



President's Message

Jay A. DeLoach, RDML, USN (Ret.)
President, NCSSAR



NC Compatriots,

At the Summer Board of Managers (BOM) meeting on August 20, we presented over 60 awards and recognitions received at the 2022 National Congress. This is a record number for NCSSAR, making us one of the top state societies in the SAR!

As a large state society, we were #1 in Americanism (SAR activities) and also the USS Stark Memorial (Veteran activities) programs. This means we are achieving the SAR mission in an outstanding manner. Gentlemen, I raise my hats to you and shout, "HUZZAH, HUZZAH, HUZZAH!"

At the BOM meeting, the Board voted and approved the formation of the new Col. Daniel Boone Chapter with Robert Crum as its first President. Please welcome this new chapter to the NCSSAR and offer your assistance in helping them learn and grow.

The State SAR Society will host the 2026 National Congress in Greensboro where two North Carolina signers of Declaration—William Hooper and John Penn—are buried at the Guilford Courthouse Military Park. As part of our Congress planning efforts, we had several Compatriots submit designs for a 2026 National Congress Medal. These designs were provided to Pin Center, a Las Vegas-based company that helps design and produce medals for the SAR. After several iterations and voting by the

Congress Planning Committee, we arrived at a design that showcases our State and highlights the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. A proposal for this medal (picture below) has been submitted to the NSSAR Medals and Awards Committee for their review and approval during Fall Leadership.



We continue with our Congress fundraising efforts with the current raffle for a reproduction 1748 Long Land (1st Model) Brown Bess musket. Tickets are \$10 each or \$50 for 6 tickets. The drawing will be held on January 31, 2023 at the NCSSAR Winter Board of Managers Meeting in Huntersville. Purchase tickets online at <https://bit.ly/3Rg9ogz> or text the word "Musket" to 406-302-5086. To purchase by mail, send an email to ncssarfundraising@gmail.com for instructions.

In 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proclaimed December 15th as Bill of Rights Day. He called upon government officials and citizens of the freest nation on earth "to observe the day by displaying the flag of the United States on public buildings and

and by meeting together for such prayers and such ceremonies as may seem to them appropriate."

As we anticipate celebration of the 81st Bill of Rights Day this year, may we remember the sacrifice of our Patriot ancestors who ensured the individual liberties, rights, and freedoms that we enjoy today. And may we be reminded that powers not delegated to the Federal Government rest with the States and with the American people.

Yours in Patriotism,
Jay

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Membership Update

NCSSAR Welcomes 62 New Members (June 11, 2022 through Sept. 9, 2022)

AIKMAS, Frank III #221264
ALEXANDER, Luke #223370
ARNOLD, James #222818
BINGHAM, Thomas #223374
BOND, George #223758
BOND, Norris #223760
BOND, Jr., George #223759
BREWER, Brandon #223213
BREWER, Jamie #223217
BREWER, Jase #223216
BREWER, Jayden #223215
BREWER, Jephtha #223214
BRISTOL, David #223071
BROWN, Gregory #222822
BYERLY, David #223685
BYERLY, Dawson #223686
CLARK, Austin #223518
CLARK, Chad #223517
CLARK, Tony #223516
CRAIG, Stephen #223070
DARDEN, Bobby #223761
DARDEN, Samuel #223762
EDWARDS III, James #223687
EDWARDS Jr, James #223688
FLORA, Stephen Sr. #223369
GAINES, Robert #222982
GOETZ, Otto #222820
Gooden, Michael #223449
GORHAM, Gregory #223165
GOSNELL, John #223768
HERRICK, Wayne B. #222980
HERRICK, Wayne C. #223212
JONES, Stacey #223515
LAWRENCE, Dennis #223371
LESSER, Thomas #223684
MADDOX, Hudson A. #222974
MADDOX, Hudson J. #222975
Mc INTYRE, Walter #223766
Mc MURTIE, Peter #223769
MIDTHUM, George #223073
MIDTHUM, Walter #223074
MILLER, James #223372
MORELAND, Chad #223519
PACE, Mark #223072
PERDUE, Ronald #223763
RIETSCHER, Andrew #222977
RIETSCHER, Benjamin #222978

ROHRER, Mark #223770
SANDERSON, John Jr. #223764
SAUINIER, Steven #222824
SHARP, John #222819
SHAW, Joseph #0222979
SHELL, Robert #223765
STANLEY, Wayne #223767
STANTON, Frank #223373
TILLEY, Brian #222823
WEBSTER, Francis #223166
WEGLARZ, Kenneth #223218
WESTFALL, Jack Jr. #223368
WILLIAMS, Steven #222821
WINGATE, J Wayne #222976
YARBOROUGH, William #222981

NCSSAR Extends its Deepest Thoughts and Prayers to the Families of the Following Compatriots who Passed Away Since June 1, 2022

GARLAND, James
HUGGINS, John
SPRINKLE, Robert

NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since June 16, NCSSAR has received 48 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapters and inquiry counts include the following: Alamance Battleground-2; Albe-marle-0; Bethabara-2; Battle of King's Mtn.-0; Colson's Mill-0; Blue Ridge-4; Catawba Valley-1; Col. Alex. Erwin-2; Col. Alex. Lillington-3; Gen. Frances Nash-2; Gen. George Washington-2; Halifax Resolves-0; Isaac Carter-0; Lower Cape Fear-1; le Marquis de Lafayette-1; Lumber River-1; Lt. Col. John Phifer-2; Mecklenburg-11; Old North State-2; Nathanael Greene-3; New Bern-0; Raleigh-9; Salisbury-0; Sandhills-0; LTC Felix Walker-0; Western Waters-0; and Yadkin Valley-0.

Inquiries are forwarded to the President of the closest Chapter. Note DAR assistance on a Finders Form and attach to the SAR application.

JOHN O. THORNHILL, Chair
Membership Committee NCSSAR

Chapter News

Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter

The Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter conducted a Commemoration of the 247th anniversary of the Tryon Resolves on August 13. Representatives from several DAR and SAR chapters (pictured below) were in attendance for the event.



Blue Ridge Chapter

“Thank You for your service” is a phrase frequently communicated to America’s veterans. It may be followed with a smile, hug, or pat-on-the-back. A restaurateur in Marshall, NC goes a step further to show her gratitude to America’s finest.

The Blue Ridge Chapter honored Bonnie Whitner for her outstanding devotion to American Veterans with the *SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award* on June 13. Making the award presentation to Ms. Whitner were Blue Ridge Chapter President Craig Isaacson (pictured left) and Chapter Vice President Steve Greene.



The well-deserved recognition took place at Bonnie and Clyde’s Restaurant in Marshall where owner Bonnie Whitner welcomes dozens of veterans monthly for a free dinner as a special way of expressing her gratitude.

Over the past five years, the restaurant has closed its doors to the public on the second Monday night of each month. Bonnie, her staff, and appreciative nieces prepare a complimentary dinner and dessert for all local men and women who have served in the armed forces. With a copy of the American Constitution laminated to the front door and countless artifacts drawing attention to patriotism and American history in the dining areas, dozens of retired and active military heroes and their families arrive to enjoy food and fellowship.

The Blue Ridge Chapter observed Flag Day in a solemn flag retirement ceremony at its June 11 meeting. Members paid homage to 53 flags that had been flown until they were in a state of poor or disrespectful condition. Joining chapter members were representatives from the Abraham Kuykendahl and Rebecca Sevier Waddell DAR Chapters, and members of the general public.



“Flying the American Flag on Flag Day is not the only aspect of this national day of recognition for our country’s banner,” stated Chapter President Craig Isaacson. “Showing the proper respect and honorable disposal of tattered and worn flags is also critical.”

Following the ceremony, the old and retired flags were to be taken to an American Legion Chapter disposal site where they were burned according to Federal flag protocol.

Two patriotic organizations combined resources to honor the Grand Old Flag and the USA on June 15 in Hendersonville, NC. The Elks Lodge No. 1616 invited the Blue Ridge Chapter Color Guard to take part in parading a contingent of historical American flags around its campus.



Leading the parade (pictured above) were Color Guardsmen Larry Chapman, Craig Issacson, and Lance Dickinson who carried the 50-star American flag, the Bedford glad and the Guilford Court House Battle flag. Several members of the Elks Lodge followed in formation with various other flags from the American Revolutionary War.

This year's Fourth of July celebration in Hendersonville was one of the best to date. The Color Guard and Compatriots from the Blue Ridge Chapter were on hand to proclaim our forefathers'



sacrifice in securing America's freedoms. Over the past three years, the Blue Ridge Chapter has become one of the main attractions in the Fourth of July parade and in affiliated events in the region.

On the lead float in the parade (pictured bottom left), Color Guardsmen sported Continental and militia uniforms and waved a variety of historic flags in the fresh morning breeze. Included were the Betsy Ross, Bedford, Guilford Court House, and Continental flags from the American Revolution.

Other Compatriots were on hand at the Historic Henderson County Court House for the event. Long-time SAR member Tom Long assisted in orienting visitors at the American Revolution gallery in the museum while Compatriot Dan Jordan distributed more fifty copies of the U.S. Constitution to attendees.

Three new SAR members were sworn in at the August 13 meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter held in Brevard. Joining the eighty-member chapter were Jeffrey Brewer of Brevard, Daniel McCaugherty of Arden, and Kenneth Weglarz of Saluda. Each Compatriot brings unique talents that will enhance the Chapter's education and history/genealogy programs. The rich family heritage represented by each new member ties back to the American Revolution and extends the legacy of America's story of independence.



Among the special guests in attendance was Dr. Sam Powell, current State SAR Treasurer. Also present was National SAR Past President General (PPG) David Sympton (2010-2011), future father-in-law of inductee Daniel McCaugherty.

PPG Sympton recognized Chapter members who were military veterans in the American Armed forces. Each was given a Veterans Award pin that features the American flag in honor of their unselfish and sacrificial service to our nation. Ninety-eight year old James Brush of Mills River (pictured above) was the senior veteran honored.

Blue Ridge Chapter Compatriot and Americanism Committee Chairman Tom Long was awarded the Bronze Color Guard Medal at the chapter gathering August 13 in Hendersonville. Presenting the award was Awards Committee Chairman Lance Dickinson and Chapter Color Guard Commander Garry Linton.



Long has served in the NCSSAR Color Guard for over 30 years. The medal recognizes the dedication and leadership he has provided to the State SAR while an integral part of the Color Guard. Tom and his wife Wanda are residents of Hendersonville.

Members of the Blue Ridge and Mecklenburg Chapter Color Guards were honored to present our nation's Colors at the recent Naturalization Ceremony in Charlotte on August 19. The event was held in the Court of Circuit Judge Albert Diaz. With 68 new citizens swearing oaths to the USA, the event was the largest Citizen Nationalization class in North Carolina history.

The Honorable Judge Diaz opened the ceremony with an overview of the SAR and the principles for which the organization stands. As the session opened, the Color Guard presented the Colors before those assembled and stood at attention during the rendition of the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Following administration of the *Oath of Citizen-ship*, the Guard again presented the Colors during the *Pledge of Allegiance* and the singing of *God Bless America*.



At the ceremony closing, the Color Guard paraded the Colors to the center of the courtroom (pictured above) to allow our nation's newest citizens to pose for pictures. Nearly all 68 new citizens and their family members, along with Court Officers, made their way to the center of the chambers for a unique opportunity to be photographed with descendants of America's Patriot heroes.

The Color Guard contingent consisted of Lance Dickinson, Craig Isaacson, and Garry Linton from the Blue Ridge Chapter and Steve McKee and Tom Pfleger from the Mecklenburg Chapter of the NCSSAR. Color Guard members were profoundly thankful and appreciative for the opportunity to participate in such an important patriotic ceremony.

CRAIG ISAACSON, President
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR



Catawba Valley Chapter



President Ben Setser presented Cole Anthony Panaccione of Boy Scout Troop 327 with the *Eagle Scout Award* on June 23. This is the fourth award of its kind that the Chapter has awarded this year to honor Eagle Scouts.

Catawba Valley Chapter conducted a grave marking for Adam Setser at Littlejohn Methodist Church in Lenoir, NC on June 11. In attendance were three direct relatives, including Catawba Valley Chapter President Ben Setser (pictured below)—his fourth great-grandson, Chapter Vice President John Jay Cline—his fifth great-grandson, and Susan Houck of Quaker Meadows Chapter NCSDAR—his fifth great-granddaughter (pictured below).



Representative attendees (pictured below) were from the Quaker Meadows, Jacob Forney and Elizabeth Maxwell Steele Chapters NCSDAR, and the Catawba Valley, Mecklenburg, and Salisbury Chapters NCSSAR.



Catawba Valley Chapter, in conjunction with New River Pioneers Chapter VASDAR, conducted a joint grave marking for Patriot Capt. Martin Gambill on July 23 in Crumpler NC. A combined Color Guard (pictured top right) with members from Bethabara, Catawba Valley, Col. Alexander Erwin, and Mecklenburg Chapters NCSSAR and



the Watauga Chapter TNSSAR participated in the ceremony. Members from the Greenlee Chapter NCSDAR, New River Pioneers Chapter VASDAR, and the Grace Greenlee McDowell Chapter NCSCAR were in attendance. Patrick Carpenter from Boy Scout Troop 327 played taps.

BEN SETSER, President
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR



Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter

The National SAR Liberty Bell Americanism Award for 2021 was presented to the Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter at the recent National Congress in Savannah. They were the top winner among 45 SAR chapters nationwide with 1-40 members who competed for the coveted award.

Garnering a whopping 8,020 points in eight categories, Col. Alexander Erwin exceeded the runner-up chapter (incidentally, another NCSSAR chapter, Halifax Resolves) by more than 2,100 points. "We won the award," said Chapter President Robert Patton, "largely because of the contributions of our Chapter Past President William Brown's hard work at Martin Station, Wilderness Road State Park, VA."

Participation in community programs and activities that promote a better understanding of the SAR ideals and American traditions is the basis for a chapter to be selected for this national award.

~ Chartered August 20, 2022 ~

The NCSSAR is pleased to announce the founding of a new State SAR Chapter. On August 20, 2022, the Executive Committee of the NCSSAR met in Raleigh and approved the charter for the Col. Daniel Boone Chapter. They will meet bimonthly in Boone, NC.

The Boone Chapter begins with 18 charter members, four of whom are descendants of Patriot Daniel Boone. The Chapter President, Alvin Crum, is a sixth great-grandson and direct descendant of Daniel Boone.

Three charter members, Chapter Vice President and Registrar Daniel R. Parsons, Chapter Secretary Shane W. Watson and Compatriot Gary Hodges (dual member from Virginia) are direct descendants of Daniel Boone's oldest sister Sarah Boone Wilcoxon, and, thus, collateral descendants of Daniel Boone.

The Boone Chapter has already organized a Color Guard which will participate in commemorations, Patriot grave markings, and parades. Their first appearance was in the Fourth of July parade this past summer in downtown Boone.



Six of the 18 charter members were present for the charter ceremony at the NCSSAR Board of Managers Summer Meeting in Raleigh on August 20. Pictured (L-R) are State SAR President Jay DeLoach, Robert Crum, Larry Cornwell, Dan Parsons, Tom Ross, Tony Zeiss, Shane Watson, and State SAR Membership Committee Chair John Thornhill. Contact Chapter President Crum (704.310.0382) at robertalvincrum@gmail.com or Chapter Registrar and Vice President Dan Parsons (910.975.0703) at csnretired04@yahoo.com for more information about the newly established Boone Chapter.

Halifax Resolves Chapter

The late Henry C. "Hank" Brown, Jr. was honored at a memorial service last June. Friends, family, members of the 6th North Carolina Regiment of the Continental Line and the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR gathered on a rainy afternoon at the Tap Room in Historic Halifax to tell stories about Hank and to honor his work in preserving the history of the nation's founding.



NCSSAR Senior VP and Albemarle Chapter Chaplain Chris Grimes spoke about some of his adventures with Hank. He was assisted by Halifax Resolves Chapter President Ken Wilson in presenting Hank's widow with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal posthumously, "in recognition of notable services on behalf of our American principles." A musket volley was fired by members of the 6th North Carolina Regiment and a cannon volley was fired by Senior VP Grimes.

Troop 144 recently held a Court of Honor last June where Andrew Cole Johnson (pictured, left) was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Johnson's Eagle Scout project was the beautification of Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids.



Halifax Resolves Chapter President Ken Wilson presented Eagle Scout Johnson with the *SAR Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate* "For outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership and citizenship evidenced by his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout."

Compatriot Joe Pearce (pictured below, left) was inducted as a new SAR member at the Chapter's July meeting. The SAR oath was administered by President Wilson. As the first line signer, Chapter Registrar Bill Riggan presented Compatriot Pearce with the SAR rosette. The new member SAR application for Mr. Pearce was the first submitted by Mr. Riggan Chapter Registrar. He was privileged to present Compatriot Pearce with a SAR challenge coin.



Historic Halifax Site Manager Carl Burke and Assistant Site Manager Frank McMahon (pictured next page) updated the Chapter on improvements planned for the historic site leading up to the 250th Anniversary celebration of the American Revolution. Funds have been secured to renovate the Visitor's Center and add some new displays. There are also plans for more work at the William R.

Davies House. Other projects they hope to complete before the celebration include the purchase of a cannon for display at the Visitor's Center. Chapter President Wilson presented both gentlemen with Certificates of Appreciation for their support of the chapter.



Chapter Registrar Bill Riggan and Chapter Secretary Michael Cooper recently attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Boy Scouts of America Troop 555 in Louisburg. Pictured below (L-R), four troop members were honored for attaining Eagle Scout Rank: Matthew Strickland, Stephen Falkner, Richard Buckley, and Dalton Moser. Compatriot Riggan presented each scout with an SAR Certificate of Recognition "For outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership and citizenship evidenced by his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout."



At the request of Branch Director Kim Gray of the Jones Memorial Library in Littleton, the Halifax Resolves Chapter and the Elizabeth Monfort-Ashe Chapter NCSDAR jointly set up a display (pictured top right) in recognition of Constitution Day. Chapter President Wilson worked cooperatively with Chapter Regent Carol Guidry in developing the display that included the copies of Halifax Resolves, the Declaration of Independence, the Con-



stitution, and the Bill of Rights with a narrative explaining the relationship and progression of each document to the other. Also included in the display were find-a-word puzzles for the youth, literature about the American flag, and copies of the American Creed.

The Richard H. Thornton Library in Oxford, NC recently received the *SAR Flag Certificate* "In Recognition of Exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America." Chapter President Wilson presented the award to Thornton Library Director Andrew Maloney (pictured below, right) on behalf of the library.



KEN WILSON, President
Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

Gen. George Washington Chapter



Steve Craig (pictured above, center) was inducted into the SAR at the August 18 meeting of the Gen. George Washington Chapter. The oath was administered by Chapter President Travis Putnam (pictured right). Chapter Past President George Strunk assisted with the SAR lapel pinning.

At the recent National SAR Congress in Savannah, George Strunk received the Gold NSSAR Color Guard Medal for being selected the national SAR Color Guardsman of the year for 2021. The award was presented by SAR President General Davis Lee Wright. George has served admirably as the State SAR Color Guard Commander for the last three years. George will be responsible to carry the National SAR flag at all National SAR events for the next year.



Lower Cape Fear Chapter

The Chapter Color Guard presented the Colors at the July 3 patriotic concert held at Windmere Presbyterian Church, Wilmington. A free, annual event open to the public, the concert featured the Church choir, baritone and organ soloists, and the Cape Fear Brass Works.



Led by Commander Gene Funderburk, the Chapter Color guard was also represented at the Battle of Rockfish Creek, Wallace, on July 30, and at the Constitution Day event on the riverfront, Wilmington (pictured), on September 17.



Awards Chairman John Stewart presented JROTC Honor Awards during the months of April, May, and June at the following schools: South Brunswick High School (HS); North Brunswick HS; Hoggard HS; Ashley HS; West Brunswick HS; New Hampshire HS; East Bladen HS; Camp Lejeune HS; Laney HS; and Pender HS.

JACK ALBERT, President
Lower Cape Fear Chapter NCSSAR

Lumber River Chapter

Chapter President Carlton Mansfield (pictured below) leads the Flag Day Ceremony on June 14 at the historic Proctor Law Office Building in downtown Lumberton. The event was sponsored by Historic Robeson with participation by both the Col. Thomas Robeson Chapter NCSDAR and the Lumber River Chapter. The keynote address was given by Robeson County District Attorney Matthew Scott, an Iraq War veteran and Lt. Col. in the US Army Reserves.



DAVID MANN, Consulting Editor
The Old North State

Mecklenburg Chapter

A celebration of the 247th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was held at the site of the old Mecklenburg



County Courthouse in downtown Charlotte on May 20. Members of the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR gathered with other State Patriot

groups, including the NCSDAR. After the annual reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration, the combined color guards marched through downtown to

the Old Settlers' Cemetery for a wreath laying at the grave of Thomas Polk, who originally read the Declaration from the steps of the Mecklenburg Courthouse.



The Mecklenburg Chapter held a grave marking ceremony for patriot David Vance at the historic Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Charlotte on July 17. This event was made more special by the attendance of Robert Vance (pictured) of the Gadsden Chapter, NMSSAR, a direct descendant of David Vance. Robert traveled across the country to attend the National Congress in Savannah and was able to honor

his ancestor while he was in this area of the country. Several other State SAR chapters and the NCSDAR were present to render honors. George Struck, newly elected Vice President General, South Atlantic District, NSSAR, was also present.

New Bern Chapter

The Chapter hosted residents and their respective caregivers of the NC Veterans Home located in Kinston at a Minor League Baseball game on July 13 at Grainger Stadium. The game featured the Down East Wood Ducks and the Columbia Fireflies.

Residents and caregivers were treated to a "day-at-the-ballpark" that included the game ticket and unlimited ballpark food. The goal of the event was to recognize and show gratitude to veterans for



their service to our great nation. Chapter Compatriot Gary Gillette made all necessary arrangements. Compatriots Paul Higbee and Bob Mull were present to manage the event. Louise Higbee of the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR was in attendance to show her support.

DR. BOB AINSLEY, President
New Bern Chapter NCSSAR

Raleigh Chapter

The Chapter recognized the military service of one of its own, Compatriot Brett Russ, on July 16. Compatriot Russ was awarded the *SAR War Service Medal* for his overseas U.S. Army Aviation service in Afghanistan and the Global War of Terrorism.



The Medal honors a currently serving or veteran Compatriot who served honorably in the armed forces of the U.S., the military forces of a country allied with the U.S., or a United Nations Peace Keeping Force, against a common enemy in a

war or military action recognized by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Medal recipients hold a campaign medal, combat ribbon, or badge for their service. Bronze Service Bars are worn to indicate that a Compatriot received an authorized campaign medal.

Fully one-third of the Chapter's members are military veterans. Most served in the Army, Army National Guard, or Air Force during the Vietnam era. One of the chief missions of the Chapter is to actively recognize its Compatriot veterans for their service.

The Chapter Color Guard celebrated July Fourth by providing service to Independence Day activities at the State Capitol. Colors were presented on the Capitol steps for the reading of the Declaration of Independence and at the accompanying wreath-laying at the statue of Gen. George Washington located on the Capitol grounds.

As is tradition, the Color Guard also provided a presence at the annual Fourth of July swearing-in of new naturalized American citizens at the Capitol. Guardsmen were uniformed as a Continental or State soldier, sailor, marine, or militiaman as their

respective Patriot ancestors would have been. Compatriot Van Jones (pictured below) speaks with visitors at the SAR display table on the Capitol Grounds during the celebration.



The Chapter received the SAR *Partners in Patriotism Award* on August 20 for its extensive work with the Veterans Life Center (VLC) in Butner



and for its support for Wreaths Across America over the last year. Chapter compatriots raised and presented a \$10,000 donation in February of this year to the newly opened VLC facility (<https://vlcnc.org>) in celebration of George Washington's Birthday.

The Center works to prevent veterans from experiencing homelessness, incarceration, suicide, and premature death. It helps 21st century veterans experiencing difficulties reintegrating into civilian life. The Chapter also supported a clothing

drive for the Center's residents in March for veteran women and men at the Center need clothing and footwear for their personal lives, vocational education, and job training.

On National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day (<https://bit.ly/3R8F5bI>) last December, Chapter members raised funds to purchase 66 wreaths and participated in laying 1,600 wreaths on the graves of veterans at Historic Oakwood Cemetery (<https://bit.ly/3C33UBq>).

Chapter Registrar Robert Whitehead was awarded the SAR *Liberty Medal* for his tireless work reviewing and preparing documentation for new SAR applicants. The medal was presented to



Compatriot Whitehead at the NCSSAR Board of Managers Meeting on August 30.

One of the primary objectives of Chapter Registrars is to grow the SAR membership. Keys to that process are preparation, review, and approval of membership applications. Chapter Registrars are aware of the documentation standards and work to help prospective new mem-

bers submit adequate applications that will not have to be returned, modified and/or researched further. The Medal recognizes recipients for recruiting at least ten new members and who were first line signers on the applications.

President Richard Pena announced on August 28 that Darwin Roseman has accepted the role of Chapter Secretary. Darwin generously volunteered for the position which supports the largest of the NCSSAR's twenty-five chapters.

The Secretary is responsible for conducting general correspondence of the chapter. He records, publishes, and maintains a permanent copy of the chapter meeting minutes and assists the President in preparing Chapter BOM and Annual Meeting reports to the State Secretary.

The Secretary also maintains chapter files not the responsibility of another officer such as rosters, new members, deceased members, correspondence, membership information, and updates the Members Data System with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. He works with the Treasurer on the completion and submittal of the Annual Reconciliation Report. Finally, the Secretary notifies the State Secretary of the death, resignation or removal of any member, and changes of officers.

The Chapter presented an SAR *Flag Certificate* to the Robbins Family on September 3 for their con-

consistent and correct display of the U.S. flag in front of their home in Clayton. The Robbins Family demonstrate respect for it by carefully following requirements of U.S. Code Title 4 Chapter 1.



They have made particular efforts to ensure an all-weather flag that is lighted when displayed at night, as required by the code. Assisted by his daughter, a member of the Joel Lane Chapter of the NCSCAR, Chapter Vice President Gary Spencer presented the Robbins Family with the Certificate outside their family home.



An SAR *Flag Certificate* was also presented to Albert Hedeon on September 3. A veteran, Mr. Hedeon proudly displays and demonstrates respect for a U.S. flag outside his home, according to the requirements of U.S. Code Title 4 Chapter 1. Once more assisted by his

daughter Vivian, Chapter VP Spencer presented Mr. Hedeon with the Certificate outside his Fox Run family home.

KARL FELD, Communications Director
Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR

Sandhills Chapter

The Chapter joined a Boy Scout Court of Honor of Troop 98 in West End along with their families, friends, scout leaders, and representatives of other patriotic organizations to honor three outstanding young people who received their Eagle rank awards. In addition, Chapter leaders presented each of them with the SAR *Eagle Scout Medal and Certificate*.

Their Eagle Scout projects included community service projects that collaborated with the local Fire Department as well as designing and establishing environmentally sound small fish habitats in local waterways. Chapter Compatriots congratulated them for their hard work, leadership skills, and encouraged them to apply the important lessons that they learned in the Boy Scouts throughout their adult lives.



Pictured above (L-R) are Bruce Fensley, Chapter President; Landon Caddell, Eagle Scout; Mike Nelsen, Marine Corps League; Nick Fidandis, Eagle Scout; John Fesq, Marine Corps League; Joseph Cain, Eagle Scout; and Rep. Jamie Boles, Moore County, NC House of Representatives. Not Pictured is Stephen Lawrence, Chapter Eagle Scout Committee Chair.



MUSKET RAFFLE

to support the
2026 SAR Congress in North Carolina



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You must be at least 18 years of age to purchase raffle entries.

Tickets will be available until January 31, 2023 @ 12:55 PM.
The drawing will be held on January 31, 2023 @ 1:00 PM.

COLOR GUARD REPORT

Patriot David Vance Grave Marking

Compatriot Robert Vance, Gadsen Chapter, NMSSAR, and his wife Cheryl stopped by Charlotte on their way home from National SAR Congress in Savannah. Robert participated with members of the Mecklenburg, Catawba Valley, Salisbury, Battle of Kings Mountain, and Gen. George Washington Chapters of the NCSSAR Color Guard (below) to mark the grave of his ancestor Patriot David Vance. The ceremony was held at the Steele Creek Presbyterian Cemetery on July 16.



241st Battle of Rockfish Creek

The Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter hosted the Commemoration of the 241st Battle of Rockfish Creek on July 31. Other Chapters participating in the Color Guard (below) were New Bern, Lower Cape Fear, and Gen. George Washington.



Battle of the House in the Horseshoe

The Sandhills Chapter hosted the 241st Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the House in the Horseshoe on August 6. Chapters participating

in the Color Guard (below) were New Bern, Alamance Battleground, Gen. George Washington, le Marquise de Lafayette, and Raleigh.



Color Guard Change of Command

President Jay DeLoach (below, center) officiates the Change of Color Guard Command from George Strunk (left) to Stephen McKee of the Mecklenburg Chapter at the NCSSAR Board of Managers Meeting on August 20 in Raleigh.



248th Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves and 1st NC Provincial Congress

The New Bern Chapter hosted the event on August 27 at the Christ Episcopal Church in New Bern. Participating in the Color Guard were the Alamance Battleground, Gen. George Washington, le Marquise de Lafayette, Mecklenburg, and Raleigh Chapters



STEPHEN P. MCKEE
Color Guard Commander NCSSAR

Book Review

by Lowell Hoffman

Harris, Michael C. (2017). *Brandywine: A Military history of the battle that lost Philadelphia but saved America, September 11, 1777*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie. ISBN 978-1-81121-322-5.

The Battle of Brandywine, although a losing one for Gen. George Washington and the Patriot Army, merits our attention. In no other military action of the Revolution can multiple officers be found whose names are memorialized in the places, names, and cities of the Old North State. We have the Marquis de Lafayette (Fayetteville, NC), Nathanael Greene (Greensboro, NC), and Gen. Francis Nash (Nash County, Nashville, NC).

Eleven hours in duration, Brandywine was the longest engagement of the entire Revolutionary War. It covered the largest area (ten square miles) and the greatest number of combined forces (about 30,000).

This well-written and superbly documented book, authored by a former museum educator at the Brandywine Battlefield State Historic Site, warrants a place on any Revolutionary book shelf. Mr. Harris took advantage of original sources and a trove of little known and newly discovered sources to write a narrative which dispels myths, clarifies the strategies and tactics of the battle, and provides background information on the men who fought and led this important engagement.

A baker's dozen of citations pertaining to Gen. Francis Nash reveal the participation of Nash and the nine North Carolina regiments which were present. The role of these troops in support of efforts led by Nathaniel Greene in covering the disengagement and retreat of Patriot soldiers is a story which our NCSSAR members will appreciate.

The battle took place on September 11, 1777. Gen. William Howe opted not to implement a previously suggested strategy of moving up the Hudson in conjunction with Burgoyne's forces moving southward from Canada. Instead, he chose to leave a minimal force in place in New York. Ships were boarded, and Washington was forced to evacuate Philadelphia and engage in battle. This proved to be a time-consuming effort, but it eventually resulted in the desired engagement.

Following initial hours of artillery, attack, and counterattack, a flanking movement by the British to an unguarded ford led to an evacuation toward safety. A few weeks later, the battle at Germantown ensued on October 4. As these two sequential battles were taking place, America's tide-turning victory at Saratoga occurred on October 7.

Within a span of twenty-six days, Patriot forces had won a great victory on the Hudson and bloodied the noses of Redcoat armies in Pennsylvania. With Philadelphia subsequently in the hands of the British, the countryside belonged to the Patriots. As France entered the War effort to offer support, a significant turning point was reached. America was well on the way to being saved. Had Gen. Howe instead chosen to support Burgoyne's campaign on the Hudson, the U.S. might have been split in two, France might not have entered the War, and the revolution might have been lost.

The War had many situations in which the fate of liberty hung by a thread. Our Patriot ancestors were fortunate to have survived them all. As we face similar dangerous situations today where liberty is threatened, there will likely be no single moment, no single brave act, or no particular strategic decision that turns the tide. Many acts of courage will be required to protect our liberty and preserve our nation.

This book is a must-read for freedom lovers. The flow of the battle narrative, the side stories, and the supporting maps will pique readers' interests and help them gain a thorough understanding of the action.

Editor's Note: Lowell Hoffman is Chair of the NCSSAR Rumbaugh Oration Committee and is a member of the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter. He can be reached at lmhglobal927@gmail.com.

Chapter Reminders

The following dates for various reports and contests over the next several months were announced at the recent NCSSAR Board of Managers Meeting was held in Raleigh on August 20. Chapter leaders and committee chairs will need to mark their calendars accordingly.

Important Dates

September 8: Regional VPs send names and contact information of chapter officials responsible for reconciliation to Secretary Bob Sigmon.

December 1: Membership dues and Reconciliation Reports submitted to the Secretary.

December 31: Patriot Medal recommendations to Membership Committee Chair John Thornhill.

December 31: Knight Essay Contest applicants to Committee Chair Stephen Morris.

December 31: American History Teacher (elementary; middle; high) Contest applications to Committee Chair Jim Wood.

January 3: Arthur King Eagle Scout Contest applications to Committee Chair James Johnson.

January 13: Winter BOM reports to State SAR Secretary.

January 14: USS Stark Memorial reports to Veteran Committee Chair Pat Niemann.

January 31: Chapters wanting to participate in Rumbaugh Oratory Contest register with Committee Chair Lowell Hoffman.

February 15: Americanism reports to Americanism Committee Chair Jay DeLoach.

March 27: Outstanding/Enhanced JROTC Cadet Contest applications to Committee Chair Michael Aycock.

May 30 (12:00 noon): Americanism Poster (Elementary, grades 3, 4, 5) Contest entries to Committee Chair Steve Van Pelt.

May 30 (12:00): Americanism Brochure (Middle School, grades 6, 7, 8) Contest entries to Committee chair Steve Van Pelt.



Maligned Patriot Hero: Major General Horatio Gates (Part 2)

By Stephen P. McKee

Readers: Mr. McKee continues his argument that, "Many heroes are declared villains from half- and distorted truths or outright falsehoods." He tackles several unfounded assertions about Gen. Horatio Gates, the first one in a Part 1 article, which readers may want to review (see <https://bit.ly/3CgMrFG>, pp.15-16). He addresses a second baseless assertion in this Part 2 installment.

Assertion Two: *Gen. Gates led a conspiracy to undermine and replace George Washington.*

After his victory in Saratoga, Gen. Horatio Gates became embroiled in the scandal of the Conway Cabal. The scandal was discovered when a letter from Thomas Conway to Gates made its way into the hands of Gen. Washington. It has been greatly blown out of proportion, and the lion's share of popular blame has been unjustly laid at Gates' feet.

Dr. Benjamin Rush, writing to John Adams on October 21, 1777 said, "I am more convinced than ever of the necessity of discipline and system in the management of our affairs. I have heard several officers who have served under General Gates compare his army to a well-regulated family. The same gentlemen have compared General Washington's imitation of an army to an unformed mob. Look at the characters of both! The one at the pinnacle of military glory, exulting in the success of schemes planned with wisdom and executed with vigor and bravery....See the other outgeneraled and twice beaten....forced to give up a city the capital of a state, and after all outwitted by the same army in retreat. If our Congress can witness such things without composure and suffer them to pass without an inquiry, I shall think we have not shook off our monarchical prejudices."

In another letter of January 12, 1778, left unsigned to Patrick Henry, Rush wrote, "The northern army has shown us what Americans are capable of with a General at their head. The spirit of the southern army is no way inferior to the spirit of the northern. A Gates, a Lee, or a Conway would in a few weeks time render them an irresistible body of men."

Dr. Rush would obviously have welcomed replacing Washington as Commander in Chief. But as Bernhard Knollenberg, a noted scholar on the Conway Cabal, has noted, "It takes more than one to form a conspiracy."

Even the correspondence between Gates and his supposed cohorts reveal no real evidence of a desire to, much less a plan to, rid His Excellency from his position at the head of the Army. Indeed, much of Gates' correspondence strikes a very sympathetic tone with regards to the struggles faced by Washington, including his response to the infamous Conway letter: "Your excellent letter has given me pain; for, at the time that I am indebted to you for a just idea of the causes of our misfortunes, your judicious observations make me sensible of the difficulty there is in remedying the evils which retard our success. The perfect establishment of military discipline, consistent with the honor and principles which ought to be cherished among a free people, is not the work of genius, but time."

His response is not critical of Washington, as it is obvious he is keenly aware of the difficulties faced by the Commander in Chief—more so than Rush or anyone else in Congress. Even though Gates could be critical at times, or hold views contradictory to that of his superior, he often came to the aid of Washington and spoke on his behalf when he felt that criticisms of others were not only unwarranted, but without merit.

Washington's keen awareness that factions in Congress were pressing for his removal, and his knowledge of who they preferred to see as Commander in Chief, fueled his personal wrath. Coupled with that of the zealous junior officers of his military family, they heaped uneven blame for the conspiracy upon their fellow officers instead of the members of Congress where it more justly belonged.

Editor's Note: Stephen P. McKee of the Mecklenburg Chapter is the NCSSAR Foothills Region Vice President and State SAR Color Guard Commander.

National Officers Elected

The State SAR Society is proud to announce the election of three of its own to National SAR Offices. All are accomplished Compatriots who have long resumes of SAR service, recognitions, and awards.



Gary Green of the Lower Cape Fear Chapter was elected Genealogist General. Brooks Lyles of the Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter was elected historian General. They are pictured (above) in the



swearing-in ceremony at National Congress in Savannah.

George Strunk of the Gen. George Washington Chapter was elected Vice President General for the South Atlantic District NSSAR. He is pictured (left) in his introduction at National Congress as the new VPG.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line has a new three-digit dialing code, 988 (then press 1). This change is a result of Public Law 116-172, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 passed by the U.S. Congress (see <https://bit.ly/3fc2pYB>).

The Act requires all telephone service providers to activate the new 988 code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 16. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) released a national media announcement about the code on July 18.

ROBERT WEBSTER, Vice President
New Bern Chapter NCSSAR

Digital Resources

The State Archives in Raleigh recently released a collection of Revolutionary War Era records. Compatriots can access the collection for reading and research here: <https://bit.ly/3UGBYdN>

The main page for the Revolutionary War Era Digital Collection is here: <https://bit.ly/3LL2XRa>

The Journal of the New Bern District Committee of Safety is available at <https://bit.ly/3LLRrFv>.

VICTOR JONES, Genealogist
New Bern Chapter NCSSAR

Editor's Note: Compatriot Jones is Director of the Kellenberger Room, the genealogical section of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library (www.newbern.cpclib.org).

HISTORICAL SITES

Liberty Point Resolves Commemoration

The Liberty Point Resolves was an important document signed by Patriots in Cross Creek in 1775. A commemoration of the signing was held on June 11 on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville. The Church is located across the street from the Liberty Point Building (pictured), the oldest commercial structure still standing in downtown Fayetteville, built ca. 1791.



The event was co-sponsored by the Liberty Point Resolves and the Col. Robert Rowan Chapters NCSDAR, the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR, the Isham Blake Chapter NCSCAR and the Lafayette Society. Members of the le Marquis

de Lafayette, Raleigh, and Sandhills Chapters, NCSSAR participated in the Color Guard.

Editor's Note: Readers may be interested in a historical piece about the Liberty Point Resolves written by Compatriot Roy Lightfoot of the Catawba Valley Chapter and published recently in the *Lincoln Herald*. See <https://bit.ly/3Cawr8o>.

Lafayette 200th Commemoration

The 200th anniversary of French General and Revolutionary War hero le Marquis de Lafayette's visit to North Carolina occurs in 2025. The SAR is working cooperatively with the American Friends of Lafayette and the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville to plan a memorable anniversary event.

Lafayette toured the southern states during the winter of 1825. His visit to North Carolina was one of the most celebrated and chronicled events in State history. After his visit to the eastern portion of southern Virginia, Lafayette and his entourage traveled west towards his famous stop in Halifax at the Eagle Tavern (pictured).



From Halifax he continued to the state Capitol in Raleigh where he was met with much fanfare and ceremony. Lafayette then proceeded south to Fayetteville, the only city named in his honor that he visited. Fayetteville was also the site of the Old State House, the structure where State delegates ratified the U.S. Constitution earlier in 1789. Lafayette continued his tour to Cheraw, SC.

DAVID L. MANN, Consulting Editor
The Old North State

FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

New England Flag ca. 1772

By Robert Webster

The origin of the New England flag, also known as the "Continental Colors," began with a modification of the Red Ensign of the British Navy. However, New England's Puritans objected to a flag bearing a symbol of the Christian Cross, so it was removed. After the pine tree riots in 1772, the pine tree was added to the field.



Following the April, 19 1775 "shot heard around the world," and subsequent British defeat at the Battle of Lexington and Concord, Thomas Gauge, Royal Governor of Massachusetts, became concerned about the increasing number of Colonial Militia in the Boston area. His concern was well justified. On the nights of June 16-17, 1775, Colonial Americans fortified Breed and Bunker Hills which overlooked Boston Harbor.

When the British advanced the next morning, legend suggests that they saw a red flag; however, we have no real knowledge of which Flag was actually flown. The debate is further complicated by reviewing two versions of John Trumbull's painting, "The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill."

Trumbull purportedly talked with eyewitnesses who reported seeing a red flag, after which he painted two versions. One shows a flag with a red field; the other with a field of blue. Despite some historians who hold the Blue Fielded Bunker Hill Flag did not exist, the U.S. Post Office issued a stamp in 1968 depicting the Bunker Hill Flag as blue.

Editor's Note: MSgt. Robert Webster, USMC (Ret.), is Vice President of the New Bern Chapter.

THE
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NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

National SAR Awards

Announced at the recent National Congress in Savannah, the NCSSAR received over 60 awards, streamers, and other recognitions for 2021. The awards were presented to the recipients at the August 20 Board of Managers Meeting, Raleigh.

YOUTH AWARDS

Americanism Poster Award

- 2nd Place (\$200), Samyah Bhat, Polo Ridge Elementary School; Teacher, Jason Sword; Mecklenburg Chapter

American History Teacher Award

- 2nd Place, Travis Copeland, Covenant Classical School (high school); Mecklenburg Chapter

Youth Contests Participation:

Americanism Poster
Americanism Brochure
Eagle Scout
Enhanced JROTC
Knights Essay
Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration
American History Teacher

STATE AWARDS

Allene Wilson Groves Award

To the State Society, based upon size, which presents evidence of best implementing SAR resolutions and principles

- 1st Place, NCSSAR (Pictured is President Jay DeLoach accepting the award.)



USS Stark Memorial Award

To the State Society, based upon size, with the best record of service to veterans.

- 1st Place, NCSSAR

State Veterans Service Award

State Society based upon percentage of their Chapters submitting reports for the USS Stark Memorial Award (19 of 27 chapters)

- NCSSAR

Adm. William R. Furlough Memorial Award

State Societies where 50% or more of their chapters have presented Flag Certificates during the year

- NCSSAR

Officers Attendance Streamer

State Societies whose National Trustee and State President have attended both preceding Trustees' meetings and previous National Congress

- NCSSAR

Robert L. Sonfield Award

State Society with the largest numerical increase in membership (81 members)

- 1st Place, NCSSAR

Grahame T. Smallwood, Jr. Award

State Society of more than 500 members with best publication having more than 10 pages

- Winner (\$250), *The Old North State*, Dr. Joe Sutton, Editor (Gen. George Washington)

Youth Protection Training Certificate of Appreciation

Recognition of course completion by President-elect, President, and Past President

- NCSSAR

DAR/SAR Membership Award (1)

For the DAR State Society with highest percentage of submitted and approved SAR members (8.1%)

- 1st Place, NCSSAR

DAR/SAR Membership Award (2)

For the DAR State Society with the highest number of submitted and approved SAR members (103)

- 2nd Place (\$200), NCSSAR

Patriot Grave Marking Medal

Compatriots who participated in at least fifteen (15) grave marking events. For multiple grave markings at an event, a maximum of five (5) patriots can be counted

- Ben Setser (Catawba Valley)
- Frank Merrell (Salisbury)
- Bob Ainsley (New Bern)
- Jay DeLoach (New Bern)

Youth Education Medal

- Ken Wilson (Halifax Resolves)
- Chris Grimes (Albemarle)

Youth Education Medal with Lifetime Achievement Bar

- Ken Wilson (Halifax Resolves)
- Chris Grimes (Albemarle)

CHAPTER AWARDS

Liberty Bell Americanism Award

Chapter, based on size, which best represents SAR resolutions and principles during the year

- Col Alexander Erwin (10-40 members)
- New Bern (41-99 members), Hon. Mention

President General's Cup

Chapter, based on size, presenting evidence of the most complete program of activities during the year

- New Bern (41-99 members), Hon. Mention

President General's Chapter Activities Award

Chapter, based on size, presenting evidence of the most complete program of activities during the year

- Catawba Valley (10-49 members)
- Lower Cape Fear (50-99 members)

USS Stark Memorial Award

Awarded to the Chapter, based upon size, with the best record of service to veterans during the year

- Lower Cape Fear (50-99 members)

PG's 2021 Education Outreach Streamer

Awarded by the SAR Education Outreach Committee to any Chapter giving a specific number of presentations to non-SAR organizations

- Albemarle
- Alamance Battleground
- Blue Ridge
- Catawba Valley
- Col. Alexander Erwin
- Gen. George Washington
- Halifax Resolves
- Lower Cape Fear
- New Bern
- Raleigh
- Sandhills

Partners in Patriotism

Awarded by the SAR Patriotic Outreach Committee to any Chapter participating with veterans organizations, Wreaths Across America, and/or Boy's/Girls State

- Albemarle
- Blue Ridge
- Gen. George Washington
- Halifax Resolves
- Lower Cape Fear
- New Bern
- Raleigh
- Sandhills

Ohanesian History Presentation Award

Chapter, based on size, whose members collectively, orally make the most presentations on any aspect of the American Revolution to classes or

groups in schools (K-12) in their respective geographic service area.

- Winner (\$500), Catawba Valley (10-40 members)

Carl F. Bessent Award

To the Editor of the most outstanding multi-sheet chapter newsletter

- Winner (\$150), *The Patriot Journal*, David Bamford, Editor (Raleigh)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Minuteman Medal

Highest award to a Compatriot for outstanding service at the national level

- Gary Green (Lower Cape Fear)
- Brooks Lyles (Battle of Kings Mountain)



President General Davis Lee Wright presents Minuteman Medal and Certificate to Gary Green (right).



Brooks Lyles (right) accepts Minuteman Medal and Certificate from President General Davis Lee Wright.

Color Guardsman of the Year Award

Compatriot who is the best representative of Color Guards and the best example of service to the ideals of the SAR by his service as a Color Guardsman

- George Strunk (Gen. George Washington)

Gold Roger Sherman Medal

For outstanding service as Vice Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee

- Jay DeLoach (New Bern)

Thomas Jefferson Medal

For generous support of the Knights Essay Endowment Fund

- Stephen Morris (Raleigh)

George Washington Fellow

For generous support of the George Washington Endowment Fund

- Duncan Jones (Halifax Resolves)
- Corey Green (Lower Cape Fear)
- Jay DeLoach (New Bern)

Liberty Medal

Presented to Compatriots who are a first line sponsor for 10 new members (M=medal; OLC=oak leaf cluster)

- David Alls (Old North State)-OLC
- Greg Catledge (Mecklenburg)-OLC
- Gary Gillette (New Bern)-OLC
- Tim Green (Alamance Battleground)-M
- Frank Merrell (Salisbury)-OLC
- Robert Ray III (Mecklenburg)-M
- John Thornhill (Lower Cape Fear)-OLC
- Clarence Tillery (Nathanael Greene)-OLC
- Robert Whitehead (Raleigh)-2 OLC
- Ken Wilson (Halifax Resolves)-M

Silver Liberty Medal

Presented to Compatriots who have sponsored over 100 new members

- David Alls (Old North State)

Thomas J. Bond, Jr. Photography Award

Compatriot who presents the best photograph depicting the spirit of patriotism

- Winner (\$250), Robert Webster (New Bern)



Battle of Rockfish Creek: Reflections

by Jack H. Albert, Jr., DMin

Recently near the small town of Wallace, about 50 miles from Compass Pointe, I attended a ceremony commemorating the Revolutionary Battle of Rockfish Creek. Some historians suggest the battle occurred on July 30, 1781. Others insist it happened on August 2, 1781. For me, the more important recollection is to know that the battle indeed happened, to appreciate the significance of the event, and to share the information.

On July 30, I was among the small group who gathered around a concrete monument noted only with the word, "Rockfish." Identified on NC Route 117 by a historical marker, the purpose of the event was to remember the Battle and those who sacrificed. My mind wondered back to what it may have been like on that summer day in 1781.

Two hundred forty-one years ago on the ground where I stood, approximately 150 militia, farmers, merchants, and tradesmen under command of Brigadier General (Pro Tempore) James Kenan of Duplin County established a camp and built breastworks along the Rockfish Creek adjacent to a wagon trail. They were supported by Brigadier General Richard Caswell, former State Governor and then-commander of the State Militia with his 180 or so patriots. According to historic documents written in 1907, this road "dropped off" to a ford, suggesting Rockfish "bridge" was most likely just an appropriate place to cross the Creek.

The reason for this defensive encampment was to meet the challenge of British Maj. James H. Craig, occupying commandant of Wilmington. He had announced his intention to "take property and life" of anyone who refused to swear an oath of allegiance to the English King, or who refused to provide, at least part time, membership in Loyalist military forces. A point often forgotten is even though many in the colonies bristled against England's taxes and restrictions, they were still citizens of Great Britain. Thus, any action against the Crown was considered treason. In addition, although increasing individuals and groups were in open rebellion against the King, there remained many loyalists in the colonies who were creating tension and conflict.

Craig began a march from Wilmington to make good on his pronouncements. He led the 82nd Regiment of Foot Soldiers with 250 men, rein-

forced with an unknown number of men or pieces of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Reinforcement also came from 78 men of the NC Independent Dragoons led by Capt. John Gordon. The total known British forces numbered 325, although some reports register 500 as the roster number of the Loyalists. This discrepancy may be appreciated when considering the unrecorded artillery soldiers.

The Patriots' sentries and scouts had been placed about three miles from the encampment which was insufficient for notice of the approaching enemy and reporting back in order to react. As a consequence, Maj. Craig was able to surprise and surround the Whig forces. According to two eyewitness reports, as the fighting grew intense, the Patriots ran out of ammunition. When Craig's artillery began to fire, the militia began to run, during which more than 30 members were either killed or captured.

Maj. Craig's forces continued their march through the region, ruthlessly demanding the citizenry swear an oath of allegiance to the King. Those who refused were executed or imprisoned. Craig took no mercy on men of the militia or their families, torching house and barns as his march continued. This tyrannical reign was short lived, however, as Craig withdrew all forces, destroying all weapons and materiel that he could, upon the surrender of Lord Charles Cornwallis to Gen. George Washington in October 1781.

Interestingly, on a farm not far from Rockfish, a cannon ball was uncovered several years ago during a season of plowing. The FBI lab assessed the safety of the projectile. It is now used by a local teacher as an object lesson about the American Revolution with his middle school students.

Readers may ask the question, "Why should we even be concerned about this little unknown battle of the American Revolution which was obviously a failed military effort for the Patriots?" This writer believes it is important to learn more deeply about our history and to appreciate more fully the fabric of our nation's' founding. The threads of Patriots who worked and sacrificed, even unto loss of life for a belief and a cause, is a sanctuary of reflection in itself.

Perhaps the study here can best be described as holding forth the "sanctity of the ordinary." May we all grow from reading of the experiences of others.

Editor's Note: Dr. Albert is President of the Lower Cape Fear Chapter.

Revisiting Columbus Day

By Joe P. Sutton, PhD

Education scholar Diane S. Ravitch, PhD concluded that instruction in patriotism should be integrated throughout school curricula. She correctly explained, "Since the earliest days of public education, the schools were expected to teach students about the history, culture, and symbols of America and to encourage them to feel part of the nation." (p. 579)

Embracing a similar view, Chester E. Finn, Jr., EdD, President Emeritus of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, appropriately asserted, "The solemn duty of all educators is to make certain that all our children know who they [i.e., the students themselves] are. Part of that can be accomplished by teaching them about America's Founders, about their ideals, and about the character, courage, vision, and tenacity with which they acted. From that inspiring history, true patriotism cannot help but grow." (p. 580)

Whether twenty-first century schools are effectively teaching patriotism is a matter of debate. Although widespread immersion of patriotism in classroom instruction today might be questioned, a lack of educational materials is not. One example of a curricular resource is *Patriotic Holidays of the United States* authored by Helene Henderson. Among the holidays identified in this book is Columbus Day.

Not all organizations recognize Columbus Day as a major American patriotic holiday, however. The National Archives at Boston and Blue Star Mothers of America exclude it in their listings of patriotic holidays, as does the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Yet David G. Bancroft at *USA Patriotism!* notes that the U.S. Department of State recognizes Columbus Day as a national holiday.

Historically, New York is credited with celebrating the first Columbus Day in 1792 on the 300th anniversary of Italian-born Christopher Columbus' historic landing in the New World. Other communities with Italian immigrants and Catholic (Columbus' chosen faith) organizations soon followed with parades and events commemorating Columbus.

The first nationwide observances of Columbus Day were held in 1892 on the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing. At the direction of the U.S. Congress, a proclamation by President Benjamin Harrison charged schools, churches, and communities to pause on October 21, 1892 to acknowledge Columbus' discovery that led to the birth of our great nation:

"On that day, let the people so far as possible, cease from toil and devote themselves to such exercises as may best express honor to the discoverer and their appreciation of the great achievements of the four completed centuries of American life...Let the national flag float over every schoolhouse in the country and the exercises be such as shall impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship. In the churches and other places of assembly of the people let there be expressions of gratitude to Divine Providence for the devout faith of the discoverer and for Divine care and guidance which has directed our history and so abundantly blessed our people...Benj. Harrison." (Washington, DC, July 21, 1892, John W. Foster, Secretary of State)



Unfortunately, one hundred thirty years later, Columbus Day, October 10, 2022 will probably be recognized with little fanfare. Celebrated for decades with great pride and patriotism, this national holiday essentially has been reduced to a date on the calendar, although it remains a paid holiday for federal employees. Even American public schools inconsistently recognize Columbus Day. Lottie T. Bishop notes, "As a general rule East Coast schools tend to close in observance of Columbus Day, while schools on the West Coast remain open," (para. 5).

Unwarranted criticism of the explorer by some progressive groups today is rooted in what they perceive to be diversity violations associated with Columbus. Overlooking entirely his discovery of the New World, they shamefully dismiss celebration of Columbus Day in lieu of an alternative "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

Nonetheless, van der Krogt's (2003) research identified a list of almost 400 memorials of Columbus around the world. Although "Columbus never set foot on the shores of what later became the USA," as van der Krogt notes, there are at least 150 memorials of Columbus in the U.S. Pictured is the statue

of Columbus near Schenley Park in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA. (Image courtesy of Piotrus via Wikimedia Commons (<https://bit.ly/3dT5Jb0>.)

Perhaps a reminder of the threefold mission of the National SAR is in order for compatriots—*remembering our past, promoting core values, and shaping young minds*. May the NCSSAR rededicate itself to greater promotion and preservation of important, albeit increasingly neglected, patriotic holidays, including Columbus Day.

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Editor's Note: This article is a synthesis of three articles about Columbus Day authored by the Editor and published in *The Weekly Gazette*, La Grange, NC in 2021.

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FIREARMS FOR FREEDOM

Rifleman Tim Murphy

by Dr. Michael Arnette, DDS

Many believe the life and deeds of Tim Murphy (1751-1818) are historically true. Grand grave markers with long missives about his contributions in the American Revolution still stand today in New England and in the Saratoga Battlefield National Park in New York.

This article is titled after the book about Tim Murphy written by Roy F. Chandler (1993). Brothers Roy and Lt. Col. Norma A. Chandler are authors and contributors of the six-volume book series, *Death from Afar*, the first published in 1992. They write about sniper craft, long-range shooting, and all things relevant to a man with a rifle, and the force multiplier that a man who knows how to use a rifle exerts on the battle field.

Col. Chandler was intimately involved in the Marine Corps Scout Sniper Program. He was a sniper, leader, firearms innovator, principal in the Iron Brigade Armory, and a salt-of-the-earth kind of man. No enemy would ever want to face a gun being pointed from Col. Chandler.

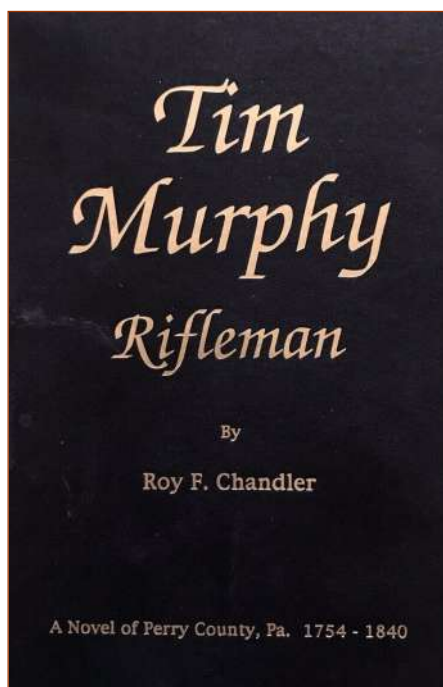
His brother Roy (Rocky) Chandler was a career Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army who attended Carson Long Military Academy and The Citadel.

He is the prolific author of the *Black Book Series*. These were books were about men in battle throughout our nation's history up to modern day battles in Afghanistan.

In addition to Roy Chandler, two other authors of military weapons and battles about victory over evil that stand out to this writer are Zane Gray and Louis L'Amour. Chandler's books can be likened to L'Amour's books on steroids, as it were.

Although not plentiful, copies of Roy Chandler's books can be found in extensive online searches and in rare book stores, old book dealers, and bookstores in Pennsylvania. But don't expect to find discounts on Chandler's books. They can be pricey, depending on book condition. Worth the investment, they will be books to treasure for life.

Tim Murphy Rifleman is about a young man with Indian blood in his veins who learns about warfare from an English trouble shooter. His education and development as a shooter leads to his actions in the Revolutionary War. The result was a long shot with his muzzle loading flintlock rifle that killed British Brigadier General Simon Fraser in the Battle of Saratoga.



In fairness, there are dissenters (e.g., Harrington, 2013) who believe Tim Murphy's Revolutionary War contributions were merely a myth. They assert he did not fire the death shot that killed Gen. Fraser. Perhaps it boils down

to personal opinion and belief. This writer chooses to believe that Tim Murphy did what has been credited to him, as supported in the broader historical record.

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Editor's Note: Dr. Michael Arnette is a member of the Gen. George Washington Chapter. He is a practicing oral and maxillo-facial surgeon in Kinston, NC.



HISTORIAN'S HERALD

Historical Staff Rides

by Gary Spencer

For many years, the U.S. Army has offered a professional development program to regular and non-commissioned officers known as "Staff Rides." These are learning opportunities for officers to discuss leadership, personalities, decision-making, tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), and strategy. The key to a Staff Ride is that it is not conducted in a classroom or lecture hall. Rather, it is held on the actual grounds (i.e., on-site) that pertains to the topic or action.

In the coming months, the NCSSAR will offer a Historical Staff Rides program that mirrors that of the U.S. Army, but with more flexibility. Participants will include Compatriots, their families, and like-minded friends. They may be as involved as they want and as time allows. Some may accept an assignment ("homework") to study and research a particular Revolutionary War personality or action and have it ready to present when participants meet at the respective site. Others may simply want to attend the Staff Ride, walk the actual terrain that relates to the personality or action, and enjoy the tour.

The goal is to hold one historical Staff Ride each quarter. The State SAR Historian will announce the date two months out. Included in the announcement will be the location of, and directions to, the Staff Ride, for example, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Upon arrival, participants will easily identify the SAR flag. The announcement will also include a list of recommended readings for those who want study and prepare in advance. A list of



(not required) to sign up for a topic and be responsible for sharing with others at the Staff Ride.

Participants who choose to share about a topic will do so at the Staff Ride when the tour reaches certain points called "stands." A stand is an interactive pause (pictured above) in the tour that allows for a brief presentation and discussion on what occurred at that spot and consider what-ifs and so-whats. As the Staff Ride tour winds down, all information studied and shared will be integrated and summarized.

Historical Staff Rides are unique opportunities for everyone to dive deeper and learn more about Revolutionary history in our State, to interact with kindred spirits, or to simply enjoy a battlefield tour on the actual grounds. The extent of participation is entirely up to the individual. Staff Rides will be free to the public. Only time to travel to and from the site, time for the event itself, and time for advance time for the recommended readings (if chosen) would be required.

Editor's Note: Gary Spencer is Vice President of the Raleigh Chapter. He was installed as State Historian of the NCSSAR in April, 2022. For more information about the Historical Staff Rides program, or to share ideas, contact Gary at gspencer1861@hotmail.com.



personalities and actions relevant to the site will be included as well. Participants will be invited

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January Issue: December 10
April Issue: March 10
July Issue: June 10
October Issue: September 10

NCSSAR Calendar

https://ncssar.org/ecwd_calendar/calendar/

National SAR Event ^ State Society Event
* State/Color Guard Event

October 1*: 242nd Crossing of the Catawba River at Greenlee Ford, Morganton, NC 10:00 a.m., Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter.

October 1#: National SAR Leadership Meeting, TBA.

October 6#: SAR South Atlantic District Meeting, all day, TBA.

October 7#^*: 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Blacksburg, SC, 11:00 a.m., Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter NCSSAR and Daniel Morgan Chapter SCSSAR.

October 8^*: 242nd Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Shallow Ford, Huntsville, NC, 11:00 a.m., Bethabara Chapter.

October 8*: Grave marking ceremony for Patriots Jane Johnstone Pattillo, Lt. Col. Robert Lanier, and Capt. Francis Poindexter, Clingman-Poindexter Cemetery, West Bend, NC, 12:00 noon, Bethabara Chapter.

October 15^*: Grave marking ceremony for Patriots Sgt. William Allen, Ensign Archer Johnston, and Pvt. John Cassion Whitfield, Allen and Coley Cemetery, Granville County, NC, 10:00 a.m., Halifax Resolves Chapter.

October 15*: Grave marking ceremony for Compatriot Frank Oliver Alford, Oakwood Cemetery, Louisburg, NC, 2:00 p.m., Halifax Resolves and Mecklenburg Chapters.

October 19: Victory at Yorktown, 6:15 p.m., TBA.

October 29*: Grave marking ceremony for Patriot Jacob Wells, Cemetery TBA, Willard, NC, 10:00 a.m., Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter.

November 5*: Grave marking ceremony for Compatriot Dr. Cleveland Melvin Hankins, PhD, West Lawn Cemetery, Elizabeth City, NC, 10:00 a.m., Albemarle and Halifax Resolves Chapters.

November 5*: Grave marking ceremony for Patriot Edwin Brown, Watts-Bumgarner Cemetery, Taylorsville, NC, 10:00 a.m., Catawba Valley Chapter.

November 11: Veterans Day, TBA.

November 19*: Grave marking ceremony for Patriots Rev. William Fullwood, Jr., Rev. John Gibbs, Abraham Renshaw, and Lawrence Unger, Obeth Cemetery, Nebo, NC, 10:00 a.m., Col. Alexander Erwin and Catawba Valley Chapters.

November 19*: Grave marking ceremony, Compatriot Clarence E. Wyche, Cedarwood Cemetery, Roanoke Rapids, NC, 10:00 a.m., Halifax Resolves Chapter.

November 19*: Grave marking ceremony, Compatriot Joseph P. Pippen, Sunset Hills Cemetery, Littleton, NC., 1:00 p.m., Halifax Resolves Chapter.

November 19*: Grave marking ceremony, Patriot Nathan Alexander Stedman, III, Pittsboro United Methodist Church, Pittsboro, NC, 11:00 a.m., Sandhills Chapter.

December 3 (or 10)*: Battle of the Great Bridge, TBA.

December 10*: Grave marking ceremony for Patriot Solomon Wetherington, Solomon Wetherington Cemetery, Tuscarora, NC, 2:00 p.m., New Bern Chapter and Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR.

December 10*: Grave marking ceremony for Compatriot James Tildon Padgett, Jr., Cool Springs Cemetery, Forest City, NC, 2:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Chapter

December 17: Wreaths Across America Ceremony, Historic Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, 12:00 p.m., Raleigh Chapter.

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