Halifax Resolves Chapter – 2019

Rear Admiral Jay DeLoach, USN (ret.) and President of the New Bern Chapter NC SAR, was the guest speaker for the January 9th chapter meeting. The topic of his presentation was Admiral Farragut. President David Gammon presented DeLoach with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the chapter.

Jay DeLoach and David Gammon

Compatriot Ken Wilson visited Halifax Academy on January 15th to promote the Americanism Poster Contest to the 5th grade class. He also spoke to the 8th grade about the brochure contest and presented a program on Halifax and the Revolution.

On January 28th Wilson presented the Americanism Poster contest to four classes of 4th grade students and five classes of 5th grade student in 4 sessions at Manning ES.

Another presentation on the Americanism Poster Contest was made on February 1st by Compatriot Wilson to the 5th grade students of Belmont ES en masse.

Compatriot Wilson represented the chapter at the 238th Anniversary Commeration of the Crossing of the Dan in South Boston, VA on February 16th.

Compatriot Wilson at the 238th Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan

On February 18th, Compatriot Wilson went before the Halifax County Board of Commissioners requesting a proclamation in support of the SAR Commemoration of the signing of the Halifax Resolves. The proclamation was approved unanimously.

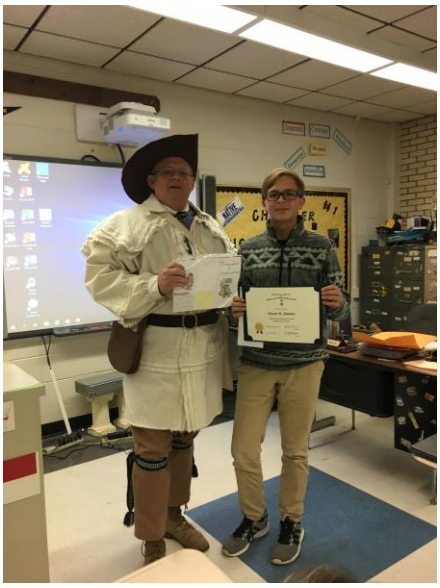
Compatriot Wilson represented the chapter at the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on February 23rd.

The March 13th chapter meeting was well attended. The final judging of the 50 Americanism Poster and 49 Brochure entries was conducted. The poster winner was Carolina Corum, a 5th grade

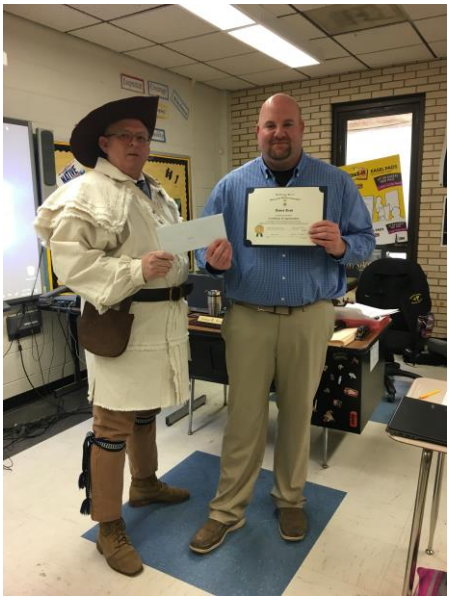
student from Halifax Academy and her teacher Mrs. Valerie Henley. The brochure winner was Connor Johnson, an 8th grade student from Chaloner MS, and his teacher Mr. James Rook. Knight Essay winner Amber Silver and Enhanced JROTC winner Cadet A.J. Lytton, both from Nash Central HS, also attended and presented their essays to the chapter.

238th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 16th was attended by Compatriot Wilson who presented the chapter Wreath.

On March 21st Compatriot Wilson present Brochure winner Connor Johnston with a check for $100.00 and a chapter level winners certificate. His teacher, Mr. James Rook received a check for $50.00 and a Certificate of Appreciation.



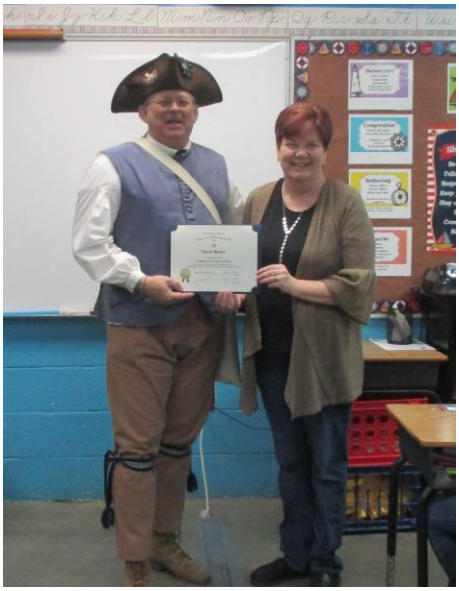
Ken Wilson with Brochure winner Connor Johnson



Ken Wilson with 8th grade Social Studies teacher James Rook

Compatriot Wilson travelled to Halifax Academy on March 22nd to recognize the Americanism Poster contest winner 5th grade student Carolina Corum and her teacher Mrs. Valerie Henley. Carolina received a check for $100.00 and a chapter level winner's certificate. Mrs. Henley received a check for $50.00 and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Compatriot Wilson with Poster winner Carolina Corum



Compatriot Wilson with 5th grade teacher Mrs. Valerie Henley

While at Halifax Academy, Wilson was asked to speak to the 5th grade about U.S. flag history, etiquette and how to properly fold a flag.

The 91st Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution was held April 5th & 6th at the North Raleigh Hilton Inn. The meeting was attended by Chapter President David B. Gammon and Compatriot Ken Wilson. Chapter High School American History Teacher Mr. Renny Taylor won the state level History Teacher contest with a check for $500.00 and a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. He will now advance to the National level. The chapter won the following streamer awards: 1st place Small Chapter Americanism, 1st place Thos. N. "Nat" Clark Outstanding Small Chapter, 1st place Electronic Scrapbook, Honorable Mention Paper Scrapbook, 95% Retention and Flag Certificates.

HRC President David B. Gammon, American History Teacher Renny Taylor and Committee James H. Wood

Chapter President David gammon and Ken Wilson with streamers won by the chapter

Prior to the President-General's Reception, Compatriot Ken Wilson presented SAR Certificates of Appreciation to Hilton Garden Inn General Manager Ms. LaKeisha Ratliff and Sales Manager Anna Hodges for their support of the room reservations and the reception. The chapter hosted a post reception dinner at Ralph's BBQ in Weldon, NC

The 243rd Anniversary Celebration of the signing of the Halifax Resolves was held on the site of the Colonial Courthouse on April 12th at 10:30 am. The National Society was represented by NSSAR Historian-General John Thornhill. Secretary-General John T. Manning, who had been scheduled to attend and be the keynote speaker, cancelled the day prior due to illness. Compatriot Ken Wilson assumed the keynote speakers role with a program entitled "*Stories of Halifax*" assisted by his wife Jan. HRC President David Gammon presented Halifax County Manager Tony Brown a Flag Certificate for the Historic Halifax Court House. Also receiving a Flag certificate was Historic Halifax Site Manager Carl Burke for the Visitors Center. A post event luncheon was held at the Halifax United Methodist Church.

Participants in the 243rd Anniversary Celebration of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves

Following the luncheon, the Combined SAR Color Guard presented the Colors for the Charters of Freedom Dedication ceremony at the Historic Halifax Court House. This display was the first display erected by Foundation Forward, Inc. to display the Halifax Resolves with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Halifax Resolves Member J. Rives Manning presided over the ceremony as the Master of Ceremonies and Compatriot Ken Wilson was the keynote speaker whose topic was *"The Pathway to Independence"*. Chapter President David B. Gammon presented Foundation Forward, Inc. founder Vance Patterson

and his wife Mary Jo with Certificates of Recognition for their efforts in furthering the importance of the founding documents.

The Charters of Freedom, Historic Halifax, NC

HRC President Gammon and Mr. Vance Patterson

Compatriot Ken Wilson travelled to Nash central HS on May 1st to present the Outstanding JROTC Medal to NJROTC Cadet Daniel Parker.

On May 6th, Wilson attended the Halifax County Commissioners meeting to present the SAR Law Enforcement Medal to Halifax County Sheriff's Deputy Lt. Steven Casey. Following the award Wilson was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with the Charters of Freedom project. The certificate was presented by Vice Chairman J. Rives Manning on behalf of the county.

On May 7th Chapter VP Geoff Pittard travelled to J. F. Webb HS in Oxford to attend the JROTC awards ceremony.

Also on May 7th, Compatriot Wilson attended the Roanoke Rapids City Council Meeting to present several Public Service Medals. First, the SAR Life Saving Medal was presented to RRFD Station 1 C-Shift members Battalion Chief Tim Gray, Engineer Michael Butts, Jr., Firefighter Will Harris and Firefighter Ben Clements. RRPD Lt. Bruce Norton was awarded a Law Enforcement Commendation upon his retirement. RRPD Officer Curtis Batchelor was awarded the SAR Heroism Medal for his efforts in rescuing victims from a burning vehicle during an off duty trip. Compatriot Wilson was assisted by City Council Member and Compatriot E. C. Bobbitt.

City Council Member and Compatriot E. C. Bobbitt, SAR Heroism Medal recipient RRPD Officer Curtis Batchelor and Compatriot Ken Wilson

Ms. Traci Thompson, Genealogist from the Braswell Memorial Library, was the guest speaker for the May 8th chapter meeting. Here presentation centered on sorting out ancestors from others with the same name. President David Gammon presented Traci with a Certificate of Appreciation for speaking to the chapter.

Ms. Traci Thompson receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter President David B. Gammon

Compatriots J. Rives Manning, E. C. Bobbitt and Ken Wilson attended the dedication of the

Afghanistan-Iraq War Memorial at Veterans Park in Roanoke Rapids on May 11th.

Compatriots J. Rives Manning, Ken Wilson and E. C. Bobbitt at the May 11th War Memorial Dedication

Past President Ken Wilson attended the Patriots' Day Ceremony at Alamance Battleground on May 18th and presented the chapter wreath. During the event, Chapter Brochure winner Connor Johnson was selected as the NC SAR Brochure winner. Chapter Poster winner Carolina Corum placed 3rd in the state contest.

Carolina Corum received her 3rd place award of $75.00 along with her teacher, Ms. Valerie Henley who also received a check for $75.00 on May 20th. The presentation was made by Ken Wilson.

The chapter was well represented at the May 27th Memorial Day Ceremony at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids. Past Chapter President Ken Wilson was the keynote speaker. Chapter VP Geoff Pittard was the photographer and Compatriot J. Rives Manning presented the chapter wreath. Compatriot E. C. Bobbitt was also in attendance.

Memorial Day – Cedarwood Cemetery
Chapter VP Geoff Pittard, Compatriots E. C. Bobbitt, Ken Wilson and J. Rives Manning

NC SAR Brochure winner Connor Johnson was awarded his 1st place check for $250.00 on May 30th. His teacher, Mr. James Rook, received a check for $100.00. The presentation was made by Ken Wilson.

NC SAR Brochure winner Connor Johnson, Ken Wilson, Mr. James Rook

Chapter President David Gammon and Past President Ken Wilson held a new member recruitment event at the Halifax County Library on June 8th.

The chapter held a joint flag retirement ceremony with BSA Troop 144 on June 15th at Veterans Park. The ceremony was conducted by the troop with assistance from Compatriots Rev. Duncan Jones, J. Rives Manning and Ken Wilson, who performed the duties of Burn Master. Elizabeth Monfort Ashe Regent Brenda Rowe was also in attendance. A total of 365 flags were retired.

Participants in the Joint Flag Retirement

This was the last flag retirement to be conducted by the chapter for the foreseeable future. All responsibilities for the flag retirements have been turned over to Troop 144. In the 11 years that the chapter has sponsored this event, 34 ceremonies were conducted and over 6300 flags retired with honor.

The July chapter meeting was held on July 10th at the Halifax UMC. Regional VP Bob Sigmund was in attendance. It was announced that the chapter

had been awarded the Liberty Bell Americanism for Small Chapters, The President-General's Cup for Small Chapter, The President-General's Outreach Streamer and Partners in Patriotism at the National Congress. It was also announced that the chapter's High School History Teacher of the Year, Mr. Renny Taylor from Nash Central HS was selected as the National High School History Teacher of the Year.

A DNA Seminar was held at the Braswell Library in Rocky Mount on July 27th. The seminar was well attended by chapter members with 7 members present. President David B. Gammon and Ken Wilson manned an SAR membership table at the seminar in an effort to recruit new members.

President Gammon attended the Summer Board of Managers meeting in Burlington on August 24th and was presented with the awards earned by the chapter at the National Congress.

Chapter President David Gammon (2nd from the right) accepts some of the awards the chapter received at the National Congress

Compatriot Ken Wilson represented the chapter at a grave marking ceremony for three Patriots sponsored by the Alamance Battleground Chapter on September 7th. The Patriots were Ralph Gorrell, Finley Stewart and Robert Stewart.

Compatriot Ken Wilson renders honors at the grave marking ceremony for 3 Patriots

Compatriots J. Rives Manning, E. C. Bobbitt and Ken Wilson attended the 9-11 Patriots Day Ceremony in Roanoke Rapids held at Centennial Park.

9-11 Ceremony – (l-r) RRFD Chief Jason Patrick, J. Rives Manning, E. C. Bobbitt, Ken Wilson and RRFD Asst. Chief Wes Hux.

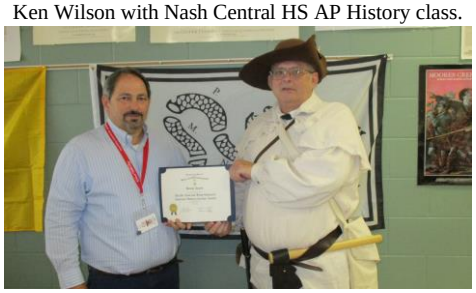
The September chapter meeting was held on the 11th at the Halifax UMC in Halifax. The new slate of officers was submitted and voted into office. The installation will be conducted by NC SAR President Jim Becker at the November meeting. The guest speaker for the meeting was Mr. Andrew Duppstadt, Program Development and Training Officer and Historic Weapons Program Coordinator the North Carolina Historic sites. His program topic was Gov. Richard Caswell. President Gammon presented Mr. Duppstadt with a Certificate of Appreciation. In addition, President Gammon inducted Compatriot Robert Bittner into the Society.

President Gammon presents Andrew Duppstadt with a Certificate of Appreciation

President Gammon Inducts Compatriot Robert Bittner into the Society

Compatriot Ken Wilson visited the AP History class at Nash Central HS on September 17th and presented a program on the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War. In addition, he answered questions about the Knight Essay contest. An addition duty while at the school was to present the SAR National American History High School Teacher of the Year Renny Taylor with his winner's certificate.

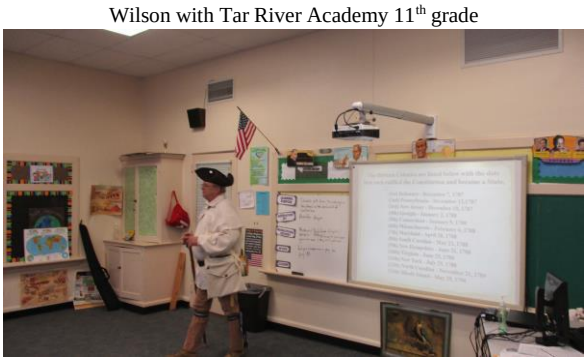
Ken Wilson with Nash Central HS AP History class.



Renny Taylor receives his National American History HS Teacher of the year award from Ken Wilson

On September 19th, Compatriot Wilson again travelled to Nash County on a multiple task trip. His first stop was Tar River Academy where he presented two programs. The first was to the 11th grade history class and covered the Battle of Cowpens. Following that presentation, he addressed the 8th grade about U.S. Flag History, Etiquette and Proper Folding.

Wilson with Tar River Academy 11th grade



Tar River Academy 8th grade U. S. Flag Presentation

Compatriot Wilson next travelled to Northern Nash HS to present the school with an SAR Flag Certificate. JROTC Instructor MSgt. Gregory Hopkins, USAF (ret.) accepted the certificate on behalf of the school.

MSgt. Gregory Hopkins and Compatriot Wilson with SAR Flag Certificate

Multiple SAR Flag Certificates were presented to various schools and organizations on October 9th and October 30th. The first presentation on October 9th was made to the Clara Hearne Pre-K

in Roanoke Rapids. Preschool Coordinator Ms. Lindsey Goble and Administrative Assistant Ms. Tina Davis accepted the award on behalf of the school. Neat, a certificate was presented to the Roanoke Rapids Early College HS. Principal Ms. Tammy Williams and Social Studies teacher Mr. Ryan Stowinsky accepted on behalf of the school. The last presentation of the day was to the Roanoke Rapids Library. The award was accepted by Library Director Mr. Jeff Watson.

Clara Hearne Pre-K Ms. Goble & Ms. Davis

Roanoke Rapids Early College HS Principal Ms. Tammie Williams, Compatriot Ken Wilson and Social Studies teacher Mr. Ryan Stowinsky.

On October 30th Wilson travelled to Warren County HS and presented a flag certificate. The certificate was accepted on behalf of the school by AFJROTC Senior Instructor LTC Theodore Paige, Jr. USAF (ret.)

Mr. Jeff Watson – Roanoke Rapids Library Director

Warren County HS AFJROTC Senior Instructor LTC Theodore Paige, Jr.

In preparation for Veterans Day, Compatriot Wilson travelled to Sunset Cemetery in Littleton, NC to assist American Legion and Boy Scout volunteers in placing U. S. flags on the graves of Veterans. Three adjacent private cemeteries were also included in this effort to recognize local veterans.

The Halifax Resolves Chapter participated in two ceremonies honoring our veterans on November

10th and 11th. On November 10th, Am Vets Post 101 sponsored a Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park in Roanoke Rapids. Chapter Chaplain Rev. Duncan H. Jones presided over the Invocation and Benediction. Compatriot Ken Wilson presented the President-General's Veterans Day Proclamation. Also in attendance was Compatriot J. Rives Manning. Chapter Secretary-elect Michael A. Cooper represented the chapter at the Louisburg Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th.

Compatriots Ken Wilson, J. Rives Manning and Rev. Duncan H. Jones at November 10th Veterans Day Ceremony

Chapter Secretary-elect Michael A. Cooper at Louisburg Veterans Day ceremony

The Chapter Annual Meeting was held on November 13th at the Halifax UMC. NC SAR President James Becker was on hand to install the new slate of officers and to assist in the awards presentations.

Chapter members receiving awards were: Michael A. Cooper – Bronze Roger Sherman Medal; Ken Wilson – 2 OLC Patriot Grave Marking Medal and Chapter Meritorious Service Medal; Rev. Duncan H. Jones – Chapter Distinguished Service Medal; Outgoing Chapter President David B. Gammon – Past President's Pin and Chapter Meritorious Service Medal. The Ladies of the Halifax UMC were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a "Silver Spatula" award.

John Christian Prang, grandson of Rev. Duncan H. Jones was inducted into the Society by President Becker assisted by Rev. Jones.

President Becker inducted the new chapter officers; President: Geoff Pittard; Vice President – Vacant; Secretary; Michael A. Cooper; Treasurer: Steve Avent; Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones.

Officer Induction (L-R) Michael A. Cooper, Secretary; Duncan H. Jones, Chaplain; Geoff Pittard, President. NC SAR President James Becker. Not shown, Steve Avent, Treasurer.

The chapter was a co-sponsor for the Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 14th at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids. Forty wreaths were placed by chapter members at four different area cemeteries. During the ceremony, Compatriot Ken Wilson presented the President-General's Proclamation and also place the USAF wreath. Chapter Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones officiated over the ceremony. Compatriot and Halifax County Commissioner J. Rives Manning brought greetings from the county. The ceremony was also attended by Compatriot Donald Malcolm.