

# THE SAR



# COLOR GUARDSMAN

Volume 10 Number 1  
April 2021

*The National Society Sons of the American Revolution*



*American Continental  
Gunner at Monmouth*

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## Reports from the field

State society color guard activities from the last three months

## National Color Guard Events - 2021

Dates and times are subject to change and interested parties should refer to the respective state society web sites closer to the actual event.



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## Fifer's Corner

## The Hunting Shirt

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# Commander's Report

Commander Raborg on General

## Compatriots,

Fellow SAR Colorguardsmen,

I hope all of our guardsmen have had a relaxing winter and were able to spend some time in front of a nice warm fire on some of the colder and blustery days. Winter is also a time to catch up on some paperwork and many state commanders have been sending in applications for their hard-working guardsmen. I approved Silver Color Guard medals for Jeff Thomas (VA), Justin Thomas (VA), Brandon Villardi (WA), Michael Moore, (WA), Neil Vernon (WA), Robert Bossart (MA), Rolf Maris (NC), Frederick Learned (NC), Elwin Spray (OH), Daniel Schmitz (OH), Von Steuben Medals for Paul Irwin (OH), George Strunk (NC), Gary Green (NC), Larry Wood (CA) and Molly Pitcher award for Barbara Thomas (TX). There are a few applications that additional information was needed. I try to approve applications as soon as they come in, but if additional details or events are needed, I ask that you please send the information and/or a reminder. I have three offices, with three desks filled to the brim with paperwork. I also average several hundred e-mail's in a week, and whether e-mail or pony express, not all letters make it where they are intended to go.

### In the field

Although the winter calendar is not as full with chapter and state events, there are numerous national events held during the season. The new year started with the Battle of Princeton. President Rob Meyer, NJ. Color Guard Commander Richard Serfass and Princeton Cranberry Chapter President Roger Williams Cowpens took lessons learned from Trenton and vastly improved their live/virtual presentation at Princeton. It was reported that Cowpens became a challenge as organizational coordination and leadership fell short. Vice commander Brooks Lyles took charge and the event proceeded well. On my way down to Georgia, I was able to meet compatriots George Strunk and Gary Green in Benson, North Carolina and present them with their Von Steuben Medals. My wife and I shared a little lunch and fellowship with these dedicated guardsmen before we continued our journey further south. The organizers at Kettle Creek chose a live taping of the color guard on January 31st. There were over fifty dedicated color guardsmen and other patriots there who performed under a very rainy day. I wish to thank Georgia commander Bill Palmer and the rest of the color guard for allowing me to help lead the guard at Elijah Park. Unfortunately, the weather was so bad up and down the coast that I had to leave before I could enjoy some fellowship at lunch and participate in the rest of the days events. On Friday Feb. 26th I again joined George Strunk and members of the North Carolina Society for a live taping of the Guilford Courthouse commemoration in Greensboro, NC. I arrived about three hours early and had spirited conversations and photos taken with many local citizens and tourists visiting the park. Many were curious and questioned the Maryland Flag I carried honoring the Maryland regiments that fought there. I also inspected the Maryland and Delaware monuments that were in the park and reported their condition to the Maryland and Delaware Societies. On Saturday March 15th I attended the special congress in Virginia. Mike Elston did a great job coordinating the event and Secretary General Davis Wright lead the meeting. Because of trying to limit the size of our group it was decided before hand that only a very small color guard would be allowed. I wish to thank Virginia Commander Ken Bonner, past Virginia president Bill Schwetke, Vice commander Brooks Lyles, Second Adjutant Rob Meyer, Virginia Guardsman of the year David Cook and Maryland guardsmen Mike Kelly and his son for helping present the colors. On Sunday March 21st, I joined past national commander David W. Hoover (MD), Col. Aquila Hall Chapter president Bill Smithson, chapter guardsmen Chris Smithson and flag chairman Glenn Ross for a special live



taping of the presentation of colors at the request of the ladies of the Delaware Society DAR. Since Dave has so many flags, we not only did a taping for Delaware but also for Maryland. On Thursday March 25th my wife and I again drove down the coast to participate in the live commemoration of the Battle of Thomas Creek in Jacksonville, Florida.

Past Florida President David Ramseur did an excellent job leading this commemoration. He was joined by Allen Greenly, VPG of the South Atlantic District, David Bussone Florida Society president, Kay Yarbrough Florida DAR Regent, Emma Glazener Florida CAR president and over a hundred other SAR, DAR and CAR compatriots. I was joined in leading the Florida, Georgia and South Carolina combined color guards by Florida Commander Dick Young, National Vice Commander Brooks Lyles, first Adjutant Scott Collins and Florida vice commander Steven Fields. We were also joined by several young men from the CAR and the event was further supported by Troop 549 of the North Florida Council. This was an excellent live event and as David was conducting the program he asked about vaccinations. Over ninety percent of those that attended had received their covid shots, certainly a positive sign we are moving in the right direction.



Florida Color Guard Commander Dick Young, CAR River Phillips and Commander Raborg at Thomas Creek Commemoration

Along with events in the field, the Command staff conducted a meeting on January 28th and a committee meeting on Feb. 6th. The annual item on the agenda was the election of color guardsmen of the year. This year the honor belongs to guardsman Paul Callanan (MI). He will receive the honor on Monday evening at Congress in Renton, Washington. Since we were unable to meet last year at Congress, Sunday there will be a review of the color guard followed by a change of command ceremony from past commander Jim Fosdyk.

The Color Guard committee supported the Medal of Honor Parade at the Fall meeting. It will now go before the Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee to decide if it's meets the criteria set forth. I believe the criteria is on line and can be found on the forms for application. Depending upon travel restrictions, I would love to participate. We will have to see as the event gets closer. I know they cancelled the GW parade in Laredo this year. I enjoyed marching in that several years ago.

Let us all hope that things continue to improve and we can continue our live events and meet in Washington this summer.

Yours in Patriotism,  
C. Louis Raborg Jr.  
NSSAR, National Color Guard Commander



Pictured are L to R. David Cook (VA), Ken Bonner (VA) & Lou Raborg (MD). This was a presentation to David as Virginia's color guardsmen of the year



Guilford Courthouse. L to R NC Commander George Strunk, 1st Adjutant Scott Collins, Commander Raborg, VC Brooks Lyles

# The Battle of Monmouth

New Jersey | Jun 28, 1778

On a hot and humid June 28, 1778, General George Washington and his subordinate, General Charles Lee, attacked rearguard elements of General Sir Henry Clinton's British Army.

Although the American army outnumbered its foe two-to-one and had undergone extensive training in the art of war during its winter encampment at Valley Forge, Lee, who launched the initial attack, lacked confidence in the ability of the Continental soldiers under his command. In failing to press his advantage, Lee ceded the initiative to his British counterpart, General Charles Lord Cornwallis, who commanded the rear elements of Clinton's army.



What began as a promising opportunity devolved into a potential disaster. As Washington approached the fighting, he encountered panic-stricken troops fleeing the enemy. Enraged, he galloped ahead of his wing. In an angry confrontation on the field of battle, Washington removed Lee from command.

Rallying what troops he had, Washington continued the assault on the British. The commanding general's delaying action gave time for the rest of the Continental Army to come up and join the battle.

Washington placed General Nathanael Greene's division on the right and the division of General William Alexander, "Lord" Stirling, on the left. Lee's men were turned over to the Marquis de Lafayette, who kept those troops in reserve. General "Mad" Anthony Wayne assumed command over other elements of Lee's force and manned Lafayette's front. Artillery was placed on both flanks, with the guns on the right positioned to rain enfilading fire on the British.

An American counterattack on the British right forced the Redcoats to fall back and reorganize. Cornwallis then led his men in attack on Greene's division. Supported by artillery, Greene's men stiffened their line and repulsed Cornwallis and his troops.

The fighting see-sawed back and forth under the brutal June sun for several hours. By 6:00 P.M., however, the British had had enough. While Wayne wanted to press the attack, Washington demurred, believing that his men were "beat out and with heat and fatigue."

The British did not give Washington a chance to renew the fight in the morning, slipping away under the cover of darkness and resuming their withdrawal to New York City.

National Battlefield Trust



## NOTICE OF LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION

The dedication ceremony will be held on Sunday, April 18th beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the 2021 Heritage Festival celebrating Highland County's 100th Anniversary at the Edna Pearce Lockett Estate, sponsored by the Heritage Association of Highlands County and the Highlands Chapter Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

The Estate was a working cattle ranch from 1874 to 1991 and has been closed to the public until now. Fort Basinger was built on the property in 1837 during second Seminole War by Colonel Zachary Taylor. John Mizell Pearce was a soldier at that fort and returned there to establish the ranch, having been deeded 157 acres, including the site of the old fort. The original steamboat landing is at the estate. Mr. Pearce operated a ferry across the river as there was no bridge. The Estate is a place of magical beauty – a time warp of Old Florida. The house is one of the oldest houses in Highlands County.

Following the Massing of Colors by the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade augmented by units of the Boy Scouts and the DAR, there will be a singing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, a reading of the American's Creed and the Preamble to the Constitution. The story and symbolism of the Liberty Tree will be told, and the Liberty Tree Poem will be recited. Proclamations from the City of Sebring and Highlands County will be presented. The program will close with a Benediction from the Florida Society SAR Chaplain.

There is no dress code but the SAR members of the color guard will conform with policies in both the FLSSAR and NSSAR Color Guard Manuals. Other participants and guests are encouraged, in the spirit of the event, to wear vintage attire or patriotic colors. For SAR Compatriots, this is considered a "National Event". It combines the previously established "Massing of Colors" event with the "Liberty Tree" event – recently added by the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee to the listing of National Events. Accordingly, SAR color guard members participating in this event may earn 20 Points (if using the points system) plus mileage points for qualification for the Silver Color Guard Medal.

The Estate is located South of US 98, West of the bridge across the Kissimmee River. From Okeechobee or from South of Sebring on Route 27, take US 98 to CR 721, ¼-mile West of the Kissimmee River Bridge. Drive South past the white board fence of the Estate to Boondock Road, turn East on Boondock to entrance. The Estate is surrounded by white board fence, but there is no entrance from US 98.

Google Map link - <https://goo.gl/maps/s7FpM7yxhznzkKsJA>

## National Color Guard Events - 2021 -

HISTORIC Date	Color Guard Event	Location	Host
January 3	Princeton, the Ten Crucial Days	Priceton, NJ	New Jersey
January 17	Battle of Cowpens	Chesnee, SC	Daniel Morgan SAR
February 1	Battle of Cowans Ford	Huntersville, NC	Mecklenburg SAR
February 14	Battle of Kettle Creek	Washington, GA	Georgia
February 14	Crossing of the Dan	South Boston, VA	Virginia
February 22	Washington Birthday Parade	Laredo, TX	Texas
February 27	Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge	Currie, NC	North Carolina
March 10	Last Naval Battle of the Revolution	Merritt Island, FL	Florida
March 15	Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Greensboro, NC	North Carolina
April 12	Halifax Resolves	Halifax, NC	North Carolina
April 18	Patriot's Day	Nationally	
May 8	Battle of Pensacola	Pensacola, FL	Florida
May 11	Raid on Martin's Station	Ewing, VA	Virginia
May 16	Armed Forces Day		
May 17	Battle of Thomas Creek	Jacksonville, FL	Florida
May 25	Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous	Vincennes, IN	Indiana
May 25	Memorial Day events *	Various locations	
May 26	Battle of Fort San Carlos	St Louis, MO	Missouri
May 29	Buford's Massacre	Lancaster, SC	General Francis Marion SAR
June 11	Action at Machias	Machias, ME	Maine
June 17	Battle of Bunker Hill	Charlestown, MA	Massachusetts SAR
June 20	Battle of Ramsour's Mill	Lincolnton, NC	Catawba Valley SAR
June 28	Battle of Monmouth	Monmouth Cty, NJ	New Jersey SAR
July 4 every year	Let Freedom Ring / July 4th Events *	Various locations	
August 2	Siege at Fort Laurens	Bolivar, OH	
August 19	Battle of Blue Licks	Carlisle, KY	Kentucky
August 27	Battle of Long Island	Brooklyn, NY	Empire and Maryland Societies
September 6	Battle of Groton Heights	Groton, CT	Connecticut
September 8	Battle of Eutaw Springs	Eutawville, SC	South Carolina
September 25	Gathering at Sycamore Shoals	Elizabethton, TN	Tennessee
September 17	Vigil at George Washington's Tomb	Mt Vernon, VA	
September 17	Vigil at George Washington's Tomb	Mt Vernon, VA	
October 4-6	Point Pleasant Battle Days	Point Pleasant, WV	West Virginia
October 6	Chestnut Neck	Port Republic, NJ	NJ
October 7	Battle of Kings Mountain	Blacksburg, SC	Kings Mountain SAR (NC) / Daniel Morgan SAR (SC)
October 17	Battle of Saratoga	Stillwater, NY	Empire State
October 19	Yorktown Days	Yorktown, VA	Virginia
October 22	Red Bank Battlefield	National Park, NJ	NJ
November 11	Veterans Day Events *	Nationally	Various
December 9	Battle of Great Bridge	Norfolk, VA	Virginia
December TBD	Wreaths Across America	Various Locations	
December 26	Battle of Trenton	Trenton, NJ	New Jersey
Events that can occur on random dates throughout the year			
	Massing of the Colors		
	Fields of Honor / Healing Field		
	Honor Flight		
	Liberty Tree Planting / Dedication		
The following National Meetings are considered National events by Color Guard Policy due to the attendance of the President General:			
	NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting		
	Annual NSSAR Congress		
	NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting		

The National Events listed above count toward earning the SAR Silver Color Guard Medal and National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement (See the NSSAR Color Guard Medals section). Dates published above are of the actual battle / commemoration date. Guardsmen should confirm the actual date of the event listed below with published event invitations on the National Society SAR website or with the host state society.

\*A local event celebrating Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day may be counted as a National Color Guard event for the purposes of applying for a Color Guard Medal. Only a single event on each day may be counted. Multiple events on the same day cannot be counted multiple times. If the event is on a weekend nearest the actual holiday, that can be counted with respect to the single event limitation. For example, if a Veterans Day Parade occurs on a Saturday such as the 8th, then an event on the 11th does not count.

Note: As of the 2020 Spring SAR Leadership Meeting, a policy was adopted by both the National Color Guard and National Historic Sites & Celebrations Committees formally establishing that only the National Historic Sites & Celebrations Committee may designate National Historic Events based on that committee's established criteria. The only exception being that established Color Guard policy of recognizing President General, or his designated SAR General Officer representative, attendance at an otherwise unrecognized event will make that event a National Event. actual event.

Send event updates to [sarwilliamssa\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:sarwilliamssa@gmail.com)



# State Society Color Guard Commanders

Welcome to the NSSAR Color Guard.

Please note that any questions concerning potential color guard events or participation in events should be directed to the respective commander in the state where the event is taking place.

Each commander is e-mailed each new issue of **The SAR Colorguardsman** for distribution to the guardsmen within each state society. Any questions about the distribution of the new issue should be directed to the respective state commander.

Changes are noted in **RED** text

State	Color Guard Commander	Primary Phone	Cell Number	Email Address	City
Alabama	Joseph D. Barker, Jr	334-221-3641		Jbark151(at)yahoo.com	Wetumpka, AL
Arizona	David Bonnett	602-321-1372	602-321-1372	dbonnett(at)cox.net	Phoenix, AZ
California	Mark Kramer	714 336-9040	714 336-9040	ocfamarkk(at)aol.com	Temecula
Colorado	Tom Wellborn	303-810-3100		wellborns(at)mindspring.com	Littleton
Connecticut	David Perkins	203-797-1967	203-948-7974	DPerkins8(at)att.net	Bethel
Florida	W Richard Young	352-556-3226		dyoung22(at)aol.com	Spring Hill, FL
Georgia	Bill Palmer	770-985-2744		bpalmer867(at)comcast.net	Snellville, GA
Idaho	Terry Patterson	208-286-8169		terrypatterson1876(at)outlook.com	Twin Falls
Illinois	Jon Fixmer		630-639-2213	jfixmer73(at)yahoo.com	North Aurora, IL
Indiana	Jeff Stratton	317-721-8859		jstratton(at)gmail.com	Indianapolis
Iowa	Mike Rowley	515-975-0498		mjr1825(at)gmail.com	Clive, IA
Kansas	Dewey Fry	913-897-9502		deweyf(at)kc.rr.com	Stillwell
Kentucky	Scott G Giltner	502-649-4534		stgilt(at)earthlink.net	Louisville, KY
Louisiana	Ted Brode	318-323-3961		tbrode(at)comcast.net	West Monroe
Maine	Wayne Howard Mallar	207-942-9586		Essex103(at)aol.com	Bangor
Maryland	David H. Embrey	301-776-0235		dembrey(at)comcast.net	Savage
Massachusetts	Robert Bossart	617-483-3603		2bobboss(at)comcast.net	Weymouth, MA
Michigan	Gerald Burkland	989-871-9569		bftb(at)tds.net	Millington
Minnesota	Aaron Printup & Steve Hyde	612-619-9219		hydesteve@yahoo.com	Lonsdale, MN
Mississippi	William J. "Bill" Horne	662-890-6463		wjhorne45(at)gmail.com	Olive Branch, MS
Missouri	Steven G. Perkins	417-319-7676		cg(at)mossar.org	Springfield, MO
Nebraska	Chad Sherrets	402-210-9287		omahacolorguard(at)gmail.com	Omaha, NE
Nevada	Paul Hicks	775-384-1190		p.hicks74@aol.com	Sparks, NV
New Hampshire	Dennis J. Walsh	(603) 668-0038		dennisjwalsh@comcast.net	Manchester, NH
New Jersey	Richard W Serfass	267-253-3863		Rserfass(at)comcast.net	Hainesport, NJ
New Mexico	George Garcia	205-235-9422		garciasar30(at)gmail.com	Albuquerque
New York	Peter K. Goebel	518-774-9740		goebelpk(at)gmail.com	
North Carolina	George K. Strunk	919-778-8324	919-738-6428	gkstrunk2(at)gmail.com	Goldsboro, NC
Ohio	William Robert Hill	614-237-5149		Leeslegiondragoon@gmail.com	Columbus, OH
Oklahoma	Henry Baer	405-650-8717		hcbear3(at)icloud.com	Oklahoma City, OK
Oregon	Eric Salbeda	503-351-4407		ericasal360(at)gmail.com	Tigard, OR
Pennsylvania	George M. Clarke, Jr.	610-687-8111		george.m.clarke(at)verizon.net	Wayne, PA
South Carolina	Dan Woodruff	864-847-6134		dwoodruff1(at)charter.net	Williamston, SC
Tennessee	John Allen Clines	(423) 618-8989		clines(at)charter.net	Cleveland, TN
Texas	Blair Rudy	214-505-1452		blairrudy(at)me.com	Blanco TX
Utah	Jesse Black	801-201-7731		utsarcolorguard(at)gmail.com	Holladay, UT
Virginia	Ken Bonner	703-517-1715		ken.l.bonner(at)gmail.com	South Riding, VA
Washington	Neil Vernon	206-949 - 6767		trdba(at)yahoo.com	Everett, WA
West Virginia	Ed Cromley	304-593-6613		ed_cromley(at)hotmail.com	Point Pleasant
Wisconsin	Brian S. Barrett	262 542 0683		brianbarrett1(at)yahoo.com	

This is the current listing of state society color guard commanders with confirmed data. Those state societies that are not confirmed are asked to submit updated data to the editor. **No Color Guards:** Alaska, Arkansas, Dakotas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Indiana, Montana, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wyoming.

## Vendor List

This is a **partial**

Vendor Listing by company name. Understand that these vendors are **not** being recommended - just listed. Before purchasing anything from these vendors check with your fellow color guardsmen for their recommendations/ endorsements.

If you have a vendor that makes/sews era regalia, send the name (or URL/contact information) to the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Type the listed name of the vendor into your browser tab

- Bethlehem Trading Post,
- Smiling Fox Forge
- Avalon Forge
- Barkertown Sutlers
- Burnley & Trowbridge Co.
- C & D Jarnagin Company,
- Cobb Creek - Fine Clothing
- Custom Wig Company
- Flintlocks, etc
- MyFlintlocks, LLC
- Ft. Downing Trading Co.
- Fort Vause Outfitters
- Fugawee
- G. Gedney Godwin Online
- HB Forge
- Black Powder 411
- International Guns
- Joe's Leather Works, LLC
- Livonia Smithery
- Loyalist Arms & Repairs
- Military Heritage
- Panther Primitives -
- Samson Historical
- Smoke&FireStore
- Spring Valley Lodges
- Sutlers of Fort Frederick Market Fair (2015 listing)
- The Quartermaster General
- Tennessee Valley Muzzleloading
- Townsend's
- Track of the Wolf
- Turkey Foot Trading Company
- VA Flintlocks
- Clearwater Hats
- Ye Armes Shoppe

## Contact Us

Officer	Name	Email Prefix	at	Suffix
Commander	C Louis Raborg Jr	raborg1989	at	verizon.net
Vice Commander	Brooks Lyles	brooks.lyles	at	gmail.com
Adjutant	Kenneth Scott Collins	scollins	at	collinscpa.com
Adjutant	Robert Meyer	robert.meyer29	at	gmail.com
Safety Officer	Mark Kramer	ocfamarkk	at	aol.com
Quartermaster	Charlie Scott	meb42639	at	aol.com
Artillery Commander	Dr. Rudy Byrd	arbyrd	at	comcast.net
Magazine Editor	Steve Williams	sarwilliamssa	at	gmail.com

# What is the Mission of the National Color Guard and the Color Guard Staff?

By Brooks Lyles, Vice Commander

Last weekend I attended the Battle of Thomas Creek National Color Guard Event with National Color Guard Commander Raborg, First Adjutant Collins; South Atlantic



District VPG Allen Greenly and representatives of the Florida SAR Color Guard. The event was hosted by the Jacksonville Chapter and the Florida and Georgia Societies, and there were close to 100 SAR, DAR, CAR, family and guests in attendance. The Battle of Thomas Creek is considered the southernmost land battle of the Revolutionary War and because I love history I could go on about the battle and the two other attempted invasions of the British colony of East Florida from Georgia, but that is secondary to my objective today. We were all impressed by the turn out for the event, particularly after the long isolation imposed by the Pandemic, and after a year of Zoom events it was great to get out on an actual historic site. However, the most exciting thing was the number of young color guardsmen in attendance. They are the future of the SAR and the future of the Color Guard. Seeing them made wonder how we get more youngsters involved; how can we leverage the enthusiasm a return to normal will bring; and how we can share the experience of being on site with those not able to be there in person. It led me to wonder what exactly the mission of the National Color Guard was, and what it ought to be.

While Florida is opening to in-person events now, other states will not until larger numbers of citizens are vaccinated, and local governments remove the restrictions on public gatherings. We will be forced by circumstances to continue virtual or hybrid National Color Guard Events for a while, particularly in the more heavily populated areas of the northeastern states. In person events are what we have always done and what we are striving for again, but we cannot, nor should we ignore the benefits we have derived from the integration of the technologies we were forced to learn out of necessity. Zoom has allowed us to expand participation in National Color Guard Events to Color Guardsmen of all ages and all societies, across the entire country. We would never have had Compatriots from Washington, California, Michigan, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, as well as the usual eastern societies participate in an event before Zoom. It has allowed us to educate compatriots of the SAR, DAR and CAR about the Battles of Blue Licks, Princeton, Great Bridge, Cowan's Ford, The Race to the Dan and Moore's Creek. It has helped us to honor our Patriot Ancestors in ways we never thought possible.

The stated mission of the National Society on our website is to Honor our Patriot Ancestors through Historic, Patriotic and Educational activities. Remember Our Past....By honoring those who served or assisted the colonies during the Revolutionary War. Promote Core Values....By protecting our Constitution and perpetuating American ideals and traditions. Shape Young Minds....By educating our youth about the Constitution and those who developed the American ideals and traditions.

Our National Color Guard Handbook states, "Every time an SAR Color Guard makes a public appearance, the members are fulfilling all three objectives. In fact, the Color Guard is one of the most visible and effective public relations tools available to the SAR." Per our handbook when the National SAR Color Guard was formed in 1989 its mission was to:

- Provide guidance to and coordination of, the activities of the various State Society and Chapter Color Guards at National Congresses and Trustee meetings, and
- To provide assistance to the various State Societies and local Chapters in establishing their own Color Guards.

Thirty-two years later the National Color Guard remains the most visible public face of the Sons of the American Revolution, our National Color Guard Staff mission

remains to coordinate the activities of the Color Guard at National Events and assist the state and chapters in the establishment of their own Color Guards, so they are better able to execute the SAR's three major missions. We are rather good at marching and coordinating events, but how good are we at helping you at the state and chapter levels?

This year has been like no other year in the existence of the National Color Guard; however, we cannot let our desire to get back to the way things were before the Pandemic cause us to lose sight of why we exist or the good things that have discovered because of it. We exist not as our own independent organization, organized to march in parades and award ourselves medals, but as a part of the National President General's tool chest for use in executing all the missions of the National Society. We owe it not just to those fortunate enough to live in the original 13 colonies, but for all the Compatriots and Color Guardsmen in our 54 societies across the globe

You the State and Chapter Color Guardsmen are the National Color Guard; the staff exists to help you to execute the missions of the National Organization. My question to you is: How can we, the staff better assist you and your local Commanders in executing the missions of the SAR? How can we help you grow your organizations? How do we appeal to younger members? How can we assist you in integrating technology to reach larger audiences? How can we get the biggest bang for our collective buck for the National Society?

Honored to Serve!

Brooks

## UPCOMING COLOR GUARD EVENTS

Halifax Resolves - 4/12 NC
Patriot's Day - 4/18
Battle of Pensacola - 5/8 FL
Raid on Martin's Station - 5/11 VA
Armed Forces Day - 5/16
Spirit of Vincennes Rendevous - 5/25 IN
Memorial Day - 5/25
Battle of Fort San Carlos - 5/26 MO
Buford's Massacre - 5/29 SC
Action at Machias - 6/11 ME
Battle of Bunker Hill - 6/17 MA
Battle of Ramsour's Mill - 6/20 NC
Battle of Monmouth - 6/28 NJ

To confirm date and time of these events contact the state society





# The Fifer's Corner

Happy Spring –

Last issue we fished the list of major Duty Tunes for the Fife, I do have the Drum Duty notation for those who are interested.

The musick included in this issue will be Free and Accepted Mason, Successful Campaign, Guardian Angle and Lady's Breast Knot.

Featured Group this issue is The Fifes Drums of Nevada headed by David Hess and Sponsored by the Northern Nevada Chapter of the SAR. Keep up the great work. HUZDAH! (pic 5,6,7)

Please send photos and info of your Fife and Drum group.

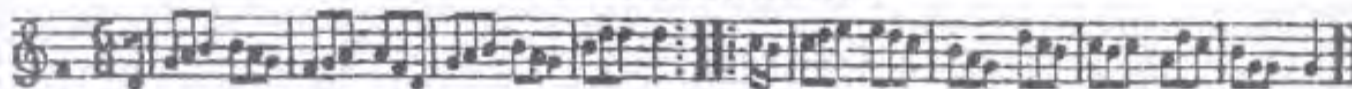
Please email me at (fiferdave@comcast.net) or like (Fifer Dave) on fb and message me with any questions you may have, topics you would like covered and any feedback you have.

HUZDAH, Fifer Dave aka David Embrey



## Free Mason's March.

*Free and Accepted Mason -*



## Successful Campaign

*Successful Campaign.*



## GUARDIAN ANGELS - FIFE LONGMAN & BRODERIP p.21

*Guardian Angle*



## THE LADY'S BREAST KNOT

*Lady's Breast Knot*







## THE FIFES DRUMS OF NEVADA

### Our Mission

- To inform our community about the ideas, events, culture and traditions of the Revolutionary War through the Civil War period.
- To preserve and perform the traditional music of colonial and early America.
- To promote and perpetuate the art of music and fifing and drumming in particular.
- To provide a family friendly, intergenerational activity for northern Nevadans.
- To inspire through our performances pride in the heritage and history of our community and nation.
- To be a good citizen of Washoe County and Nevada.

### What We Do

Membership in The Corps is open to all interested persons who are at least 16 years of age. No prior music experience is required. The only requirements are a willingness to learn, an enthusiasm to perform, and a commitment to attend practices and performances.

Among those things we hope to accomplish are: **inspiring the community** and ourselves with the principles on which our nation was founded, and remind citizens that, despite political differences, we are Americans.

We will **inform the community** about the events and philosophical ideals of the American Revolution and sanctified on the battlefields of the Civil War. Dressed in authentic Revolutionary War uniforms, or, as appropriate, Civil War uniforms, we will participate in parades, civic events, patriotic celebrations and veterans memorials throughout northern Nevada, providing pageantry, drama and a sense of the nation's history. These performances will take place for the most part during the summer months, but will include some autumn performances; most notably Nevada Day and/or Veteran's Day.

We will **build bonds of friendship and personal achievement** among corps members. This will be an intergenerational endeavor that will combine the wisdom and experience of the adults with the enthusiasm of the youths. It will be a highly visible organization that will cement the bonds between corps members and the community at large.

We will **help preserve** the traditional music of colonial and the early American republic.

### CORPS ORGANIZATION

#### Membership.

Membership in The Fifes & Drums of Nevada will include applicants who are adult men and women, and boys and girls who have attained their 16th birthday. Continued membership will be determined according to rules of conduct and participation standards adopted by the corps membership.

Prospective members need not be proficient on the fife or drums, and do not need to read music or march—we will teach those skills. What is required of prospective members is a high level of enthusiasm, a willingness to receive instruction and commitment to the Corps and its values.

Members will commit to attend weekly practices.

#### Instrumentation

The Corps performs in the traditional Ancient style, using a six-hole wooden fife and wooden rope tension snare and bass drum that are played in the ancient rudimental style.

Fifers will all play the same brand and model of fife, and drummers will play the same brand and model of drum. The Management Committee will select the brand/model to be used.



#### Uniform

The Management Committee will determine the Corps' uniform. That determination will be determined by a number of factors, not the least of which is budget and the preferences of the performers themselves. The Management Committee will also determine the need to differentiate uniforms (e.g., senior and junior Corps members). Also to be determined is the ownership of the uniforms. That is, does the Corps acquire and own the uniforms or do each of the members acquire and own their own uniform.

## ALL WE NEED IS YOU—JOIN NOW!

For More Information : David Hess (775) 842-8332 or [hessdf@gmail.com](mailto:hessdf@gmail.com)





# SAFETY

## A Safety Potpourri

### OUR VALLEY FORGE MOMENT



By Mark Kramer

Over this past Covid-19 year we have been unable to participate in the various in person demonstrations of patriotism that we had been accustomed. I believe that we can draw a parallel between this last year and the winter of 1778. We are all familiar with General Washington utilizing the brake from hostilities to train his army at Valley Forge, and how this preparation changed history. We probably have a couple more months before the CDC guild lines will be relaxed allowing our participation in local, state and national events. We should take this time as our Valley Forge to prepare for these events.

As opportunities arise during the coming months, we need to be ready to reengage with our communities and demonstrate the patriotism we all possess. Your preparation can either be repair and maintenance of equipment, training in the art of marching and the manual of arms, or you personally getting prepared. The maintenance of equipment is pretty straight forward. However, you should be inspecting your equipment with an eye to safety. Our minds often go to the obvious safety issues like flash protectors on our firing arms or a well-maintained musket or rifle. Although this is important, also think about items that could cause trip hazards such as a loose sole or heal. What about your flag harnesses are they in good working condition? Are your flags adequately secured to the flag staff?

We are probably all aware of our chapter color guard's training needs. In this era of imposed isolation training in a group might be discouraged in your locality. But, have you thought of your personal training needs? Are you physically ready? Taking the time to walk for 30 minutes a couple times a week might be a good way

to get ready for the eventual parade you will be marching in. Practicing the manual of arms doesn't need a large group, it can be practiced as an individual. A well-trained individual/group is safer than those who are not.

Other ideas for preparation:

- Get your uniform in presentable condition.
- Clean your muskets and rifles.
- Train in the safe handling of your firearms, swords and espartoons.
- A couple of hours with other chapter members of marching in formation.
- Think about your hydration in the summer months – purchase a couple of cases of water.

Use the next couple of months before our country begins to fully opens to get ready. This is our Valley Forge moment.

Respectfully,  
Mark Kramer  
NSSAR Color Guard Safety Officer

# His Influence Spread Far and Wide

by Stu Hoyt

Born in Amarillo on Jan 3, 1929 to Gladys and Clifton Robinett, Richard Lee “Dick Robinett spread his wings and soared through life. After graduating from Amarillo High School, he enrolled at Oklahoma University but made the switch to the University of Texas in Austin where he would meet the love of his life, Jo Ann. He graduated with a degree in business administration, in 1952, and married Jo Ann in 1954.

One of his favorite expressions was, “Never a dull moment” and his life was symbolic of that saying. Besides his marriage and the Church, Dick was passionate about two things his tour in the U.S. Army Reserves and the Sons of the American Revolution. He served in the JROTC, ROTC, military and reserves from 1943 to 1976. He was constantly reminding his audience that “Freedom is not free”. He was an Eagle Scout and involved with scouting at all levels.

His application to become a member of the SAR was approved in September of 1984 but he was already involved in its activities. He told me that he and Billie Hightower would drive to San Antonio until their own chapter was chartered in New Braunfels, then he helped charter the Boerne Chapter and the Aaron Burleson Chapter. He was instrumental in creating a Color Guard for the Texas Society. With Tom Green, then a member of the William Hightower Chapter, they spearheaded trips to Laredo to march in the George Washington Parade and a ceremony to recognize the Battle of Medina.

He rose through the ranks to Chapter President, State President, then to Vice President General of the South Central District and a National trustee. He has chaired a number of committees from National down to the chapter. During this time he had accumulated numerous awards but his most cherished was a “thank you” and a hug from an eighth grade wheel chair bound student who whispered in his ear, “I wish that I could stand when the Flag passes by”.

Each year the SAR and DAR chapters in the Austin area sponsored a celebration on Memorial Day at the Texas State Cemetery where two American Revolution veterans are buried. The grounds are immaculate but I guess that has not always been the case. One of my Color Guard Compatriots told me a story that I would like to share. As a new member of the Color Guards, he was invited by Dick Robinett to a function honoring our fallen Patriot at the cemetery in Austin. Without question, he drove up from Houston on that chosen Saturday. He stopped in town to get a cup of coffee but before he could get out of his car his phone rang. It was Dick who wanted him to meet him up the street, immediately. Dick was driving a military vehicle. They drove to a very nice home in the middle of town and Dick called a “Bob” and asked him to come out to meet them. When he arrived at the car, Dick asked him to join them on a ride



back to the cemetery. The cemetery was a mess with tree limbs down, grass overgrown, and gravestones tipped over.

Dick turned to this Bob and said, “You have got to do something about this”. Bob replied, “I can’t, it belongs to the city and I’d be canned if I allocated any funds to fix it”. Dick responded, “Find a way!” then took Bob home. Bob turned out to be Bob Bullock, Lt, Governor of the State of Texas and he did find a way. He had the state claim the main road through the cemetery as a state road. With that they acquired the property, fixed it up and built a visitors center. It’s amazing what can be done when you know the right people.

In his private life, Dick was many things, which include an insurance investigator, a president of a board for an independent school district, and founder of a family genealogical society, which met annually. I do not think that we will discover all the things that Dick touched in our lifetime. Dick left the campground on March 1, 2021 in the wee hours of the morning.

The TX SAR CG gathered at the Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park to act as an Honor Guard at the funeral of Richard Lee “Dick” Robinett on Mar 8 2021. From Left to right are: Robert Duckworth, Don Chandler (96), Blair Rudy, State Color Guard Commander; Stu Hoyt, Jim Clements, TX SAR State Secretary and Patrick Henry Chapter; Lou Colantoni and Stan Trull. All other color guardsmen were from the William Hightower Chapter at the request of the family.

## THE 244TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THOMAS CREEK CEREMONY

By: David Hardy Ramseur

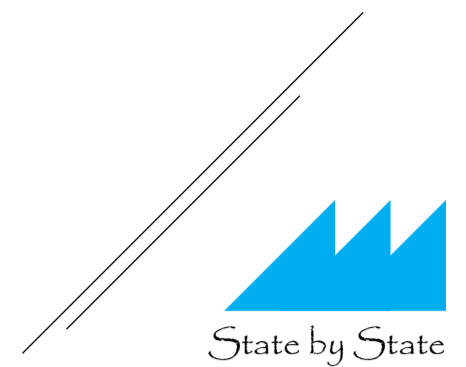
The 244th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War Battle of Thomas Creek was commemorated by the SAR, DAR, C.A.R, scouts and guests on another beautiful Saturday morning March 27th, 2021. David Ramseur, Past President of the FLSSAR and Jacksonville Chapter welcomed over 100 in attendance for the wreath ceremony, at the on-site park battle location in Jacksonville, Florida. This battle is considered the southernmost battle of the American Revolutionary War. Even though this battle was the second of three major attempts ordered by General George Washington to make North East Florida from Apalachicola River to St. Augustine our 14th Colony, the battle was lost to British Forces comprised of the British Regulars, Loyalists, and Creek Indians.

Greetings from the NSSAR were brought from VPG Allen Greenly of the South Atlantic District and. Louis Raborg, Jr, National Color Guard Commander. This National Color Guard Event was composed of SAR and C.A.R. compatriots led by Commander Louis Raborg, Vice Commander Brooks Lyles and 1st Adj. Scott Collins plus FLS-SAR Color Guard Commander Dick Young and Vice Commander Steve Fields. Greeting were also brought from the FLSSAR President David Bussone, FSSDAR State Regent Kay Yarbrough, FSSCAR State President Emma Glazener, and GASSAR Past President Scott Collins. We were once again given a great education on the battle by our speaker Dr. Roger Smith of Colonial Research, Inc. of St. Augustine. Invocation and the Benediction were given by Compatriot Reverend Bob Hale, and taps were sounded by Compatriot Fred Emery of the Jacksonville Chapter. We are looking forward to future ceremonies with the major planned enhancements to this 846 acre park by the City of Jacksonville.



SAR/C.A.R. Color Guard at our National Celebration Event at Thomas Creek Revolutionary War Battle Ceremony of 27 March 2021.

# Reports from The Field



State Society's color guard activities *in the previous three months* as reported by the State Society's Color Guard Commander

## Color Guard Units' Highlights!

### Submission Guidelines

The previous high water mark was 27 state societies' color guard reports. **This issue has 19!**

There are some things about submitting content, especially for state Color Guard Commanders or their designee, that need to be explained and understood in order to reduce any future controversy.

- The color guard events or activities must be from only the three months immediately prior to the issue's publication date.
- **Please do not send PDF files.** Send the native document: WORD, Text, etc.

- **NOTE** Submit events when color guard units participate in designated chapter color guard events, designated state color guard events, and/or designated District/National color guard events. A compatriot dressed in colonial garb and presenting as a chapter member is **not** functioning as a Color Guard unit. **State Color guard commanders should pass on these guidelines when communicating with his state's color guard members.**
- **The deadline for submission of content is the end of the month prior to the Issue date:** December 31 for the January Issue, March 31 for the April issue, June 30 for the July Issue, and September 30 for the October issue.
- The state Color Guard Commanders should be sending that message to all of their state's chapter color guard members/commanders.
- Please use the chain-of-command when submitting content. Chapter Color Guard Commanders should submit to their state's Color Guard Commander who then uses his judgement to submit to this Editor.
- **IMPORTANT** - When submitting photos, **please do NOT embed them into any document** (PDF or WORD) but send them in the original resolution.
- **IMPORTANT** - When submitting photos, **for any event please submit no more than two photos for any single event.** When submitting text to explain the event using photos please accurately label which photo goes with what text. I get a photos titled IMG-12345, IMG 45678 and the text will say photo 1 and photo 2. Which is photo 1 and which is photo 2?

I look forward to the issue that has all state color guard units with something in the issue. Several states are missing from this issue and there is always hope that they will submit for the next issue;

Thank you, one and all, for making this section showcase and shine a light on **your** color guard units' activities and community involvement.

## EDITORIAL

**NOTE - I am still getting photos embedded in WORD or PDF files. Please DO NOT embed photos. Send them separately.**

Departing from the usual editor's note I will separate the submission guidelines (at left) from any comments I might want to add to this issue.

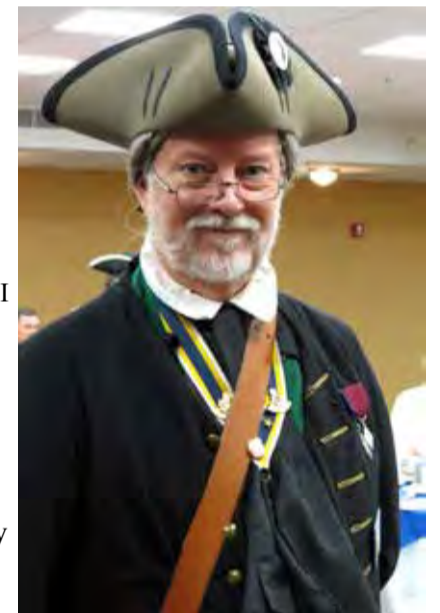
COVID19 rules, mandates, guidelines etc vary from city, county, and state so any color guard activities will be of varying complexities. Some will be Virtual and others may be in small groups as permitted by their localities.

Thus, what will be found in this issue and likely the subsequent issue(s) as well will be different types of activity reporting.

For the July issue we can hope that this will have passed enough for us to be able to have a more normal level of color guard participations in national and local events. We should all understand that the rules/guidelines are created and developed to protect our compatriots' health while also safeguarding the health of the public. So please follow those rules/guidelines. It will be for a brief time during the event. We can all afford a momentary inconvenience.

For this issue I have accepted submissions that show a single compatriot dressed in Revolutionary or Colonial clothes as representing a color guard unit. Normally, I would only use activities that are explicitly those of a color guard unit (several color guardsmen). Presentations that are done by **chapter officers** and not a color guard unit would not be normally included in the magazine but would be appropriate for the *SAR Magazine* (S Vest, Editor). You might note that there will be screen shots of the Virtual meeting/presentation in this issue to give the reader an idea of who participated in that particular event.

Steve





# FROM THE COMMANDER

By Joseph D. Barker, Jr., Alabama State Society Sergeant-At-Arms

The Alabama Society has made the increased utilization of the Color Guard as one of its priority items over the last couple of years. To this end, while following Alabama COVID guidelines we have participated in five live events, including several DAR Grave marking/ Rededication ceremonies. We have also created within the Color Guard an Honor Guard whose function is to train, certify and employ musket fire in support of Color Guard events. To this date we have had one training class. Participants in this class are trained using the National Park Service training syllabus as a guide and certified to have received handling and safety instruction by our state training officer. Graduates of this course have already provided support in filming a movie for one of Alabama's premier historical venues, American Village. We are planning to have the first use of the Honor Guard as a part of the Color Guard at a grave marking ceremony in May. Finally, we are in the process of filming a Flag Presentation Ceremony which will be posted to the State website and available for anyone to download and use in any virtual meeting where the host feels a presentation of the Colors will enhance the meeting.

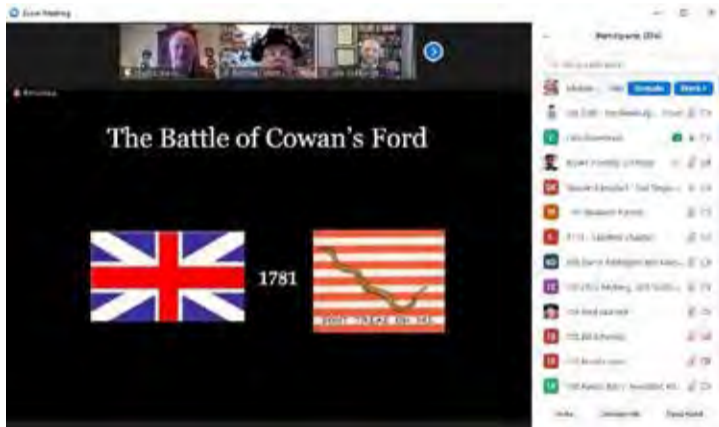


ALSSAR 2020 President, David Jones, reports for duty for the Ameri-

: Zoom of Cowan's Ford



:Ladies of the SAR come to rescue of our troops at the American Village filming



## Even COVID Can Have a "Silver Lining"

The world of COVID has been rough on everyone and the restrictions that came along with it have really hurt Sons of the American Revolution and Color Guards across the country. However, one "silver lining" has been the ability to attend national color guard events that many would have found difficult where geography and work schedules would have interfered. As a result of opening these events up to Zoom access, these events typically host 200+ individuals from across the country. In the months from January through March, Alabama chapter color guard compatriots attended five events... The Battle of Princeton, 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford, Battle of Moore's Creek, Crossing of the Dan, and Battle of Guilford Court House.

## Starting 2021 With a Bang

On January 9th, 2021, compatriots came from all over the state of Alabama to participate in "live fire" training at the Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park. The purpose of the training was two-fold. First, the Alabama SAR was asked if they could help the American Village in Montevallo, Alabama with some historical filming. Second, this training was also helping to foster interest and to start a training program for the development of a state Alabama Society Honor Guard. For the instruction, compatriot Martin Brady came to the rescue and gave a brief but in-depth history of 18th century muskets and powder before moving to hands-on tutelage of the firing commands, a walk through, and then members performed the firing sequence. Even though it was a "Valley Forge" of a day with a high of thirty-five degree, it was an excellent day with twenty-two in attendance from various chapters and also from the C.A.R.



## In For a Penny, In For a Pound

Several of our state Color Guard have decided to take their love for History, Education, and Patriotism, as any good Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) compatriot would, and "take it up a notch" by joining the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment reenactment unit. Members from all over the state attended the organizational meeting at the American Village in Montevallo on March 13th representing chapters from the "lower Alabama" Wiregrass Chapter in the south to our northernmost Tennessee Valley Chapter and almost everywhere in between.

Compatriots volunteer for duty in the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment. Pictured left to right, Martin Brady (Elmore Chapter), Michael Martin (Caha-ba-Coosa Chapter), Travis Parker (Wiregrass Chapter)



*Soar Like an Eagle*

On March 9th, representatives from the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter Color Guard presented the Alabama Sons of the American Revolution Second Place Eagle Scout Award and a \$300 check to Michael Alexander Karmondi.

Eagle Scout Award presentation by the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter. Pictured left to right, Michael Martin (Vice President Cahaba-Coosa), Tom Granger (President Cahaba-Coosa), Michael Alexander Karmondi (2nd Place Alabama SAR Eagle Scout Award Recipient), Bill Daniel (Secretary Cahaba-Coosa / Alabama Society SAR Vice President)



DELAWARE

On Sunday, March 21st dual members and national commanders David W. Hoover and C. Louis Raborg Jr. of the Maryland and Delaware Societies joined with their fellow Col. Aquila Hall chapter color guard members to create a presentation of the colors for the lovely ladies of the DESDAR. Members in the photo are David W. Hoover, past national commander, Bill Smithson Col. Aquila Hall President, Glenn Ross, Chris Smithson and C. Louis Raborg Jr. NSSAR Color Guard Commander.



FLORIDA -

**Vietnam Vetern's Recognition**

The Caloosa Chapter Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15 accepted a mission to present colors at an event being conducted by several local DAR Chapters (Lawrence Kearny leading, plus Caloosahatchee and Estero Island Chapters) that was intended to be a two-fold event. The FSSDAR and these Chapters are Commemorative Partners in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. The FLSSAR and many of its chapters are also Commemorative Partners in this program to recognize veterans who served during the Vietnam War period. Ceremonies were held to present these veterans with a commemorative lapel pin and a certificate. Many of us who served have already received the lapel pins, but there are others who have not yet been recognized.

The ceremony on April 3, 2021 at Eco Park in Cape Coral honored those veterans and their families. At the same time, a Vietnam Memorial Monument, currently located in Fort Myers, is being relocated to the Eco Park and will be rededicated there. The Caloosa Color Guard welcomed compatriots from any other chapters that participated in this program. Vietnam Veterans (color guard or not) may also join with us and receive the lapel pin and certificate.

The Eco Park is located off of Veterans Blvd in Cape Coral and is visible from the highway by the Iwo Jima Monument standing there along with a flag display. There was cold drinks and light refreshments for all attending.





Celebration of Life for member Douglas Erb, February 13, 2021  
Photos by Jill Fields

### *Florida Battalion Sons of Liberty Brigade*

Within a 14 day period, the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade was honored to be asked to Present the Colors at both the Annual Conference Banquet for the Florida Society, Children of the American Revolution and the Spring Conference Banquet for the Florida Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

On February 20, in St Augustine, The Florida Battalion led the FSCAR procession into the banquet hall and Presented the Colors for their Annual Banquet. Pictured are members of the Color Guard as they waited for the procession to begin. They are (l-r), Charles Nuckolls (St Augustine), James Popham (C.A.R. and Junior Member of Miami Chapter), Paul Turner (Jacksonville), Lee Popham (Miami), Dick Young, Commander (Tampa) and Charles Farmer (Jacksonville). Not pictured but in uniform is John Jolly (Jacksonville). Also attending the banquet representing the SAR, but not in uniform were Jerry Hanchett and Robert Gearing (St Augustine), Scott Cook (Gainesville) and Brian Jenson (Brevard). It was good to see this large show of support from the SAR for the C.A.R. in general and their Annual Conference in particular.



On March 5, in Orlando, The Florida Battalion Presented the Colors at the only banquet of the 2021 Spring Conference of the Florida DAR. Pictured is the Color Guard, at rest, prior to the banquet, sitting with FSDAR Regent Kay Yarbrough and FLSSAR President David Bussone. Also pictured is the Color Guard with the NSDAR President General Denise Doring van Buren. They are (l-r), Robert McGuire (Caloosa), Steven Fields, Vice Commander (Saramana), Jeffery Brunelle (Caloosa), William Elder (Daytona-Ormond), Dwight Elam (Caloosa), NSDAR PG Van Buren, Dick Young, Commander (Tampa), Robert Robinson (Tampa) and Hampton Allen (Caloosa). Many of

the Color Guardsmen are HODARs, but some made the trip to Orlando, just to participate in the Presentation of the Colors.

The SAR was well represented at both events despite continuing COVID concerns. All of these compatriots are to be commended for their commitment to the SAR and for representing the SAR at these important events.



## F.S.D.A.R. Annual Meeting

The FLSSAR color guard posting the colors at the DAR Annual Meeting, Orlando, March 5, 2021.



Dave Bussone presenting Lydia Darragh medal to State Regent Kay Yarbrough..

Most photos by Anne McGuire



## GEORGIA -



Elijah Clark Event Photos submitted by Color Guard Commander Raborg



Noah Tindall is the drummer and is a member of Button Gwinnett SAR chapter, Georgia State Society C.A.R. Chaplain and Elisha Winn Society C.A.R. 2VP

Caleb is the riflemen and is a member of the Coweta Falls SAR chapter. Noah (10) and Caleb (14) were surprised and greatly appreciated the challenge coin and pin. The one question Noah was going to ask Commander Raborg is "Does SAR use aides for National Congress?" He had the opportunity to serve as a C.A.R. aide

and he is thinking that when the SAR National Congress comes to Savannah that he wants to do something.





# Comments and Questions

This is a magazine section similar to any magazine's "Letters to the Editor" set aside for color guardsmen to ask a question or post a comment.

Questions received will be directed to the leadership command structure for necessary answers. Questions should work their way through the local/state command structure - to ensure that the command structure would have the chance to provide the answer and thus be aware of any issues within their command.

Questions should be related to color guard procedures, obtaining vendor lists, any state's content submissions, questions about submitting articles for publication in this magazine, or similar general Color Guard subject matter questions.

**Q:**

Would it be possible to be included in your distribution list for future issues of *The SAR Colorguardsman* Magazine?

**A: [Editor]**

Thank you for that Question. There is no subscriber list except that of state color guard commanders. It would be too onerous a task to create and then maintain anything greater than that. The link to the SAR Colorguardsman Magazine is sent to each state's Color Guard



Commander every quarter with the direction that they pass it on to their state's color guard members individually or via the chapter color guard commanders. I have received many requests by individual SAR members to be placed on a distribution list. Given the frequency of email address changes it becomes almost too much to keep an accurate distribution list for anything beyond the state Color Guard Commanders. Even with that limited number of Names/emails I too often get messages from a frustrated commander that he hasn't been receiving my messages. This almost invariably due to the fact that I haven't received notification of a change in commanders for that state. Those changes should be directed to the National Color Guard Commander (he needs to know who to deal with for issues) and then to me, too.

My mail server only allows up to 99 recipients for any single email message. And also has a limit on the number of messages with multiple recipients.

So the short answer is that non-commander SAR members should tell their state Color Guard Commander to be put on his distribution list.

Those who want to know:

## MANUEL OF ARMS

**Shoulder Firelock\*** – Right shoulder only, the lock is always away from the body. – All movements either start or end with Should Firelock. (pic 1)

**Shoulder to Order** – 2 movements (pic 2)

**Shoulder from Order** - 2 movements (pic 3)

**Poise Firelock** – 2 movements (pic 4)

**Present Firelock** -3 movements (pic 5)

**Secure Firelock** – 3 movements with 3 movements back to Shoulder – Note – This is the done before and after use of the firelock.

ALLWAYS dump your powder after a misfire when you get off the field. (pic 6)

**Search Firelock** – 3 movements – This is done to make certain the piece is empty. (pic 6a) This is the same movement for Ram Cartridge

**Return Rammer** – 1 movement with 2 movements to Shoulder (pic 6b)

**Advance Firelock** – 4 movements with 4 movements back to Shoulder (pic 6c)

**Prime and Load** – This is a series of movements starting at Shoulder Half-Cock, Open Pan - (pic 7)

Handle Cartridge / Prime Pan - (pic 8)

Shut Pan / Charge with Cartridge – (pic 9) and return to Shoulder

**Firing Sequence** – Waiting until everyone is at Shoulder.

Make Ready – 2 movements (pic 10a)

Take Aim – Most times at Elevation (pic 10b)

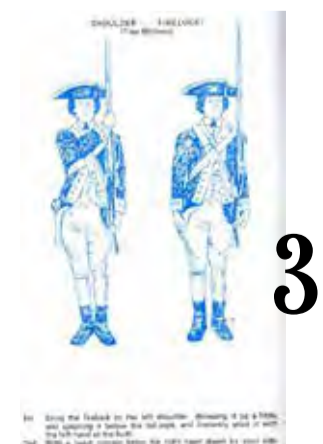
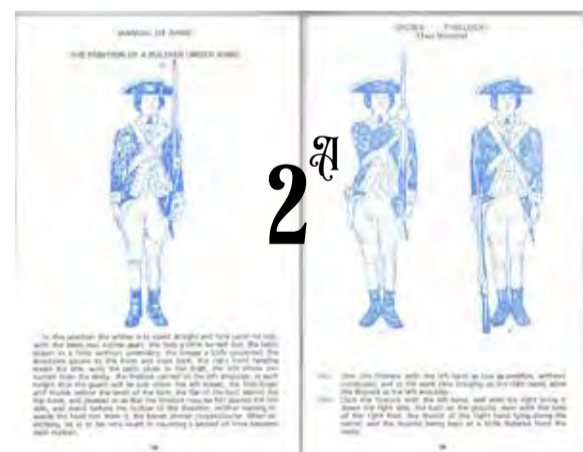
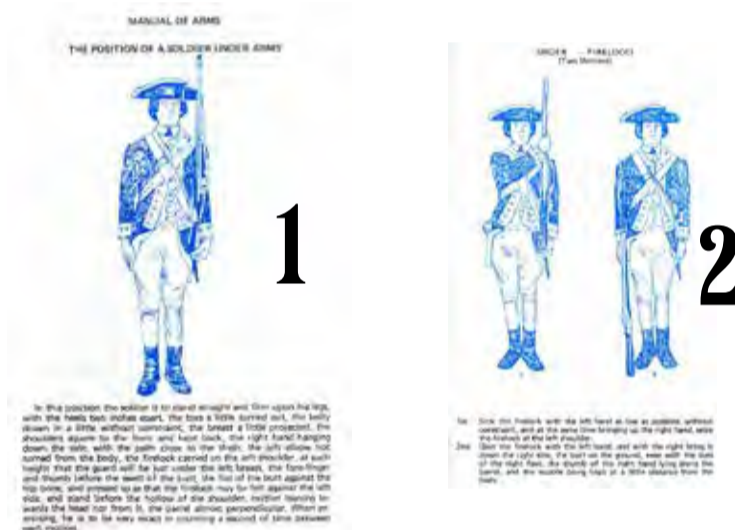
Fire – (pic 11) after Firing, bring the piece to the Prime and

**Load and wait for command to Prime**  
and Load or Shoulder.

These are the majority of movements that are used in Maryland

David H Embrey  
MDSSAR Color Guard Commander

Note: Many thanks to the Illustrated Drill Manuel The American Soldier of the Revolutionary War edited by A.N. Schultze Illustrated by R.T Coleman – Excerpts from Von Steubens Regs of 1778





# Iowa Remembers

Here is a little checkpoint we can all try. Visualize in your mind an American Revolutionary War veteran. Did your mind see the images of Cato Mead,?

Cato Mead, was an escaped slave who served in the Revolutionary War and died in Iowa. Cato was one of many slaves and free men that chose to serve the patriot cause in the hope that the message of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness would one day be theirs. Many others would follow, serving in such units as the Buffalo soldiers and Tuskegee airman both in Iowa and the nation in the wars and troubles that would follow

One quiet effort that has been taking place in Des Moines cemeteries with the support and assistance of **IOWA SAR MEMBERS**, Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley, retired Des Moines Fire Fighter Robert Niffenegger, and Tim Rowley of NCMIC Insurance and the approval of the veteran's descendants has been the placement of monuments on the previously unmarked graves of Black American veterans.



In early March the Iowa SAR Color Guard Central Iowa Chapter researched, ordered, took delivery and installed 26 stones on the graves of previously unmarked Veterans of the Civil War, the Mexican American war and the Spanish American War. Subjects in photo left to right are IA SAR Color Guard members: Commander Mike Rowley, Volunteer Larry Smith and member Bob Niffenegger

## From the Revolutionary War

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### Three Shillings Reward.

RUNAWAY from the Subscriber, on the 14th  
Instant, a Molatto BOY, named **CATO**  
**MEEDS**, 13 Years old last April, can read well  
and write some, about 4 Feet 10 Inches high,  
straight limbed, black Eyes, and short curled Hair:  
Had on when he went away, one old Felt Hat,  
fewed round the Brim with red worsted Yarn, one  
crown Serge Coat, one striped tow Shirt, one Pair  
of striped linen Trowlers, and one Pair of old Dear  
Skin Breeches---he is a Weaver by Trade. Who-  
ever will apprehend said Boy, and return him to  
his Master (the Subscriber) or confine him in any  
of our Goals, so that he may have him again, shall  
have the above Reward, and all reasonable Charg-  
es paid by **EBENEZER GROVER, Junior.**  
Norwich, May 27, 1776.

W A N T E D,  
ONE or TWO likely forv BOYS. about 13 or

Dr. J. P. French, of Boston, on his way to the South, while at New Portage, Ohio, performed a gratuitous amputation of the leg of Mr. Mead, one of the surviving Patriots of the Revolution, for a *fungous exostises*, of thirty years standing. Dr. M. Clarke (who deserves equal praise for his charitable attendance) informs that the stump is healed up sound. Dr. F. observed, this was the second leg he had amputated for the Bunker Hill veterans, at the advanced ages of 70 & 80 years; both still alive, and enjoying the small pittance the government allows them.—Portage Pa.

## Frederick Wagner a Civil War veteran

Iowa SAR Color Guard members Mike Rowley, Robert Niffenegger and David Rowley assisted the Children of the American Revolution with the installation of a gravestone for Frederick Wagner a Civil War veteran whose grave had been unmarked for 110 years.

Photo Right - CAR member (and honorary IA SAR Color Guard member) in SAR uniform, Mike Rowley in CW uniform, Bob Niffenegger backrow baseball cap and sunglasses and David Rowley in War of 1812 uniform

They event (see links) was covered by local media

<https://www.weareiowa.com/article/news/local/iowa-veterans-mark-civil-war-unmarked-graves-woodland-cemetery/524-dee3c2f1-2ed4-4170-86cb-6daab4d0b667>

<https://www.kcci.com/article/iowa-civil-war-veteran-receives-headstone-110-years-after-his-death/36020824>





## Indiana SAR

National Color Guard Events - 2021 - May 25 Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous Vincennes, IN Indiana.

We will not hold the George Rogers Clark Wreath Laying Ceremony (the national Indiana event) on May 29, 2021 due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. We feel this decision is in the best interest of all concerned, especially for our older population. (During non-pandemic times, the wreath laying ceremony is held during the Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous, which at this point is still on track to be held on May 29 and 30, 2021. The George Rogers Clark Wreath Laying Ceremony is held on the Saturday of the Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous and it is at this ceremony where the SAR Color Guard participates.)

We are sorry we will not hold our 2021 wreath laying ceremony this year. We look forward to preparing for our wreath laying ceremony in May 2022.

## KANSAS -

COVID-19 Kansas Society Color Guardsmen participated virtually in the Wreath Laying Ceremonies on December 26, 2020 for the Battle of Trenton and on January 3, 2021 for the Battle of Princeton. They were Dewey Fry, Ken Ludwig, Steven French and Kirk Rush all of the Delaware Crossing Chapter.

The Kansas Society held its quarterly Board of Governors Meeting virtually on Saturday February 6, 2021. Presenting the Colors for that meeting were Dewey Fry, Kirk Rush, Steven French and Ken Ludwig.

On March 20, 2021 the Kansas Society held its Annual Conference in Leavenworth, Kansas. This was the first meeting many months that was an in-person meeting. There was a Memorial Service, Business Meeting, Youth Awards Luncheon and an evening Banquet. The Color Guard Presented and Posted the Colors at each event.



George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest and Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest. At the Youth Awards Luncheon the Color Guardsmen participating were Dewey Fry, John Schwartz, Alan Martin, Steven French, Dennis Nelson, Kirk Rush, Steven Hamlin and Robert Wandel. (Photo Below)



The Color Guardsmen participating in the Memorial Service, from left to right in the photo, were Dewey Fry, Michael "Tom" Chychota, John Schwartz, Alan Martin, Steven French, Dennis Nelson, Kirk Rush, Steven Hamlin and Robert Wandel. The

photo was taken during practice; joining for the Service was Randy Colby. (Photo Above)

At the Business Meeting the Colors were Presented and Posted by the Color Guard; Color Guardsmen participating from left to right in the photo taken immediately after the Posting of the Colors were Dewey Fry, Michael Chychota, John Schwartz, Alan Martin, Steven French, Dennis Nelson, Kirk Rush, Steven Hamlin and Robert Wandel. (Photo Above)



The final event of the day is the evening Banquet. This event was when awards were presented to KSSSAR members and others, the President gives his farewell address, the new officers are sworn in, and the new President gives his speech of plans and expectations. Prior to the Colors being Presented, Posted and Retired the Color Guard formed two lines between which the dignitaries seated at the head table processed to the head table; Color Guardsmen were Dewey Fry, Alan Martin, Steven French, Dennis Nelson, Kirk Rush, Steven Hamlin, John Schatzel and Robert Wandel. (Photo Right).



The Youth Awards Luncheon is the event at which youth were recognized and awards presented to the youth for the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest, Sargent Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest, Joseph,

We expect increased in-person activity as COVID-19 recedes during 2021

# The Color Guard Committee

The Color Guard Committee is responsible for coordinating and providing guidance to district, state and chapter Color Guard units. All Color Guardsmen are members of this committee. This is a very large committee, and may be subdivided into geographic groups on the recommendation of the chairman. The members of this committee elect the committee's leadership pursuant to the procedures set forth in the SAR Color Guard Handbook found in the Color Guard Committee web page on SAR.org.



## KENTUCKY



### *Washington's Birthday Ceremony*

The Gov. Isaac Shelby chapter of the Kentucky Society sponsored a wreath laying ceremony in Louisville to commemorate George Washington's birthday on 13 February. The ceremony was held in the Lawrence Family cemetery which contains the final resting place of Patriot Benjamin Lawrence. The ceremony was kept small due to the icy conditions and COVID-19 restrictions. Despite the cold temperatures, eight members of the Kentucky Society were on hand to participate in the color guard. Representatives of the Col. Daniel Boone, Lafayette, and Gov. Isaac Shelby Chapter made up the color guard. The ceremony was recorded and will be used as part of a virtual celebration of Washington's birthday.

Photo Left: Group photo of the SAR members attending the ceremony.

## MARYLAND -



### *Feb 9 - Zoom Tavern Night*

- With our State GW Birth-Luncheon being cancelled no other events on books through March was decided to partake of our Rum Rations and talk shop over Zoom this year. We opened by toasting a few of our new Color Guard members, Don Eberhardt, Kevin Carr and John Davidson and then moved on to having everyone else introduce them selves Lt to Rt and Top to Bottom - John Davidson, David Embrey, Chris Smithson, Bruce French, Ron Harbaugh, Lou Raborg, Bill Smithson, David Hoover, Kevin Carr, Bob Lyons, Gerry Harris, Chris Christou, Don Eberhardt and Michael Kelley Jr, (Photo at Left)



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On Sunday, March 21st dual members and national commanders David W. Hoover and C. Louis Raborg Jr. of the Maryland and Delaware Societies joined with their fellow Col. Aquila Hall chapter guard members to create a presentation of the colors for the lovely ladies of the DESDAR. Members in the photo are David W. Hoover, past national commander, Bill Smithson Col. Aquila Hall President, Glenn Ross, Chris Smithson and C. Louis Raborg Jr. NSSAR Color Guard Commander.



Topics of discussion were

- Training - Manual of Arms - minimum requirements /
- Flags / Drill / Test
- Dress - It's all about the photo op - Looking sharp, leather stight
- Gigs - how to get different events - social media -
- Colors - at Ravens game and other more?
- Honor Guard - a step above

By the end of the evening we decided to have a training day on May 22, 12 to 4:00 with a Traven Night / picnic to follow.

It's going to be great being out in field again. -

# Requiescat In Pace SAR Color Guard Commander Compatriot William (Bill) L. Groth, Jr.



William L. Groth, Jr. age 87, passed away on Friday, January 15, 2021. Beloved husband of 65 years to Evangeline Groth (nee Tolentino); dear son of the late William Sr. and Marjorie (nee Regal); brother of the late Jack (survived by KT) Groth; wonderful father of Marjorie (John) Larsen, William III (Susan), Charles (Diana), John, and Mary O'Neill; dearest grandfather of John (Sarah), William, Charles (Colleen), Edward (Megan), Sophia, James (Kathleen), Ashley, William IV, Elliott (Melanie), David, and James; dearest great-grandfather of Cayden, Jayce, Amelia, Forest, Leo, Emma, and Landon; dear brother-in-law, uncle, great-uncle, cousin and friend to many.

Bill graduated from the University of Missouri, B.S., and Webster University, MAT. He proudly served with the 95th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division. He was a member of the Spirit of St. Louis Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, serving as State Color Guard Commander Missouri Society, SAR; a member of Company of Military Historians, Past Camp Commander of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and associate member of Chapter 1028, Vietnam Veterans of America.

Bill assisted in having the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fort San Carlos in St. Louis approved by the National Society as an Annual National SAR Historic Event for earning the Silver Color Guard Medal and the Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Color Guard Service.

Services: Visitation was held on Wednesday, January 22th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The funeral was held at Kutis Affton Chapel, 10151 Gravois Road on Thursday, January 21st at 10:00 a.m. Interment was at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions were requested to be made to St. Joseph's Indian School.



Left to right: Bob Brindell (SSL), J. Wayne Merrill (MGC), Russell DeVenney (MGC), Charles McMillan (OMC), James Osbourn (SSL), Bill Grote IFDL), Terry Grogan (SSL), and Wayne Davis (SSL).

Photo provided by Compatriot Robert Ackley (SSL).

## *Past Chapter President Pin and Certificate were presented to 2020 Fernando de Leyba Chapter President Thomas Michael (Mike) Wood.*

On January 16th the SAR Chapter Past President Pin and Certificate were presented to 2020 Fernando de Leyba Chapter President Thomas Michael (Mike) Wood by



Chapter President and Colorguardsman James (Jim) Jackson. The Chapter appreciates Mike's hard work during 2020 and looks forward to his continued participation in the Chapter.

Left to right: Incoming Chapter President William James (Jim) Jackson and outgoing Chapter President Thomas Michael (Mike) Wood.

Photos provided by Compatriot William James (Jim) Jackson (FDL).

## *Independence Patriots Chapter Presented Colors and Program at the Lafayette-Lexington DAR Chapter*

On January 20, 2021 the Independence Patriots Chapter (IPC), in conjunction with members of the Lafayette-Lexington DAR Chapter, performed the opening flag ceremony at the January DAR Chapter meeting. IPC President Stephen Sullins was the guest speaker. The topic was "Winter at Valley Forge". The meeting was held at the Christ Episcopal Church, Lexington Missouri.

Left to right: Stephen Sullins, Annie Durigan, and LaDonna Scott

Photo provided by Compatriot Stephen Sullins and LaVeda Cross.



## Medal of Honor Commemoration for Sergeant Freeman Davis

On March 21, 2021 a Medal of Honor Commemoration was held for Sergeant Freeman Davis, U.S. Army, at Oak Hill Cemetery, Butler, Missouri. Attending were members of the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, United States Daughters of 1812, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Bugles across America, American Legion Post 67 of Rich Hill, Missouri, and Missouri National Guard. The drummer was Pat Stewart of the Independence Pioneers DAR Chapter, taps was provided by Edward Bliefnick of Bugles Across America, and a Flag Folding was conducted by members of the Missouri National Guard. Missouri Society, SAR Members Dale E. Crandell, Ozark Mountain Chapter; Robert L. Grover, Harry S Truman Chapter; Brian V. Smarker, Harry S. Truman Chapter; John K. Stewart, Harry S. Truman Chapter; and Kevin L. Miller, William C. Corum Chapter.

The United States of America presented the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Freeman Davis on 30 March 1896 with the following citation:

***“This soldier, while his regiment was falling back, seeing the 2 color bearers shot down, under a severe fire and at imminent peril recovered both the flags and saved them from capture.”***

The President of the United States on behalf of the Congress and a grateful nation is pleased to inform you that you have been awarded the Medal of Honor for your heroic actions at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee on November 25, 1863.”

## 5th Anniversary of the Wreath Laying Ceremony Held at the Veterans Way Memorial in Blue Springs Missouri Honoring Viet Nam Veterans

On March 29, 2021 the Harry S Truman Chapter Color Guard participated in the 5th Anniversary of the Wreath Laying Ceremony held at the Veterans Way Memorial, Park Hill Park, in Blue Springs Missouri Honoring Viet Nam Veterans. Participants were Carson Ross, Mayor of Blue Springs, MO; Blue Springs, MO Councilmen Jerry Kaylor and Kent Edmondson; Blue Springs DAR Chapter Member Kathy Hutchinson; and Harry S Truman SAR Chapter Colorguardsmen Robert Grover and Roy Hutchinson.

In the spring of 2016 the Blue Springs DAR Chapter, the City of Blue Springs, and program partners, including members of the Missouri Society, SAR Color Guard, held an “Honoring Our Heroes” event dedicated to the men and women who served in the Vietnam War. This event was held to recognize our nation’s 50th Anniversary welcoming home our veterans at the end of the Vietnam War. Wreaths were placed in memory of those lost including a wreath for SP4 William Arthur Michael, the sole Blue Springs resident killed in action during the Vietnam War. More than 300 community members gathered at Veterans Way Memorial and heard from

veterans Jim Maher and Chuck Lear. A wreath laying ceremony for honoring Viet Nam Veterans has been held each year since 2016.



Left to right: Carson Ross, Mayor of Blue Springs, MO; Robert Grover (HST); Roy Hutchinson (HST); Jerry Kaylor, Blue Springs, MO Councilman; Kent Edmondson (HST).



Left to right: Dale E. Crandell, Ozark Mountain SAR Chapter; Robert L. Grover, Harry S Truman SAR Chapter; Michael R. Lundeen, Sons of Union Veterans; Brian V. Smarker, Harry S. Truman SAR Chapter; John K. Stewart, Harry S. Truman SAR Chapter; Kevin L. Miller, William C. Corum SAR Chapter; and James D. Becker, Sons of Union Veterans.

Photo submitted by Kevin Miller, Senior Vice Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans (SUV) and member of the William C. Corum SAR Chapter.



Left to right: Robert Grover (HST); Carson Ross, Mayor of Blue Springs, MO; Kathy Hutchinson Blue Springs DAR Chapter; Roy Hutchinson (HST). Photos provided by Compatriot Roy Hutchinson (HST).

## Certificate of Appreciation

On March 20, 2021 the Independence Patriots Chapter (IPC) President and Colorguardsman Stephen Sullins presented Blue Springs DAR Chapter Historian Vicki Hodges a Certificate of Appreciation for her presentation on the “Battle of Alamance” at the IPC March Zoom meeting.



Independence Patriots Chapter President and Colorguardsman Stephen Sullins and Blue Springs DAR Chapter DAR Historian Vicki Hodges

Photo provided by Stephen Sullins (IPC).



## NEW HAMPSHIRE -

### *Going Home Celebration*

As everywhere, the scene in New Hampshire is quiet. Our Color Guard has been remaining active doing monthly drill sessions and working on standardizing a uniform, and recruiting. A dedicated contingent is pictured, braving the New Hampshire winter.

Several of our members participated in a “Going Home Celebration” for our recently deceased Chaplain, Past President, and Color Guard member, the Rev. Garrett Lear, “The Patriot Pastor”.

At the George Washington’s Birthday meeting, three Color Guard members received the Silver Grave Marking Medal for participation by way of volley fires. These were Russell Cumbee, Sean Walsh, and Dennis Walsh. Andrew Akers and Paul Ford also performed these duties.

Pictured, L to R: Dennis Walsh, Russ Cumbee, Doug Wood, Sean Walsh, and Paul Ford.



## NORTH CAROLINA -

### *Veterans Military Museum in Brevard, North Carolina.*

The Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR Color Guard participated in the “re-opening” of the Veterans Military Museum in Brevard, North Carolina on the 25th of March. The museum houses artifacts from World War I thru the current deployments in the Middle East. It is the largest military museum in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The museum had been closed since early March 2020 until its reopening on Thursday. The Blue Ridge Color Guard was honored as the only color guard to present the national colors at the event.







Guilford Courthouse Color Guard



2021 Moore's Creek Facebook Post

Cowans Ford Screenshot



Osgood Color Guard and Family

# OHIO



At the virtual ceremony commemorating the Battle of Kettle Creek on February 13th, Bob Davis, at left, comes to Present Arms, as Matt Hardman, President of the Hocking Valley Chapter presents a wreath on behalf of the Chapter.

## Ohio Society Color Guard

Although weather and covid-19 have slowed Color Guard activities this winter, several chapters in the Ohio Society have kept highly active by participating in the virtual Color Guard events offered. In the Hocking Valley Chapter, Color Guard Adjutant Al Gummere represented the chapter by presenting a wreath at the Battle of Princeton virtual ceremony on January 3rd. Then he and wife Janet, a DAR member with the Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter in Lancaster, decided to offer their basement room for chapter participation in virtual Color Guard events. Flags were posted, wreaths displayed, and chairs placed in readiness for each event. Janet also provided technical support with her I-Pad placed on a tripod with a speaker for easy virtual participation. It has worked wonderfully and chapter Color Guard members have been involved in several events in recent months. The virtual events the Hocking Valley Chapter has participated in thus far: Daniel Morgan/ Cowpens on Jan. 16th, Reverend Peter Muhlenberg on Jan. 24th, Battle of Cowan's Ford on Jan. 30th, Battle of Kettle Creek on Feb. 13th, Crossing of the Dan on Feb. 20th, Battle of Moore's Creek on Feb. 27th, and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on Mar. 13th. There are plans to participate in the Halifax Resolves on Apr. 12th.



On Saturday, March 13th, a Bronze Color Guard medal and certificate was awarded to Shaun Cotterill, Chaplain of the Firelands Bicentennial Chapter. The award was presented to Shaun at their Chapter meeting in Norwalk, Ohio by State Color Guard Commander Bob Hill, and Chapter President Lance Beebe. L to R: Shaun Cotterill, Bob Hill, Lance Beebe.



Cincinnati SAR Wreath: Bob Bowers, Board member of the Cincinnati Chapter participated in virtual ceremonies for the Battles of Princeton, Cowan's Ford, Kettle Creek, Crossing of the Dan, and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.,



Other than the Hocking Valley Chapter participating in many virtual Color Guard ceremonies as a group this past winter, individuals in other Chapters have been noteworthy as well. Among them:  
 SAR 2021 Color Guard: Gary Duffield, President of the Highlanders Chapter and plural Color Guard member / Secretary of the Cincinnati Chapter. Gary virtually participated in the Battle of Princeton Jan. 3rd, Daniel Morgan / Cowpens Jan. 16th, Battle of Cowpens Jan. 17th, Reverend Peter Muhlenberg Jan. 24th, Battle of Cowan's Ford Jan. 30th, Heroes of the Hornet's Nest Feb. 12th, Battle of Kettle Creek Feb. 13th, Crossing of the Dan, Feb. 20th, Battle of Moore's Creek Feb. 27th, Battle of Guilford Courthouse Mar. 13th.

Donald Miller, President of the Benjamin Franklin Chapter participated in virtual ceremonies for Daniel Morgan / Cowpens, Reverend Peter Muhlenberg, the Battles of Cowan's Ford, Kettle Creek, Crossing of the Dan, the Battles of Moore's Creek and Guilford Courthouse.





Chapter Color Guard members at the virtual Battle of Cowan's Ford ceremony, L to R: Commander Bob Hill, Adjutant Al Gummere, Paul Irwin, Tom Hankins, Matt Hardman, Bob Davis. Not shown participating in a different location: Jeff Walt.



The new reality of Color Guard events this past winter, I-Pad and computer screens for virtual participants.

Chapter members relax as they listen to the virtual event in their Color Guard room at the Gummere residence near Lancaster, Ohio.



## OKLAHOMA



### **SAR event 3/6/21 at 45th infantry museum**

Pictured is the Oklahoma City SAR Chapter Color Guard practicing to prepare the team for the task of supporting the Oklahoma Society SAR State Conference. Oklahoma Society Color Guard Commander Henry Baer, Recipient of the SAR Color Guard Silver Award, organized a "Virtual" Color Guard presentation to be performed for the opening ceremony. Commander Baer organized the Oklahoma City Chapter for the opening ceremony, and the Tulsa Chapter for the closing ceremony. His "Vision" was to include Color Guard, an SAR Banner and Muskets firing in the opening ceremony all done to Music! This was accomplished. He delegated responsibility for the color guard training and organization to SAR Chapter Color Guard Commander Joe Sieber. Sieber, then organized and assembled a team made up of Continental and Militia-costumed SAR members. With their help and experience, the team came together and accomplished all assigned tasks. One of the most challenging tasks was to "Create" the Musket Section and have them prepared. This required cleaning and repair, materials and the needed supplies to be gathered, and exercising the team. All to be done in a week to meet Commander Baer's "Hard" Suspense! The Team was comprised of the following Compatriots: Ken Young, Silver Awardee, (Oklahoma Society State Vice President), Henry Baer, Silver Awardee, (Oklahoma Society State Color Guard Commander), Joe Sieber, (Oklahoma City Chapter Color Guard Commander), Gary Jensen, Silver Awardee, (Oklahoma City Chapter Color Guard Lieutenant), Jordan Bush, (Oklahoma City Color Guard Ensign and Militia Commander), Bob Thomas, Silver Awardee, (Oklahoma City Color Guard Color Sergeant), Bob Ives, Silver Awardee, (Oklahoma City Chapter Color Guardsman), Martin Reynolds, Silver Awardee, (Oklahoma City Chapter Color Guardsman), and Marty Samwel, (Oklahoma City Chapter Color Guardsman). These Compatriots make up the most highly-decorated Color Guard team in the State





**I did not know your name**

I did not know your name, but I know what you did.  
You did not know my name and did it anyway.  
You have my full respect, and it is my esteemed honor to stand before you today to say goodbye.



I recall as a member of the Shore Patrol back in my Navy days, I volunteered to be a member of the Honor Guard, specifically using two 5-inch guns (Navy term) to perform 21-gun salutes in Bremerton, Washington. We would arrive early, set up the guns and lay out the cartridges. Once set up, we stood at attention for up to an hour in our dress whites awaiting orders from the Chief. Upon command, one crew would fire and reload while the other crew stood at attention. When the first volley was complete and crew one was at attention, the second crew followed suit. These actions continued with military precision until the 21 rounds were exhausted. While standing at attention, I could see people standing, some saluting as we pounded the sky. The cheering that followed filled us up with patriotic pride as if we had done something, but all we did was show respect for those who had.

The same holds true when I am with my Color Guard compatriots as we fulfill our duties. I glow with that same feeling when I march in a parade as crowds genuinely cheer and veterans struggle to rise and salute as we pass by. I am filled with patriotism as new citizens flock to us for photo opportunities after the naturalization ceremony. We stand at attention for flag raising and wreath laying ceremonies. We post and retire the flags at our meetings. We support local special events such as the Mason's March, Washington's Birthday, Stars and Stripes festival, March in and March out at Valley Forge, and pay homage at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier for all who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. The fulfillment we experience isn't for us. It is for what we represent!

The Color Guard unit isn't just a bunch of guys that like to dress up in costumes. We are reminders to the public that grit, and service is what founded our nation. We have a duty to keep alive what our patriot ancestors accomplished to secure our independence from despotic rule. We are the public face of the Sons of the American Revolution. We are the Color Guard!



*History in the Making*

History is basically defined as recording and relating an event in the past. Relating history without adding ones own bias is an art in itself. Being able to convey the past and making it interesting is a unique skill, which is not common to the average person. As a member of the Speakers Bureau for our chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, I have had the pleasure to interact with some of those with this special talent. It is a pleasure and entertaining to observe these artists in action and my hat is off when the young faces in their audience come alive because they understand that which is being conveyed.

One of those unique individuals is Rebecca Williams, a history teacher in the 11th grade of Byron Steele High School in Cibolo Texas. I was invited to come to her classroom in my Continental garb and accompanying paraphernalia to share some thoughts on the American

Revolution to three of her classes. She was in love with her work and dedicated to her profession. I was extremely pleased when she applied for the William Hightower Chapter Teacher of the Year and won. It was even more exciting when we were notified that she was chosen as the Texas Society's candidate for the National SAR Society's History Teacher of the Year for 2020-21.



On Feb. 25, 2021, some chapter members gather together with the school principal to honor Becky. She was presented with a Certificate, a Good Citizenship Medal and a check for \$500.00. From left to right are: Jim Clements, TX SAR State Secretary of the Patrick Henry Chapter; Becky Williams; Stu Hoyt, William Hightower Historian; Will Moravits, Youth Awards Chairman; and Ms. Jana Cervantes, Principal Steele High School. "The Knight" the school mascot is in the background. Not shown taking the photo was Chapter Secretary Kris Krueger.

by Stu Hoyt

# A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Each year the SAR Societies of the different states struggle to find candidates who are willing to take the time to write an essay of approximately 500 words to fulfill the requirements of the George and Stella Knight's Essay Contest. The subject must relate to the period around and including the American Revolution. This doesn't seem like much but to students who are struggling to meet the academic demands to get into one of our institutes of higher learning, it is another time consuming requirement. Laced that demand with a small monetary achievement and it might gain some interest, but not much. As a former Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for our chapter, I was impressed with the accomplishments of the applicants, who carry a heavy academic load, compete in extra curricular activities and still have time for an after school job and community projects. I am exhausted just reading their scholarship applications. Our goal is to promote patriotism, history, and education to keep the memories of our patriot ancestors and our founding fathers alive in the minds of our youth today.

There are some who are willing to go the extra mile yet it would be nice to enlist the cooperation of a History teacher and English teacher who would give credit for a contest essay in their class. A few of us were invited to one of our local high schools to award the winner of our chapter George and Stella Knight Essay Contest with a Certificate, Medal, Outstanding Citizenship Pin and a check for \$500.00. Nicholas Hargett, a sophomore at Byron Steele High School in Cibolo, TX wrote his award winning essay titled "The Fight for Our Rights".



Participation in the ceremony were Jim Clements of the Patrick Henry Chapter and State Society Secretary; Nicholas Hargett, proud essay winner; Will Moravits, William Hightower #35 Youth Contest Chairman, and Stu Hoyt, Chapter Historian. Behind us was the "The Knight" the school mascot. Looking on were Kris Krueger, Chapter Secretary; Nicholas's mother, and Ms. Jana Cervantes, the principal looked on.



## VIRGINIA

### George Washington's Birthday

On 22 February 2021, the Colonel James Wood II (CJWII) Chapter of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) participated in a commemoration to celebrate George Washington's Birthday. George Washington was born at his family's plantation on Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on 22 February 1732 to Augustine and Mary Ball Washington. For his birth date, there are two dates, February 22 1732 and 11 February 1731. Both dates are correct. At his birth, Great Britain and its empire used the Julian calendar developed in 46 B.C. by Julius Caesar. It had three too many leap days every 400 years and the year began 25 March. The Catholic Church corrected the error in the 1582, implementing the Gregorian Calendar, skipping 10 days and starting the year on 1 January. Great Britain and her colonies were not catholic and therefore, did not adopt the new calendar. In 1751, Britain joined the majority of countries in the world and adopted the Gregorian Calendar. This created the change from 11 to 22 February for Washington's Birthday. An extraordinary figure in American history, Washington was an ordinary man. He possessed a wry sense of humor and, like his wife Martha, tried to resist the vanities of public life. An unenthusiastic political leader, Washington nevertheless recognized his unique and symbolic role in keeping a fledgling nation together. He was keenly aware of setting unwritten rules of conduct for future presidents and struggled over what sort of image a president should project. He preferred one of dignity and humility. Upon leaving office, Washington returned to Mount Vernon and indulged his passion for the rural life as a member of the Virginia planter class. Washington died on 14 December 1799 of a severe respiratory ailment. He identified himself in his will as George Washington, of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States. The ceremony was conducted in Culpeper and emceed by Charles Jameson, President of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter of the SAR. A combined color guard from the Culpeper Minutemen (CMM), Colonel James Wood II, Fairfax Resolves (FR), Thomas Jefferson (TJ), George Mason (GM) and Colonel William Grayson (CWG) SAR Chapters presented the colors. Excerpts from Washington's farewell address were recited by various individuals and the presentation on George Washington by Tom Hamill. Participating from the CJWII Chapter were Sean Carrigan, Dale Corey, Thomas "Chip" Daniel and Dennis Parmeter. Other SAR compatriots included Dave Cook (FR),



Mike Dennis (CMM), Pat Kelly (TJ), Ken Morris (GM), Bill Schwetke (CMM) and Mike Weyler (CWG). Pictured is the combined color guard, l. to r. Bill Schwetke, Dale Corey, Dave Cook, Pat Kelly, Mike Dennis, Mike Weyler and Dennis Parmeter.

### Crossing of the Dan

On 20 February 2021, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution participated in a virtual commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan, an important event that led to victory in the American Revolutionary War. The crossing of the Dan River by General Nathanael Greene's Army from North Carolina into Virginia was a climatic moment in the race to the Dan. As winter descended on the Carolinas in December 1780, the British under Lt. General Charles Lord Cornwallis were on the verge of victory in the South. Charleston had fallen and the American Army had lost a significant battle at Camden, South Carolina. General Greene was sent to salvage the situation and arrived to find he was severely outnumbered and what remained of the American Army was starving, poorly clothed and barely equipped. Rebuilding the Army, he undertook a daring strategy of dividing his Army. On 21 December, he sent General Daniel Morgan into South Carolina with one wing of his Army. Morgan



was pursued by the British under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. He turned on the British at the Battle of Cowpens on 17 Jan 1781, destroying Tarleton's command and then retreated rapidly north into North Carolina. Gen. Greene also turned his wing of the Army north, knowing Cornwallis would pursue quickly to destroy the American Army. This began the "Race to the Dan". Greene and Morgan moved rapidly north, destroying boats and ferry crossings with Cornwallis close behind, on occasion only hours behind the retreating Army. Gen. Greene aimed his Army for the Dan River, a wide and important natural barrier near the line dividing North Carolina from Virginia. If he could cross the Dan, he would meet up with a large American force and prevent Cornwallis from crossing. Greene reached Boyd's Ferry on the Dan River. On 14 February 1781, he moved his men across the river, using a flotilla of all the boats they could find, carrying men, wagons, supplies and cannon to safety on the other side. There were no boats

left on the North Carolina side of the river for Cornwallis to continue his pursuit. The Crossing of the Dan was a brilliant success. The American Army would go on to reconquer much of the South, while the British would march on to ultimate defeat at the Battle of Yorktown. The ceremony had 166 participants from nine States and 75 chapters of descendants of the American Revolution. Participating from the Colonel James Wood II Chapter based in Winchester were President Marc Robinson, Vice President Thomas "Chip" Daniel, Sean Carrigan, Paul Christensen, Dale Corey, Kelly Ford, Art LaFlam, Erick Moore, Brett Osborn, Dennis Parmerter, Allan Phillips, Eric Robinson and Jim Simmons. Additional participants included dual members Ken Bonner, Charles James, Bill Schwetke and Mike Weyler. Pictured are the participating members of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter courtesy of Thomas "Chip" Daniel

### Battle of Cowan's Ford

On 30 January 2021, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter (CJWII) Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution participated in a virtual Commemoration for the Battle of Cowan's Ford. The Chapter was represented by a group of seven compatriots who met at the Wayside Inn, Middletown, VA to participate. This battle was fought in the early morning hours of 1 February 1781 in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina between 5,000 British and 900 American forces. General Lord Cornwallis was in the middle of his southern campaign in which he wanted to destroy the American forces in the south and then move to the north. This battle was part of the delaying tactics employed by General Nathanael Greene in his plan to cause attrition in the British ranks and rebuild the American forces. As Greene's Army was heading north, a small contingent led by General William Davidson remained behind at Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River to delay the pursuit by the British. At 1:00 a.m. on the morning of 1 February, Cornwallis sent his forces across the river at a point that was approximately 400 yards wide, to attack the American encampment. American sentries were alerted to the crossing, sounded the alarm and began firing at the troops fording the river. The British managed to reach the colonial side which resulted in a retreat to the dense woods. In



rallying his troops, General Davidson was mortally wounded by a musket ball to the chest. With this, the British won the battle as the Americans left the battlefield. This battle led to a revised strategy to be utilized by Greene's Army which led to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, which severely weakened Cornwallis' Army and led to the American victory at Yorktown in October 1781. Participating for the CJWII Chapter were Chapter President Marc Robinson, Virginia State Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner, compatriots Sean Carrigan, Dale Corey, Chip Daniel, Doug Hall and Brett Osborn. Pictures are courtesy of Thomas "Chip" Daniel. 1st photograph is of the chapter color guard at present arms during the posting of the colors. 1 - r Ken Bonner, Dale Corey, Brett Osborn, Sean Carrigan and Doug Hall. 2nd photograph is of the presentation of a wreath to honor the fallen at Cowan's Ford. 1 - r Sean Carrigan, Brett Osborn and Dale Corey

### CJWII Chapter Color Guard Workshop

On 27 March 2021, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution conducted a color guard workshop in Strasburg, Virginia. At this workshop, members of the chapter were given presentations on safety in handling and firing black powder flintlock muskets. They were drilled in presenting the national colors at events and the conduct of a musket squad in firing a musket salute. Brett Osborn gave presentations on safety and commands. Dale Corey gave presentations on conduct of ceremonies. Attending the workshop were Marc Robinson (Chapter President and Color Guard Commander), Thomas "Chip" Daniel (Chapter Vice President), Sean Carrigan, Mike Dennis (dual member from Culpeper Minutemen Chapter), Erick



Moore, Dennis Parmerter, Nathan Poe, Barry Schwoerer and future member Mike St Jacques. The group was preparing for ceremonies to honor Vietnam Veterans and an upcoming Revolutionary War Grave Marking Ceremony to be held in Stephens City. First picture is the color guard going through commands. 1 to r Brett Osborn, Barry Schwoerer, Thomas "Chip" Daniel, Mike Dennis, Erick Moore, Dennis Parmerter, Sean Carrigan and Mike St. Jacques. Second picture is the musket squad preparing to fire.

1 to r Doug Hall, Barry Schwoerer, Thomas "Chip" Daniel, Mike Dennis, Erick Moore, Dennis Parmerter, Sean Carrigan and Brett Osborn. Pictures courtesy of Dale Corey.



## VASSAR Color Guardsman of the Year Awarded to David Cook, Fairfax Resolves Chapter

Congratulations to Dave Cook on his selection as VASSAR Color Guardsman of the Year for 2020. Dave's selection was first announced during our Color Guard workshop on 4 February by then VASSAR President Bill Schwetke. In this picture, Dave is physically receiving his award during the NSSAR Special Congress on 13 March - from left to right, VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner, VASSAR Color Guardsman of the Year Dave Cook, and NSSAR Color Guard Commander Lou Raborg.

## WASHINGTON -



### 2021 Congress

The 2021 Congress hosted by the Washington State Society is right around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendars for July 9-15, 2021. The Congress will be held in the Hyatt Regency in downtown Renton, just off of the beautiful Lake Washington.

### Washington State Presents Flag Retirement Certificate

(Right) On March 10, 2021, Washington State Commander Neil Vernon and State President Craig Lawson presented a Flag Retirement Certificate to the Services Group of America representative Jeff Hammond. Mr. Hammond first contacted the Washington State Society to retire the 30' x 50' American Flag at the office complex based upon the presence of a Flag Certificate a few years prior. The Flag Retirement Certificate was just recently discovered by the Washington State Society and we intend to continue to promote the Certificate to desiring participants and organizations.





### Silver Color Guard Medals Awarded

(Above) Two members of the Washington State Society completed the requirements for both their Bronze and Silver Color Guard medals. The Silver Color Guard Medals were approved on January 7, 2021. These were presented to the recipients during their February and March Chapter meetings. The honor of these medals go to the current Washington State Color Guard Commander Neil Vernon and to the current Washington State Registrar.

These two compatriots answered the call to several of the Washington State events supporting their local communities, the Pacific District, and National events of Color Guard activities. They become the 17th and 18th Washington State Color Guard members to have received these awards.

### Vancouver Chapter

When Battle Ground schools returned to a hybrid learning format recently, the local Sons of The American Revolution (SAR) chapters were there to present a special program for fifth grade students at Tukes Valley Elementary School. All SAR members are historically certified descendants of families who fought in or supported the American Revolution.

The Ft. Vancouver and George Rogers Clark (Olympia) SAR Chapters teamed up to give fifth graders a glimpse of what life was like living in rural America during the late 1700's. Some 140 students attended by logging onto Zoom from their homes or by viewing the presentation on a projected screen or laptop computers in the classroom. Hybrid scheduling provides students a chance to attend school in person on certain days (adhering to strict health safety protocols) as well as from a distance on their home computers.

The SAR presentations were given in two back-to-back sessions. Five Compatriots from the two chapters split the duties of telling the story of what was required for a family to survive and thrive on their rural farm. The historic journey included a trade apprenticeship to the cities. The Compatriot members also appeared in Continental and Militia military uniforms, talking about the aspects of their Colonial attire and sharing some details about their own ancestors who participated in The American Revolution.

The SAR participants included Jeff Lightburn, president of the Ft. Vancouver chapter, Arthur Dolan, president of the George Rogers Clark Chapter (Olympia), and Ft. Vancouver members Carl Gray, Larry Heckethorne, and George Vernon.

“We were able to contrast what life was like in 1776 versus the amenities we all enjoy today,” says Jeff Lightburn. “We essentially took the program that we would have normally presented in person and delivered it over Zoom. It also allowed us to combine resources of two chapters, leveraging the personal knowledge and experiences of our members. In turn, the students were able to ask questions directed to each of us.”

Living on a farm in the 1700's meant a family had to be self-sufficient—from tilling the land for crops to raising livestock and harvesting food to eat. It also



meant families had to safeguard themselves against ever-present dangers on the frontier. In many instances, young men and women reaching the age of 10 left the farms to apprentice in various trades that would provide them a lifetime of work.

“If you didn't grow it, raise it, make it, or collect it, your family didn't have it!” added Art Dolan. “In times of drought and food was scarce, family members often went hungry. Older children were sent to apprenticeships in the city so the rest of the family had food.”

(Presenters L-R: Jeff Lightburn, Art Dolan, Carl Gray, Larry Heckethorne, George Vernon)





## Huzzah for the Gadsden

As color guards, we most likely have faced a soul-searching question: Should we carry the Gadsden or leave it in the trunk? The answer is, “it depends on the circumstances.” Let’s consider a few examples.

Example 1. Our unit will march in a parade on Independence Day. There will be four standard bearers and the route will be lined with people of all ages and persuasions, predominantly patriotic. Carry the Gadsden yes or no ?

Example 2. Our unit will present the Colors before the Great Lakes Dragway on a weekend in June. Two guards will carry the Colors to a podium and present the Colors during the National Anthem. The audience of mostly racing fans and families. Carry the Gadsden yes or no ?

Example 3. We will attend a graveside ceremony for a fallen police officer in a major city. The police department is currently under fire for racial issues and protesters are expected at the burial. Six guards will attend at a public cemetery. Present the Gadsden yes or no?

Some of you will choose not to make waves and answer no to all of these examples. After all there’s always alternatives.

Just a minute! The Gadsden flag was a vital part of the history of the American Revolution. Colonists believed that its rattlesnake, a distinctly American snake, only struck in self-defense. Benjamin Franklin may have designed the original flag. It was commonly known as the “First Navy Jack” and originally had 13 red and white stripes. In 1775, South Carolina politician Christopher Gadsden created the present day yellow version. As colonel of the 1st South Carolina Regiment it was his battle flag.



In more recent history the flag was hijacked by Tea Party groups. It became a symbol of rebellion. It was associated with defiance and social disruption. At about that time Wisconsin’s color guard commander moth-balled it. Our beautiful Gadsden remained in the trunk for several years. Eventually the controversy blew over and Wisconsin proudly presented her again.

Presently we are again caught in social controversy. Today some misguided people and press members wrongly associate the Gadsden with slavery and racial injustice. Never mind that these allegations have no basis in fact. The perception is what it is and adherents are not interested in actual history. My first instinct was, “to hell with them.” It’s time to fight. However, I was talked off the cliff during a recent NSSAR Color Guard Committee meeting. The consensus of our group was to walk cautiously in today’s political minefield. Use good judgment and present our wonderful Gadsden in its historical context.

## Washington’s Birthday

WISSAR Color Guards braved the Wisconsin winter between cold snaps and snowfalls to celebrate George Washington’s birthday in Oshkosh. We mustered in Menominee Park not far from the shore of Lake Winnebago to present the Colors. With members of the Wisconsin DAR Chapters we also conducted a wreath laying ceremony at the bronze statue of General Washington in the park.



Green Bay’s Fox 11 WLUK asked David Grover, our spokesman and Secretary of WISSAR Aupaumet Chapter, why Washington had two birthdays. Grover clarified that Washington’s birthday was observed on February 15, 2021 on Presidents Day but his actual birth date is February 22. He also noted that the statue was one of only eight in the nation. This George Washington monument is cast from the original Houdon life size statue. Houdon used Washington’s life mask and measurements to create his image.



Pictured (Above) left to right are Wisconsin NSDAR State Regent Brenda T Majewski who gave introductory remarks, WISSAR Color Guard Commander Brian S. Barrett who gave historical information about the celebration of Washington’s birthday, Aupaumet Chapter President Robert Haglund, Captain-of-the-Guard Russ Buhr who read Washington’s prayer, Secretary David Grover, WISSAR President William Austin, Ames Chapter Guardsman Mike Nelson, NSDAR Oconomowoc Chapter Regent Elizabeth Baker and Ames Chapter Guardsman Mark Nelson.

Pictured (Left) Brian Barrett, Robert Haglund and Russ Buhr.

Photos by Gena Selby.

# THE HUNTING SHIRT

*By Brett Daborn*

## CONTINENTAL SOLDIER OR MILITIA?

As we dress out for Color Guard duties, many assume that a hunting shirt is garb for a militia soldier. Actually, it also was the uniform for Continental soldiers through out the American Revolution. The actual dates and location can sometimes be helpful in determining if the hunting shirt was worn by a Continental. For example, hunting shirts were very uncommon in New England in 1775. The first appearance by new Continental Rifle Companies showed them to be a novelty for comment.

### Early War (1775 – 1776)

“On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the formation of ten companies of “expert riflemen” to serve as light infantry.” Arguably, this was the first real Continental Army units as the other units were existing militia units called to arms. These companies included six (later increased to eight) from Pennsylvania and two companies each from Maryland and Virginia. <sup>1</sup>, p. 89

“All of the companies were clothed in the curious yet practical outer garment that had evolved among Appalachian frontiersmen since the French and Indian War – the hunting frock or shirt. Typically made of linen or tow cloth, it was short, loose, and slit open down the front breast, often furnished with an integral shoulder cape (or two).” <sup>1</sup>, p. 89

General Washington wrote Congress on 10 July 1775, “upon inquiry, there appears no probability of obtaining any supplies in this quarter; and, on the best consideration of this matter I am able to form, I am of the opinion that a number of hunting-shirts, no less than ten thousand, would in great degree remove this difficulty, in the cheapest and quickest manner, I know nothing, in a speculative view, more trivial yet which, if put in practice, would have a happier tendency to unite the men, and abolish those provincial distinctions, that lead to jealousy and dissatisfaction.” <sup>2</sup> (p. 13)

Washington wrote a series of letters to governors of nearby states on 4 August 1775; “My last letter from the honorable Continental Congress recommends my procuring, from the colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut, a quantity of tow cloth, for the purpose of making Indian or hunting shirts for the men, many of whom are destitute of clothing. A pattern is herewith sent you; and I must request you to give the necessary directions throughout your government, that all the cloth of this kind may be brought up for this use, and suitable persons went to work to make it up. As soon as any number is made, worth the conveyance, you will please to direct them to be forwarded. It is designed as a species of uniform, both cheap and convenient.” <sup>2</sup> (p. 17)

“In late 1775 the Continental Congress decided to revise its army along British lines & to assign each regiment a number according to seniority. These became Continental Regiments and served with the exception of three New Hampshire Regiments from January 1776 to the end of the year. Because the regiments served such a short time, and during a time of great supply difficulty, little information is available on regimental dress, with evidence of brown coats Congress ordered and hunting shirts Washington had obtained. <sup>2</sup> (p. 53)

After Crown Forces had evacuated Boston, Massachusetts in March 1776, General Washington started moving the bulk of the Continental Army to New York. He again mentions hunting shirts in General Orders. “No dress can be cheaper, nor more convenient, as the wearer may be cool in the warm weather and warm in cool weather by putting on under-cloathe which will not change the outward dress. Winter or Summer—besides which it is a dress justly supposed to carry no small terror to the enemy, who think every such person (so dressed) is a complete marksman.” <sup>3</sup>

### Details and Origins of the American Hunting Shirt

“The shirt traces its sparse history beginning in the 1750s along the Great Wagon Road through the Shenandoah Valley and spread from the backcountry to New England in response to the need for cheap and quickly produced uniform for the Continental Army. After the Revolution, hunting shirts quickly fell from popular usage and faded rapidly from American memory.... Like the “cocarde tricolore” and the Phrygian cap worn during the French Revolution, the hunting shirt became the emblem of the American War for Independence.” <sup>4</sup>

“During the Revolutionary War both the open and closed front styles were common. The number of first-person accounts during the war that take time to detail leads me to believe that this garment was new to many areas of the Colonies at the beginning of the war. It is probable that this garment was developed in the southern or central colonies sometime in the 1760’s.” <sup>5</sup>, p. 104

“Osnaburg, a coarse linen material, is regularly mentioned as the material of choice for hunting shirts or frocks.” <sup>6</sup>, (p.59)

“Pattern for a hunting shirt said to have been worn by Abraham Duryea, 4th Regiment, Dutchess County, New York Militia @ the Battle of Long Island (aka Brooklyn, 1776). It is now in the collection @ Washington’s Headquarters, Newburgh, NY. Made of white linen.” <sup>2</sup> (p. 200)

### Continental units noted with hunting shirts:

1st Continental Artillery Battalion (Maryland & Virginia) issued 45 hunting shirts by clothier general of Maryland on 10 June 1782. <sup>2</sup> (p. 29)

4th Continental Artillery Battalion (Pennsylvania) issued 117 hunting shirts by clothier general of Pennsylvania in 1777.<sup>2</sup> (p. 30)

4th Continental Light Dragoons used hunting shirts colored orange or purple to cover red coats faced in blue that confused civilians and friendly units.<sup>2</sup> (p. 39)

Pulaski's Legion issued 85 hunting shirts in 1778.<sup>2</sup> (p. 40)

1st Continental Regiment, 59 yards of green linen used to make 29 hunting shirts on 12 August 1776.<sup>2</sup> (p. 53)

"Pennsylvania 1st Regiment 1776-1783, Unit reformed from the old 1st Continental Regiment. The previous uniforms, appear to have included green coats faced with red and green hunting shirts with buckskin breeches."<sup>2</sup> (p.146)

Pennsylvania 4th Regiment (1777-1781), "A deserter wearing a hunting shirt, linen drawers, woolen stocking and no shoes was reported in the Penna. Gazette 30 April 1777."<sup>2</sup> (p.14)

Congress authorized the raising of 16 additional regiments of foot in 1776-1777.<sup>2</sup> (p. 59)

Gist's Additional Continental Regiment reported deserter 23 September 1777 in Maryland with yellow hunting shirt.<sup>2</sup> (p. 59)

Grayson's Additional Continental Regiment reported deserter 22 May 1777 in Pennsylvania with white hunting shirt.<sup>2</sup> (p. 59)

Hartley's Additional Continental Regiment reported deserter 1 April 1777 in Pennsylvania with black hunting shirt.<sup>2</sup> (p. 61)

"The hunting shirt can be documented as being used by twelve of the fifteen Virginia Line regiments. It can be assumed that the remaining three had the garment. The 11th Virginia, not mentioned in the documentation as having hunting shirts was commanded by Daniel Morgan. The other regiments not mentioned as receiving hunting shirts, the 13th & 15th Virginia were raised during the same period as the 12th & 14th regiments who were issued this garment or the linen material for its construction."<sup>6</sup> (p. 59)

Colonel Peter Muhlenberg's regiment (8th Virginia Regiment) passed through the capital, Williamsburg (spring 1776) where they collected pay and material to make hunting shirts & leggings.<sup>7</sup> (p. 20)

## Conclusion

The hunting shirt was American in origin and was common in backwoods area of Mid-Atlantic and Southern states. As the Continental Army was formed in Boston it became the expedient uniform based on cost, material on hand and simplicity to manufacture. Its exposure to all serving in the Patriot cause and promoted for wear by General Washington was the utility uniform of the day, in a variety of styles and colors for Continental and Militia soldiers. If your Patriot ancestor served in one of the documented Continental units listed, he may have worn a hunting shirt

There are four known surviving hunting shirt garments from the Revolutionary War. One that has been the most copied is that of a Militia Officer from New York later in the war.<sup>8</sup>

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## About the Author

Brett Osborn is a charter member of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia Society. He originally joined the SAR in the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, Georgia Society. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Reenactor/Living History Committee with the NSSAR.