

SAR Alabama

Volume 21, Number 2

June, 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members of the ALSSAR:

Four hundred years ago, our great nation got its start in the establishment of the first permanent settlement at Jamestown, Virginia.

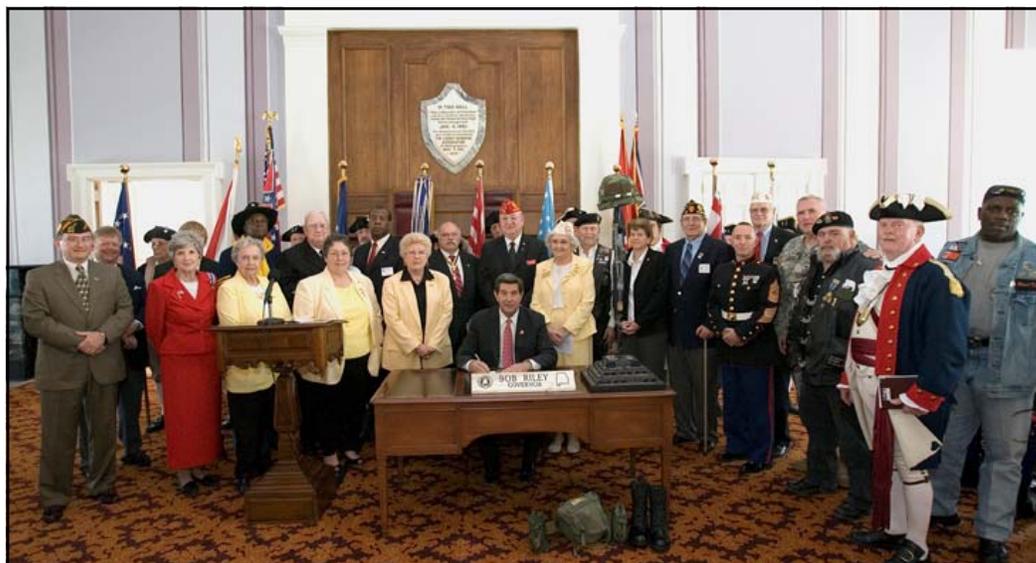
This settlement seemed unlikely to succeed as it followed 18 earlier attempts at starting a permanent settlement. These settlers weathered hostile Indians, failed industry and continual starvation from which 80% of the settlers perished.

However, they hung on and succeeded. During all their adversity, the people of Jamestown demonstrated a determined spirit and will to succeed that has become characteristic of the American people throughout our history. So, with great pride, we Americans can celebrate that historic occasion.

The first few months of my term as president have been very busy. I have visited eight chapters, attended two other state SAR conventions and one DAR state convention. I also have visited two area universities to present ROTC awards. However, I have enjoyed every minute of it in spite of the busy schedule.

Our spring BOM at the American Village was very special this year. It was special because our new Ladies Auxiliary provided the

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—Photo by Robin Cooper

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, surrounded by supporters of the Blue Star Salute, signs proclamation recognizing May 28 as Blue Star Salute Day.

Third Salute a rousing success



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

New ALSSAR wreath

C.W. Posey, right, presents president Jim Alexander with a new state wreath at the Board of Managers meeting. See page 2.

The third annual Blue Star Salute included more activities and festivities than ever and was such a rousing success that organizers immediately set a date for the fourth Salute.

Organizers could have guessed the response after gathering at the state Capitol on April 27. Led by a contingent of uniformed Colonial Color Guard members of the Sons of the American Revolution representing Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, leaders of Gold Star Wives & Mothers of America, American Legion, DAV, VFW, “Buffalo Soldiers,” MOAA, family members of “Fallen Heroes” and the American Village staff walked to the southern entrance to the Capitol.

They were followed by a large array of mounted Patriot Guard Riders and American Legion Riders on their motorcycles

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Veterans Day celebration planned for Birmingham

Since the early 1950s, the Birmingham area has taken much pride in hosting the nation's largest and most prestigious National Veterans Day program in America.

In 1952, the Hon. Raymond Weeks led a delegation to the nation's Capitol and persuaded then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Congress to redefine Armistice Day (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month) to become Veterans Day and to recognize and honor all veterans of all wars.

For Weeks' outstanding contributions to America's veterans, leadership and personal direction of the program for more than 30 years, President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Today, under the leadership of Col. Bill Voigt, USAF Reserve-Ret., the Birmingham National Veterans Day program remains the best and most impressive in the nation. We would propose that the Blue Star Salute Foundation, the ALSSAR and the ALS DAR again join with the National Veterans Day Com-

mittee and share our patriotic interests with this magnificent program.

Cahaba-Coosa compatriot Glenn Nivens, the event coordinator, imposed a June 14 deadline on luncheon tickets and dinner banquet tickets, but is requesting help from SAR, DAR and CAR members in helping to ensure the event is the finest in the nation. Please call Nivens at 205-672-2887 if you can help in any way.

The Veterans Day celebration will feature a dinner banquet on Sunday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. at Boutwell Auditorium featuring national American Legion Commander Marty Conaster.

The following day, at 9 a.m., a memorial service will be held at Church of the Advent with chaplain Lt. Col. Glenn Winter, 81st Regional Support Command. The World Peace Luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. at Boutwell Auditorium.

The National Veterans Day parade will start at 1 p.m. in downtown Birmingham.

Message

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lunch for us, and it was great. If you weren't there, you missed a real treat.

Also, the BOM provided insight into the dedication and hard work of our Society members. Fourteen out of 15 chapters were represented, and eight chapter presidents attended the meeting. Our state membership numbers continue to rise as our dropped members are being reinstated.

Also, the report on new chapter development was very encouraging. We hope to have at least one new chapter chartered by the end of the year.

I trust that many of you attended the Blue Star Salute at the American Village on Memorial Day. The organizations that were involved have dedicated many hours to planning and conducting this patriotic event. Through activities such as this, we can continue to honor and show our support for our American military veterans.

As summer approaches and the vacation season begins, please drive safely in your travels.

Fraternally,

James G. Alexander

BOM holds spring meeting in May

The ALSSAR Board of Managers held its spring meeting on May 5 at the American Village in Montevallo, receiving a wreath from C.W. Posey to replace the organization's aging wreath used at state functions such as grave site ceremonies.

Posey presented the wreath to president Jim Alexander, who noted the timeliness of the presentation given the condition of the wreath it was replacing.

"On behalf of the talented people who created this beautiful wreath," Posey said, "and in honor of our patriots, past, present and future, the Posey family presents it to the Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution to be used to honor our fallen heroes."

The BOM discussed suitable sites for

the future storage of ALSSAR records which have been housed at Samford University.

Vice president Jim Wardlaw was commended for his role as the ROTC chairman in 2006 and BOM officials expressed concern that only three chapters in the state were participating in the annual Knight Essay contest.

Secretary John Killian announced the ALSSAR has 769 paid members, with 19 new members this year and 92 reinstated members.

The Birmingham chapter is the largest chapter with 92 members, followed by Richard Montgomery with 82, Little River with 76, Tennessee Valley with 72 and Gen. Galvez with 54.

Cheaha chapter installs 2007 officers

ALSSAR president Jim Alexander installed the 2007-08 Cheaha chapter officers at a May 9 meeting, including William Houston Rozier as president and Charles Lloyd Dinsmore as vice president.

Returning to office are Robert Folsom as secretary, Tom Wright as treasurer, Rev. David Bryant as chaplain, George Deyo as historian, Alexander Charleston as sergeant-at-arms, Charles Lloyd Dinsmore as

registrar, Jonathan Wade Dinsmore as genealogist and the Hon. John Charles Thomson as chancellor.

The guest speaker was Charles H. Edmonds Jr., the executive director of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School in Grant.

Dr. McDaniel was inducted as the chapter's newest member and Charles Lloyd Dinsmore was honored with certificates for five supplemental patriot ancestors.

117th Congress meets in historic Williamsburg

The 117th annual Congress offers an enticing piece of history along with the usual attractions. The Virginia Society will be hosting its seventh Congress in Williamsburg July 7-11 and visitors will have the opportunity to experience the 400th anniversary of nearby Jamestown and see the archaeological excavation of the original site.

Registration forms for the event can be found in the Spring edition of *The SAR Magazine* and are \$300, which includes entry to the buildings in Williamsburg, the Virginia Society's reception on Saturday (July 7), the memorial service on Sunday (July 8), the youth awards luncheon on Monday (July 9) and banquets on Tuesday (July 10) and Wednesday (July 11).

The recently completed Williamsburg Lodge will serve as the headquarters for the 2007 Congress and the Virginia Society

has provided an array of optional events in addition to the crowded schedule at every Congress.

Those patrons arriving on July 6 can participate in the genealogy seminar (\$40) or play golf at the Golden Horseshoe Club adjacent to the lodge. The registration fee also allows entrance to all of the buildings in Williamsburg — normally a \$50 fee.

A special tour on Saturday also is planned for the nearby Yorktown battlefield as well as Colonial Williamsburg.

The annual Congress will conclude on July 10 with a general session of Congress in the morning and a banquet that evening featuring the President General's awards, followed by a banquet on July 11 installing the new NSSAR officers, including the President General.

Salute

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proudly displaying patriotic flags. The assembly was met by members of the governor's staff and escorted to the historic Old House Chamber where they were joined by Adjutant Gen. Mark Bowen and members of the Alabama National Guard and RADM Clyde Marsh, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs.

Upon his arrival in the chamber, Gov. Bob Riley was presented a "Fallen Comrades Memorial" monument by the members of the PGR/ALR. He then presented his personal recognition and commendation to Iraqi War "Wounded Warrior" Marine Corps Lance Corporal Sean Phillips. The governor followed that act by signing a proclamation declaring Blue Star Salute Day throughout Alabama on Memorial Day (May 28).

The Blue Star Salute is an Armed Forces Day celebration devised by the American Legion to energize the community and coordinate an event to honor local members of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard and National Guard Reserves, along with their families, but event coordinators of the Alabama version have turned the day into a statewide celebration at the American Village in Montevallo.

This year's event featured music from the 151st Army Band of the Alabama

Army National Guard based in Montgomery, color guards representing the Sons of the American Revolution, the Buffalo Soldiers and the U.S. Army Reserve and a flyover from the 117th Air Refueling Wing and the 187th Fighter Wing of the Alabama Air National Guard based at Dannelly Field in Montgomery.

Bowen was the featured speaker.

The day's activities included a Gold Star Memorial Service in the afternoon to honor all of the fallen comrades since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The invocation was given by ALSSAR chaplain Rev. John Killian and the laying of the first rose was performed by U.S. Rep. Spencer T. Bachus.

The Gold Star Wives and the American Gold Star Mothers performed the laying of the roses.

The Blue Star Salute offered exhibits from the Southern Museum of Flight, one on buffalo soldiers and another on the Tuskegee Airmen. There also were movies on Red Erwin, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War II, and on "Rosie the Riveter," a short film detailing the sacrifices of women on the home front during World War II.

ALSSAR compatriots maintained a high profile during the event, putting on a Revolutionary War artillery demonstration during the morning and a Revolutionary War surgical demonstration in the afternoon.

Cahaba-Coosa plans workshop for prospective SAR members

The Cahaba-Coosa Chapter is holding a workshop for those who have shown interest in joining the Sons of the American Revolution.

We have a list of several who have expressed an interest but never followed up over the past three years. We will be sending a special invitation to those to come to the workshop.

Lee Swartz and Ron Bearden will be present to expedite the application process.

We also are inviting those who have not continued their membership to try to reinstate them. It will also be a time to collect DD 214's.

The workshop will be held at the North Shelby County Library on July 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Anyone who has prospective members and would like to join us is welcome. I encourage all chapters in the area to come take advantage of this workshop.

For more information, e-mail C.W. Posey at posey525@bellsouth.net.

—Photos courtesy of Bob Glasscock



Flag certificate

General Richard Montgomery compatriot Bob Glasscock presents a flag certificate to Jimmy Russell, right, president of the Camelia City Civitan Club, in Greenville in April as city councilman Jeddo Bell, left, and Greenville mayor Dexter McLendon look on. Glasscock wanted to honor the Camelia City Civitan Club for its tradition of setting out U.S. flags on every major patriotic holiday by subscription from area businesses and other organizations.



—Photos courtesy of Bob Glasscock

SAR Award for Excellence

General Richard Montgomery compatriot Bob Glasscock presents the SAR Award for Excellence to Cadet Capt. Roland Purifoy. Glasscock made the presentation at Greenville High School's annual Junior ROTC banquet on April 20 at the school.

Manasco headlines Memorial Day celebration in Greenville

By ALVIN BENN
Montgomery Advertiser

GREENVILLE — Proud veterans lined up two-by-two Monday and walked between a row of American flags to pay their respects to those who did not come home.

R.B. Stabler, who served during World War II and, at 90, was the senior veteran at Greenville's annual Memorial Day program, walked with Thurston Mosley, who is a Vietnam veteran.

It was one of many signs of respect for elderly World War II veterans who are dying out, six decades after it ended.

"Greenville is to be applauded for this gathering to celebrate, recall ultimate sacrifices and to be together," said Michael Manasco, who was the featured speaker at the event. "It is so important for us to share our memories. Too many voices are silent in this country now."

Held for the fourth consecutive year, the memorial program attracted more than 100 people, who sat in lawn chairs or on blankets as they listened to music and speakers.

Herbert Morton of the Lions Club introduced Manasco, who is the president of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

"Our speaker and the good weather brought out this big crowd," said Morton.

Manasco, general counsel to Alabama Treasurer Key Ivey, spoke about patriotism, duty, honor and support for troops who have been serving their country in times of war since its founding.

The theme of his address was "Words of the Patriotic Heart" and he talked about everything from a Marine's duty to keep his rifle in good condition to the service of Americans in conflicts past and present.

"I've been giving my speech six to eight times a year," said Manasco, a former Marine who saw combat in Vietnam. "Memorial Day, July 4th, Marine Corps birthday are the times I really like to speak."

Each person who attended the ceremony was given American flags and urged to take them to cemeteries to place them at graves of area veterans.

SAR Color Guard assists DAR, descendents of patriot William Jennings in grave site ceremony

The Huntsville chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, with an assist from the ALSSAR Color Guard, conducted a dedication ceremony of DAR emblems at the grave sites of Revolutionary War patriot William Jennings and his daughter, Sarah (Jennings) Smoot, in the Historical Harpersville Garden of Memories Burial Ground on April 28.

Bugler Alan Dismukes of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter stirred the crowd by sounding “A Call To Arms,” then “To The Colors” and ended the ceremony with “Taps.”

Huntsville’s DAR Regent Nancy Stroud Adair moderated the ceremony. National DAR vice-president Jean Vaughan of Birmingham spoke briefly of the importance of such preservation efforts to foster appreciation of American history. Dr. John Mason Jennings, a descendant of patriot Jennings, brought greetings on behalf of the large assembly of family members present.

Revolutionary War soldier William Jennings was born in Prince Edward County, Va., on Feb. 26, 1761. He moved to Shelby County in 1836 where he died on July 17, 1840. His daughter Sarah was born Feb. 10, 1801 in Elbert County, Ga., and died in Harpersville on Jan. 12, 1842.

Following the ceremony, the Ladies of the Harpersville United Methodist Church hosted a reception in the church.

—Glenn Nivens



—Photo courtesy of James K. Davis Jr.

Color Guard members, from left, Bob Melton, Glenn Nivens, Jack Caraway and William Wyatt join CAR state president Elizabeth Boone (in white) and eighth and ninth generation descendents of patriot William Jennings in Harpersville ceremony on April 28.

ALSSAR honors War of 1812 patriot

A ceremony was held on April 21 near the Butler County community of Starlington to honor War of 1812 veteran Mark Martin Franklin at his grave site.

ALSSAR vice-president Jim Wardlaw and other SAR compatriots joined in remembering the patriot who enrolled in the Army when he was just 14.

Franklin, born Jan. 1, 1800 in either Tennessee or North Carolina, served for five years during the War of 1812. He was a rare “Five-Year Man” soldier, setting him apart from most patriots who served in their respective state militias during that period.

Franklin, claiming to be 18 in order to enroll in the Army, served as a private in Capt. John B. Long’s 39th U.S. Infantry Regiment, Capt. William Bee’s 7th U.S. Infantry and Capt. David Emanuel Twiggs’ 7th U.S. Infantry.

He was honorably discharged on April 24, 1819, at which time he was given a



—Photo courtesy of Rachel Clinkscale

ALSSAR vice-president Jim Wardlaw presents greetings at Franklin grave marker dedication near Georgiana.

land patent for 160 acres of land in Arkansas. He settled in Alabama instead, marrying Nancy Ann Stapleton in Baldwin County in 1824. By 1830, the couple had moved to Butler County, where Franklin had 11 children and lived until he was 73 years old, dying in 1873.



—Photo courtesy of Ed Waldron

Membership certificate

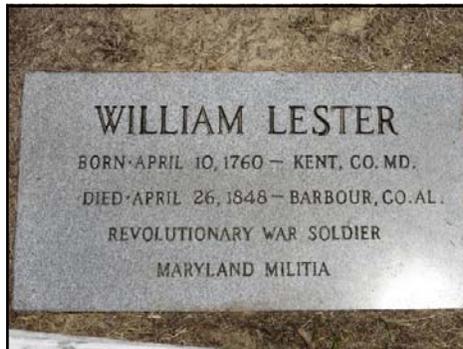
Joshua Vaillancourt, nephew of ALSSAR compatriot Ed Waldron, received his SAR membership at Fort Benning, Ga. Joshua is now at Fort Campbell, Ky., awaiting deployment to Iraq in August.

While searching for patriot grave site, compatriot stumbles across another

Utilizing information recently uncovered about Revolutionary War soldier Henry Jones, Wiregrass chapter compatriot John Kelsoe explored the Louisville cemetery in Barbour County in an effort to locate the patriot's grave site.

Jones was born in 1762 in Virginia and, by his pension application filed in Barbour County in 1839, provided military service both in Virginia and Georgia. Jones and his third wife appear on the 1850 census of Barbour County, and, according to one reference, he died on May 15, 1851 and was buried in the Louisville cemetery.

While Kelsoe was unable to locate the Jones gravesite, he, quite by accident, did discover the marked grave of William Lester, a Revolutionary War soldier who served in Maryland.



—Photo courtesy of John Wallace

Marker identifying William Lester as a Revolutionary War soldier.

Neither Jones nor Lester appears in Owen's book on Revolutionary War soldiers in Alabama but both are listed in the current DAR Patriot Index.

Little is known about Lester, other than he did leave a will in Barbour County naming his children.

The Barbour County area is one of the oldest sections of the state having been settled by many families from Georgia and North Carolina. The first documented internment in the Louisville cemetery was in 1826. It is very probable that other, yet unidentified, Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in the area.

One of the ongoing projects of the Wiregrass chapter is the documentation of Revolutionary War Soldiers buried within the Southeast corner of the state.

Names and pictures of the final resting places of those patriots identified are listed on the chapter's website at www.wiregrasssar.org.

—John Wallace

Wiregrass helps Goshen celebrate 100th anniversary

The Wiregrass chapter, with a little help from ALSSAR compatriots, turned out in full regalia to help the Pike County town of Goshen in its centennial celebration on March 31.

Dr. Nelson Gwinn, in full Scottish dress with his bagpipes, led the ALSSAR parade that included seven compatriots in Revolutionary uniforms, adorned with muskets and flags.

Following Gwinn were four other members of the Wiregrass chapter: Joe Graves, Andy Spann, John Kelsoe and Bruce Taylor.

Taylor's granddaughter Paige Sormrude, wearing a period frock and apron, marched with the SAR members. Wiregrass youth member Jonathon Gwinn also marched in the parade, wearing his Boy Scout uniform and carrying the Stars and Stripes.

The Wiregrass compatriots had help from Glenn Nivens, William Wyatt and Bob Melton of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter.

Goshen, a town of approximately 300, is located approximately 10 miles west of Troy.



—Photo courtesy of Wiregrass chapter

ALSSAR compatriots, from left on front row, William Wyatt, Joe Graves and Glenn Nivens, followed by Bob Melton and Andy Spann march through the streets of Goshen on March 31.

ALSSAR compatriots assist Mississippi Society in honoring Revolutionary patriot and pioneer

On April 14 at Rials Creek United Methodist Church near Mendenhall, Miss., a historical tribute was paid to Simpson County pioneer settlers Samuel and Mary Mooney Brown. The ceremony was presented by the Central Mississippi chapter Sons of the American Revolution from Jackson, the Copiah chapter Daughters of the American Revolution from Crystal Springs, the Order of First Families of Mississippi, 1699-1817, from Natchez and the Mississippi Society of the Children of the American Revolution.

The service was attended by 107 descendants, society members and community residents. Descendants at the ceremony represented 10 states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin.

Samuel Brown was a Revolutionary War patriot who enlisted as a soldier in Georgia. He was granted land in Georgia for his military service. Following his marriage to Mary Mooney at war's end, he and his wife became the parents of eight children. In 1811, the governor of Georgia granted Brown a passport through the Indian territories. Arriving and settling in Wayne County, Mississippi Territory, the family remained there until the 1820s when they moved to newly formed Simpson County. In 1835, Samuel Brown was elected to serve as a state representative from Simpson County. The Browns were victims of one of the most infamous murders in the county's history and were laid to rest near their homestead at the head of Rials Creek just southeast of where Rials Creek United Methodist Church now stands. A permanent monument was dedicated and placed at their graves in 1938.

A combined SAR Color Guard from Alabama and Mississippi posted the colors. The flags of the United States, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the State of Mississippi and the State of Alabama were presented by MSSAR vice-president John Taylor, MSSAR member Ed Holland, ALSSAR compatriot Glenn Nivens and ALSSAR sergeant-at-arms Bob Melton.

In recognition of Samuel Brown's Revolutionary War service, Central Mississippi chapter SAR president Dan Johnson, a descendant of the Browns, conducted a service dedicating a SAR Revolutionary War Patriot marker in recognition of Brown's contribution in the fight for American independence.

Johnnie Lou Johnson Yakstis, a Brown descendant and regent of the Copiah chapter DAR of Crystal Springs, led the service dedicating a marker in recognition of Samuel's war service.

—Dan H. Johnson



—Photo courtesy of Dan Johnson

The ALSSAR contingent at the Mississippi ceremony in April included Color Guard members, from left: Glenn Nivens, John Taylor, Bob Melton and Ed Holland.



—Photo courtesy of Dan Johnson

Descendants Johnnie Lou Johnson Yakstis and Dan Johnson helped coordinate April ceremony in Simpson County, Miss.

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Visit the ALSSAR Web site at www.alssar.org

Send in your chapter's news to be included in the next newsletter

Please submit information about your chapter's activities for the next newsletter. The deadline for the September newsletter is Sept. 1. Mail information to Tim Gayle, 3573 Foxhall Drive, Montgomery, AL 36111 or send photos or stories via e-mail to timgayle@knology.net.

SAR state banner makes debut at grave dedication

The ALSSAR's new state banner made its debut on April 14 when members of the Wiregrass and Tri-State chapters assisted the Georgia state society in the grave dedication program of compatriot Joel Darsey at the Darsey family cemetery in DeCATur County, Ga.

Fletcher Dunaway, Kenney Dunaway and Bruce Taylor represented the ALSSAR Color Guard at the event with the newly acquired banner.

Wiregrass chapter president John Ray Fuller presented the chapter wreath at the event, which was attended by past ALSSAR president John Wallace.

The Color Guard Banner was authorized by the Board of Managers last year and through the efforts of Lee Swart it was procured and first displayed at the ALSSAR state convention in Montgomery.

It is available for use by any elements of the ALSSAR Color Guard in parades or programs to help publicize and promote the ALSSAR and its color guard.

The banner, along with the ALSSAR wreath and flags, is secured and held by the ALSSAR sergeant-at-arms, Bob Melton.

—John Wallace



—Photos courtesy of John Wallace

Color Guard members Fletcher Dunaway, Kenny Dunaway and Bruce Taylor pose with the new ALSSAR banner.