



# SAR Alabama



Volume 30, Number 4

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

You should know that my first and last question for you would be how many friends and family members have you asked to join you in Alabama SAR? I asked you to tell your SAR story as the first step in recruiting a new member. Please continue telling your SAR story.

As this year comes to a close I am pleased to say we have moved forward in several projects and programs. As a part of our efforts this year in recruitment and retention we have completed a membership survey and have the results and a set of recommendations for the Alabama Society and your chapter to consider adopting for moving us forward.

Come to the annual business meeting held during our state society convention in Birmingham on Feb. 17-18.

At this year's state convention, we will have the multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, and music historian, Bobby Horton, as our banquet entertainment. I am sure you remember him from the musical-comedy trio Three On a String, 16 PBS films by Ken Burns, 2 films for The A&E network, or 21 films for The National Park Service. Well, Bobby will be at our banquet entertainment presenting "Songs of Our Patriots." Have you thought that the music of the Revolution was "written to motivate the population to support the independence movement?" Well come join us in our celebration of our patriot ancestors.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for allowing me the wonderful opportunity of serving the Alabama Society SAR.

—Fred Olive

## Birmingham chapter prepares for 2017 ALSSAR convention

The 2017 ALSSAR convention is sponsored by the Birmingham chapter and will be held on Feb. 17-18 at the Embassy Suites in Hoover. (A registration form can be found on page 8, followed by an advertisement form on page 9).

The convention officially opens on Friday evening with the welcoming banquet in the hotel from 6:30-8 p.m., but the first event is from 2-3 p.m. that afternoon when ALSSAR genealogist Ron Bearden presents a free workshop on how to create online applications. Ever tried to use the new SAR application system?

Well, you're in good company if you need

help. Come join Ron in his straightforward approach to "what I need to do next" to get an application or supplement into the new system.

On Saturday, the annual business meeting with start at 8:30 a.m. One of the chief topics will be recommendations based on the recent survey taken by compatriots on the ALSSAR and their respective chapters.

The business meeting will halt at 11 a.m. to hear the Rumbaugh Orations contest and resume, if necessary, in the afternoon.

See CONVENTION, Page 9

## Color Guard highlights 2017 'cemetery stroll'



—Photo by Donald Christian

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October, the Tennessee Valley chapter Color Guard had the honor of participating in the annual Maple Hill "Cemetery Stroll."

Approximately 75 "characters" buried in Maple Hill are portrayed in this annual event.

A special thanks to Tennessee Society members Colin Wakefield, Mark Cox, Ken Whitaker, Harrell Phillips, Bill Massey, Sanford Payton and Louisiana Society member Rodney McKelroy for participating with us.

See CEMETERY, Page 2

**Tennessee Valley Color Guard is one of the highlights to the annual Maple Hill "Cemetery Stroll"**

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## Nominating Committee offers slate of officers for 2017

In accordance with Article V, Section 2 of the ALSSAR Constitution, the Nominating Committee Report is provided below.

**ALSSAR Officer Nominations 2017-2018** (Article IV, Section 1 ALSSAR Constitution):

President — Harold E. Thornton (Tennessee Valley)  
 Senior Vice-President — Robert L. Anderson (Tennessee Valley)  
 Secretary — Shelly Felton Mitchell (Gen. Richard Montgomery)  
 Recording Secretary — Allen R. Herrod (Gen. John A. Elmore)  
 Treasurer — Charles R. Nuckolls (Cahaba-Coosa)  
 Registrar — Ronald A. Bearden (Little River)  
 Chancellor — Edmon H. McKinley (Gen. Galvez)  
 Genealogist — Walter B. Stevenson Jr. (Gen. Richard Montgomery)  
 Historian — William Larry Crabtree (Tennessee Valley)

Chaplain — R. Jefferson Coker III (Cheaha)  
 Sergeant-at-Arms — George Thomas Smith III (Gen. Richard Montgomery)

**Endowment Fund Board** (Article VI, ALSSAR Constitution)  
 3-Year Term — Bruce A. Buehler (Gen. John Archer Elmore)  
**Trustee/Alternate** (Article V, Section 2 ALSSAR Constitution)  
 Trustee — John Fred Olive III (Birmingham)  
 Alternate Trustee — Harold E. Thornton (Tennessee Valley)  
 Both the Trustee and Alternate will be elected and installed at the 2017 National Congress in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Nominating Committee for 2017-2018 includes chairman William O. Stone, James H. Maples and Michael C. Wells.

—William O. Stone



—Photos courtesy of Fred Olive

### *SAR compatriots help out with CAR float in parade*

*Birmingham chapter vice president Howard Poarch and past president Bill Clement helped out in that city's Veterans Day parade by providing the transportation for the Alabama Children of the American Revolution float. The Canoe Creek, Jane Bland and LaFayette societies of Alabama CAR were represented by a total of 13 members.*



### Cemetery

(Continued from Page 1)

There are two Revolutionary War patriots buried in Maple Hill (John Ward and Albert Russel). The DAR rededicated markers on both graves. The Color Guard presented the colors for both services.

After the dedication services, the "Cemetery Stroll" began slightly before 2 p.m. with the Color Guard leading the "Grand Parade" along the main road of Maple Hill Cemetery.

Maple Hill Cemetery was established in 1822 and is the oldest cemetery in continuous use in Alabama. The cemetery encompasses more than 76 acres with 80,000-100,000 marked and unmarked graves.

The photograph shown was taken by compatriot Donald Christian. For more of Don's photographs of the "Cemetery Stroll," go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/zeusf9l>

—Jim Maples

### Ladies' meeting set

The Ladies Auxiliary will be conducting their business meeting on Saturday (Feb. 18, 2017) at 9 a.m. at the ALSSAR convention in Hoover.

The meeting will include discussing the First Lady's shoe donation program, the continuation of the blankets project and the election of officers.

ALL Ladies are encouraged to attend.

## Tennessee Valley joins Wreaths for Veterans ceremony



—Photos by Donald Christian

***Color Guard includes commander Bob Anderson, top left, Bob Baccus, bottom left, Aaron Nottingham, Joe Stegmaier, Keegan Hembree, E.C. Richardson, Bill Massey, Colin Wakefield, Jim Maples and Randal Jennings.***

On Saturday, Dec. 10, the Tennessee Valley Color Guard had the distinct honor to present the colors at the annual “Wreaths for Veterans” ceremony in Maple Hill Cemetery.

Wreaths for Veterans is a Madison County affiliate of Wreaths Across America. This organization is non-profit and was formed nine years ago by ladies of the Redstone Garden Club.

After seeing an article on Wreaths Across America, they decided to form an organization to lay wreaths for deceased veterans in Madison County. This year the Wreaths for Veterans organization placed approximately 3,400 wreaths at Maple Hill Cemetery and at Valhalla Memory Gardens in Madison County.

The guest speaker at this year’s ceremony was LTG (ret) William Phillips. Wreaths were placed by representatives of all the services, with a wreath being placed for POW/MIAs by Linda Alcott Maples in memory of her late father Russell Alcott who was a German POW in WWII for 13 months.

A special thanks to Colin Wakefield and Bill Massey of the Tennessee Society for joining us in the Color Guard and to Tennessee Valley compatriot Donald Christian for taking the photographs. If you would like to see more pictures of the ceremony, go to the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/hrn8gsg>.

—Jim Maples



## Wiregrass honors patriot Lester at grave dedication

A grave dedication for patriot William Lester was held on Oct. 16 at the Louisville United Methodist Church cemetery. The welcoming was delivered by Wiregrass chapter president Malon Murphy. Louisville Methodist minister Rev. Glenda Carlson gave the invocation. The colors were presented by Color Guard commander Tom Smith along with John Kelso, Perry Vickers and Jack Carraway. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by one of the youngest members of the chapter, 18-year-old Malon Nicklaus Chrysson, a freshman at Troy University.

ALSSAR president Fred Olive III brought greetings and discussed the importance of marking and dedicating graves of these first veterans who were willing to sacrifice everything for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Members of the Lester family came from Georgia and Florida and both spoke at the dedication. Brian Stevens, of Macon, Ga., spoke of the importance of keeping in touch with your ancestry line and sharing it with your family. Nelson Peters, a Florida resident, is an SAR member and spoke of the life of William Lester.

Chaplin Franz Killebrew and Murphy assisted Stevens and Peters with the unveiling of the grave marker.

Olive presented the state wreath. Other wreaths were presented by Chrysson for the Wiregrass chapter; Helen Claire Murphy for the DAR's John Coffee chapter of Elba; Mary Williams for the DAR's Lewis chapter of Eufaula; Deborah Hicks for the Alabama Society Southern Dames of America; and Ed Hicks for the Alabama Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims.

Dr. Paul J. Anderson, Wiregrass sergeant-at-arms, held the American flag upright despite the high winds. Two SCV cannon were present and fired several volleys, courtesy of Wiregrass and SCV compatriot Stuart Mock. David "Doc" Kirby, a WTBF radio personality and Troy resident, played "Taps."



—Photo courtesy of Malon Murphy

### ***ALSSAR president Fred Olive addresses crowd at William Lester's grave dedication in Louisville.***

After the benediction by chaplain Killebrew, a reception was held with food and decorations provided by the John Coffee and Lewis chapters. Representing the John Coffee chapter were regent Helen Claire Murphy, secretary Elizabeth F. Vickers, registrar Nell Gilmer and Carolyn A. Vickers. Representing the Lewis chapter were several members, including regent Deborah Hicks and vice regent Mary Williams.

—Malon Murphy

## Wiregrass holds 16th annual Constitution Week celebration



—Photo courtesy of Malon Murphy

### ***Eric Scanard receives SAR award for his Eagle Scout project.***

"For the last 16 years the Wiregrass chapter, ALSSAR, has celebrated our nation's Constitution Week. Each year, our Constitution is tested by individuals and groups alike and I cannot think of a country where I had rather live than America. What our ancestors rebelled against was accomplished with prayer, sacrifice, bloodshed, and yes, honor. These attributes can be passed on through our generation and generations to follow. This day is proof that we haven't forgotten what they did and what it means to each individual present today."

More than 70 attendees at the awards luncheon were on hand on Sept. 22 to hear those opening remarks by Wiregrass chapter president Malon Murphy. Regards were brought by ALSSAR president Fred Olive. Greetings came from the Wiregrass chapter and from Helen Claire Murphy of the DAR's John Coffee chapter.

After lunch, Rev. Ed Shirley did his rendition of "Boudreaux the Cajun," a comedy that was well received by the audience. Afterwards, the SAR medal of appreciation was presented to Elizabeth Vickers for hosting the annual August picnic for the past six years; the SAR's Law Enforcement medal was presented to Ronnie K. Wentworth for his 30-plus years in law enforcement and outstanding service to the state and Coffee County; an ALSSAR medal was awarded to Franz Killebrew for his devotion and service to the Wiregrass chapter; and the ALSSAR Bronze Good Citizen medal was awarded to Erik Scanard, who recently reached the rank of Eagle Scout for his work in identifying and cataloging all cemeteries and graves in Coffee County.

Helen Murphy awarded several DAR awards as well.

—Malon Murphy

# Gen. Elmore chapter leads Veterans Day celebration



—Photo by Larry Spears

**Gen. Elmore compatriot Allen Herrod delivers remarks at Veterans Day celebration in Prattville.**

Veterans Day was celebrated in Prattville with a ceremony that was attended by officials from the city and Autauga County as well as more than 150 citizens and visitors. The ceremony was conducted and hosted by James Pilgrim, commander of American Legion Post 122 in Prattville.

Prattville Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr. was one of the keynote speakers. He emphasized how patriotism is important in the City of Prattville. He mentioned all of the sacrifices our veterans have done to keep our nation safe and free. He said he was honored to represent them as the mayor of Prattville.

The Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter has participated in this same ceremony the past two years. Past chapter president Allen Herrod provided words of inspiration by pointing out the significance of the day and why we honor our past and current veterans.

Compatriots Herrod and John Barker presented a wreath to honor those same veterans.

Other chapter members in attendance were vice president Larry E. Spears, newly approved member Christopher King and past chapter president Bruce A. Buehler.

The ceremony was well received by all who attended. There were some who were drying their eyes at the conclusion of the day.

—Bruce Buehler



—Photo by Larry Spears

## Flag certificate

**Gen. Elmore compatriot Bruce Buehler presents flag certificate to MAX Credit Union manager Lindsey Batrez and assistant manager Amanda Parker in Millbrook on Nov. 14.**



—Photo courtesy of Larry Spears

## Law Enforcement Commendation Medal presentation

**The Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter recently presented a Law Enforcement Commendation medal to Chief Investigator Chris Ogden of the Elmore County Sheriff's Office as part of the chapter's ongoing effort to honor extraordinary public servants on an annual basis. "Chief Ogden's division is above the state average in solving major felony crimes such as robbery, burglary and murder," noted Elmore County Sheriff Bill Franklin. Chapter vice president Larry Spears, at podium, and president Paul Whaley, far right, present the award to, from left: Chief Deputy Ricky Lowery, Franklin and Ogden.**

## SAR compatriots join others in assisting needy veterans

The DAR's Martha Wayles Jefferson chapter in Opelika collects used clothing and donates it to needy Veterans at the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University (OLLI at Auburn) and the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter assisted in collecting items for this year's Christmas donations.

Honorary co-chairs of this year's drive were OLLI member Helen Brown, who was a "Rosie the Riveter" working in a defense plant during World War II, and SAR member Walter Dorsey of Opelika, a World War II Navy veteran.

Three large pick up truck loads of clothing were collected and delivered to the Opelika DAR. Assisting the Christmas collection effort were Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter president Greg Holston, OLLI member Jim Barber, SAR junior members Sam and Mitch Flenniken and Children of the American Revolution member Lillie Flenniken. Sam, Mitch and Lillie Flenniken are the children of DAR



—Photo courtesy of Felton Mitchell

**OLLI member Jim Barber, left, Greg Holston with clothes.**

member Shellie Flenniken of Opelika and grandchildren of DAR member Ann Mitchell, also of Opelika.

For more information on how to donate items for the veterans, contact Linda Shabo of the Martha Wayles Jefferson chapter at (334) 275-0179 or



—Photo courtesy of Felton Mitchell

**CAR member Lillie Flenniken with donated items for veterans.**

ljshabo@charter.net; OLLI at Auburn, Linda Shook, at 334-844-3105 or lgs0003@auburn.edu; Holston at 334-270-9472 or fellow SAR compatriot Felton Mitchell at mitchsfm@gmail.com or 334-704-4025.

—Felton Mitchell

## Gen. Galvez chapter entertained by ancestor stories

The theme for the ALSSAR this year has been to tell the story of your ancestor. The Gen. Galvez chapter got some first-hand experience with that theme in their October meeting at Felix's Fish Camp Restaurant as compatriot David Myers entertained the group with a presentation on his fourth great grandfather, John Pleasants Burton.



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

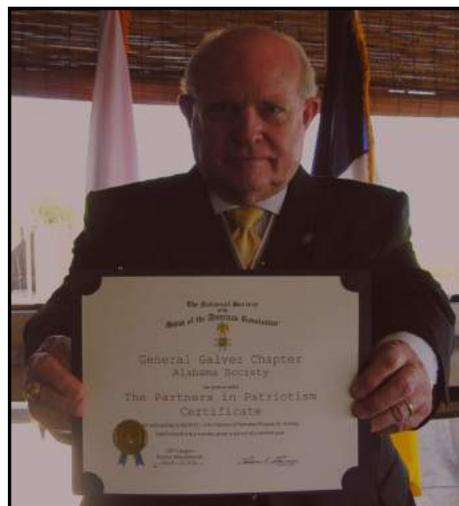
**McKinley, left, awards certificate to compatriot David Myers**

Chapter president Edmon McKinley updated the chapter on the fall Board of Managers and how some changes may affect our chapter. He also discussed how he had received the NSSAR "Partners in Patriotism" certificate in recognition of the chapter's activities with the Greene Veterans Home in Bay Minette.

Compatriot Price Legg announced the roster of new officer candidates for the coming year. They are John Goss, president; John Van Zandt, vice president; Bob Holliman, secretary; and Leroy McGaughy, treasurer.

Myers then spoke on his ancestor, a veteran of the 9th Virginia Regiment of Foot and a participant in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. It is documented that John Pleasants Burton stated "Like in life, even in death the Burton's will hold their heads up." In David's program we learned how this statement became a large part of the Burton legacy and holds true to this day.

Myers is a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Gen.



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

**Galvez chapter president Edmon McKinley holds national award**

Galvez chapter and All About Dogs Coastal Rescue, just to name a few. He and his wife, Ann, live in Gulf Shores. After his talk, McKinley presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

—Mike Glass

# Cheaha chapter honors ‘Peter the Patriot’ with medal

By **KIRSTEN FISCUS**  
**Anniston Star**

On most federal holidays Peter Leavitt stands with a rifle in one hand, a bayonet affixed on top, and an American flag in the other hand at Jacksonville’s town square.

It was for his statuesque actions and occasional reading of the Declaration of Independence to school groups that earned him the bronze Good Citizenship Medal on Wednesday from the Cheaha chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

“I was forwarded a short article done about him last year,” chapter president Ed Killgore said following the meeting at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County. “I read it and said ‘My goodness, he’s a one-man army.’”

Leavitt, 20, said his fascination with all things revolutionary began during a school project.

“I was working on a project about the amendments,” he said after the meeting, adjusting his tricorne hat adorned with a turkey feather. “It really sparked my interest so I began to look in depth at the documents and about the men who wrote them. Eventually I started dressing up and trying to remind people of the principles by which the country was founded upon.”

Leavitt said he gets mixed reactions when he’s out of the square.

“I get a few people who yell negative things but for the most part it’s people



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

## *Peter Leavitt and his family with chapter president Ed Killgore, right.*

yelling in support,” he said. “I also get mistaken for a pirate or for an actual statue. They don’t realize I’m real until I wave back.”

Killgore said he was shocked by Leavitt’s dedication.

“He’s a standout young man and right here under our noses,” he said. “I had no idea. You’d have to travel the whole South to find someone as dedicated as he is at his age.”

Leavitt, Killgore said, captures younger generation’s attention in a way he could not.

“Kids listen to him moreso than they listen to an old guy like me,” Killgore said

laughing. “I think it’s wonderful, especially at his age, that he is educating his own contemporaries. What a testimonial.”

Despite the attention Leavitt gets on the square, he said he wasn’t expecting the award.

“I’m not doing it for the recognition but I am very honored to receive this award,” he said, the medal hanging from his buttoned vest. “We live in a world that so often revolves around entertainment. Not that entertainment is bad, but you miss out on things fundamental to the foundations of this nation.”

# Cheaha welcomes ALSSAR president, new members

At the Nov. 9 meeting of the Cheaha chapter at the Calhoun County/Anniston Public Library, chapter president Ed Killgore gave a presentation on the “Battle of Cowpens.” Later in the meeting, Paul Vaughn and Killgore presented the Silver Good Citizenship Award to past president Bob Folsom (*Story*,



page 10).

At the Oct. 12 meeting, the featured speaker was Dr. Phillip Koerper, professor of history at Jacksonville State, who spoke on “The Battle of Germantown.”

## **KOERPER**

At the Sept. 14 meeting, ALSSAR president Fred Olive presented a program on the state and future of the Alabama Society.



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

## *David Nelson, left in left photo, and Richard Tatum, center in right photo*

Representing the ROTC Recognition Committee, Killgore presented the Bronze ROTC Medal to Cadet 1st Lt. Braushard Harris at the May 12th Awards Day at Anniston High School.

An NSSAR Certificate of Distinguished Service was presented to com-

patriot Louis Quigley for his work in organizing the grave marking ceremony of patriot James Caldwell.

Also, new members Richard Tatum and David Nelson were installed and a flag certificate was awarded to Ray Gerbert.

—William Rozier





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**Convention \_\_\_\_\_**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

At noon, the George Washington Endowment Fund luncheon and Southern District meeting will be held. At 2 p.m., there will be a free workshop by SAR genealogy assistant Felton Mitchell on probate records to help you prove the “missing generation.” Come and learn how to find that piece of evidence which helps you prove that missing link.

At 7 p.m., the annual banquet will be held to present awards and install a new slate of officers (*the nominating committee’s report is on page 2*).

Among the highlights will be the entertainment provided by Bobby Horton, who will be presenting “Songs of Our Patriots.” A seasoned performer, Horton is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, and music historian.

He has performed with the musical-comedy trio, Three On A String, throughout the United States and Canada for 35 plus years. He has also produced and performed music scores for ten PBS films by Ken Burns including “Baseball,” two films for The A&E network, and sixteen films for The National Park Service. His series of recordings of authentic period music has been acclaimed by historical organization and publications through America and Europe.

He will be presenting songs from the Revolutionary War era that were sung and played by these brave, dedicated people. The tunes are presented in chronological order beginning with songs written to motivate the population to support the independence movement; songs to celebrate victories and thereby bolster morale; songs to “make fun of” the enemy; and “pop” tunes that were enjoyed by the common folk. He will not be including any music from other periods of our history.

In addition, Horton will be inducted into the ALSSAR on Saturday evening on behalf of his patriot ancestor, Amos Horton.

**ALABAMA SOCIETY, SONS OF  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR**

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***Please send in your chapter news for the next newsletter***

If you're submitting material for the next newsletter, please e-mail your pictures and information to [timgaylesar@gmail.com](mailto:timgaylesar@gmail.com) or send information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events by March 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.

## **Cheaha secretary receives Silver Good Citizenship Medal**

Current Cheaha chapter secretary Robert B. Folsom Jr., was presented the Silver Good Citizenship Medal at the chapter's Nov. 9 meeting to recognize Folsom for his extensive community involvement in positions of leadership.

Folsom has served as treasurer of the Good Shepherd Church since 1987, past president and secretary-treasurer of the Anniston Civitan Club since 1990, past president of the Cleburne/Calhoun County Bar Association and treasurer of the Northeast Alabama Military Officers Association since 1992 as well as serving on the Board of the Cottaquilla Council of Girl Scouts & Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama and serving as treasurer and fund raising coordinator of the Local Community Theater (ALT, ACT, & CAST).

In addition, he has served as president of the Calhoun County Historical Society since 2014, past president of the Folsom Family Association of America (a genealogical society), retired as president of the Bank of Wedowee and from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Calhoun County and East Central Alabama have benefited in many ways through the years, thanks to the efforts of Bob Folsom.

—Ed Killgore



—Photo by Hervey Folsom

***Bob Folsom receives Silver Good Citizenship Medal from Cheaha president Ed Killgore, left, at November meeting.***