Halifax Resolves Chapter – 2013

The year began with President Wilson awarding the Society Flag Certificate to Andy & Trudy McDermott of Roanoke Rapids.

Flag Certificate recipients Trudy & Andy McDermott

The chapter participated in the Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum Veteran of the Month ceremony on January 7th honoring recently deceased NC State Senator Edward Jones. President Wilson assisted in the ceremony by helping raise the Colors to open the event.

President Wilson & American Legion Post 425 Past Commander Al Burtchell raise the flag to open the ceremony

The January meeting was held on January 9th at the Halifax United Methodist Church. President Wilson inducted new member R. J. Myrick into the Society and then presented a program on the Battle of Point Pleasant, VA.

New member R.J. Myrick is congratulated by Chapter Sec.-Treas. Steve Avent following his induction by President Wilson

President Wilson conducted a private flag retirement ceremony on January 12th. The chapter had accumulated 232 U.S. flags and 16 miscellaneous state and military flags that had consumed all the storage space. Ashes were buried in Halifax, NC.

At the request of Chaloner Middle School Social Studies teacher Danny Hinnant, President Wilson presented a program covering the importance of the dates on the NC flag and how Halifax was affected during the Revolutionary war. The January 29th program required four sessions to reach a total of 240 students 8th grade students.

President Wilson present the program to Chaloner Middle School 8th grade students

Three days later, on February 1st, President Wilson presented the same program to two 8th grade classes and one 4th grade class at Halifax Academy. While there, he also awarded the school the SAR Flag Certificate for correctly flying the U.S. flag.

Headmaster Glenn Wiggs accepted the certificate on behalf of the academy and the color guard that is in charge of the daily raising and lowering of the flag.

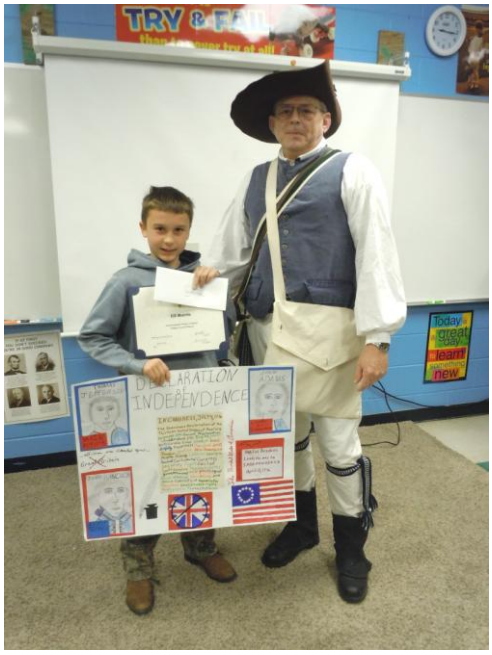
Headmaster Glenn Wiggs & Pres. Wilson with members of the Halifax Academy color Guard

On February 4th & March 4th President Wilson participated as a color guard member for the Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum Veteran of the Month ceremony.

The chapter awarded three Fire Safety Commendation medals at the March 13th chapter meeting. Gaston FD Lt. Eddie Porter along with Firemen Pete King and Dylan Clark received the medals for the rescue of a mother and two children from a burning house in Roanoke Rapids. They happened upon the fire while driving through town and after reporting it to 9-1-1 entered the home without their equipment to rescue the inhabitants.

L-R: Gaston FD Lt. Eddie Porter III, Firemen Pete King & Dylan Clark

During the meeting, the chapter selected a poster drawn by Eli Harris of Halifax Academy as the Chapter Americanism Poster Contest winner. This year the chapter had three schools that participated. They were Belmont Elementary, Cornerstone Christian and Halifax Academy. A total of 50 students entered the contest and all received certificates along with Certificates of appreciation for the teachers.



Eli Harris, Chapter Level Americanism Poster winner, receives his check for $100.00 and a certificate from Chapter Pres. Ken Wilson

Additionally, Compatriot Geoff Pittard was inducted into the Society by Pres. Wilson assisted by Geoff's father NSSAR SE VPG Steve Pittard.

Compatriot Geoff Pittard receives his rosette from his father, NSSAR SE VPG Steve Pittard as Pres. Wilson looks on.

Chapter Registrar and Color Guard Commander R. Allen Brahin represented the chapter at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15th.

Pres. Wilson represented the chapter at the April Veteran of the Month Ceremony at the Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum.

The Halifax Day events on April 6th were a great success, beginning with the morning Flag Retirement Ceremony co-sponsored with the Elizabeth Montfort Ashe Chapter of the NCSDAR. Regent Carol Guidry shared the duties with HRC Sec.-Treas. Steve Avent, Registrar R. Allen Brahin and Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones. HRC Pres. Ken Wilson was the Burn Master. A total of 79 flags were retired with honor and the ashes buried in the Colonial Cemetery by Registrar Brahin.

Burn Master Ken Wilson tends the Ceremonial Drum

A luncheon was held at the Royal Hart Masonic Lodge for the participants. Among the guest was Grand Lodge of NC Grand Master Dewey Preslar, Jr., a new member of the SAR.

The afternoon ceremony celebrating the 237th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves was one of the best in recent history. The Roanoke Rapids HS JROTC assisted by the NCSSAR Combined Color Guard posted the colors. The Invocation was given by HRC Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones. The Halifax Resolves were presented by SAR Foundation President Dr. Samuel C. Powell. Greetings were brought from the NCSSAR by President Glenn Sappie. Grand Master of the NC Masonic Lodge Dewey Preslar also brought greetings from all Masons of North Carolina. Raleigh Chapter Color Guard Commander Dr. Scott Kennedy was the keynote speaker delivering a program entitled "Halifax and the Revolution". A total of 17 wreathes were presented at the Wreath laying ceremony. HRC President Ken Wilson, who was the Master of Ceremonies for the event then presented the Roanoke Rapids HS JROTC & Dr. Kennedy with Certificates of Appreciation for their participation in the ceremony. Pres. Wilson was then asked by Chapter Registrar-Color Guard Commander R. Allen Brahin to relinquish the podium. Brahin, assisted by NCSSAR Color Guard Commander Richard D. Bishop, presented Pres. Wilson with his SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal. The ceremony was closed with the retirement of the Colors by the color guard and the Benediction given by Rev. Jones.

Grand Master Dewey Preslar, Grand Lodge of NC, A.F. & A.M. brings greetings

Participants in the 2013 Halifax Resolves Ceremony

The fourth and fifth grade classes at Cornerstone Christian School were visited by HRC Pres. Ken Wilson on April 8th where he presented s program on the meaning of the dates on the NC Flag.

The chapter was represented at the NCSSAR Convention by Pres. Wilson on April 19th & 20th. At the Awards Banquet Pres. Wilson was presented with his Silver Color Guard Medal by NSSAR VPG G. Steven Pittard. The chapter received 4 streamers: 1st place Small Chapter Achievement, a

Flag Streamer, 2nd Place Scrapbook, and 2nd Place Digital Scrapbook. Pres. Wilson was also elected NC NE District 1 VP.

Pres. Wilson displays awards presented at the NCSSAR Awards Banquet

On April 30th & May 1st Pres. Wilson presented Outstanding JROTC Medals to Cadet A1C Matthews of Northern Nash HS & Cadet Lt. Eric Oliveras of Nash Central HS.

At the May 8th Chapter meeting in Halifax Pres. Wilson presented an update on SAR programs to the chapter. In attendance was NSSAR SE VPG G. Steven Pittard & NCSSAR Sr. VP Chuck Yard.

On May 17th Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones presented an Outstanding JROTC Medal to Southern Nash HS Cadet SMSgt. Eric Wall.

Southern Nash HS Cadet SMSgt. Eric Wall & Rev Duncan Jones

The Patriot's Day Ceremony at Alamance Battleground was held on May 18th and attended by Pres. Wilson and Compatriot Geoff Pittard where both presented wreathes. Following the ceremony, the Chapter Americanism Poster placed 2nd in the State Competition.

On May 24th Pres. Wilson awarded an Outstanding JROTC to Cadet Russell Davis at the Roanoke Rapids HS Awards Ceremony.

The Memorial Day Ceremony at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids was attended by Pres. Wilson and Chaplain Rev. Jones. Both presented wreathes. Chaplain Jones participated in the program as Chaplain and Pres. Wilson participated with the Color Guard.

Pres. Wilson & Chaplain Jones present wreathes at the Memorial Day Ceremony

Pres. Wilson performed color guard duties at the June Veteran of the Month Ceremony at the Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum.

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on June 6th for Matthew Owen of Troop 411 in Roanoke Rapids. Pres. Wilson attended and presented Matthew with an SAR Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate.

On Flag Day, June 14th, President Wilson was a guest on WZRU FM 90.1 and was interviewed about proper flag etiquette by Station Manager Gary Hackenburg aka "Allen Garrett". The interview lasted about 7 minutes.

The General George Washington Chapter NCSSAR sponsored a grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Colonel John Hardee in Greenville, NC. President Wilson attended representing the NE District and the chapter. He

participated as a member of the Color Guard and presented the District and Chapter wreathes.

SAR Contingent at the Col. John Hardee grave marking held June 15th in Greenville, NC

The July 17th Chapter meeting held in Halifax featured guest speaker Chris Grimes, President of the Albemarle Chapter NCSSAR. He presented a program about the Llewellyn Conspiracy. Grimes was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Pres. Wilson. In addition, Pres. Wilson inducted Compatriot Charles Vester into the society, assisted by Charles's father Compatriot Randy Vester. Compatriot R.J. Myrick was awarded the SAR War Service Medal for his service in Viet Nam.

Albemarle Chapter President Chris Grimes presents a program on the Llewellyn Conspiracy to the chapter.

At a NE Dist.1 workshop July 17th in Greenville, Pres. Wilson accepted three national awards from NCSSAR Pres. James Wood. First, the chapter received the President-General's Cup award for chapters with 1-80 members. This award is the highest award a chapter can receive from the National Society. Second, the chapter received a Partners-in Patriotism award for work with local veterans groups. Last, but not least, Newsletter Editor Steve Avent was awarded 2nd place in the Carl F. Bissent newsletter contest. As a side note the Mecklenburg Chapter was awarded the President-General's cup for chapters with 81+ members and the North Carolina Society received the President-General's Activities award, The North Carolina Society took the top 3 awards in only our second year in competition. Well Done!!

NCSSAR President James H. Wood presents the President's Cup Award to Chapter Pres. Ken Wilson

President Wilson participated as a color guard member in the Roanoke Valley Veteran's Museum "Veteran of the Month" ceremony on August 5th.

The la Marquis de Lafayette Chapter sponsored a grave marking ceremony on August 17th in Fayetteville honoring Patriot Lewis Barge. NC NE VP Ken Wilson and Compatriot Geoff Pittard presented wreaths and VP Wilson participated as a color guard member.

Participants and Lewis Barge descendants gather for a group photo following the ceremony

The Fall Board of Managers meeting was held in Raleigh on August 24th. The Chapter was represented by Pres. Wilson, Compatriot Geoff Pittard and Compatriot R. J. Myrick.

President Wilson presented a Flag Certificate to Rightmeyer Machine Rental, Inc. of Roanoke Rapids on August 30th.

Scott Joyner, Safety Coordinator for Rightmeyer Machine Rentals, accepted the award on behalf of the company

President Wilson participated in the September 2nd Veteran of the Month ceremony at the Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum.

On September 7th, accompanied by Compatriot R.J. Myrick, Pres. Wilson awarded an SAR Flag Certificate to the Horace Palmer, Jr. American Legion Post 308 in Littleton, NC for their work in maintaining the flags at the Littleton Veterans Memorial.

Compatriot R.J. Myrick awards a Flag Certificate to Janice & Buddy Strickland

Compatriot R.J. Myrick awarded a Flag Certificate to Buddy and Janice Strickland on September 9th.

President Wilson awarded a Flag Certificate to the Davie Volunteer Fire Department on September 10th.

President Wilson represented the SAR at the AMVETS Post 101 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony in Roanoke Rapids on September 11th.

The Chapter meeting was also held on September and new officers were elected for the 2014-2015 term. Geoff Pittard was elected President, R.J. Myrick VP, Steve Avent Sec.-Treas. and R. Allen Brahin as Registrar. The induction ceremony will be conducted at the November 13th meeting.

A Joint Flag Retirement ceremony with Boy Scout Troop 411, The Edwin Haynes Gregory American Legion Post 98 and the Halifax Resolves chapter was held in Veterans Park in Roanoke Rapids on September 14th. 307 U.S. flags and 16 military service, state, and first responder flag were retired with honor.

Burn Master Ken Wilson commits a flag to the flames as chapter member R.J. Myrick observes.

Chapter President Ken Wilson travelled to Southern Nash HS on October 8th to speak to two classes. The first class, the JROTC was presented with an overview of the SAR and the Knight Essay contest. The second class was the AP History class of Mr. Scott Hendricks. Wilson presented a program on the meaning of the dates on the North Carolina flag. Southern Nash HS was also presented with an SAR Flag Certificate that was accepted by the JROTC.

President Wilson presents a program to the Southern Nash HS AP History class

Nash Central HS was the next stop where Pres. Wilson presented the JROTC with an SAR flag Certificate.

Compatriot Charles Vester, a Social Studies teacher at Southern Nash Middle School, invited President Wilson to speak to the 8th grade students about the meaning of the dates on the North Carolina flag and the Revolutionary War in North Carolina. The program was presented to over 300 students in four periods.

The Benjamin May grave marking was attended by President Wilson on October 12th in Farmville where he presented the chapter wreath and participated in the color guard.

SAR Contingent at the Benjamin May Grave Marking in Farmville, NC
October 12, 2013

The chapter sponsored a grave marking for Patriot Colonel John Whitaker on October 19th at Whitakers Chapel in Enfield, NC. Approximately 35 members and guests attended.

Patriot Colonel John Whitaker

October 25th found President Wilson speaking to 8th grade students at Red Oak Middle school about the dates on the NC flag. The four presentations were presented to over 320 students. The school was awarded an SAR Flag Certificate.

President Wilson presents an SAR Flag Certificate to Red Oak Middle School Principal Margaret Sharpe.

President Wilson attended the Burgess House wayside sign dedication in Halifax on October 26th. He brought greetings from NCSSAR and the Chapter. The dedication was sponsored by the Elizabeth Montfort Ashe Chapter NCSDAR.

Participants at the Burgess House Sign Dedication
October 26, 2013

President Wilson participated with AMVETS Post 101 in a Veterans Day ceremony at the Macon United Methodist Church on November 3rd.

VP – elect R.J. Myrick presented the FernCliff Homeowners Association with an SAR Flag certificate at their annual meeting at Camp Willow Run on November 3rd.

President Wilson participated in the Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum Veteran of the Month ceremony on November 4th.

At the invitation of the Halifax County Genealogical Society, Pres. Wilson presented a program on the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

Halifax County Genealogical Society Pres. Ray Sasser & Halifax Resolves Chapter Pres. Ken Wilson

The chapter hosted a pre-parade luncheon at Logan's Roadhouse on November 10th before leading the "March of Patriots" Veterans Day Parade for the fifth consecutive year.

The Combined NCSSAR Color Guard
March of Patriots
November 10, 2013

The chapter held its annual meeting at Halifax United Methodist Church on November 13th to induct the new officer corps and present awards earned over the past year. NCSSAR Sr. VP Mr. Chuck Yard was in attendance to perform the induction assisted by Immediate Past SE District VPG Mr. Steve Pittard. Prior to the induction, Pres. Wilson presented the SAR Daughters of Liberty Medal to Mrs. Helen Holdford and Betsy Hudgins for their active support of the chapter over the past five years. The Bronze Roger Sherman Medal was presented to Sec.-Treas. Steve Avent, Registrar R. Allen Brahin and Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones for their efforts and support over the past 4 years. NCSSAR Sr. VP Yard then inducted the new officer corps. Following the induction Sec.-Treas. Steve Avent presented Past Pres. Wilson with his Past President's pin.

This was also the chapter's last meeting at the Halifax United Methodist Church. The January 2014 meeting will be held at the Halifax Baptist Church.

Pres. Wilson presents Betsy Hudgins and Mrs. Helen Holdford with the SAR Daughters of Liberty medal

Pres. Wilson presents the Bonze Roger Sherman Medal to Rev. Duncan Jones, Steve Avent and R. Allen Brahin

Sr. VP Chuck Yard inducts the new officer corps

On November 7th HRC VP R.J. Myrick, Past Pres. Ken Wilson and Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum President/AMVETS Post 320 member Fritz Johnston conducted a ceremony honoring veterans at the Roanoke Valley Adult Daycare Center Luncheon. The ceremony consisted of the poem "It's the Soldier", the POW/MIA Remembrance, and the Meaning of the 13 Folds of the U.S. Flag.

Seated left to right: John Williams, Joe Shelton and Marvin Garner; disabled veterans from the Roanoke Valley Adult Daycare. Standing left to right: R.J. Myrick, Fritz Johnston and Ken Wilson

On December 8th the chapter hosted a luncheon at Logan's Roadhouse prior to the Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade. This was the fifth consecutive year that the SAR has led the parade.

Past President Ken Wilson traveled to the Rocky Academy on December 10th to present a program on the meaning of the dates on the NC flag to the 8th grade civics classes consisting of 35 students. He also presented an SAR Keyhole to History CD and an SAR American Flag History and Etiquette handbook to Social Studies Chair Mrs. Debbie Viverette.

(L-R): Halifax Resolves President Geoff Pittard, NCSSAR Senior VP Chuck Yard, Marcus Pittard, NSSAR Past SE VPG Steve Pittard, Ehlana Pittard, NCSSAR Past Present John Thornhill, NCSSAR SE Dist. 2 VP Gary Green and NCSSAR NE Dist. 1 VP Ken Wilson

Rocky Mount Social Studies Chair Mrs. Debbie Viverette and HRC Past President Ken Wilson

The Combined NCSSAR Color Guard, consisting of NE NC Dist. 1 VP Ken Wilson, NSSAR Immediate Past SE VPG Steve Pittard, SAR Foundation President Sam Powell and NCSSAR Sr. VP Chuck Yard led the Historic Halifax Christmas Parade on December 14th.

The Historic Halifax Christmas Parade