



Sons of the American Revolution
The Mississippi Society



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Wreath Laying Ceremony Honors Fallen Heroes

The third Saturday of December is National Wreaths Across America Day, a time for people all across the country to pay respects to those who lost their lives fighting for freedom. The movement encourages placing a wreath on the grave of a veteran as a way to pay tribute to their sacrifice this holiday season.

This year the Dancing Rabbit Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution produced and conducted services at Soule Chapel Cemetery in Macon with representatives from the Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution Society Color Guard in period uniforms.

After posting the colors, Mrs. Judith Ewing, Chair of the MS DAR Wreaths Across America Committee gave a brief presentation. Color Guard members acted as Honor Guard for the family of each service member as a wreath stand was placed at each of the five graves. It is tradition to say the name of the fallen soldier out loud during the presentation of the wreath.

The five veterans were chosen represent of a service member for each branch of service and one POW. This year, the Dancing Rabbit Chapter chose the following: Pvt. James Edward Kinard (USA); PO3 William Earl Williams (USN); Sgt. Michael Gene Varner (USMC); Robert Chester Bell (MM-WWII); Tech Sgt. John Quitman Triplett (USAF); and Tech Sgt. John L. Dugan (USAAC POW).

The story of John Dugan was particularly interesting. He served in the European Theatre during WWII. He was shot down on bombing mission in 1943. He remained a POW until 1945 when he was liberated from Stalag 17B Braunau in Austria.

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The tenets of Wreaths Across America Day are to “remember, honor and teach.” The aim is to remember the lives lost while honoring their memories and sharing their stories with a younger generation in order to keep their legacies alive and the cost of freedoms they experience every day.

Presenting the colors and providing honor guard services were Jerry Lilly of Oxford as the Marquis de Lafayette, Ron Humphrey of Pearl, John McBride of Jackson, Erik Norman of Petal, Color Guard Commander Dr. Bryant Boswell of Star, and Detail Commander John Taylor of Mize.

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The Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution are national patriotic, historical and educational societies whose members perpetuate the memory and sacrifices of their ancestors who fought or aided in the American Revolution.





Figure 1 (Left): Robert Chester Bell Honor Guard (L-R): Jerry Lilly & Ron Humphrey



Figure 2 (Right): Michael Gene Varner Honor Guard (L-R): John Taylor & John McBride



Figure 3: William Earl Williams Honor Guard (L-R): Jerry Lilly & Erik Norman



Figure 4: James Edward Kinard Honor Guard (L-R): John Taylor & Bryant Boswell