



SAR Alabama



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As everyone knows by now, the national Congress was canceled this year due to COVID-19. President General Manning issued the order that all national officers will stay in place until the 2021 national Congress, which is to be held in Seattle, Wash., in July 2021.

Fall leadership will be held virtually in September. If you are a member of a national committee, the committee chairman will contact you with a link for the Zoom meeting for that particular committee. The Brown Hotel moved all reservations to the spring leadership dates. If you had reservations and did not receive a confirmation of the new dates, please call the Brown Hotel and they will gladly make the change for you.

The youth programs did continue this past summer. We had a contestant in every category except for the U.S. History Teacher. The Tennessee Valley chapter sponsored three categories (poster, brochure, and oration), Richard Henry Lee chapter sponsored two categories with the same contestant (Eagle Scout and essay), and the Black Warrior River chapter sponsored the JROTC category.

A salute to Wilson Reeves, who placed in the top ten in the Eagle Scout competition and first place in the essay contest. Cadet Alexa DeCaro placed sixth at national.

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No Congress, but ALSSAR wins awards

The annual Congress was canceled by the coronavirus pandemic, but the awards ceremony was still conducted.

The ALSSAR received several streamers for its participation in programs, particularly youth programs. The society received streamers for C.A.R. activities, the Americanism poster, the Sgt. Moses Adams brochure, the Joseph Rumbaugh orations contest, the John C. Haughton Award, the George and Stella Knight Award and the Marian L. Brown Eagle Scout Award.

In addition, the state's entry for the George

and Stella Knight Award, Wilson Gerald Reeves, won first place and the ALSSAR earned the Genealogist General's Award for the lowest percentage of pending applications.

Ron Bearden was recognized for his third-place finish in the Florence Kendall Award, which is presented to the top three candidates who recruited the largest number of new members over the previous year. Bearden tied for third place with 41 new members.

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ALSSAR mourns loss of Michael Wells

Former ALSSAR president Michael Charles Wells passed away peacefully at his home in Fort Payne, surrounded by family on Sept. 3.

SAR compatriots and officials from throughout the country mourned the death of "Mr. SAR," an unofficial title bestowed on a dedicated compatriot who devoted nearly 40 years of service to the organization.

"I admired the way he conducted himself always with a polite and respectful manner.

He was truly a southern gentleman and brought credit to himself and the Alabama Society. He was quiet and although he worked hard and effectively he never tried to take credit for his successes, but was generous in giving others credit. He will be missed at national."

—Tom Lawrence, President General 2015-2016

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Message

(Continued from Page 1)

So we are now into the new school year and I challenge every chapter to make contact with elementary, middle and high schools in your area and encourage each to submit entries into our contests. With the state of affairs today across this country, we cannot afford not to reach out and promote patriotism. I created a letter of instruction (LOI) to give teachers on how we judge every youth contest. It is basically a lesson plan which teachers understand. They can even submit this document as a lesson plan to the school administrators. Teachers will love you for this because you just made their job a little easier for a class project, less planning for the teacher. If you would like a copy of the LOI's just shoot me an email.

We are still moving forward in the Alabama Society. I have had the opportunity to be present for two SAR Heroism Medal presentations. It is always uplifting when you can recognize a person who literally saves the life of another. Gentlemen, please pay attention to your local and state news. There are many great things going on around us. When we get out in the community and recognize citizens for their good deeds, we bring attention to ourselves which causes people to seriously consider joining this tremendous organization.

Do not just tell those interested how to research, meet with them and assist them. Chances are, that person will not only become a member (hopefully), they will most likely remain an active member and pay that courtesy forward.

The next Board of Managers meeting will be Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. The American Village does not have a date for when it will open to the public. Therefore we will host the BOM via Zoom again. This is not what I wanted to do but with the COVID-19 issue at hand and limitations on where we can meet in person we decided in the most recent executive committee meeting that a Zoom meeting is best.

We are however, planning for an in-person annual meeting and banquet at the Embassy Suites in Hoover. We are going to proceed with those plans as normal so we do not have to jump through hoops at the last minute. More information will be disseminated later.

Compatriots who are interested in Color Guard, the revised "Drill & Ceremony Manual" is now available on the ALSSAR website. We are now introducing an "Honor Guard" to enhance the presence of the Color Guard for certain ceremonies. Compatriot Barker and I are still working on a training day for firing muskets.

Until then, please download the manual and read through it to become familiar with what is expected. Even with no military training whatsoever, this manual is nothing but basic easy to understand information. It may seem complicated, but when we start practicing, you will find that it is very easy. I spent two years turning civilians into soldiers and I feel confident that I can teach you with this manual without turning you into a "soldier."

As my term in office is winding down, I will announce the nominating committee at the October BOM. If you wish to become a state officer or committee chairman or a committee member, please send me your contact information and the position that you are seeking. I will forward that information to the nominating committee or if you wish, you can wait until the committee is named and contact one of the members directly.

If you have an item that you wish to address to the BOM, please send that request to the recording secretary, Eric Alford, at eric.alford.sar@gmail.com.

—David Jones

Remember to vote on Nov. 3

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE! Nov. 3 is quickly approaching.

With all of the anarchy taking place across this great nation it is imperative that we, Sons of the American Revolution, exercise our right and duty to preserve our Constitution which our forefathers fought to create. I encourage everyone to cast their vote in the Nov. 3 election.

If you do not want to vote in person at your designated polling station, it is not too late to request an absentee ballot from the Alabama Secretary of State's office.

Visit www.sos.alabama.gov and follow the links on how to request an absentee ballot.

Vote for whomever you choose, but vote.

Gen. Galvez chapter launches 'The Grenadier' newsletter

In January 2020, the Gen. Galvez chapter started a new, on-line newsletter called *The Grenadier*, which is published monthly and sent to members as an email attachment.

The primary aim is to keep our compatriots informed about the chapter's accomplishments and goals, the various activities of members and upcoming events of interest. It also provides a forum where compatriots can share ideas, ask questions and submit articles on subjects of general interest.

Each issue regularly features the president's comments, followed by the secretary's minutes from the previous meeting and the monthly treasurer's report. Also included are articles of historical interest as well as news about members, upcoming speakers and activities at both the state and national level.

The name, *The Grenadier*, was chosen because we wanted to acknowledge our chapter's historical heritage. In the European armies of countries like Spain, France and Prussia during the 16th and 17th centuries, grenadiers were specialized soldiers used for throwing grenades during assault operations.

By the time of the American Revolution in the 18th century, grenade throwing of this sort was no longer relevant but grenadiers were still chosen for being the most physically powerful soldiers and were used for leading assaults in battle and storming fortifications. In other words, they were the elite assault troops in European armies. Since today we honor and celebrate Gen. Bernardo Galvez and the Spanish victory over the British, *The Grenadier* seems to be an appropriate name for our newsletter.

—Jon Huffman

List of uniform vendors on web site

If you are interested in purchasing a uniform to participate in Color Guard or just to own one, there is a list of vendors in the new Drill & Ceremony manual on the ALSSAR website.

Below is another company that is reportedly less expensive than most of the others on that list. Shop around for the best deal on what you are looking for in uniform or period clothing. You do not have to participate in Color Guard or Honor Guard to wear the uniform during events.

I encourage every member to consider purchasing period clothing, militia, or uniform of the Revolutionary period.

"Reenactors buy, sell, and trade, Renaissance, F&I, Rev., Civil War, WWI & II, VN."

—David Jones

Former ALSSAR president Bobby Joe Seales will remain Vice President General for another year

They say “history repeats itself” and this is very true for the SAR. In 1917 Congress was cancelled due to World War I and all officers were held over until the 1918 congress. Again, in 1945 Congress was cancelled due to World War II and all officers were held over until the 1946 congress. Percy Lee Clifton from Mississippi was the Southern District VPG at the time.

Now, the 2020 Congress in Richmond, Va., has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic and all officers will be held over until the 2021 Congress. Therefore, I will be serving another year as Southern District Vice President General.

There is a total of 15 different districts plus the International District. Each district operates independently and differently. According to the National Society protocol the Vice President General is a general officer and ranks just below the President General.

It is the responsibility of each VPG to promote the interest and activities that further the objectives of the National Society among the state societies in their district. Currently, the Southern District is composed of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee.

In 1916 the proposal to form districts for the Vice Presidents was not acted upon until Congress in 1918. Alabama at that time was part of the Middle and Coast District. At the 1924 Congress the Southern District was created and was originally comprised of 10 states, then five with a change in 1926 and finally to the current four in 1939.

The office of the Southern District VPG rotates annually among the states making up the Southern District in this order: Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. The nomination of the new VPG comes from the state next in rotation and is approved at the Southern District annual meeting held in conjunction with the state convention of the current VPG. Therefore, Alabama will only have a Southern District VPG every four years – except for this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Michael P. Schenk from the Mississippi Society was nominated in February of this year to be the next Southern District VPG. He will now be elected and sworn in at the 2021 Congress in Seattle, Wash.

The Alabama Society will have their next Annual Convention on February 19-20, 2021 in Hoover. The next Annual Southern District meeting will be on February 20 in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the Alabama Society.

It is my honor and privilege to represent you and the Southern District at various



—Photo courtesy of Bobby Joe Seales

Southern District VPG Bobby Joe Seales, Secretary General Davis L. Wright and Georgia Society president William B. Dobbs II leading the Revolutionary War parade in Washington, Ga., in February, 2020.

functions such as participation in grave markings with the laying of the Southern District wreath, attending and participating in several Revolutionary War events and anniversaries in Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia. On June 20, I participated in my first virtual wreath laying with the South Atlantic District in North Carolina. Since then I have participated in several others, including the 240th anniversary of Kings Mountain.

As VPG it is my responsibility to be present at any event within the Southern District that the National President General attends, to attend all annual meetings of the Southern District societies in addition to many other events including DAR and CAR. However, many planned events were cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Southern District has a beautiful medal set composed of both the large and small medals suitable to be worn on your suit or tux at any SAR event. The set is \$40 plus \$5 shipping & handling. You can find the order form on the district's Web site http://tssar.org/southern_district.html.

Proceeds from the medal sales go toward the GWEF Buck Meek Award Fund.

America will celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2026. I encourage you to be an active member in your chapter and society. The Southern District is very fortunate to

have as national officers Southern District VPG Bobby Joe Seales (Alabama), Treasurer General C. Bruce Pickette (Alabama), Historian General William O. “Bill” Stone (Alabama), Librarian General Tony L. Vets (Louisiana) and Surgeon General Daryl S. Addington, MD (Tennessee).

Every chapter should be engaging all members, especially newer members, to be active in the chapter. Have interesting programs and speakers. A great tool for retaining members is the mentoring program. Every chapter should be utilizing this program. Every new member should have a mentor. The program is available on the SAR website. Use of the program will help in retention. These past several months have posed problems for face-to-face meetings and interaction with new members. Virtual meeting can be used to engage with members who do not regularly attend meetings or live out of state. Virtual meetings can be held not just for business but for getting to know members and increasing interest in the SAR.

I look forward to serving you again as Southern District Vice President General in 2020-21. If I can assist you, your society or chapter please do not hesitate to call on me. Communication is an important key to success!

—Bobby Joe Seales

In Memory...

Dr. Gerald Woodruff Jr. Carlos Everett Lee Raymond Edmond Ringer Fred Dalton Stovall Jr. Edwin R. Bledsoe

The Alabama Society has four chapters that have lost compatriots recently, including a charter member in the Little River chapter.

Cheaha chapter compatriot **GERALD G. WOODRUFF JR.** passed away at his Anniston home on July 30. He was 92.

Woodruff was a longtime pediatrician who practiced in Anniston for some 50 years starting in 1957. Thousands of children were his patients.

Born in Anniston in January 1928 to Flora and Gerald Woodruff, himself a physician, Gerald Jr. was educated at the McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tenn., and at the University of Alabama, where he was an ATO brother and in the marching band. He earned a bachelor of science in chemistry, graduating in 1948.

In 1952 Woodruff graduated from medical school at Tulane, where he was vice president of the Chi Phi medical fraternity. The Korean War was raging at the time, so his intern phase of training was at or near battlefields. In 1953 he deployed with the 224th Infantry Regiment to Korea as medical company commander and battalion surgeon, rising to regimental surgeon. According to family, Woodruff's skill and ability at the front were credited with greatly alleviating the suffering of injured men. He was awarded the Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant for meritorious achievement.

Woodruff completed his pediatric residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 1956, then spent the next year as assistant medical registrar at the Hospital for Sick Children in London. With that experience fresh in mind, he returned to his hometown in 1957 and established his solo pediatric practice.

In 1963 Woodruff chaired the Sabin oral vaccine program against polio, spearheaded by the Calhoun County Medical Society. The program kicked off publicly Oct. 20, 1963, on a day called "Stop Polio Sunday." On that initial dosage date, tens of thousands of Calhoun County residents lined up to get a sugar cube containing the vaccine.

Woodruff served on the Executive Committee of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics for 10 years, rewriting the chapter's constitution and bylaws.

His long career placed him in service on numerous professional bodies, including chief of staff at Regional Medical Center, director of pediatrics of the Family Practice Residency Program and president of the Calhoun County Medical Society. Outside interests included the Donoho School, where he was one of its founders, and his church, Grace Episcopal, where he served in a variety of roles.

Dr. Woodruff is survived by his wife, the former Betty Plummer Potts, and his children, Gerry (Mimi) of Atlanta; Bowen, of Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Rhett (Greg Warner) of Raleigh, N.C.; David, of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Margaret, of Newnan, Ga.; and his step-children Thomas Potts Jr. of Anniston and Marian

Papy of Savannah, Ga.

CARLOS EVERETT LEE, a longtime member of the Tri-State chapter, passed away on Aug. 26 at the age of 93.

Lee was born in Hammond, Ind., to Okley and Helen Phillips Lee and lived his younger years in South Baldwin County. He was a graduate of Foley High School and Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn), class of 1951.

Lee served in the Navy during World War II aboard the U.S. Hopewell in the Western Pacific Theater.

Over the years he enjoyed flower gardening, woodworking, playing bridge, square dancing and swimming. For many years he was an active member of Dothan Rotary Club, a board member of Dothan Area Botanical Gardens and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Lee spent most of his working years with American Red Cross and United Way. He and his family lived in Japan, California, and Atlanta while he worked with Red Cross. In the years working with United Way the family lived in Norfolk, Va., Atlanta and Dothan. He retired in 1992 as president and CEO of Wiregrass United Way in Dothan.

He was married to Helen Draime Lee and they were parents of daughters Linda Virginia and Carla Jeanne. After the death of Helen, he married Mable Hutto Lee until her passing. He is survived by his wife of almost 19 years, Julia Kelley Lee; daughters Linda Lee Dowling and husband Dennis and Carla Lee Houston, all of Orlando, Fla.; granddaughter Amanda Lee Donato and husband Fred Donato; grandson Mark Henry Dowling and wife Janice Levante Dowling; and great grandchildren Maximus Augustus and Wyatt West Donato and Connor Lee and Elena Marie Dowling.

Lee was a dedicated member of First United Methodist Church of Dothan and the Pathfinders Sunday School Class.

Services were held on Aug. 30 at Pine Crest Cemetery in Citronelle with Dr. Jim Sanders officiating.

RAYMOND EDMOND RINGER, a charter member of the Little River chapter, passed away on Aug. 3 at the age of 96. A World War II veteran, former mayor of Valley Head and a retired teacher and principal, Ringer was a regular attendee at Little River meetings until his health became an issue several months ago.

Ringer was born on Jan. 4, 1924 in Jacksonville, to Raymond J. and Mary Ruth Chisolm Ringer. He was the eldest of their three children. The family lived in Jacksonville, then moved on to Birmingham and Centre before settling in Valley Head.

Ringer had a lifelong interest in radios from the time that he built his first one at age 12. After receiving a deferment to complete his high school diploma, Ringer was drafted into the United States Army during World War II.

See **RINGER**, Page 5

SAR Heroism Certificate presented to 10 year old

Connor Bunce and his family were vacationing in Panama City, Fla., with a group of families within their Smiths Station softball league. While at the hotel swimming pool on June 15, the 10-year-old Connor noticed a small lifeless body at the bottom of the deep end of the pool.

While many adults and other children were standing around the pool and in the water, unaware there was a potentially dangerous situation, Connor dove to the bottom of the pool and grabbed the lifeless body by the arm, pulled him to the surface and began swimming towards the pool steps. As Connor was calling for help, the mother of the lifeless child realized it was her 4-year-old son who was being pulled to safety. As the mother screamed in panic, the father grabbed the 4 year old and pulled him out of the pool.

The child was hospitalized in Panama City for seven days, with five of those on a ventilator. The doctors reported that the child was under water for approximately 3.5 minutes and if Connor had been just seconds late pulling the child to safety, he would have sustained brain damage or death. Luckily, he recovered from the ordeal and appears mentally and physically well.

Connor's hometown of Smiths Station held a "Connor Bunce Day." On July 21, the city presented a proclamation in a ceremony at town hall attended by family and many of Connor's friends. Also in attendance was ALSSAR president David Jones and Walker Jackson, secretary of the Richard Henry Lee chapter.

Jones presented a personal letter to Connor stating how proud he was of Connor's awareness and successful rescue of a stranger in distress plus the presentation of a Heroism certificate. Jackson also presented a SAR Heroism Certificate.

During the ceremony, Connor humbly stated that he wasn't trying to be a hero, he was just helping someone who seemed to need help! It is also noted that the City of Smiths Station will make a contribution in Connor's name to a charity of Connor's choosing.



—Photo courtesy of Walker Jackson

Richard Henry Lee secretary Walker Jackson and ALSSAR president David Jones with Connor Bunce.

Ringer

(Continued from Page 4)

He was taught about a "top secret" new technology, "Radio Detection and Ranging," abbreviated and known today as radar. Ringer was deployed to the Pacific Theatre as a radar technician and was among some of the first Americans to arrive in Hiroshima after the dropping of the atomic bomb. He was a member of the Occupation Force until being shipped home to be honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Following his military service, he went to Jacksonville State Teachers College, graduating in 1949. He went on to teach at Ider, served as principal of Moon Lake Elementary School in Mentone and then as principal of Valley Head Elementary School.

Ringer was an active member of the Valley Head United Methodist Church and was involved with the Alabama Retired Teacher's Association, including a term as president. He was a member of the Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Military Amateur Radio Service, the DeKalb County Amateur Radio Association and was president of the Valley Head Water Board since 1981.

He is survived by a niece, Sara Allen Schmidt, and a nephew, Robert "David" Ringer. Services were held on Aug. 8 at Valley Head United Methodist Church with the Rev. Tony Gunter officiating. Burial with military honors followed at Cherokee

Memory Gardens.

FRED DALTON STOVALL JR. of Pulaski, Tenn., died on May 9 at the age of 82.

Stovall was born July 14, 1937. He served in the U.S. Army and the Tennessee National Guard. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Pulaski, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, the General Society of the War of 1812, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

He taught school for 38 years, mostly math, at Elkton, Bodenham, Gordon Lee High in Chickamauga, Ga., and Ethridge and Ingram Sowell in Lawrenceburg, Ga.

Survivors include daughter Kathy Stovall Harvey and her husband Tony of Rogersville, grandson Will Oglesby and granddaughter Katie Oglesby.

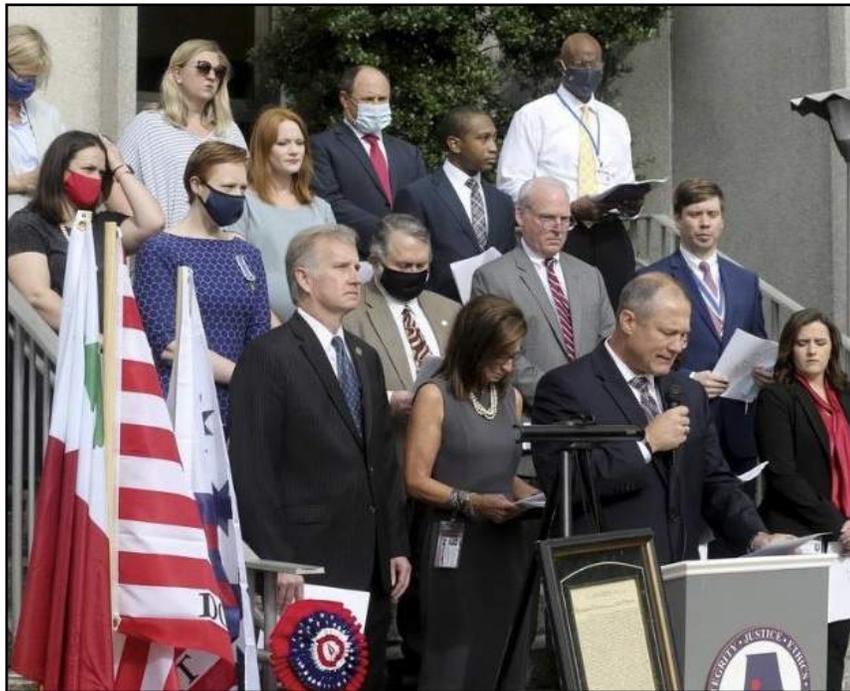
Services were held May 12 at Maplewood Cemetery.

EDWIN R. BLEDSOE of Huntsville died on June 30 at the age of 88.

The former SAR compatriot was born in Boaz and was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Huntsville.

Survivors include his daughters, Elizabeth Edwina Coulliette of Baldwin, Fla., Nancy Lynn Bonner of Dellrose, Tenn., and Rebecca Ann Grimm of Meridianville, grandchildren Christopher Coulliette and Emily Coulliette of Baldwin, Fla., Courtney Davis of Huntsville and Jennifer Grimm and Matthew Grimm of Meridianville, along with five great grandchildren.

SAR chapter joins Tuscaloosa Bar Association for annual reading of Declaration of Independence



—Photos courtesy of Ryan Montgomery

SAR and DAR members joined the Tuscaloosa Bar Association and other local leaders at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse for the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence.



On July 2, ALSSAR president David Jones and Black Warrior River chapter president Ryan Montgomery joined members of the Tuscaloosa Bar Association in their annual tradition of reading aloud the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse.

This Tuscaloosa tradition was started in 2012 by current Tuscaloosa District Attorney Hays Webb and other members of the Tuscaloosa Criminal Bar to commemorate Independence Day and publicly re-affirm their commitment to the ideals which the Declaration embodies. The Black Warrior River chapter has become an integral part of this celebration.

Over the past seven years, the chapter has variably provided for display a color guard, historic flags and large copies of historic documents for the many members of the public who gather annually to celebrate.

This year, in spite of COVID-19, a masked throng gathered in front of the courthouse for the auspicious event. Jones donned period attire and provided a flag display while Montgomery participated in reading the Declaration; many other local DAR and SAR members were also in attendance among a crowd of enthusiastic and proud patriots young and old, black and white, of every stripe.

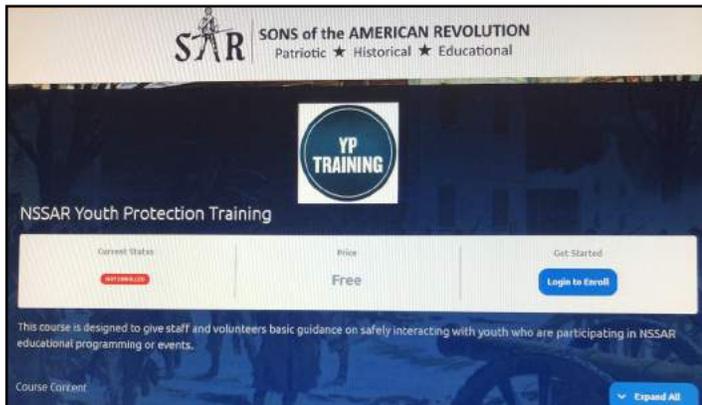
This simple yet profound event has become a fixture in Tuscaloosa County as it is in other cities and locales across the country. It is also one that can be easily implemented with minimal resources by any local chapter to great effect in furthering the goals and purposes of the SAR.

Like the signers of the Declaration who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, so too do we, as the descendants of the patriots and heroes of the Revolution, pledge the same and we affirm this by the founding of, and our participation in, traditions like this one.

The Black Warrior River chapter extends its sincere gratitude to the Tuscaloosa Bar Association, especially to Tuscaloosa District Attorney Hays Webb, for inviting the SAR to participate and provide an historical, dignified and ceremonious air to the proceedings.

For ideas or information on how to easily implement this sort of program for your local community, please contact Montgomery at ryan.montgomery012@gmail.com or call (205) 454-6400.

Youth Protection Training free for members



ALSSAR needs more involvement with youth programs in schools

As schools open later in the year across the state, we need to pick up the pace on contacting schools and getting our foot in the door. All schools have web sites that are accessible to everyone. Please visit those sites of your local elementary, middle and high schools and look for contact information of history and art teachers.

Also include in your searches for your local Boy Scout troops and include them in the Eagle Scout, essay and oration contests.

With all the turmoil in our society today and the appearance of losing our Constitution as we know it, we need to follow through in our mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. Preparing a letter of instruction for teachers is a great way to get your foot in the door of schools. As I have said, a “pre-made” lesson plan provides the teacher with more time which is a valuable commodity in the education world.

Reaching out to teachers with a pre-made lesson plan can also pique their interest in entering the U.S. History Teacher contest. Remember, there are three categories now, one for each level of education — elementary, middle and high school.

Even with all of the restrictions of entering schools this year, we can still accomplish our educational mission. We just have to be a little creative and communicate with the teachers in order to accomplish this task. Download the information from the web site and e-mail it to the teachers. Follow up and discuss the Tom and Betty Lawrence History Teacher competition. Your target teacher will not be near retirement and is not a first-year teacher.

Depending on how your elementary and middle schools are set up, you may reach out to art teachers who can collaborate with the teachers in social studies for the poster and brochure contests.

Collaborative teaching is one of the hot items that administrators look for within their schools. I would recommend that you contact the teachers and not necessarily go through the principal.

Contact all of the schools in your area that have JROTC programs. Do not limit yourselves to just one school. I have allowed more than one packet from a single school in the past for the chapter level event. It makes the competition more interesting which also helps the instructors when trying to narrow an entry to only one cadet. Again, I have a letter of instruction (LOI) for the poster, brochure and JROTC competitions.

Let’s put forth a strong effort to have a contestant in each event from every chapter this year. Remember if you need funds for your local competition, make a request for assistance from the “Bob Anderson Youth Programs Fund.”

As we move through the COVID-19 pandemic and the disorder across America we need to pay attention to some of the lesser headlines in the media. There are still child predators lurking all around us and as upstanding members of the community we need to stay on the lookout for such individuals.

The SAR Youth Protection Training Program is designed specifically to our mission. The training is not to help you prevent from becoming a predator but to make you aware of what to look for when you are around our young people. It helps you identify the “red flags” of when a child or adult has or is being abused.

This YPT is much better and shorter than the BSA training that we have been taking. It is easier to navigate and takes much less time to complete. Most of us have children and grandchildren and some even have great-grandchildren. Wouldn’t it be nice to know what to look for, if by some chance those you love became a victim? I pray it never happens to anyone in this organization!

Those of us who visit schools in support of teachers should always be on the lookout for signs of abuse and neglect. It is our civic and patriotic duty. Plus, most school districts are requiring some type of background check on guest speakers or other support persons from the community. This training can be submitted in support of speeding up the clearance to enter schools.

If you have recently taken the Boy Scout YPT and your certificate is still valid, you are OK. That certificate will still be acceptable under all circumstances.

Awards

(Continued from Page 1)

The following compatriots were also recognized for their recruitment efforts and received the Liberty Award (awarded to compatriots who recruit 10 new members, which oak leaf clusters for an additional 10 members): Henry Hector III, Thomas R. Thomas, Herbert Morgan, James K. Barksdale (with oak leaf cluster), Ronald Bearden (fourth oak leaf cluster), Michael Glass (with oak leaf cluster), Harry Sessamen (second oak leaf cluster) and Charles McMurry (third oak leaf cluster).

The majority of the awards presented to the ALSSAR by the NSSAR came from two reports, the Americanism and the USS Stark.

Everyone plays a vital role in the awards presented at Congress. What we do in the community reflects on our society. Something simple as each chapter presenting a flag certificate is reflected in our community presence. This is one of the easiest awards that our society can achieve. Our youth programs are always recognized at Congress. We do a really good job with youth programs every year and usually have a good showing each year. Where we are falling short is our U.S. History teacher. In the past it was fairly tough but now there are three categories for history teachers (elementary, middle and high school).

Each year, ALSSAR chapters should produce a minimum of 15 posters, brochures and essay winners, 13 JROTC cadets sponsored by the chapters and a minimum of six orations winners.

When we do not have these type of minimum numbers for our state competition, it tells me that we are not pushing the programs in the community. We, as a society, need to step it up a notch or two and push these programs. President Trump is going to initiate the “1776 Commission” which will put us at the forefront with youth programs. Let’s not wait, step up to the challenge that I issued to you in February and get our communities excited about patriotism.

—David Jones

Wells

(Continued from Page 1)

Members of Alabama SAR probably understand why the phrase “Mr. SAR” is used in reference to Michael C. Wells. While he was a leader of SAR at national, district, state, and local chapter levels he was also a special friend, who understood that we many joined SAR for a variety of reasons, but many of us remain active because we built relationships with compatriots which remained for decades.

Michael Wells was recognized when he was awarded the Minuteman – the highest award in the National Society SAR in 2013. His leadership in the development and building of the SAR Genealogical Research Library as well as many other contributions led to this recognition.

“We at headquarters are deeply saddened and remember fondly the days working with Mike as Librarian General. He was wonderful to work with and helped move the Library forward.”

—Don Shaw and the SAR staff

Michael joined the Birmingham chapter in 1981, later joining the Cahaba-Coosa chapter as a dual member and most recently joining the Little River chapter. His 39 years of service include his president of the Birmingham chapter, president of the Alabama Society, Vice Presidents General of the Southern District and three terms as Librarian General of the National Society. Michael held local and state offices of vice president, secretary and many others. His service as National Trustee and Alternate Trustee as well as chairman of national committees as well as those at the state and local levels were numerous. He was recognized for his service when he received the Patriot Medal, national Roger Sherman Medal, state Meritorious Service Medal, state Silver Roger Sherman and state Distinguished Service Medal.

“Mike was my right hand with the Birmingham chapter of the Alabama Society and followed me as chapter president. A great friend and fine compatriot. He did an outstanding job as Alabama Society President and Trustee and Librarian General of the National Society.”

—Hank and Mary McCarl, President General, 2004-2005

Wells assisted in the organizing of the Cullman and Cahaba-Coosa chapters. He served faithfully for many years on national committees, most notably the Library Committee for 10 years, serving as vice chairman for three of those years and chairman for six of those years; the Facility Committee for six years; the U.S. Stamp and Strategic Planning Committees for five years each; and the CAAH Task Force for two years. He is a George Washington Fellow and a contributor to The Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

“He was a good man. He was a respected professional who I enjoyed working with for many years and seeing him and Elizabeth at Leaderships and Congress. I will always remember his passion for libraries and history education. Most importantly his kindness, respect for others, and love of family.”

—Colleen Wilson, National Society Headquarters

Wells was born on July 17, 1944 in St. Louis, Missouri. His family moved to Birmingham, where he attended Blessed Sacrament School and John Carroll High, then moved to Cullman where he attended St. Bernard Prep School, graduating from Cullman High. He received a B.A. degree in Business Administration from St. Bernard College, with later certification in Geographic Information Systems from Lawson State Community College.

In Cullman, he was active in both church and community life serving as Boy Scout leader and was awarded Order of the Arrow. Following college graduation, he used his business degree and began his career in computers at King Pharr Canning Operation. King Pharr transferred him to the South Alabama operation in

Uniontown, overseeing warehouse, financial and labor phases of the business. He lived in nearby Marion, where he met Elizabeth Crabtree, whom he married in March 1975. The couple moved to Vestavia Hills in 1975 when King Pharr Company closed.

Michael began work at Grey Printing as office manager and installed the company's first computer system. Michael began his 25-year career at Alabama Power/Southern Company developing and designing both mainframe and PC based systems; he retired as a senior lead analyst in 2000. His next career move was with Blue Cross Blue Shield, which enabled him to work as senior statistician for Cahaba Government Benefits Administration, retiring in 2015.

While living in Vestavia Hills, he was an active member of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church serving as a deacon, working with the college ministry and leading and developing the audio/visual committee. In the community he was the announcer for recreation league softball games and later coached softball; he advocated bringing in a new housing development for his neighborhood.

Michael was passionate about history and archeology, serving as president of the Alabama Archeological Society and Birmingham Genealogical Society and secretary of the Alabama Genealogical Society in addition to his many levels of involvement with the SAR. Most important to Michael was his family.

Let us reflect on what a few others have said about our Michael Wells:

“This is a great loss for the National Society and for the Alabama Society SAR. Michael was a Minuteman, former Librarian General and former Alabama state president and trustee. Michael and Elizabeth's devotion to the SAR was exceptional in every way! Michael will be missed by many who knew him across the country.”

—Bill & Frances Stone, Alabama SAR President 2015-2016
“Always a gentleman, bow tie and all.”

—John Dodd, California

“Michael C. Wells was a Prince among men. The SAR is a better organization by virtue of his involvement.”

—Miles K. Dechant, Pennsylvania

“Mike was an integral part of the Knight Essay Committee. I went to him on many occasions for advice and input.”

—Jim Lindley, Knight Essay Committee chairman

“He was a good man and a credit to the SAR.”

—Bob England, Alabama

“Michael was such a good person and his contributions to the SAR and especially the library will be felt for years to come. I always enjoyed working with him as well as Elizabeth.”

—Rae Ann Sauer, National Society Headquarters

“He will be missed. Had some great times with Mike at various SAR events over the years! I had the pleasure to serve as his vice president when he was the president of the ALSSAR.”

—John R. Wallace, ALSSAR president 2002-2003

“I enjoyed all the times we spent with Mike and Liz at state and national functions. Mike added so much to the SAR Library! Amazing work.”

—Jim Maples, ALSSAR president 2005-2006

“Mike was a good friend and someone I knew I could turn to when I needed advice.”

—Tony Vets, Librarian General

He is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth Crabtree Wells, and his daughter, Michaëlle Wells Jones (Chris), his two grandsons, Tucker and Hudson, his brothers Richard H. Wells (Donna) and James “Jimmy” F. Wells (Cindy) and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation for family and friends was held on Sept. 7 at South-ern Heritage Funeral Home in Pelham.

—Fred Olive

David Head's book details Newburgh Conspiracy

David Head. A Crisis of Peace: George Washington, The Newburgh Conspiracy and the Fate of the American Revolution. Published by Pegasus Books, Ltd.: New York City, 2019.

Though more narrowly focused than Thomas Fleming's treatment of Washington's strategy, Professor Head's book covers much of the same historical landscape. Unlike Fleming, Head concludes the Newburgh Conspiracy was a misunderstanding — rather than a conspiracy — which Washington successfully managed.

For eight years Washington led an army which suffered irregular pay, physical and emotional hardships, as well as disease and possible death. After the Franco-American victory at Yorktown, the General clearly understood his role: keep the army together until formal peace emerged from negotiations between the combatants.

The army moved to the upper Hudson Valley of New York, just north of the powerful fortifications at West Point, to Newburgh. There the army waited. And waited. Petitions to Congress and even a visit by two senior officers accomplished little.

Pay occupied the minds of most officers as well as pensions promised in October of 1780. Food and clothing arrived in a hap-

azard manner. Discontent spread. When Washington failed to act, a senior colonel, Walter Stewart, charged Congress planned to disband the army without satisfying earlier promises. Stewart and other senior officers approached Horatio Gates.

Gates, who received credit for the victory at Saratoga, suffered a disastrous defeat in August of 1780 at Camden, South Carolina. His reputation in tatters, Gates welcomed the threat to Washington, thinking the army might be ripe for a change in commanders.

The general-in-chief knew about the discontent among the officers, but he had no reason to suspect a major difficulty until he received notice of a meeting to be held on March 11.

The note, written anonymously, called for the officers to refuse to disband unless the war flared up: then they would move to some "unsettled country," leaving Congress with no armed force. Though Washington possessed a great deal of sympathy for the officers, he pushed back against the note by ordering a meeting of representatives from all regiments to assemble on the 15th.

The central building, called the "Temple," was large enough to hold the meeting. Washington said he would not attend. As the ranking officer at the meeting, Gates stepped up to preside. Wash-

ington appeared and asked to speak.

Gates acquiesced and Washington began to read a prepared statement. Then he produced a letter from a congressman from Virginia. Washington fumbled for a pair of new glasses and said, "Gentlemen you must pardon me. I have grown gray in your service and now find myself going blind."

The letter detailed the difficulties faced by congress, but said the officers' just rewards would come in the end. Washington left. Only one officer offered any criticism. Gates said nothing. Some of those in the Temple wept.

Washington accomplished more than he knew. He preserved republican virtue as the guiding principle for the army and the country. Gates left Newburgh to be with his dying wife. Washington labeled the whole affair "a misunderstanding."

He understood an investigation into the anonymous letter and punishing its author might divide the army and cause alarm in Congress.

Head maintains Washington's vision at Newburgh created the atmosphere which led to the adoption of the Constitution and, eventually, to a standing professional army capable of maintaining liberty and providing for national defense.

—Bob England

Today's pandemic reminds us of colonist's fight with small pox

As we progress through the COVID-19 pandemic let us reflect back to the year 1775 when small pox was "the invisible enemy" of our nation.

As we know, a teenaged George Washington contracted the small pox virus in 1751 when he and his brother traveled to Barbados. Luckily, the young Washington survived what is described as a very miserable and painful disease and became immune to future attacks.

In 1775, smallpox arrived in Boston by way of soldiers from Britain, Canada, and Germany. When Washington took command, the Continental Army encamped across the Charles River from Boston. Upon discovery of the small pox epidemic in Boston, Washington immediately prohibited anyone from entering the camp, especially those from Boston.

"Every precaution must be used to prevent its spreading," he sternly warned his subordinate leaders. Soldiers who displayed symptoms and signs of small pox were quickly quarantined to prevent his army from being quickly destroyed. Washington knew that if the British ever discovered that his army was being consumed with small pox, they would attack in full force and that would be the end for an independent America.

In a message to John Hancock, Washington vowed to "continue the utmost vigilance against this most dangerous enemy." Washington wanted all soldiers "vaccinated" for the virus but Congress was strongly opposed to this idea as the practice of "variolaion" was prohibited in most of the colo-

nies.

Variolation was the practice of making an incision on the arm and inserting a thread coated in the live virus into the opening. This would give the person a small dose of the virus and allow the body to attack the virus and build immunity.

In a second message to Congress, Washington wrote "I find it impossible to keep it from spreading thro' the whole army in the natural way." With a note to his chief medical officer "necessity not only authorizes but seems to require the measure," Washington gave the order to inoculate every soldier.

Washington had already ordered that all new recruits be inoculated so that by the time they were ready for battle, they would be immune. However, Washington knew that the entire Army needed to be inoculated in order to maintain its strength. So it began in 1777 even into the winter encampment at Valley Forge, soldiers were being inoculated for small pox. By the spring of 1778, the Continental Army was ready to fight.

Because of Washington's orders, infection rates dropped from 20 percent to 1 percent. Congress was now convinced and lawmakers across the colonies began repealing the ban on variolation. That one decision by Washington to defy Congress was a crucial element in defeating the British and establishing this great nation.

Read more at www.history.com/news/smallpox-george-washington-revolutionary-war

—David Jones

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



—Photo by Jess Brown

Tennessee Valley chapter expands SAR visibility with billboards

The Tennessee Valley chapter rented two billboards for seven days to advertise the SAR and the upcoming Fourth of July holiday. Jess Brown visited Lamar Advertising and they agreed to run this design by Jim Griffith's daughter Elizabeth at four locations for six days during July.