

SAR Alabama

Volume 25, Number 3

September, 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots, prospective members and friends,

This issue of SAR ALABAMA is full of interesting stories. I encourage you to read it cover to cover. You will learn about the breadth and depth of programs and activities which individuals, chapters and the Alabama Society conduct to advance America's heritage.

Now is the time of the year for each chapter to advance one or more youth programs. Last year, chapters reported they planned to expand participation in youth programs this year. Now is the time to convert those plans to action. Chapter presidents may report their progress on this goal in the chapter reports for the fall Board of Managers meeting and the February annual meeting.

We have five youth programs: the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest, the Knight Essay Contest, the Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, the ROTC/JROTC Recognition Program and the Eagle Scout Scholarship Program. To learn more about each program and the email address for the state committee chair for each program go to the ALSSAR web site.

The 121st Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR)

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Four ALSSAR compatriots elected to national positions



—Photo by Linda Maples

From left, ALSSAR compatriots Bruce Pickette, Mike Wells, Larry Cornwell and Jim Maples will all serve in national SAR positions this year.

It was one of the most unique evenings ever for the Alabama Society at the 2011 Congress as two compatriots were elected to national office and a total of four ALSSAR compatriots found themselves holding national positions by the end of the President General's banquet.

Two of our fellow Alabama Society compatriots were elected to office at the National Congress held in Winston-Salem, N.C. Larry Cornwell of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter was elected Genealogist General and Mike Wells of the Birmingham chapter was elected Librarian General.

In a unique happenstance and timing, our third general officer, Southern District Vice President

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Shoals chapter ready for BOM approval

Approximately a year ago this month, ALSAR registrar Ron Bearden called David Ellis in Florence. David was a member of the Connecticut SAR who had recently moved south and whom Ron had met at a meeting of the Tennessee Valley chapter in Huntsville. The call was to discuss the rebuilding of the SAR chapter in Florence, formerly the Pride Chapter.

Ellis was receptive to the idea as Huntsville, being the closest chapter, was a long drive for a monthly meeting. When, where and how to put together a first organizational meeting to deter-

mine interest and get a sense of the size of membership were topics covered in the phone call. It was decided to begin after the first of the year (2011). Following their conversation, Bearden went on to contact a number of the members of the old Pride Chapter and others for whom contact information was available.

The first organizational meeting was held in January at the Florence Public Library. The room was packed. Both current and former SAR

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Message

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elevated the Alabama Society's national leadership role. In this newsletter you may read articles about several aspects of the Congress. A wonderfully written article by Senior Vice President C. W. Posey provides an overview of the events at Congress on page 3.

Check out the story on page 1 about four Alabama compatriots elected to national office. The Alabama Society is part of the Southern District of the NSSAR. To learn more about the Southern District, read the story on page 3 by Vice President General James Maples – from Alabama.

Youth programs draw a lot of attention at Congress. Read about Alabama's Alyssa Ireland's participation in the NSSAR finals of the Americanism Poster Contest (*see story on page 6*). Also, Alabama's impressive Benjamin Simon, winner of the State's Rumbaugh Oration Contest, participated in the NSSAR finals (*see story on page 5*).

The *SAR Alabama* also has stories and photos about events and activities at several chapters. We encourage each chapter to share information about their chapter by emailing photos and stories to Tim Gayle, editor, *SAR Alabama*, timgayle-sar@gmail.com.

Dues cards for 2012 have been sent to each chapter and to ALSSAR treasurer Bobby Joe Seales for at-large members. So, you should have received your dues card by now. The deadline for chapter payment of state and national dues to the ALSSAR is Nov. 30. If you have not already paid your 2012 dues to your chapter, I encourage you to do so to avoid being "dropped" from membership.

The Committee for the ALSSAR 2012 convention has been working over the summer on arrangements. The convention will be Feb. 24-25 at the Marriott Hotel at 5 Tranquility Base in Huntsville. More information is available in this issue of *SAR Alabama*. The Registration form is on page 8 and information about placing advertisements and memorials in the convention booklet is on page 9.

In your service,

—C. David Billings

National

(Continued from Page 1)

General Jim Maples of the Tennessee Valley chapter, was installed at the same time as Cornwell and Wells. The installation is conducted at the formal evening banquet, the President General's banquet, held on the last evening of the Congress.

Maples had been nominated by the state at the ALSSAR spring Board of Managers meeting and was formally selected earlier by the presidents of the other states of the Southern District.

The states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee comprise the Southern District and the VPG is selected in rotation annually from among the states.

Wells has been chairman of the national and state Library Committees for many years and was unopposed for election. With his election, the national chairmanship passes to another individual. Cornwell was opposed by Paul Hayes of the D.C. Society. Candidates who are opposed must be nominated and seconded. Cornwell

was nominated by Bruce Pickette and seconded by Tim Ward of the Ohio Society.

Adding to the historical event, Pickette was earlier sworn in as the state's national trustee, giving the Alabama Society four national level officers.

Other major national officers elected were Larry Magerkruth (California Society) for President General, Steve Leishman (Delaware Society) for Secretary General and Joe Dooley (Virginia Society) for Treasurer General. Both Leishman and Dooley were opposed and, in a three-way race, Dooley was elected in a runoff with Joe Harris, the former executive director of the National Society. Dooley previously served three terms as Genealogist General.

Also elected at this Congress and installed at the President General's banquet was Leanne Cornwell as secretary of the National Ladies Auxiliary. Leanne founded the ALSAR Ladies Auxiliary and served two terms as its president.

—Bruce Pickette

Chapter

(Continued from Page 1)

members were present and there was more than enough interest it seemed in pursuing the charter of a new chapter. Several applications for new membership were initiated. Several more applications for re-instatement were also set in motion as a direct result of that first meeting.

Over the next few months, committees were formed for developing a constitution, by-laws, and collecting/establishing the items on the check-list for getting the Board of Managers to consider the granting of a charter to this new chapter.

All of efforts of the provisional chapter, with a lot of behind the scenes assistance by Ron Bearden, have resulted in a membership of 25 members, five junior members,

seven more applications already submitted to the National Society and 24 more known prospective applicants. This seems to be a significant number of people with a stated interest in this chapter. It is worthy of note that a typical turnout for the monthly meetings is greater than 20.

Anticipating BOM approval and honoring the culmination of the work done by this group of compatriots, the Shoals Area chapter has set Dec. 3 as the date of the charter banquet at the Elks Club in Florence, with a social hour beginning at 6 p.m. and a dinner buffet at 7 p.m. For advance reservations or additional information, contact Shoals Area secretary Gene Gooch by email at genetgooch@att.net.

—David Ellis

Vice-President General pushes recruiting by compatriots

Compatriots of the Alabama Society,

It was an honor to be chosen as your Vice-President General nominee for the Southern District (Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana), and it was truly an honor to have been elected at the National Congress to serve the Southern District for the year 2011-2012. The National Congress held on July 9-13 in historic Winston-Salem was an outstanding event for the national organization. The North Carolina Society is to be commended for their work in putting together a very memorable Congress. The Alabama Society was well represented with a full slate of 20 delegates.

The Southern District Breakfast is traditionally held on Tuesday morning at the National Congress. This year's event was well attended by compatriots from each of the four states in the Southern District. A representative from each of the Southern District states gave an update on their State Society. Vice-President C.W. Posey gave a report for the Alabama Society.

On Tuesday afternoon delegates made their selections for national officers for the



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

Jim Maples, left, listens to outgoing VP General Ray Clapsadle at Southern District breakfast.

coming year. Both candidates from Alabama, Mike Wells for Librarian General and Larry Cornwell for Genealogist General, were elected to these offices. The Alabama Society is very proud of these two outstanding compatriots!

Remember as we go into this new SAR year that the local chapters are the lifeblood of our organization. Recruit

new members and get them involved. Give them a reason for coming to meetings and recruiting their friends.

The Southern District is one of the strongest in the SAR with over 2800 members. Since the beginning of 2006, membership in the Southern District has increased over 75 percent with a yearly increase averaging 10.1 percent. However we must continue to recruit and involve new members if we want to maintain our position and grow even stronger. A goal of 3000 members for the Southern District is well within our grasp.

As a final note, I encourage each of our members to go to the national SAR website at www.sar.org and establish an account if you don't have one. Genealogist General Larry Cornwell has established a Genealogist General forum, which gives essential information related to the application process. Also, you can now register for national events and pay online. I registered for the Fall Leadership Meeting online and found it very easy to use. Our NSSAR webmaster is doing a great job with this site. Give it a try.

—Jim Maples

Full delegation represents ALSSAR at Congress

A full contingent of 20 delegates attended the 121st Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution in Winston-Salem, N.C. Some of the delegates had attended more than 20 congresses while others attended for the first time. Many state societies as well as several International Societies were represented.

Activities started on July 8 and continued through July 14. Meetings and seminars were held to educate those who hold offices and are members of committees about how to properly conduct the business of the society. Competition was held for many of the SAR youth programs. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were used to gather different factions of the delegation together for awards, business meetings and to socialize in different groups.

A luncheon held on July 11 focused on awards for the youth programs. These young people were very impressive and are great ambassadors for the programs of the SAR.

At the Tuesday night banquet programs were presented and recognition of those who served to organize the congress were recognized. The Wednesday night banquet was for the installation of officers. It was an opportunity to meet members from around the nation and the world who work tirelessly to promote the programs of the SAR. Many stories of the heritage of those present were discussed over dinner. Not so surprisingly, most of the stories had a lot in common no matter where the people now reside.

There were three primary sessions of congress over three days

to recognize those societies and chapters across the delegation who had worked to advance the SAR. The sessions were for conducting business as well.

A memorial service was held to honor the passing of some of our members during the past year. There were also other meetings for specific committees or special groups of delegates that were for the purpose of conducting business. Many of the groups had elections, adjustments to by-laws and pertinent subjects to discuss.

The Ladies Auxiliary met to discuss business and assemble "care packages." The state societies attending the congress brought selected items to be put in the boxes. The ladies did an outstanding job putting this together.

Your Alabama Society was well represented. Several other states that were in attendance asked how we were able to get a full delegation to the convention. We should be proud of this accomplishment. They also wanted to know how we had so many delegates because they did not know we had as many members as we have in the Alabama Society. This should be a great incentive to continue our growth.

The Alabama Society was recognized and given four awards. Three of our delegates were elected to general offices of the National Society. We congratulate all those who contributed to the awards and to those who were elected.

--C.W. Posey

In Memory...

Rev. David Underwood Bryant

The Cheaha chapter suffered a great loss recently with the passing of Rev. David Bryant. Bryant was a charter member of the chapter and the only chaplain the chapter has ever had. He had been in ill health for some time but still attended as many meetings as physically possible.

DAVID UNDERWOOD BRYANT departed this earthly life on Aug. 27, 2011. He was 89.

He was born May 18, 1922, on a farm near Ohatchee to James Martin and Mattie Whiteside Bryant. He graduated from Ohatchee High School in 1939 and farmed for two years until the government took the land for Pelham Range.

On March 4, 1941, the family moved to their present farm and continued farming until he served in the Army Air Force (1944-45). In 1948, David met Flora Hestley and they were married on April 4, 1949. They continued farming until 1952 when he answered the call to preach.

They moved to Clarke Junior College in Newton, Miss. and then back home where he graduated from Howard College in 1956. He served as bi-vocational pastor of several churches before moving to Indiana to attend Southern Baptist Seminary. In 1964, he moved back to his farm to serve churches and teach at Coal City and Pell City High School before retiring in 1985.

He was chaplain for the American Legion, Sons of Confederate Veterans and Sons of American Revolution and was frequently called for invocation by other meetings.

David is survived by his wife, Flora; daughters, Nancy Elizabeth Tomlin, Julia Vivian Nelson and Melanie Macon; sons, David Ross Bryant, Dr. Mark Allen Bryant and Vaughan Whiteside Bryant; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and sisters, Nannie Ruth Guthrie and Alma Jean Harrison.

Services were held Aug. 29 at Pell City First Baptist Church, with interment in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery.

Memorial service at Congress honors state compatriots

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon on July 10 when approximately 500 persons gathered to honor our 2010 fallen comrades at the historic First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Color Guard, which numbered more than 75 compatriots, led the procession in their colorful patriotic period uniforms. As the Color Guard entered the sanctuary, they proceeded to surround the sanctuary with the state flags as we sang the Processional Hymn "All Glory." The national colors were posted with all the honor they were due. We were welcomed by the host pastor, Rev. Dr. David Hughes. Rev. Dr. James C. Taylor gave a most fitting memorial to our fallen compatriots including the reading of the names of all who had died the previous year.

After readings from Psalm 91: 9-16 and 1st Corinthians 4: 8-13, we joined in singing "God of Grace and God of Glory." The Gospel reading from Matthew 26 was given by President General Henry N. McCarl. Our Chaplain General, Rev. Dr. A. Clark Wiser, gave a most worthwhile memorial message entitled "Dying for Us." His theme had to do with what we all know but do not seem to take to heart into our everyday lives is that we should remember our fallen compatriots who gave their all but now is for the living our lives in such a way to honor those who have gone before us and who will come after us. It is not all about the past; it is about the present and the future.

After the retiring of the colors in all its pageantry the service concluded with the singing of "God of Our Fathers."

—Marvin Vickers



—Photo by Marvin Vickers

Compatriots gather at the First Baptist Church to honor those who have died over the past year.

ALSSAR compatriots who were memorialized

Russell J. Alcott
Winston Cooper Bentley
Richard Lee Blanchard
John Frederick Charles
James Freddie Conner
William M. Fortenberry Sr.
James Edgar Foy V
Ralph Charles Hammond
Ernest S Hansberger Jr.

Escoe Bryan Henley
Austin Curtis Hooper
Jessie Royall Lewis
Tiernan Wilson Luck
Lawrence H. Moore
Donald Dee Overmyer
Alan G. Raffalovich
Ernest William Ritch

Billy Wayne Roberts
William Earl Rozier Jr.
Jimmie Lee Smith
Daniel Harris Turner
Henry William Tuttle
Reginald Vick
Walter G. Vornbrock Jr.
Horral Bowlby West Jr.

GWEF provides much-needed support for SAR

The George Washington Endowment Fund continues to grow and to provide financial support for unfunded and underfunded committee work and special projects.

At the 121st Congress it was announced that as of June 30, 2011 the endowment stood at \$1,241,219.38, and, based on last year's earning, approximately \$19,000 will be available for distribution this calendar year. (This amount represents 80 percent of earnings after management fees are paid.)

The corpus of the endowment can never be spent and will provide funds for the SAR well after each fellow is gone. The protection from possible invasion of the corpus is found in SAR By-Law 21.

As at all congresses, the GWEF did have a display table where potential members could learn more about the purpose of the fund and, if desired, commit to the program. One of the most common questions asked about the GWEF is how does it differ from the CAAH Building Program.

The simplest way to think of this is in terms of your church's financial operations. Almost all churches have a Building Fund (CAAH Program) along with an Operational Fund (GWEF) to cover day to day expenses. In the case of the CAAH this money is spent for our new building, while the GWEF is an endowment to provide interest income to support the SAR committee structure.

The winners of the GWEF awards were announced at the Monday night Recognition Program with the Howard F. Horne, Jr. \$500.00 prize going to the OKSSAR for the largest increase in new members based on membership while the \$120.00 Buck Meek award for the largest number of new fellows went to the TNSSAR which had a total of 11 new fellows. Winners for both awards are determined from April 1 to March 31 each year.

The GWEF Board is composed of seven members with three appointed annually by the President-General and four members elected by fellows to staggered four-year terms. This year at the GWEF-VPG luncheon, compatriot Thomas E. Jacks (LASSAR) was elected to the Board replacing Warren Alter (AZSSAR) who had completed his four-year term. The Vice-Chairman of the Board is selected by the elected four members and for the coming year compatriot Jim Garthwaite (PASSAR) will hold that position. The appointed members of the Board have yet to be announced.

Since April 1, 2011, the ALSSAR has had one new fellow, Compatriot G.W. Royer Jr., who received his pin at the Board of Managers meeting. For additional information on the endowment and how to become a fellow, please contact John R. Wallace (johnrx@centurytel.net).

The ALSSAR has won the Howard F. Horne, Jr. Award on three separate occasions but never qualified for the Buck Meek Award.

—John Wallace

GWEF Fellows in the ALSSAR

James K. Barksdale, Tuscaloosa
 Ronald Allen Bearden, Crossville
 Clarence David Billings, Huntsville
 George Blair, Birmingham
 Marion Bailey Brunson Sr., Elba
 Bruce A. Buehler, Deatsville
 R. Jefferson Coker, Munford
 Larry P. Cornwell, Montgomery
 Johnny L. Curry, Hueytown
 Philip C. Davis Sr., Montgomery
 Walter C. Dorsey, Opelika
 Fletcher R. Dunaway, Greenwood, Fla.
 Richard Erickson, Montgomery
 John Ray Fuller Jr., Enterprise
 James E. Gilmer, Elba
 Gaines Eugene Gravlee, Sumiton
 Nelson Gwinn, Dothan
 Ernest Hansberger Jr., Birmingham
 Dan Henry, Cullman
 Rod Hildreth, Fort Payne
 James J. Holt Jr., Scottsboro
 Charles S. Howell, Anniston
 Laura Nelle Clark Howell, Anniston
 Charles A. Isbell, Fort Payne
 John B. Isbell III, Fort Payne
 Stephen S. Jackman, Birmingham
 Kenneth B. Jaggars, Gadsden
 Wylie Pierson Johnson, Birmingham
 Marvin Henry Kelley, Gadsden
 John Alan Kelsoe, Enterprise
 Richard A. Kemp, Enterprise
 Billy Ray Land, Rainsville
 Hartwell Lane, Montgomery
 Price L. Legg, Lillian
 Thelma "Jean" Legg, Lillian
 Linda Alcott Maples, Huntsville
 James H. Maples, Huntsville
 Henry N. McCarl, Birmingham
 Robert B. Melton, Birmingham

Malon E. Murphy, Troy
 John Paul Myrick, Crane Hill
 Thornton L. Neathery, Tuscaloosa
 Robert Glenn Nivens, Harpersville
 J. Fred Olive III, Birmingham
 Ann S. Packard, Birmingham
 John Mallory Packard, Birmingham
 C. Bruce Pickette, Montgomery
 William C. Pittman Jr., Huntsville
 C.W. Posey Jr., Birmingham
 Richard D. Price, MD, Birmingham
 Clarence Rhea, Gadsden
 Robert H. Richey, Geraldine
 G.W. Royer Jr., Huntsville
 Bobby Joe Seales, Alabaster
 Hoyt O. Smith, Toney
 Andrew H. Spann, Elba
 Walter B. Stevenson Jr., Montgomery
 Oura L. Swart, Fort Payne
 Alfred W. Tate, Eatonton
 Bruce Harold Taylor, Enterprise
 Thomas Robert Thomas, Pelham
 Henry W. Tuttle, Madison
 Edmond Van Orden, Huntsville
 Viola L. Van Orden, Huntsville
 Roger Vaughan, Birmingham
 Reginald Vick, Tuscaloosa
 Marvin K. Vickers Jr., Enterprise
 Walter Perry Vickers, Enterprise
 John R. Walker, Birmingham
 John David Wallace, Enterprise
 John R. Wallace, Enterprise
 Mary Ann Wallace, Enterprise
 James Lee Wardlaw, Mobile
 Elizabeth C. Wells, Birmingham
 Michael C. Wells, Birmingham
 Benny West, Sylvania
 Dr. Benjamin B. Williams, Montgomery
 William Thomas Max Wilson, Rainsville

Orations winner competes at Congress

Montgomery's Benjamin Simon was the ALSSAR representative in the Rumbaugh oration contest at Congress. Simon gave a dramatic and stirring speech on the philosophical underpinnings of our founding fathers. Alabamians had great hopes that Simon would win, but that award went to Jackson Bloom of North Carolina.

The Rumbaugh oration contest is held each year at the National Congress. The Alabama Society will determine the 2012 winner at the Alabama Society Convention on Feb. 25 in Huntsville. Hopefully, each chapter will strive to present a contestant. All Alabamians interested in personal involvement in the Rumbaugh oration contest should contact State Society Rumbaugh Chair John H. Killian at johnhkillian@charter.net.



—Photo by Jim Maples

Simon with John Killian, left, and president Dave Billings.

State places 4th in Americanism poster contest

In February, the Alabama Society selected an outstanding first place Americanism poster winner, Alyssa Ireland, a student of Sumiton Christian School.

Alyssa's teacher, Canela Mauldin, organized the contest at her school and Ireland's poster was sponsored by the Birmingham chapter.

The topic for the Americanism School Poster Contest this year was "The Battle of Cowpens." The entrants for the contest were fourth and fifth grade students across Alabama studying American History.

Ireland's poster was subsequently submitted as an entry for the National Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest to be judged by the NSSAR Americanism Committee during the National Congress held at Winston-Salem, N.C.

Our entry placed fourth in national competition for the second consecutive year. The winning entry was sponsored by the South Carolina Society.

It is our sincere hope Alabama will stand tall in 2012 with a possible national poster winner!



—Photos courtesy of Walter Stevenson

Alabama's entry in the Americanism poster contest by Alyssa Ireland, left, placed fourth with the winner, right, submitted by South Carolina.

Please have your chapter join in the excitement and fun in 2011-2012 by submitting your Americanism Poster Selection for this coming year at the ALSSAR convention.

For the coming year, the Americanism Committee has, in addition to the fourth

and fifth grades, included students in the third grade who also will be eligible to enter. The selected topic will be "The Battle of Guilford's Courthouse" and the national winner will be selected at the 2012 National Congress in Phoenix, Ariz.

—Walter Stevenson

Congress deletes youth registrant membership

Several national bylaw changes and resolutions submitted by the states were considered at the National Congress in July.

The Congress voted to delete the Youth Registrant as a class of membership within the national society given the success of the newer Junior Member Registrant program which is currently in effect.

The Alabama Society only has a handful of Youth Registrants on the rolls and the various chapter secretaries have been notified that the ability of these individuals to transfer over to full membership at the age of 18 is still in effect.

An SAR bylaw provision to expand the duties of the Historian General to include Center for Advancing America's Heritage activities was tabled until the next Congress. While many were in agreement with this proposal, the decision to delay action was based on a desire to more carefully review an SAR general officer becoming involved in the activities of a separate entity, which in this case is the CAAH Foundation.

Several states, including Alabama, had submitted similar resolutions to reverse a previous action by the Executive Committee to allow that body to award a Gold Good Citizenship regardless of the actions of the Medals and Awards Committee.

While the Executive Committee had reversed its previous action, for the Congressional record, the Congress did approve the fact that both the Medals and Awards Committee and the Executive Committee must concur on the awarding of this

particular medal. Numerous resolutions had been submitted to the Congress concerning Bylaw 16 which addresses the makeup of the Board of Trustees. Much of the discussion was focused on the wording of the SAR Congressional Charter and the SAR Constitution. To help bring these into line, the Congress approved the following wording of Section 1, Bylaw 16:

The Board of Trustees shall be composed of the following:

(a) One member from each of the State Societies who is nominated by his State Society and then elected by the delegates and delegates at-large at the Annual Congress for a term of one year;

(b) Any General Officer who was just elected at the Annual Congress may be nominated at that Congress as a Trustee and may be elected to the Board of Trustees at that Annual Congress for a term of one year;

(c) All living former Presidents General, who are nominated by a State Society or nominated at the Congress, may be elected by the delegates to the annual Congress as a trustee for a term of one year;

(d) Any member of the Executive Committee, who is not included in a, b or c above, and who has been approved by the Board of Trustees, may be nominated as a trustee and may be elected as a trustee by the delegates at the annual Congress to the Board of Trustees for a term of one year.

In separate motions, General Officers and living former PGs were elected to the NSSAR Board of Trustees.



—Photos courtesy of Sam Gambrell

Black Warrior River compatriot Richard Rhone demonstrates the use of Revolutionary War weapons, above, while Walter Dockery’s flag display, below, was an eye-catching exhibit at Tuscaloosa’s July 4th celebration.

Black Warrior takes center stage on July 4th

Members of the Black Warrior River chapter set up a booth and exhibit for the first Fourth of July celebration at the new Tuscaloosa Amphitheater located on the banks of the Black Warrior River.

Included in the events during the celebration were a performance by the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra, a speech by Mayor Walter Maddox and a fireworks display over the river. Over 7000 people attended the celebration.

Walter Dockery’s flag collection was a popular exhibit, giving members a chance to explain the origin and history of the flags. Compatriot Richard Rhone wore a period uniform while speaking with visitors about the history and use of firearms used during the Revolutionary War.

This first Fourth of July celebration at the new amphitheater was considered to be an outstanding success and further celebrations are expected to be even better.

—Sam Gambrell



—Photo by Claire Murphy

Pioneer Museum earns flag certificate

On June 14, 2011 (Flag Day) in 100-degree weather, the Wiregrass chapter presented a flag certificate to the Pioneer Museum of Alabama located on Highway 167 just north of Troy in Pike County. Renea Bailey accepted the certificate on behalf of the museum from chapter flag certificate chairman Bill Biase. Ms. Bailey is flanked on the left by SAR member Bob McClendon who has an extensive military display at the site and Wiregrass chapter president Perry Vickers, far right.



Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Annual Convention Registration
February 24 - 25, 2012
Huntsville, Alabama

The Tennessee Valley Chapter invites all compatriots and their guests to the ALSSAR State Convention, February 24th - 25th at the Marriott located just off I565 near the Space and Rocket Center. 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/Southern District Breakfast will be held Saturday morning at 7:00 am. The ALSSAR Annual Business Meeting will follow at 9:00 am and the Orations Contest will be at 11:15 am.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a special rate of \$95.00 per night plus applicable taxes. If you are active or retired military or federal civil service, you can get a government rate of \$86.00 with proper identification. The reservation line for Marriott is 888-299-5174. You must ask for the ALSSAR Group to get the special rate. Hotel reservation deadline is **February 3, 2012**. 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 \$40 \$ _____

GUESTS: _____ x \$15 \$ _____

GEORGE WASHINGTON/SOUTHERN DISTRICT BREAKFAST:

7:00am Saturday _____ x \$25 \$ _____

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET:

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

7:00pm Saturday _____ x \$45 \$ _____

PLEASE ENTER THE NUMBER FOR EACH ENTRÉE SELECTION(s)

London Broil _____ Portabella Stuffed Chicken _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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

Robert Hammond
ALSSAR 2012 Convention
1111 Somerset Circle
Huntsville, AL 35803

Please 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 2012 Alabama Society, SAR State Convention, the Tennessee Valley Chapter is soliciting donations for memorials and honorariums that will be printed in the convention booklet.

The memorial to the right and below are samples from a previous convention booklet. The sizes and associated costs are as follows:

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

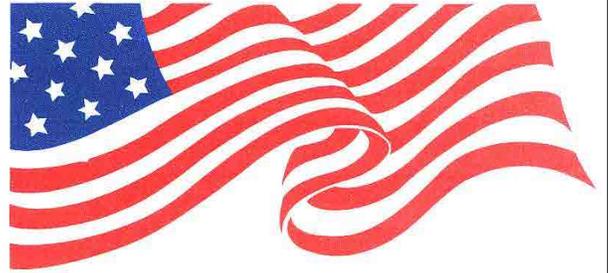
The information that you include in your memorial is up to you. You can honor you patriot ancestor, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, children, past chapter president, or anyone else that you choose. Please send camera ready copy if possible, or supply the information that you want included in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

For information on corporate sponsorships and commercial ads contact Brian House at: brian.house@ironmountainsolutions.com or 256-337-9444.

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

Jim Maples
2012 ALSSAR Convention
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801-2123

Deadline for donations is 1 February 2012



**In Memory
of
John Hillis
and
Burwell
Thompson**

**Patriot Ancestors
of
Larry Crabtree**

**HONORING OUR ANCESTORS WHO FOUGHT TO WIN
AND PROTECT THE FREEDOMS WE ENJOY:**

**James Bell
Capt. George Doherty
Augustine Hackworth
Isaac Horton
Josiah Leath
Aquilla Lowe, Sr.
Frederick Tillman**

Patriot Ancestors of

Hoyt O. Smith
Hoyt M. Smith
George A. Smith
James W. Smith
Michael Dean Smith
James Walter Smith, II
Douglas Storm Hill

**John Hardman
Henry Smith
Jonathan Smith
John Watkins**

Patriot Ancestors of

Christine Willingham Smith
Hoyt M. Smith
George A. Smith
James W. Smith
Michael Dean Smith
James Walter Smith, II
Douglas Storm Hill

ALABAMA SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

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New e-mail address for newsletter materials

If you're submitting material for the next newsletter, please take note of the new e-mail address (timgaylesar@gmail.com) or send information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events by Dec. 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.

Gen. Elmore chapter honors Civil Air Patrol instructors

The Gen. John A. Elmore chapter honored the instructor staff of the Cadet Officers School of the Civil Air Patrol at a formal banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Montgomery on July 18.

The banquet included the graduation ceremonies for the top 125 high school CAP cadets in the nation who had completed leadership courses at the COS school at Maxwell Air Force Base. Compatriots Al Booth and Michael Foster presented certificates of appreciation to 32 instructors from both the Air Force and the Civil Air Patrol for their outstanding contributions in training young cadets.

The banquet recognized the completion of this year's 10-day Cadet Officer School and was attended by the graduates, staff, faculty, family and honored guests.



—Photo courtesy of Tyrone Crowley

Maj. Gen. Amy Courter receives Silver Citizenship medal and certificate from Bill Stone, left, and Al Booth, third from left, as Michael Foster looks on.

Special guests included Major General Amy Courter, the CAP National Commander; USAF Brig. Gen. Roger H. Watkins, the Holms Center commander; Col. George H. Ross III, USAF Commander of Headquarters

CAP-USAF; and Don R. Rowland, executive director of the Civil Air Patrol. The directors of this year's school were Lt. Col Stephen Governale, USAF reserve, and Lt. Col Michael Foster, CAP.

Courter, the keynote speaker, was the first female officer elected to the position of national commander. Her address to the graduating cadets in Montgomery was one of praise and promise in the hopes of developing outstanding young leaders who will continue to serve our country.

Upon the conclusion of her address to cadets, Stone and Booth presented Courter with the SAR Silver Citizenship Award and framed certificate in gratitude for her direction and leadership in helping Alabama in 2011 by providing continued aerial support to the tornado-ravaged counties of Alabama and for the Civil Air Patrol's participation in 2010 in helping the southern states with oil slick cleanup during the recent BP oil disaster.

—Bill Stone