemp Steering Committee in 1996.

Maggie’s devotion to the Grand Old Party stemmed from her dad, Bill Sanders, who instilled in his daughter a deep sense of patriotism and duty. Maggie’s union with Walt helped further her works and interest in the Republican Party. Her undying dedication continues. Maggie Stewart is truly “one of a kind”.