

SAR Alabama

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this message the Alabama Society is just coming off a very successful Blue Star Salute to the military.

As a co-sponsor, along with The American Village and the American Legion, we can all be very proud of the outstanding event that took place on May 21. The weather was beautiful and The American Village was the perfect setting. Approximately 4,000 people of all ages showed up for this first time event.

Gov. Bob Riley was the guest speaker for the main ceremony. We were also very excited to have the executive director of the National Society, Mr. Jim Randall, attend the ceremony and bring greetings on behalf of President General McCarl.

Glenn Nivens did a great job for the Alabama Society as our chief organizer. Also, the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter is to be commended for manning an information table on the SAR.

We had 21 members in the color guard, with 10 of those coming from the states of Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida. This truly was a regional event!

Since the last issue we have had a very successful Board of Manager's meeting. This meeting was held at the Shelby County Museum and

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—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

NSSAR Executive Director Jim Randall speaks at the Blue Star Salute. Among those on the podium behind Randall are Gov. Bob Riley, third from left, and American Village director Tom Walker, far right.

ALSSAR offers Blue Star Salute to veterans

Approximately 50-60 SAR members from five states joined the 4,000 veterans and guests assembled at the American Village on May 21 for the Blue Star Salute.

The Alabama Society of the Sons of the American Revolution joined with the Alabama Department of the American Legion in promoting the event, which drew support from at least 38 other organi-

zations that participated in the day's activities.

Prior to the main ceremony, a Revolutionary War monument was dedicated. The monument, located near the Colonial Chapel, lists many of the famous individuals who fought in the war and a list of all the major engagements of the war.

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Board of Managers approves budget, delegates

Delegates were elected to the 2005 Congress and the ALSSAR budget was approved for the remainder of the year by the Board of Managers at their spring meeting in Columbiana.

The meeting was held on May 14 at the Shelby County Archives and Museum and opened with the Color Guard, consisting of compatriots Larry Cornwell, Glenn Nivens and Dr. Rick Price, presenting the colors.

Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave the invocation and ALSSAR president Jim Maples recognized the first-time attendees and the former ALSSAR presidents in attendance.

The officer's reports were presented and were followed by the reports of the various committees. After nearly two hours of business, the group broke for lunch. During lunch a short video was shown on the George Washington Museum in Columbiana.

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Managers

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Also, during lunch, a demonstration of the ALSSAR's new Web site was given by webmaster Ron Diamond of the Richard Montgomery chapter.

After lunch, reports were heard from the various local chapters followed by old and new business. Under old business, President Jim Maples reported on the purchase of the domain name for the State Society (www.alssar.org) and the yearly cost for our Web space.

Compatriot Vick had earlier given his notice of resignation from the ALSSAR Endowment Fund Committee. The nominating committee presented the name of Compatriot Bruce Taylor to replace Compatriot Vick. Compatriot Taylor was unanimously elected to serve out the remaining two years of Compatriot Vick's term. Finally, under old business, Compatriot Glenn Nivens gave a detailed report on the plans for the Blue Star Salute.

Under new business, delegates to the upcoming national convention in Louisville were elected. The state society has 16 delegate slots.

Treasurer Fred Olive presented a budget for the remainder of 2005. At the fall Board of Manager's meeting a budget will be presented for 2006.

Also approved were the amounts to allow for the 2006 youth awards. A proposal was made earlier for the sitting ALSSAR president to be an ex-officio member of the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance. This proposal was accepted by the Board.

Through the SAR Officers network, President General McCarl raised the issue of a database of all the patriot graves that have been marked by the SAR. After discussion it was agreed that for Alabama this information is available from several sources. President Maples appointed Graves Committee Vice-Chairman John Kelsoe to be the focal point for collection of this data.

Compatriot John Wallace introduced a motion for the Medals and Awards Committee to study the feasibility for chapter awards for various categories to be awarded at each annual meeting. The motion passed and the Medals and Awards Committee will report their findings at the October Board of Manager's meeting.

Under other business there was considerable discussion concerning DNA testing and its validity for genealogical purposes. Compatriot Ron Bearden brought the subject up under his registrar's report and the discussion continued under other business. Compatriot Bearden will research the subject further and give his findings at the Fall Board of Manager's meeting.

—Jim Maples



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

Webmaster Ron Diamond discusses the new ALSSAR Web site, www.alssar.org.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

President Jim Maples watches Color Guard presentation of, from left, Larry Cornwell, Glenn Nivens and Dr. Richard Price.

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

Archives in Columbiana the weekend before the Blue Star Salute.

Bobby Joe Seales and the Cahaba-Coosa chapter did a great job hosting the BOM. We had a home cooked meal that Bobby Joe arranged and the meeting facility was outstanding.

Our next BOM is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Montgomery Country Club. You don't have to be a voting member of the Board to attend. Everyone is invited to see how the business of your state society is conducted.

Our National Congress is coming up in

early July. This year the Congress takes place in Louisville.

If you have never attended a Congress, I certainly encourage you to do so. You can sit in on the business meetings, attend the awards ceremony, enjoy the banquets and just have fun being around a lot good folks. You will meet people and make friends, guaranteed!

Next year's Congress will be held in Dallas and in 2007 the Congress will be in Williamsburg. Make your plans now.

We have an outstanding new Web site for the Alabama Society (www.alssar.org). Our webmaster, Ron Diamond of the General Richard

Montgomery chapter, is doing an outstanding job. Please note that our state newsletter is now online. If you go online, you can see the all the pictures in color!

If you are traveling this summer, check to see if there is a local SAR chapter nearby. You might find an SAR meeting that you can attend. You will find that you are welcome wherever you might be.

Stay safe as you travel and become more involved with your local chapter when you get back home. Don't wait to be asked, volunteer!

—Jim Maples

Salute

(Continued from Page 1)

ALSSAR member and American Village trustee Johnny Curry gave the dedicatory remarks and seven members of the SAR Color Guard presented the colors for the dedication.

The fife and drum corps from Homewood High accompanied the color guard.

Wreaths were then laid on the Donn Porter Congressional Medal of Honor Korean War 9th Ranger Monument and the Vietnam Memorial Wall to recognize Alabama military personnel who gave their lives in those wars.

Marion Military Institute's White Knight Precision Drill Team then led the audience from the dedication ceremony to the Constitution Green for the main ceremony.

For the main ceremony ALSSAR member and American Village director Tom Walker served as master of ceremonies.

ALSSAR Chaplain Reverend Walter Reeder gave the invocation and state



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

ALSSAR president Jim Maples, left, American Legion commander Bryon White watch ceremony.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

A new Revolutionary War monument was dedicated near the Colonial Chapel during the Blue Star Salute to honor the state's patriots.

treasurer Kay Ivey lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The colors were presented by the consolidated SAR Color Guard, consisting of 21 SAR members from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Alabama American Legion commander Bryon White and ALSSAR president Jim Maples extended greetings to the attendees from their respective organizations.

At the conclusion of his remarks Maples introduced NSSAR executive director Jim Randall. Randall brought greetings from the NSSAR on behalf of President General Dr. Henry McCarl.

One of the main organizers of the events of the day, ALSSAR member Glenn Nivens, recognized the participating organizations and thanked them for their contributions.

Major General Mark Bowen, Adjutant General for the state of Alabama introduced the keynote speaker, Gov. Bob Riley.

After Riley's remarks, Walker led the audience in a responsive reading which thanked the men and women whose service is marked by the Blue and Gold Stars.

A "Ceremony for the Fallen" was then held to recognize 42 Alabamians who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country on or after September 11, 2001. Each individual's name was read after which a bell was tolled. The family members of those fallen were then recognized.

"God Bless America" was led by the 151st Army Band; a veterans salute was given by Christopher Long, historical interpreter at the American Village; and Washington's Prayer was given by John Beavers, state chaplain of the American Legion. The ceremony concluded with "Taps" played by the 151st Army band.

Units from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and National Guard displayed an array of military equipment that included small firearms, communications equipment, field artillery pieces, HUMMWVs and trucks with many different payloads, CH-47 and Blackhawk helicopters, and a fly over by a KC-137 refueling aircraft.

The Blue Star Salute concluded with the Marine Corps reenacting the flag raising at Iwo Jima as the Heritage Pipes and Drum Band played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

—Jim Maples

In Memory...

Joe Morris

The General Richard Montgomery chapter lost one of its compatriots in late May.

JOSEPH WILLETT MORRIS JR., 71, passed away on Sunday, May 22, following an illness.

Morris was born in Montgomery at St. Margaret's Hospital and lived his early life in Macon County in Shorter. His family moved to Houma, La., a few years later, but Morris returned to the state to attend Auburn University and earn an engineering degree.

He put his degree to use as a contract worker for NASA and traveled extensively throughout the country and the world. When he retired, he returned to Macon County, where he was

an active member of his church and a faithful attendant at General Richard Montgomery meetings.

Morris is survived by his wife Charlotte Strickland Morris; daughter, Lorrie Frederick; son, John H. Morris; and grandchildren Samantha and Casey Frederick and Emma and Lydia Morris.

He is also survived by his extended family Teresa S. Galloway, Joshua Strickland and Charlotte and Madison Galloway.

Services were held on Wednesday, May 25, at First United Methodist Church in Union Springs, with Rev. Robin Wilson officiating. Morris was buried at Alabama Heritage Cemetery in east Montgomery.

Hawkins wants the 'toughest duty' of notifying next of kin

Editor's Note: Jim Hawkins is an SAR compatriot in the Richard Montgomery chapter. The following is a story that appeared in the June 26 edition of the Montgomery Advertiser.

By **MIKE LYNN**
Montgomery Advertiser

Maj. Jim Hawkins buries the memories of dead soldiers in his desk at home, a mortuary that helps the casualty notification officer cope with his job.

It's a part-time position that takes the Montgomery resident all over Alabama, to the homes of parents and spouses, bearing the horrific news their loved ones have died serving their country.

The Alabama Army National Guard training officer has news accounts and funeral programs of two Alabama soldiers whose families he personally notified. A third account will be added within the next few days of a soldier, Spc. Brian A. Vaughn, 23, of Pell City who died in a Ramadi, Iraq, gun battle Tuesday.

"If somebody dies for their country, the least you can do is be the one who notifies the family," he said. "If I can't be fight-



—Photo by Karen Doerr, Montgomery Advertiser

MAJ. JIM HAWKINS

ing for my country because I'm needed back home, well then give me the toughest duty here."

He's one of about 250 Alabama Army National Guardsmen who have volunteered their services as casualty notification officers for the U.S. Army. That is rare, he said, compared to National Guard units in other states.

Typically, each branch of the military has its own casualty notification officers. In Alabama

that's the case, too, but because of distance and time concerns National Guard officers often fill in for the Army, he said.

Officers at the Army's casualty assistance command offices in Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Rucker near Dothan have the job of notifying Alabama families when soldiers die. The problem is they only have a four-hour window from the time of death to personally notify the family.

Sherra Claunch's husband, 1st Sgt. Ronald Claunch of the Prattville-based 217th Police Company, died April 18, 2004. She said she remembers when the three notification officers, one of them Hawkins, came to her Wetumpka home the morning after her husband's death.

"They were wonderful, couldn't have been any better," she said, noting the group refused to leave her alone until a friend came to her home, another rule they follow. "I'm glad Jim Hawkins was the one who told me. I wish any soldier who goes to tell about the death could be just like Maj. Jim Hawkins."

Hawkins said two other Alabama Guardsmen, Major Jim

McLaughn, and Lt. Col. John David Brady Jr., both attorneys, have notified a combined five families.

Brady said the job, while difficult, is necessary; in the 1960s families were notified via telegram.

"It wrecks your day and you think about it until you fall asleep at night," the Mobile resident said.

Hawkins and Brady use different techniques to prepare for the knock on the door that will change the lives of mothers, fathers, children and spouses. Hawkins said he stops about a block from the home, typically the place he meets his assistant officer, and prays. But before that, he tries to clear his mind to keep from overanalyzing the mission.

He said he's never gotten the script perfect, because of the circumstances.

"It's never good to see a guy in uniform come to your house. You become the face that brought the bad news. It's the worst moment of your day, yet you've brought the news that wrecked the family's life," he said.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

Five-state Color Guard

The Color Guard performs its duties during the Blue Star Salute at the American Village on May 21. ALSSAR members had help from SAR members representing Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. At the front of the Color Guard is the fife and drum corps from Homewood High School.

Conecuh County dedication next for Nivens

Members of the Sons of the American Revolution will join five other organization in early November to join in a grave-marking ceremony in Conecuh County.

Cahaba-Coosa chapter compatriot Glenn Nivens is spearheading the ALSSAR involvement in the event, which is expected to include representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution; the General Society of the War of 1812; the Alabama Society, United States Daughters of 1812; the Sons of Confederate Veterans; and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The grave-marking ceremony will be held on Nov. 5 at the



—Photo courtesy of Glenn Niven

Compatriot Glenn Nivens, left, holds one of the two SAR markers that will be dedicated in November.

Ward-Witherington cemetery County.

near Fork Sepulga in Conecuh Nivens, whose diligent efforts

made the recent Blue Star Salute a success, is hoping for the same patriotic turnout in November.

The ceremony will include grave-marking ceremonies for Revolutionary War patriots William Witherington and Thomas Ward and for War of 1812 patriots William Witherington Jr., and Daniel E. Witherington.

The ceremony also will honor William H. Ward, a private who served in the War Between the States.

For more information on the event, contact Nivens at 205-672-2887, Sherry Johnston in Conecuh County at 251-578-2670 or Bill King in Houston at 281-493-6767.

Tennessee Valley holds annual banquet

ALSSAR president Jim Maples installed new officers for the upcoming year at the Tennessee Valley chapter's annual banquet at the Valley Hill Country Club on March 19.

The new officers are Mark S. Alexander, president; Dr. J. Derald Morgan, vice-president; Brian K. Alexander, secretary; James G. Alexander, treasurer; Steve Pearce, registrar; Hoyt Smith, chaplain; and Dr. John Rison Jones Jr., historian. These officers will serve for a one-year period.

In addition to installing the new officers, Maples was the guest of honor and speaker for the event. Maples, a Tennessee Valley chapter member, is a native of Huntsville, a graduate of Huntsville High, the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the University of Alabama.

In addition to his SAR membership, he is a member of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, the Huntsville-Madison County Historical

Association, the Historic Huntsville Foundation, the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society and is the Madison County Representative for the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.

Outgoing President Steve Pearce was presented with a certificate of appreciation and pin for his service to the chapter during the past year.

Guests for the event were Ms. Raneé Pruitt, Mrs. Linda Maples and Ms. Rhonda Larkin, all of the Hunt's Spring Chapter of the DAR; Mrs. Christine Smith and Mrs. Carol Strickland, both of the Huntsville Chapter of the DAR; Ms. Kimberly Alexander, Twickenham Towne Chapter of the DAR; Mrs. Abby Alexander, Ms. Jan Rice, Mrs. Debra Pearce, Mrs. June Morgan, Mrs. Susan Crabtree, Mrs. Eloise Pittman and Mrs. Betty Troth.

Mr. Henry Oldham provided the keyboard entertainment for the evening.

—Jim Maples



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

ALSSAR president Jim Maples installs new Tennessee Valley chapter president Mark Alexander.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

Tennessee Valley compatriot Jim Alexander, left, presents medal and certificate to Fowler.

Tennessee Valley awards ROTC medal to Alabama A&M cadet

The Tennessee Valley chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution awarded the ROTC medal to cadet James Fowler of Alabama A & M University.

This award is presented to foster the principle of "citizen-soldier" exemplified by the Revolutionary War Minutemen. Its recipients are selected for demonstrating a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence. Cadet Fowler was selected to receive the medal based on his excellent academic record, university and community service and outstanding ROTC military performance.

Cadet Fowler is junior management information systems student from Meridianville, where he attended Hazel Green High School. After graduation he plans to make the army his career and would like to become a member of the Army Signal Corp.

Cadet Fowler is held in high esteem by his fellow cadets, ROTC instructors and the Alabama A & M staff. Those who know him well have described him as a born leader with unlimited military potential. He is the son of Larry and Billie Fowler of Meridianville.

The medal was presented at the University's ROTC Bulldog Battalion Annual Awards Day Celebration event on April 21. The Alabama A & M University ROTC program, which has recently enjoyed great strides in its goals and objectives, is under the leadership of LTC Elliott M. Cunningham, professor of military science.

—Jim Maples

State archives director speaks at Black Warrior meeting

Dr. Ed Bridges, director of the Alabama Department of Archives & History, was the featured speaker at the Black Warrior River chapter's annual banquet on April 28 at the Tuscaloosa Country Club.

Bridges, who has served as director for 23 years, first discussed the opening of the Archives new addition this fall and the importance of saving our states' historical records.



—Photo courtesy of Johnny Curry

BRIDGES

The main thrust of Bridges' speech focused on Marquis de Lafayette's 10-month tour of the United States in 1824-25. He noted this occurred more than 40 years after the 19-year-old Lafayette had served in the American Revolution under George Washington.

Lafayette was then 63 years old and visited all 24 states, including Alabama.

His Alabama stops included Montgomery, Selma, the state capital in Cahaba and Mobile.

Dr. Bridges told many interesting and specific stories about Lafayette's visit through the state, including how Indian tribesmen removed the horses from his carriage and then themselves personally pulled his carriage up a hill as a sign of respect. The state government lavished more than \$25,000, mostly on whiskey and rum, during Lafayette's visit, Bridges said, adding the state's entire budget was only \$105,000. The Marquis' visit would lead to the state's eventual bankruptcy.

Chapter president Johnny Curry and vice-

president David Hartin presented certificates of merit to Walter Dockery, Sam Gambrell, Wiley Hales, Joe Pilegge, Reginald Vick and Walter Vornbrock as well as a certificate in recognition of past chapter president Jim Ford. Special recognition was accorded to compatriot Mel Traweek who received the Meritorious Service Medal for his long-time work on the Chapter's ROTC program. A certificate was also presented to Gwen Dockery for years of tireless dedicated service to the chapter.

—Johnny Curry



—Photo courtesy of Johnny Curry

ALSSAR president Jim Maples addresses the Black Warrior banquet as chapter vice-president David Hartin, left, president Johnny Curry listen.

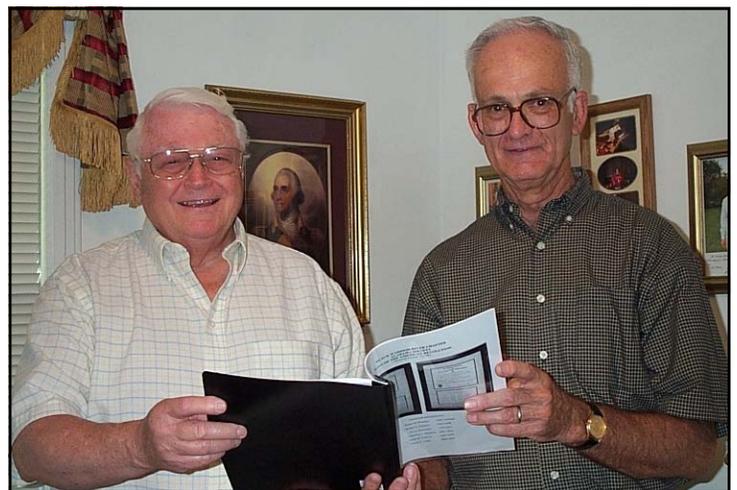
Black Warrior River compiles chapter ancestor survey book

The Black Warrior River Chapter has compiled a booklet of ancestors with information about them and what they did during the Revolutionary War.

The booklet includes a frontispiece showing two photographs of plaques of the BWRC charter and names of soldiers from Tuscaloosa County who served during the Revolution. Also, names of all BWRC presidents are given along with their dates of service. The history of the BWRC is presented along with names of all the charter members.

For each member, the booklet gives their name and their national and state membership numbers. The booklet also provides information about the member's primary and supplementary ancestors.

The final item in the booklet is the chapter constitution and by-laws.



—Photo courtesy of Sam Gambrell

Black Warrior compatriots Walter Dockery, left, Sam Gambrell review the chapter's ancestor survey booklet.

Sons of Confederate Veterans name award after SAR compatriot Richard Kemp

ALSSAR compatriot Dick Kemp was recently honored by a Dothan chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans with a lifetime achievement award named in his honor.

The William C. Oates Camp chose Confederate Memorial Day (April 25) as the backdrop to honor the heritage advocate with the first Richard A. Kemp Award in recognition of his lifetime of contributions to the causes of defending the good name of Confederate ancestors, American patriotism and public service.

Prior to moving to Alabama, Kemp served as commander of the Major Robert White Camp, SVC in Temple, Texas, and helped organize the Rufus Painter Camp, SCV in Ozark, where he served both as adjunct and commander.

At the presentation, Dr. Ken Chancey remarked, "Dick is a real patriot and has fought in several wars and helped defend the integrity of the American Revolutionary soldier and the Confederate soldier while vindicating the causes of which they fought."

The award will be presented annually to a SCV member residing in Southeast Alabama who has demonstrated a similar commitment to preserve and protect the memory of the Confederate soldier.

In the accompanying proclamation, it was noted that Dick has a parallel commitment to preserving the memory and contributions of Revolutionary War soldiers.

He served six years total as president of both the Tri-State and Wiregrass chapters while being elected to five terms as the ALSSAR state genealogist.

Through his efforts and leadership a monument was erected on the grounds of the Ozark-Dale County Library honoring the Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Dale County. Over the years Kemp has documented 15 of his own patriot ancestors and had the privilege of being the first line sponsor of 47 SAR membership applications. He is currently working on four more applications.

In addition to Kemp's work with the SCV and the SAR, he is also an active member of the Alabama Genealogy Society and is carried as a member of the First Families of Alabama while also a member of the Society of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims.

—John Wallace



—Photo courtesy of John Wallace

Wiregrass Flag Certificate recipient

Wiregrass flag committee chairman Joe Graves, left, presented M.H. "Bill" Snead a flag certificate during a recent chapter meeting for his exemplary display of the U.S. flag at his home. Snead is a World War II veteran and has recently returned from the anniversary commemoration program on Iwo Jima where he fought.



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

Gen. Galvez cadet winner

Cadet Staff Sgt. Ashley L. Benton, left, is presented a certificate, medallion and a \$50 check by Gen. Galvez chapter compatriot Jim Wardlaw for her winning essay on "How JROTC Has Prepared Me to Be a Better Citizen of the United States." Benton won the local competition among five Baldwin County and 14 Mobile County units, then went on to win the state competition, receiving a certificate, medallion and \$200 check. Benton's essay was submitted to the NSSAR for national competition at the annual Congress.

Bennett highlights Richard Montgomery banquet

Former Secretary of State Jim Bennett was the featured speaker at the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter's spring banquet on May 18 at the Maxwell Air Force Base Officer's Club.

Bennett currently serves as the commissioner for the state's Department of Labor and spoke to the group on one of his favorite subjects, Tannehill State Park.

Bennett served in the state House of Representatives (1978-83) and the state Senate (1983-93) before he was appointed to fill a vacancy as Secretary of State.

He was reelected in 1994 and 1998 and remains the only person in state history to hold that office as both a Democrat and as a Republican. In 1999-2000, he served as the president of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

At the same time, he had a book published by the University of Alabama Press: *Tannehill and the Growth of the Alabama Iron Industry: Including the Civil War in West Alabama* (1999).

Bennett has been instrumental in the development of the 1,500-acre Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park into one of the state's top 10 tourist attractions.

The park — and its history — has become a passion for Bennett and he pointed out the story of Tannehill contradicts the prevailing idea that Southern industry was technologi-



—Photo by Bruce Pickette

Gen. Richard Montgomery officers with banquet speaker Jim Bennett. The group includes, from left: chapter president Brad Sanders, treasurer George Gayle, chaplain Tom Richardson, Bennett, secretary Bob Cheney and guest Ben Johnson.

cally backward. In fact, Tannehill featured several industrial innovations that were not commonly used elsewhere until years later.

Daniel Hillman Sr., a migrant from New Jersey, initially developed the ironworks near the Tannehill Plantation in Roupes Valley.

The ironworks at Tannehill were a major southern producer of pig iron prior to

the outbreak of the Civil War and were a major supplier to the ordinance works at Selma during the war.

Three companies of the 8th Iowa Cavalry under the command of Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton destroyed the ironworks on March 31, 1865. The raiders so badly damaged the ironworks that they never resumed production.

2005 Congress kicks off in Louisville

The 115th annual Congress is set for the first week of July in Louisville and will feature a variety of events and attractions for participants.

The ALSSAR Board of Managers recently elected to send 16 delegates to the annual event.

Registration begins on Friday, July 1 and includes an optional visit to Bardstown for dinner, followed by the 46th season of Stephen Foster the Musical in the outdoor amphitheater.

On Saturday, July 2, a welcome reception will be held and another optional visit to Churchill Downs and the Derby Museum is available.

On Sunday, the annual memorial service will be held in the afternoon, along with the finals of the Joseph Rumbaugh Oration Contest later that evening.

On Monday, the Fourth of July, the opening session of the

115th Congress will be held including welcome messages from Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson. National reports will be given, followed by the youth awards presentation luncheon. That evening, the annual Minuteman Awards will be presented.

On Tuesday, July 5, new business will be addressed and the annual committee meetings and workshops will be held. In addition, a slate of national officers for 2005-06 will be nominated. A dinner that evening will include the presentation of several awards, including the Law Enforcement and Fire Safety Commendation Medals.

On Wednesday, July 6, the Congress wraps up with a George Washington Fellows breakfast, the election of national trustees and the installation of new national officers later that evening.

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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 send in photos and information from your chapter for publication in the next newsletter. Deadline for the next newsletter is Sept. 5. You can mail information to Tim Gayle, 3573 Foxhall Drive, Montgomery, AL 36111 or send photos or stories via e-mail to timgayle@alltel.net.

—Photo courtesy of David Lane

Patriots Day observation

Representatives from the ALSSAR and the American Legion met at the state capital to observe Patriots Day on April 19 and promote the upcoming Blue Star Salute. Shown are, from left: Glenn Nivens, Cahaba-Coosa chapter and ALSSAR event coordinator; Eddie Bowling, Cahaba-Coosa chapter; Bruce Taylor, ALSSAR sergeant-at-arms; Rev. Walter Reeder, ALSSAR chaplain; Willis Frazier Jr., vice-commander, Alabama American Legion; Department Commander Byron White, Alabama American Legion; and Jimmy Maness, vice-commander, Alabama American Legion.

