

## Message from the President



Compatriots,

The Chapter officers have been busy since our last meeting. Compatriot Steve Avent and I awarded numerous JROTC medals prior to the end of the school year. In addition, Steve assisted me in awarding an Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate to Austin Beeman, Troop 16, in Red Oak. The following day I awarded another certificate to Edward Riley Spence, Troop 146, Roanoke Rapids.

Registrar Allen Brahin participated as a color guard member for President-General Ed Butler when a wreath was laid on the grave of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Chapter member Lee Scouten was also in attendance.

The biggest disappointment of my term in office was the Flag Retirement Ceremony the chapter co-sponsored on June 12th, with the Halifax Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Our joint effort resulted in the retirement, with honors, of 89 U.S. Flags and 12 NC State and various organizational flags. There were 4 SAR members present along with 5 CAP Members and 5 spectators. It seems as though most of our membership has more important things to do than attend any of our events. With the exception of the officers and the past president, there seems to be little interest in any event we sponsor. This lack of support is noticed not only by the officers, but also by other chapters and the public. I'm not saying we all attend every event, but we need to do better.

We have in the past sponsored the Knight Essay competition and as of last year we added the JROTC Competition. I will be proposing at the next meeting that we add the Eagle Scout Competition. To fall in line with the majority of the other chapters, I am also proposing that we make the deadline for these three events October 30th. This would mean we would announce and award the winners prior to Christmas as opposed to after. To accomplish this, we will need donations of totaling \$150.00 for the medals, certificates, and a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond/\$50

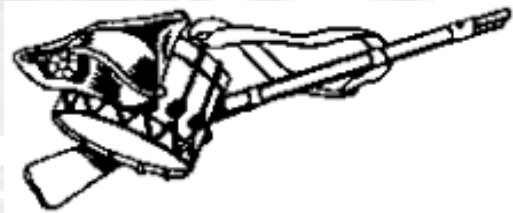
cash award. There will be further discussion at the meeting.

Fraternally,

*Ken Wilson*

President, Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

The July chapter meeting will be held on **Wed., July 14**, at the Halifax United Methodist Church on **152 S. King Street (Main Street) in Halifax at 6:30 pm** and the women of the church will provide the meal. The cost will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Ken Wilson or Steve Avent if you're coming (contact info on last page of newsletter). On the agenda: Ken Wilson will present a program on a survey sponsored by the American Revolution Center regarding American adults and their knowledge of the Revolution and the Founding Fathers.



### In this Issue...

- 1 Remarks from President Ken Wilson
  - 2 Highlights of May, 2010 meeting
  - 3 Recent Chapter Activities
- Upcoming NCSSAR Events

Past President Ron Jones reported that he presented a program on Gen. Nathanael Greene's wife Caty to the Farmville DAR Chapter the previous Saturday. He also portrayed Gen. Greene in the Pitt County 250th anniversary celebration.

President Wilson reported that he had participated in the following activities since our last meeting:

- ◆ Participated in Guilford Courthouse Ceremony with Steve Avent & Allen Brahin.
- ◆ Attended Spring Board of Mangers meeting with Steve Avent & Ron Jones.
- ◆ 120 US Flags were retired at recent Flag Retirement ceremony. Makes a total of 298 YTD. Approx. 50 NC, VA, & various organizational flags also retired. All ashes buried in Halifax Cemeteries.
- ◆ Participated in the Honor Guard for the Dallas Jones Roanoke Valley Veterans' Center for their April & May Ceremonies.
- ◆ Awarded Certificate of Appreciation to S. Nash HS AFJROTC for performing as Color Guard
- ◆ Awarded prize to Poster Contest winner Taylor Redwine and Certificates to teachers Tabitha Crawley & Renee Walker.
- ◆ Participated in JROTC Awards at Weldon HS, Nash Central HS, & Warren Co. HS. Scheduled to present at J.F. Webb in Oxford, & N. Edgecombe
- ◆ Presented Chapter Registrar Allen Brahin with Certificate of Appreciation for serving as judge for State Knight Essay Contest
- ◆ Attended NCSSAR Convention. The Chapter won the Chapter Achievement Award Streamer for small chapter, 1st place Scrapbook Streamer, Flag Streamer, and Certificate of Appreciation. Individual awards: Cleveland Hawkins received Geo. Washington Fellow pin & certificate, Steve Avent awarded Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, Ken received a Certificate of Appreciation.

*Patriot's Day, May 15, 2010, Alamance State Historic Site*

The 14th Annual Celebration of Patriot's Day was held Sat., May 15, 2010 at the Alamance Battleground State Park in Alamance Co.. This ceremony commemorates Alamance County's three 1781 Revolutionary War battles: Pyle's Defeat, Clapp's Mill and Lindley's Mill. This event is always a lot of fun and is great for families, since there is a living history encampment with musket and cannon firing, candle making, quill pen writing, open hearth cooking and other activities besides the SAR wreath laying ceremony. President Ken Wilson was in attendance as well as Sec/Treas Steve Avent. Ken presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter with Steve as his Flag Carrier.



*(above) The JROTC color guard followed by the NCSSAR color guard line up (photo courtesy of Bob Yankle)*



*(above) The NCSSAR contingent (photo courtesy of Bob Yankle)*

*Message from VP General Sam Powell*

Compatriots,

Officer training, especially for chapter presidents, is very important. The BOMs help, but we need to go further. This could be done by our Regional VPs with the assistance of state officers, or could be done after or before a BOM meeting. I would be glad to help.

It is great to see the interest in new chapters. New chapters bring new members and creates a lot of excitement. Let's make it happen.

I just talked to Registrar Jim Becker and he told me our membership number is now 774! We are closing in on 800 and have a chance to make it happen this year. I am told by Becker that we ended 2009 at 704 members, and as of the end of March, national listed us as having an even 750 members.

The good news is we are increasing our numbers, the bad news is that this negatively impacts our percentages on giving to the CAAH. With contributions from 145 members, we now stand at (145 / 774) 18.7% of our members that have donated against the 20% goal. We need 155 donors or another 10 to qualify for the CAAH State Challenge Campaign. Please spread the word.

Yours in service, **Sam Powell**



June 12 Flag Retirement Ceremony

*(excerpted from the June 12th edition of the "Daily Herald")*

Observing Flag Day - As flags are retired, some reflect. By Roger Bell, The Daily Herald Staff Writer

ROANOKE RAPIDS The American flag means many things to many people. For some, it represents a variety of lofty ideals. For others, it says a bit less.

But for nearly everyone, there's some meaning.

Monday is Flag Day, and on Saturday the Halifax Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and the Halifax Resolves Chapter of the North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution honored our nation's banner by holding a retirement ceremony.

"The SAR tries to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and what the founders stood for", stated Ken Wilson, president of the Halifax Resolves Chapter. "The flag is probably the most visible symbol of the U.S. I don't know of anywhere in the world people don't know what that flag is or what it represents."

"When the flag is torn, tattered or faded, it should be retired", Wilson added. "Preferably by fire or it can be buried."

One tradition the SAR upholds is purifying the fire used for the ceremony with four types of wood. First, redwood is used to remind us of the Americans who fought and died to build our nation under the flag. Oak follows, for the rugged strength that carried the flag across this nation and reaches for the stars. Cedar is to protect us from pestilence and corruption and to preserve our way of life. Walnut reminds us of the rich soil, the beautiful countryside and the fruitful brotherhood founded by our ancestors.

Disappointingly to those who held the ceremony, very few attended, which Ron Jones, former president of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, found surprising.

"This one is disappointing because nobody showed up", Jones said. "But if you plant a seed, it will start growing."

For Steve Avent, secretary-treasurer of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, he feels honored to participate.

"Whether this is attended by one person or 1,000, we're doing the right thing", Avent said. "These flags need to be retired with respect."

Wilson would like to see more people treat the flag with proper respect.

"I got upset at the Christmas parade," he recalled. "The SAR was the lead unit; we carried the colors. The parade route was 1.5 miles long — only two people saluted the flag. I know there were veterans out there because I saw the hats. When vets won't salute it, who's going to teach their kids and their grandkids to?" Wilson said, "It's tough to put into words what it means. There are two things that will evoke a lot of emotion in a retiree or combat veteran — someone disrespecting the flag and 'Taps' being played."



Upcoming NCSSAR Events

- ◆ 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Colson's Mill, Norwood, NC - 07/17/2010
- ◆ 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Homesite Tour & Social Dinner hosted by Mecklenburg Chapter (All Chapters & NCSSAR Members are invited to attend!) – 08/14/2010
- ◆ 229th Anniversary of the Battle of Eutaw Springs, Eutawville, SC– 09/04/2010
- ◆ National Fall Leadership Meeting (Trustees) & NSSAR Library Grand Opening, Louisville, KY– 09/23-25/2010
- ◆ 230th Anniversary of the Battle of King's Mountain, Kings Mountain, NC – 10/07/2010
- ◆ Fall Board of Managers Meeting (\$15 per person), Chapel Hill Country Club, 11:00am - 10/16/2010



# The Halifax Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR

Steve Avent, Editor

P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868



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*The Sons of the American Revolution* is a **PATRIOTIC** organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1906, with more than 25,000 living members from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. Throughout its 120-year history, the SAR has admitted more than 155,000 members. Among them are 16 **PRESDENTS** of the **UNITED STATES**, including George W. Bush and his father George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry Truman and Theodore Roosevelt. The SAR also has had among its members Sir Winston Churchill and King Juan Carlos I of Spain, both of whom trace their ancestry to **REVOLUTIONARY WAR** patriots. Membership requires proof of descent from a person who aided in the **PATRIOT** cause. Some of the activities in which we engage are:

- \* commemoration of Patriot graves and monuments
- \* educational programs in the schools and elsewhere on the ideals of our Patriot ancestors and the American Revolution
- \* recognition of outstanding law enforcement officers and JROTC cadets
- \* sponsorship of Boy Scout troops

## Chapter Officers

**President:** Ken Wilson

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**Vice President:** office vacant

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Steve Avent

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**Registrar:** R. Allen Brahin, Waynesboro, VA  
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**Chaplain:** Rev. Duncan Jones

our website:

Go to: [www.ncssar.com](http://www.ncssar.com), "NC Chapters"  
Click on our chapter name on the NC map.