

PRESS RELEASE | April 21, 2022

## **SAR Honors WWII Veteran Wicker on his 98th Birthday**

The William Gray Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution honored former State Senator, Circuit Judge and World War II veteran Fred Wicker of Pontotoc along with other member-veterans on the occasion of Judge Wicker's 98th birthday at their recent membership dinner held at the Tupelo County Club.

Recently-elected State President Rev. Dr. Tommy Thompson attended the meeting and addressed the members, followed by the presentation of several service awards.

Long-time member Herbert Larry Jolly presented Judge Wicker the SAR War Service Medal and WWII War Service Bar. Wicker served almost three years of active duty in the Army and Army Air Corps, which included tours in England, France, Belgium and Germany.

Wicker and his son, Senator Roger Wicker, became SAR members in May 2001, based on the service of their patriot ancestor Jacob Utley. Utley rendered civil patriotic service by furnishing supplies holding the office of constable and tax assessor in Wake County, North Carolina.

Though absent, Senator Wicker also received the SAR Military Service Medal. Jolly also presented Chapter Vice President Robert Bruce Smith the War Service Medal and Iraq War Service Bar. His father, Chapter President Jak McGee Smith also received the Military Service Medal. Past Chapter President Jack Hamilton then presented Judge Wicker a beautiful cavalryman's sword. Judge Wicker was accompanied by his daughter, Ellen Wicker Commings.

The SAR has two medals that may be given in conjunction with military service: The War Service Medal and the Military Service Medal. The War Service Medal recognizes service in the Armed Forces during an armed conflict. The Military Service Medal recognizes service in the Armed Forces. Both medals are awarded by the SAR's Veterans Recognition Committee.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a social and hereditary organization which promotes the education of its membership and the general public about the American Revolution and its patriots and to foster patriotism and an appreciation of American freedoms.

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