



Sons of the American Revolution
 Founded 30 April 1889

The Catawba Courier



A Monthly Newsletter for The Catawba Valley Chapter
 of the Sons of the American Revolution

President's Ponderings

Chapter President Roy C Lightfoot



HAPPY NEW YEAR!! WELCOME 2026!!



Wishing you ALL a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2026!!

Looking forward to many great celebrations for the 250th BIRTHDAY of these United States!!

With the month of December, our Chapter finished out 2025 with several events, one which we truly wish we did not have to participate in as we bid our Chapter Color Guard Commander Robert "Robby" Sloan Buff III a sad farewell. This newsletter is dedicated to him, his family and friends, and all that he meant to Catawba Valley. We continue to mourn him but mostly to remember all he did not only for us, but all he did in all aspects of his life. A memoriam will be later in this issue.

On 6 December, the Chapter had the honor of participating with the American Legion Post #30, Vesuvius Furnace and Jacob Forney Chapters – NSDAR, and the Lincoln County Historical Association in the Commemoration of the 84th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor for Pearl Harbor Remembrance. In addition, a Flag Retirement Ceremony was conducted. Several Flag Retirement Certificates were presented, and volleys were fired by the combined Color Guard of the American Legion and the Chapter Color Guard. Serving in the Color Guard were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Dan Beal, Chapter Color Guard Commander Rob Buff, Compatriot Kyle Smith, future Compatriot Jody Avery, and CAR Representative Cale Hartman. Also, in attendance was the State Vice President Dr. Tony Zeiss. HUZAH!!



(See Page Two for more pictures)

Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572817325169>
<https://www.ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>

"NEW" You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@CatawbaValleyChapterNCSSAR>

The Old North State Online Magazine: <https://ncssar.org/about/the-old-north-state/>

10 January 2026

Volume 7 Issue 1

Chapter Officers

President / Historian /
 State Historian
 Roy C Lightfoot

Vice President /
 Chaplain / Webmaster
 Rick Hubbard

Secretary / Treasurer
 Dan Beal

Chapter Registrar
 Kyle Smith

Color Guard
 Commander
 Rob Buff

JROTC Liaison
 James McCauley, Jr.

Original Resolution
 passed 24 August 1996,
 Originally Chartered as a
 part of the
 National Society of the
 Sons of the American
 Revolution,
 North Carolina Society,
 as The Unifour Chapter
 17 October 1997
 Renamed Catawba
 Valley Chapter
 06 May 2002



The Catawba Courier

Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Pearl Harbor Remembrance and Flag Retirement Day



Nationally, on Saturday, 13 December, the Wreaths Across America program took place. Catawba Valley participated at the Taylorsville City Cemetery, Taylorsville, NC. In conjunction with the Carolina Emerald Chapter, NSDAR, we laid wreaths on our nation's veterans' graves buried there. Catawba Valley has participated in this program for at least the past six years in several locations including the veterans' cemetery in Black Mountain and Mooresville. This event is always special and a moving event as we honor those who sacrificed so much in our country's military service. This year's was even more special as we honored our Chapter Color Guard Commander, Compatriot, and friend, Robert Sloan Buff III, who left us earlier this week. God Speed, Robby! We have the watch... HUZAH!! Participants included Lightfoot, Hubbard, Beal, Compatriot Bob Clark, Smith, and Avery.

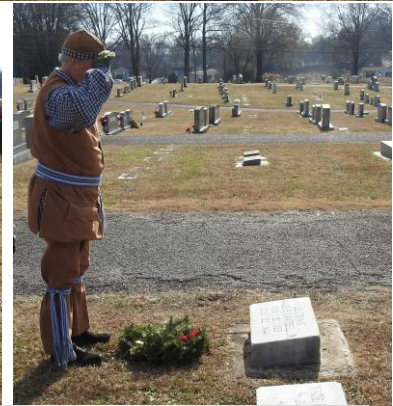


(See Page Three for more pictures)

The Catawba Courier

Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Wreaths Across America, Taylorsville City Cemetery, Taylorsville, NC



Unloading the wreaths. Avery is third from the left.

If you wish to, wreaths for next year's event can still be purchased throughout the year.

The Catawba Courier

Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Also, on 13 December, while several of us were at Wreaths Across America, two of our Compatriots, Steve Bailey and Bill Beam, were showing folks the Historic Doctor's House with the Lincoln County Historical Association. HUZZAH, Compatriots!!



Our next Chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, 10 January 2026** at 12:00 PM at Palermo's Family Italian and Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover, NC 28613.

As always, the Chapter Leadership is always open to suggestions, so, if you have any, please do not hesitate to suggest them! We look forward to seeing as many of you are able to attend any and all of our events in the future! Please be thinking of how you can get involved with our 2026 National SAR Congress in Greensboro! July will be here before you know it!

Sincerely, Respectfully, and Patriotically Yours,
Roy C Lightfoot, Chapter President



In Memoriam – Robert Sloan Buff III (March 27, 1959 - December 9, 2025)



As mentioned before, Catawba Valley lost one of our compatriots this month. On 9 December, Chapter Color Guard Commander Robert Sloan Buff III, left this earth and went on ahead. No matter how you knew him – “Robby”, “Rob”, “Buff” – one thing about him was constant: he was a friend to all who met him and knew him. Born in Gaston County, a Cherryville native, he completed his high school education at Cherryville High School and pursued music studies at Gaston College. He retired from the City of Lincolnton as the Assistant Director of Public Works after 30 years. He is survived by his beloved wife, Donna Shelton Buff, who he was married to for nearly forty years; his daughter, Taylor Shelton of Lincolnton; mother, Penelope Buff of Cherryville; brother Chris; sisters, Lara Britton, and Andrea Armstrong; and grandchildren, Olivia and Ozlynn.

Robby was a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, friend, and Compatriot. Also, during his life he performed as a local musician, served as a mentor, teacher, tutor, coach, confidant, and a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He believed in the principles of American freedom and dedicated many hours to preserving and sharing the history, particularly the Southern Campaign and the Battle of Ramsour's Mill.

At this graveside service, Chapter members and friends served as an honor guard for Robby and his family, leaving a space for him in our ranks.



LOGISTICS

SAR & DAR Happenings – All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated.

- 10 January 2026 – Chapter Meeting, Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, Conover NC, 12 Noon.
- 10 January – Color Guard Training, McDowell House, Morganton, 10 AM – 12 noon.
- 17 January – 245th Anniversary – Battle of Cowpens, Cowpens National Military Park, Gaffney, SC, 10 AM.
- 17 January – Col Alexander Erwin Double Grave Marking, Nebo & Marion, NC, 11 AM & 2 PM.
- 17 January – Daniel Morgan Wreath Laying, Morgan Square, Spartanburg, SC, 2 PM.
- 31 January – 245th Anniversary - Battle of Sherrills Ford, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, 9 AM.
- 31 January – NCSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, 12 noon.
- 7 February – "Burning of the Baggage", Ramsour's Mill Cabin, Lincolnton, 10 AM – 3 PM.
- 19 February – Chapter Meeting, Court Street Grille, Lincolnton, 6:30 PM.
- 21 February – Col Alexander Erwin Double Grave Marking, Marion, NC, 11 AM.
- 27 February - 250th Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, Currie, NC, 10 AM.
- 28 February – Color Guard Training, Fort Defiance, Lenoir, 10 AM – 12 noon.
- 28 February - 1 March - 250th Reenactment of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, Currie, NC
- 15 March (?) – *TENTATIVE* – 245th Anniversary – Battle of Guilford Court House, Time TBA
- 27-28 March - NCSSAR Annual Meeting, Embassy Suites, 204 Centreport Dr, Greensboro, NC 27049, All Day.
- 4 April – Pilgrim Reformed Church, Multiple Grave Marking, 797 Pilgrim Church Road, Lexington, NC, 2 PM
- 10-16 July – 136th NSSAR National Congress, Greensboro, NC.
- 16 July – Pilgrim Reformed Church, Multiple Grave Marking, 797 Pilgrim Church Road, Lexington, NC, 10 AM

Our next regular **Chapter Meeting** will be **Saturday, 10 January 2026**. We will meet at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd West, Conover, NC 28613. One may order a meal at 11:00 am or later. The meeting begins at Noon. Please come out and support your Chapter and enjoy some fellowship.

The Sons of the American Revolution

is a nonpolitical, patriotic, educational 501c3 organization of men who have ancestors who fought for or otherwise supported the War for independence from Great Britain that established the United States of America.

- Working to preserve our nation's past
- Assisting schools, teachers and the public
- Sustaining and preserving our history and constitutional principles

Membership is open to any male (no age limit) who can direct descend from a man or woman who contributed to our country's Independence. A patriot did not necessarily have to serve in the military but might have supported the Revolution by paying a supply tax, providing food for troops, serving as a juror, or being a local public servant. Join Today!



Compatriot Birthdays

- for January
- Kyle Smith (3rd)**
 - Chad Smith (19th)**
 - Ian Smith (19th)**

HUZZAH!!



SAR Save the Dates Patriot Grave Marking

Dedication Ceremonies
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

PATRIOTS HONORED AT 11:00 AM
ROBERT PATTON PARK, 1000 S. JAMES STREET, #1001
DIXIELLA INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL CHURCH, 400 DIXIELLA CHURCH ROAD, NEBO, NORTH CAROLINA

PATRIOT HONORED AT 2:00 PM
CHARLES HANBY, P.O. 17479
GARDEN HANBY CEMETERY
989 MARLOWE ROAD, MARION, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026
PATRIOTS HONORED AT 11:00 AM
JOSEPH DORRISON SR. P. 228716
JOSEPH DORRISON JR. P. 148704
DORRISON CEMETERY
6192 LAKE JAMES ROAD
MARION, NORTH CAROLINA
COL. ALEXANDER ERWIN CHAPTER
col.alexander.erwin.sar@gmail.com

Battle of COWPENS
17 January 2026
10:00AM

Cowpens National Battlefield
330 New Pleasant Road, Gaffney, SC

RSVP
Ray Vongphoth, Daniel Morgan Chapter Secretary
rayv@comcast.net 1-870-373-3418

The Daniel Morgan Chapter SCSAR
Announces

Wreath Laying Ceremony
Honoring
General Daniel Morgan
and the victory of the
Battle of Cowpens

Saturday, January 17, 2026
2pm
Morgan Square
111 West Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306

The Catawba Coalition welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions.

Please send them to cat.val.ncssar.1776@gmail.com

or

cagn_roy@hotmail.com



Battle of Moores Creek Bridge, Currie, NC

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge occurred between Patriot and Loyalist forces in North Carolina on 27 February 1776. Loyalist forces anticipated support from a British army arriving along the coast.

Shortly after midnight on 27 February, Loyalist Brigadier General Donald MacDonald formed his men and headed toward the bridge. Preparing for the Loyalist approach, Colonel Richard Caswell's men removed the bridge stringers and constructed earthworks on the east bank of the creek. The Loyalists soon ran into Caswell's pickets. As the fighting intensified, Loyalist Capt. John Campbell shouted, "King George and Broadwords" and led his company across the creek. MacDonald ordered a charge and as his men approached the Patriot works, Caswell opened with rifle and artillery fire. The volleys devastated the Loyalist ranks and forced MacDonald to retreat. Elated with their success, the Patriots launched a pursuit, chasing the Loyalists from the field. The Patriots achieved a victory that solidified their control of North Carolina. Additionally, their victory served as a major deterrent for Loyalist support until the opening of the Southern Campaign four years later.