

SAR Alabama

Volume 21, Number 3

September, 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As summer begins to fade and fall arrives, we automatically turn our thoughts to the gridiron: Alabama and Auburn football! I wish all of our fans a successful season and a year ending with a bowl bid.

Its dues time! Compatriots, it's that time of the year when we have the privilege of helping support our chapter, state and national organizations. I encourage each of you to not only pay your dues, *but also to pay them on time*. If we do this, we can eliminate a lot of extra work for chapter, state and national people.

Our fall Board of Managers meeting is coming up on Oct. 20, and I invite each of you to join me in Montgomery.

The Board of Managers meeting is the place where we decide the future of our state society and the more participation we have, the more effective our organization will be.

The registration forms may be found on the ALSSAR web site at www.alsar.org, and can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Also, the Ladies Auxiliary will be serving lunch for us.

Another important meeting is the National Leadership and Trustee's meeting to be held in September in Louisville. If you've never attended

See MESSAGE, Page 2

ALSSAR members attend 2007 Congress in Williamsburg, Va.

Fifteen compatriots with ties to the Alabama Society represented the state at the 117th annual Congress held in July in Williamsburg, Va.

The highlight of the 2007 Congress was the installation of new officers, including President General Bruce Wilcox of Virginia. Other officers included David Appleby, Secretary General; Edward Butler, Treasurer General; Peter Keltch, Chancellor General; Charles Bragg, Genealogist General; Timothy Bennett, Registrar General; James Sympson, Historian General; Richard Brockway, Librarian General;

Robert Judice, Surgeon General; and Rev. Dr. Stanley DeLong, Chaplain General.

The Alabama Society was well represented at Congress. Those in attendance included Jim and Abby Alexander, Charles and Karin Bragg, Larry and Leanne Cornwell, Rod Hildreth, Price Legg, Jim and Linda Maples, Henry and Mary McCarl, Al and Pat Nettles, Bill and Shirley Scanlan, Lee Swart, Bob and Jo Thomas, John and Mary Ann Wallace, Jim Wardlaw, Mike

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—Photo courtesy of John Wallace

Newsletter receives award

Compatriot John R. Wallace, right, receives the Carl F. Bessant Award from President General Nathan White at the 117th Congress. The award is presented to the best single sheet chapter newsletter. This is the second time Wallace and the Wiregrass chapter's The Musket Report have received the award.

ALSSAR compatriots urged to renew annual membership by Nov. 15

The ALSSAR state constitution and by-laws require all compatriots to pay their annual dues by Dec. 1, but state officials are urging members to send in their money by Nov. 15.

Every year, state officers are forced to deal with a large number of compatriots who allow their membership to lapse and are forced to go through the steps to reinstate those members.

If a member in good standing doesn't pay his dues on time he is removed from the "Member in Good Standing" roster and added to the "Dropped" list.

These are the actions required to "drop" a member:

The state secretary and the national registrar will remove his name from their "Member in Good Standing" roster and place it on their "Dropped" list.

To be restored to the status of "Member in

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Funding SAR's Heritage Center should be a top priority

We all realize that one of the primary goals of the Sons of the American Revolution is to preserve our history along with keeping alive the story of our patriot ancestors who gave us the liberties we all enjoy today. The following editorial, written shortly after the 4th of July from *The Record*, Bergen County, NJ provides a rather sad commentary on maintaining our patriotic history.

"In December 1776, a few months after the Hopewell farmer John Hart signed the Declaration of Independence, Hessians sacked his farm and the 63 year old went into hiding in the cold Hunterdon County woods. He died less than three years later, too early to know how the war or the American Experiment would turn out. We who do should recognize his contribution.

...Hart's grave and those of four other signers—Abraham Clark, George Clymer, Richard Stockton and John Witherspoon—lie with the state's borders (ed. NJ), offering opportunities for reflection on our national heritage and principles. These historic places may not be quite as exciting as the pyrotechnics of a few days ago, but they should at least be well marked and maintained.

However, some of these sites lack appropriate markers or bear plaques that have themselves become historical, with faded letters and limited information. A bill that would dedicate \$200,000 to the task of

maintaining the graves of the signers has failed to make it out of the state Legislature for three years....

In our minds, this cause ranks above many others that somehow got a piece of the state budget that the governor signed last month..."

Early in 1776, the New Jersey delegation to the Continental Congress was opposed to independence from Great Britain. As the issue heated up, the state convention replaced all their delegates with those favoring the separation. Because Abraham Clark was highly vocal on his opinion that the colonies should have their independence, on June 21, 1776, they appointed him, along with John Hart, Francis Hopkinson, Richard Stockton, and John Witherspoon as new delegates. The new delegates arrived in Philadelphia on June 28, 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence in early July.

This apparent indifference by a state legislature to the final resting places of individuals who signed one of the most important documents in the world, is yet another reason we all needed to become involved in assuring that our new Center for Advancing America's Heritage is fully funded and built. Through expanded outreach education, the SAR can raise the awareness of our national history, and the roles played by not only the patriots named above, but all patriots, in founding this nation.

—John R. Wallace

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

one of these, you have missed a great experience.

In addition, keep in mind the fund raising for our national Center for Advancing America's Heritage. Donations anywhere from \$1 to whatever you care to give will be accepted. Please see Mike Wells if you have a contribution. Contribution forms can be found on the national web site at www.sar.org.

A member once told me that Willard Israel was not only a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, but he was a PROUD member of the SAR. I, too, am a proud member of the SAR. We are truly blessed to live in a nation where we enjoy the privilege of joining such an outstanding organization. We owe this blessing to a gracious God, and the dedication, sacrifice and service of our patriot ancestors. May we always have organizations that keep us focused on this fact.

James G. Alexander

Board of Managers meeting set for Oct. 20 in Montgomery

The Alabama Society will hold its fall Board of Managers meeting at the First Christian Church on Oct. 20.

The church is located on Taylor Road, Exit 9 on Interstate 85 in east Montgomery. Traveling north (actually east) on I85, turn right on Taylor Road and go to second light (Berryhill). Turn left and the church is immediately on the right. Cost is \$15 per person and all compatriots wanting to attend need to fill out the registration form located on page 3 of this newsletter.

A lunch will be provided by the SAR Ladies Auxiliary.

Among the topics of conversation at the BOM meeting will be the 2007 Congress and the 2008 state convention; the American History Teacher Award, which faces a state deadline of Jan. 2 and a national deadline of Feb. 4 for submissions; the possibility of securing office space at The American Village; dues notices and membership cards; and the selection of a nominating committee.

Dues

(Continued from Page 1)

'Good Standing' requires that the person be reinstated. This is a time consuming and costly process. And, it can interrupt delivery of the SAR magazine.

These are the people and actions involved to reinstate a member:

- **The Chapter Treasurer** must deposit his check for chapter, state and national dues, and write a check for his state and national dues and mail it to the State Secretary.

- **The State Secretary** will remove his name from the 'Dropped' list and enter it

on the 'Member in Good Standing' roster as 'Pending Reinstatement'. The State Secretary mails his dues check to the State Treasurer.

- **The State Treasurer** deposits the check for state and national dues, and writes a check for national dues. He mails this check to the state secretary.

- **The State Secretary** prepares a 'Transmittal Form' to reinstate the member and mails it, along with the dues check, to National Headquarters.

- **The people at National Headquarters** must deposit the check.

- **The National Registrar**, Denise Hall, must remove his name from the 'Dropped' list and enter it on the "Member in Goods Standing" Roster. She then prepare a 'Reinstatement Transmittal' showing that the member has been reinstated and mail it to the State Secretary.

- **The State Secretary** will file the 'Reinstatement Transmittal', and change his 'Member in Good Standing' Roster to indicate the member has been reinstated.

So, by paying your dues before November 15, you can avoid all this unnecessary time and effort required to be 'Reinstated.'

—Jim Alexander

Registration

Alabama Society Board of Managers Meeting

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Chapter_____

Office_____

Guest_____

Please mail \$15 per individual by October 12, 2007 to:

John H. Killian

Secretary ALSSAR

4689 Birminghamport Road

Maytown, AL 35118-9527



—Photo courtesy of Jim Alexander

The ALSSAR delegation who traveled to Williamsburg, Va., for the 117th Congress in July.

(Continued from Page 1)
and Elizabeth Wells, and Nathan and Wanda White. We had two first time attendees— Al Nettles and Bill Scanlan.

The Alabama Society received several well-deserved awards at the Congress. These included The Children of the American Revolution Award, the Benjamin H. Morris Award, and the Officers Attendance Award. The Wiregrass Chapter received the Carl F. Bessent newsletter award. Several individuals received awards including Derald Morgan, who received the Robert E. Burst (Boy Scout volunteer) award.

First-time winners of the Liberty Award were Jim Alexander, Bob Cheney and Bob Melton. Those who earned an oak leaf cluster to their Liberty medal were Ron Bearden, Larry Cornwell, Walter Dorsey, Ken Jaggears, Richard Smallwood and John Wallace.

Timothy Fortenberry, who won the Birmingham chapter and ALSSAR Knight Essay contests, received second place honors in the national contest. For his essay, he was presented a certificate, a medal and a monetary award. Rachel Lillebo, also from the Birmingham chapter and winner of the ALSSAR oration contest, participated in the national contest as well.

Three of our society members were elected to national office. John Wallace was installed as Vice-President General for the

Southern District, 2006 ALSSAR president Larry Cornwell was named the ALSSAR National Trustee and 2007 ALSSAR president Jim Alexander was selected as the Alternate National Trustee.

Thirteen ALSSAR members were named to 42 positions on various committees, with Thomas Thomas, Wallace, Wells and Alexander serving as committee chairmen.

Thomas was named chairman of the CAR committee and also serves on the DAR Liaison committee and the Youth Activities committee.

In addition to serving on the Council of Vice Presidents General, Wallace is a member of the George Washington Endowment Funds Board, is chairman of the GWEFB Distribution committee and serves on the GWEFB Fund Raising committee. He also serves on the ROTC-JROTC Service Academy and Medical Advisory committees.

Wells is the chairman of the Library committee and vice-chairman of the U.S. Stamps committee. He also serves on the Membership, Patriotic Education, Strategic Planning and Facilities committees.

Alexander is the chairman of the Task Force for Military Service Record and also serves on the Merchandise, Rumbaugh Oration, Veterans, Flag and Medals and Awards committees.

One of the most pressing concerns dis-

cussed at the 2007 Congress was the National Society's dire need for donations and contributions to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage (see story on page 2). So far, they have raised \$3 million, but another \$3 million is still needed to build the new Center.

Our National Headquarters has hired Colleen Wilson as the new Education Director. With the CAAH and the Education Director, the National Society's goal is to be the premiere heritage organization in educating our younger generations in American history.

Donations and contributions can be made in levels of \$1 up to any amount that you want to give. Pledges may be made and paid over a period of five years. Pledge forms are available on the SAR Web site (www.sar.org). And by the way, stock and other securities will be gladly accepted.

Of course, these donations and contributions are tax deductible and if you're 70 or older, you can take it out of your IRA. I encourage each of you to carefully consider this very important need, and if you can give, please do so. Mike Wells is our state coordinator and he will be happy to receive your contributions. Or you can send them directly to the national headquarters. The address is: National Society Sons of the American Revolution, 1000 South Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40203.

ALSSAR president presents award to Huntsville firm

On August 21, Alabama Society president James Alexander made a special trip to Huntsville military contractor DRS Test and Energy Management to present the firm with a flag certificate.

Alexander and fellow Tennessee Valley chapter compatriot David Milam, a DRS employee, made the presentation to Irv Dunham, Senior Field Service Engineer, and Gary Smith, Vice President and General Manager.

DRS Test and Energy Management in Huntsville supports the American War Fighter through its engineering innovations in the diagnostic maintenance of the Abrams tank and Bradley fighting vehicles, among its many enterprises.

As a private military contractor, DRS Test and Energy Management was commended for its exceptional etiquette regarding its display of the United States flag at the Huntsville facility.

A flag raising ceremony is conducted every morning at 7 a.m. at the Huntsville facility and all employees are encouraged to attend.

A 9-11 commemoration, lead by senior management, is conducted around the flagpole each year on Sept. 11 where the employees reaffirm their pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag.

The United States flag is patriotically and correctly displayed throughout the facility along with quotations from George Washington and other figures.

United States veteran displays adorn the walls of the company which continually focuses on Americanism and our national defense.

—Jim Alexander



—Photo courtesy of Jim Alexander

ALSSAR president Jim Alexander, left, makes presentation to Irv Dunham and Gary Smith of DRS Test and Energy Management.

Veterans Day celebration planned for Birmingham

SAR, DAR and CAR members are urged to help ensure the National Veterans Day celebration in Birmingham is the finest event in the country.

Since the early 1950s, the Birmingham area has taken the lead in honoring the nation's veterans, beginning in 1952 when the Hon. Raymond Weeks led a delegation to the nation's Capitol and persuaded President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Congress to redefine Armistice Day as Veter-

ans Day in order to recognize and honor all veterans of all wars.

This year's National Veterans Day program is directed by Col. Bill Voigt, USAF Reserve-Ret., but ALSSAR compatriot Glenn Nivens is working hard to promote the luncheon and dinner banquet.

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.

Local historian entertains Galvez chapter meeting

Shawn Mead Holland, a Baldwin County historian, was the featured speaker at the August meeting of the Gen. Galvez chapter in Spanish Fort.

John Groseclose, a chapter member who had been unable to attend for an extended time due to health problems, was welcomed upon his return. We are looking forward to John being an active part of our chapter now that his health has improved.

A memorial service was held for longtime Baldwin County resident Dr. Edward Chamberlain Marty at the meeting. Dr. Marty was a highly accomplished and esteemed professional. He departed this life after 98 years of service to mankind. He will be sorely missed by all who were privileged enough to know him.

Price Legg reported he had put some information on the Internet about our efforts to honor Gen. Galvez with plaques and had been contacted by groups in both Louisiana and Texas who are interested in assisting us. Their patriots had been involved in assisting Gen. Galvez and his troops in various ways.

Holland, who directed a tour of Baldwin County historical sites a few years ago for DAR and SAR members, spoke on the subject, "The French Village of Mobile."

She shared recorded statements from both the British Tories and the Spaniards as they recounted the Revolutionary War battles in our area. Some of these soldiers had participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill and compared the Spanish Fort battle to that one.

Holland has published articles in *Journal of the Military Historian and Collector* and has authored the historical markers at Fort Conde and at the scenic overlook at Spanish Fort. She is a direct descendant of three of General Galvez's soldiers: Jose Maura, Salvador Guerra and Manuel Domingued.

A lively and enjoyable discussion followed her presentation. Chapter president Leroy McGaughy presented Holland a Certificate of Appreciation for taking the time to share her information with us.

—Mike Glass



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

SAR Hero Medal presented by Galvez chapter

Elberta officer Joe Taylor and his wife Penelope receive the SAR Hero Medal from Gen. Galvez chapter president Leroy McGaughy, left; vice-president Richard Burton, second from left; and medals chairman John Goss, center, as Elberta Mayor Cathey, back, and Police Chief Gary Peaden, right, look on. The chapter made the presentation at the Elberta City Council meeting on June 19 to honor Taylor's efforts in pulling Brandon Swaney from a burning truck following an automobile accident on County Road 83.

Galvez chapter salutes sheriff's deputy

The Gen. Galvez chapter's 22 members and guests recognized a local law enforcement official for his heroic efforts in the line of duty at the chapter's June meeting, then were entertained with a history lesson on the signers of the U.S. Constitution.

Chapter president Leroy McGaughy opened the meeting with a report on the military salute project "Echotaps Worldwide" which took place on Armed Forces Day (*story on page 8*).

Compatriot John Goss presented the SAR Law Enforcement Medal to Lt. Carlos Thompson of the Mobile County Sheriff's Department. This honor was bestowed upon Lt Thompson for his bravery, determination and dedication to duty.

Thompson was following a vehicle matching the description of one used in a robbery when the vehicle made a U-turn and the driver jumped out and began firing at Thompson with an AK-47, striking him several times.

Thompson returned fire, killing the suspect.

The guest speaker was Sam W. Irby, a lifelong resident of Baldwin County who has been a practicing attorney in the county since 1971.



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

John Goss, right, presents medal to Lt. Carlos Thompson while his wife Vivian looks on.

The title of his speech was "The Ghosts of 87." The subject matter centered on the signers of the U.S. Constitution with emphasis on Abraham Baldwin for whom Baldwin County is named. Irby had everyone mesmerized with his knowledge and details about these great men and the special impact each had on creating our Constitution. His talk was very educational and entertaining.

—Mike Glass

“Echo Taps Worldwide”

—Photos courtesy of Leroy McGaughy



On May 19, the Gen. Galvez chapter assisted Bugles Across America and the American Legion at the Mobile National Cemetery in an Armed Forces Day program entitled “Echo Taps Worldwide.” Volunteers across America honored our fallen heroes with the playing of “Taps” at American battlefields and cemeteries throughout the country. Above left, Galvez president Leroy McGaughy addresses the crowd; above right, Arron H. McGaughy plays one of the three trumpets; below, American Legion Post No. 250 assists with the program.



—Photo courtesy of Murray McDaniel

Flag certificate presentation



SAR compatriot Murray McDaniel, left, presents Tuscumbia Mayor Billy R. Shoemaker with a flag certificate for his tireless efforts in displaying the American flag not only at city events such as the annual Helen Keller Festival in June but also at his home. McDaniel, at-large member who is one of two Sheffield members among the 861 ALSSAR compatriots in the state, displayed some individual initiative to recognize the mayor of neighboring Tuscumbia for his patriotic display of our nation’s flag.

Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Annual Convention Registration
February 29 - March 1, 2008
Huntsville, Alabama

The Tennessee Valley Chapter invites all compatriots and their guests to the ALSSAR State Convention, February 29 - March 1, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel, located at 401 Williams Ave. in downtown Huntsville across from the Von Braun Center and the Big Spring Lagoon. A reception will be held on Friday evening from 6:30 - 8:00 pm to give attendees a chance to meet and greet each other. A George Washington Breakfast will be held Saturday morning at 7:30 am. The ALSSAR Annual Business Meeting will follow at 9:00 am and the Orations Contest will be at 11:15 am. We will have other activities for you enjoyment on Saturday. Details will be available in the registration packet you will receive when you arrive.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a special rate of \$85.00 per night plus applicable taxes. You can get a king room for \$95.00 plus taxes. Call the hotel direct at 256-533-1400 or the Holiday Inn toll free reservation line at 888-465-4329. You must mention that you are with the Sons of the American Revolution to get the special rate. The hotel block code is FSA. Hotel reservation deadline is **February 1, 2008**. If you have to cancel a room reservation, you must do so 48 hours prior to your arrival. Make your reservations early to assure that you have a room. There is no charge for parking!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ATTENDANCE AT ALL FUNCTIONS

NAME: _____ **CHAPTER:** _____

OFFICE HELD: _____ **NAME OF GUEST(S)** _____

REGISTRATION FEE:

SAR MEMBERS:	_____ x \$30 = \$ _____	
AFTER February 1st	_____ x \$40 = \$ _____	
GUESTS:	_____ x \$10 = \$ _____	
AFTER February 1st:	_____ x \$15 = \$ _____	

GEORGE WASHINGTON BREAKFAST:

7:30 am Saturday _____ x \$20 = \$ _____
 (open to all)

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET:

(Black tie for head table and new officers. Others: black tie, uniform, or coat and tie; appropriate dress for ladies.)

7:00 pm Saturday _____ x \$32 = \$ _____

PLEASE ENTER THE NUMBER FOR EACH ENTRÉE SELECTION(s)

Huntsville Broil (tender sliced beef) _____ Black Forest Chicken _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail your registration form along with you check payable to: Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR to:

James H. Maples
Chairman, 2008 ALSSAR Convention
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801-2123

Indicate how many in your party will attend the Friday night reception _____

To help cover a portion of the expenses that we will incur with the 2008 Alabama Society, SAR State Convention, the Tennessee Valley Chapter is soliciting donations for advertisements, memorials and honorariums that will be printed in the convention booklet.

The memorial to the right and below are samples from last year's book. The sizes and associated costs are as follows:

1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
Full page	\$100.00

The information that you include in your memorial or advertisement is up to you. You can honor you patriot ancestor, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, children, past chapter president, or anyone else that you choose. Please send camera ready copy if possible, or supply the information that you want included in your memorial.

Please include a check made out to; Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR for your total donation and mail it to:

Jim Maples, Chairman
 2008 ALSSAR Convention
 1501 Elmwood Dr.
 Huntsville, AL 35801-2123

Deadline for donations is 1 February 2008



In Memory of

**William Cordra Maples
 Josiah Maples
 William Pace
 Henry Hastings
 Joseph Hastings
 James Billingsley
 Walter Billingsley**

Patriot Ancestors of

James H. Maples and Jay G. Maples

In Memory of

Daniel Allcox

Patriot Ancestor of

*Linda Alcott Maples
 Jay G. Maples*

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**Patriot ancestor of
 Alabama Society Members:**

O. Lee Swart

*ALSSAR President, 1996 - 1997
 Vice President General,
 NSSAR Southern District 1999 - 2000*

Lloyd Robert Swart

**Ryan Lloyd Swart
 Samuel Swart Smoots
 John Stephen Smoots, MD
 Thomas Martin Smoots
 Daniel William Smoots, MD**

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

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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

The next newsletter will include information on the upcoming state convention. Please submit information about the convention or your chapter's activities by Dec. 10. to Tim Gayle, 3573 Foxhall Drive, Montgomery, AL 36111 or send photos or stories via e-mail to timgayle@knology.net.

Gen. Galvez chapter recognizes heroism of officer

At the Fairhope City Council meeting on Aug. 13, the Gen. Galvez chapter awarded the Medal for Heroism to corrections officer James Stewart for his courageous heroism and disregard for his personal safety.

A teenager had lost control of his vehicle and smashed into a tree, breaking his legs and pinning him in the van.

Officer Stewart happened upon the site and noticed a small flame beneath the vehicle which was spreading quickly. He rushed to the passenger side of the vehicle and tried to extract the youth through the window area but was unable to get him through it. The fire was spreading from the front of the van toward the rear.

Troy Brannon assisted in opening the door and Officer Stewart was able to pull the trapped youth from the burning vehicle. They carried the young man to safety and stayed with him until the paramedics arrived.

After it was over Stewart said it brought tears to his eyes. A retired U.S. Army Ranger, Stewart has seen many guys shot up but this was a moving experience.

The fire had burned so hot that splashes of melted paint had splashed down onto his uniform. "I thank the Lord, He put me there to save him," Stewart said.

Officer James Stewart epitomizes the ideals of America and has earned the respect and gratitude of this nation and especially the people of Baldwin County and the City of Fairhope.

—Mike Glass



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

Corrections officer James Stewart and his wife receive award from Gen. Galvez chapter president Leroy McGaughy, left, vice-president Richard Britton, second from left, and Galvez medals chairman John Goss, right.