

SAR Alabama

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots,
Many positive events have occurred since the spring BOM meeting. I have had the unbelievable experience of spending time with some great people over the past few months and enjoyed the time we spent together. The SAR, DAR and CAR have afforded many great experiences and I enjoyed them all.

Several times during the Congress in Phoenix, the President General said his goal for the year was "to see the SAR like the SAR." There have been times when this was not true so it was a goal to mend the "broken relationships" and restore camaraderie to the Society.

We have not had this issue to deal with. The Alabama Society has always been able to settle our differences and value the thoughts of others. We have continued this tradition through the current year and are committed to continuing it well into the future.

I have been able to attend meetings and visit with other compatriots from Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky and across the nation as well as across Alabama. The hospitality has been overwhelming and it is a good to see everyone striving for the same goals. The commitment and willingness to work

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ALSSAR's Larry Cornwell receives Minuteman Award



Past ALSSAR president Larry Cornwell was honored with the Minuteman Award at the 2012 Congress in Phoenix, Ariz.

More than 400 compatriots and guests attended the 122nd Congress at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa in Phoenix on July 7-11.

Stephen A. Leishman was elected President General and two ALSSAR compatriots were elected to national offices with Larry Cornwell elected as Genealogist General and Michael Wells as Librarian General.

Other national officers included Secretary General Joseph W. Dooley of Virginia, Treasurer General Lindsey C. Brock of Florida, Chancellor General Thomas E. Lawrence of Texas, Registrar General J. Michael Tomme Sr., of Georgia, Historian General Robert Bowen of Virginia, Surgeon General Abraham Byrd of Arizona and Chaplain General Rev. Dr. Randy Moody of Florida.

Leishman appointed five compatriots to his executive committee, including past President General Larry Magerkurth and past ALSSAR president David Billings.

It was a big week for Cornwell, who was also selected to receive the SAR's most prestigious honor, the Minuteman Award, and won the Florence Kendall Award again for recruiting the most new members (74) into the SAR.

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Wiregrass event marks 225th anniversary of U.S. Constitution

On Sept. 17, despite pouring rain, approximately 70 individuals representing five SAR chapters and six DAR chapters, along with guests, attended the annual Wiregrass chapter SAR-DAR Constitutional Week Awards Luncheon to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

This represented the 12th year that the Wiregrass chapter has teamed up with the DAR's John Coffee

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—Photo by Jill Taylor

John Taylor with Wiregrass president Marvin Vickers.

Message

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to advance the goals of the Society have made us one of the strongest Societies in the nation and we have been recognized for this effort. We have been able to share some thoughts about how to better communicate with each other and support our common cause. The Alabama Society had the most representatives at Congress and at the recent Leadership Conference.

Our Fall Board of Managers was held in Montgomery and was well attended. We discussed presentations which will be topics for the state convention in Birmingham in February. Several decisions must be concluded during the BOM meeting at the convention so your presence will be vitally important. Plans for the convention will be announced soon.

The latest Web site format was presented at the BOM meeting. Several changes and improvements have been made and the overall site is very professionally presented following the lead of the NSSAR Web site. A workshop will be available Friday afternoon at the beginning of the state convention. Watch the Web site for the announcement of this workshop as well as the Registrar Workshop that will be presented the same afternoon.

One of the most successful programs was brought to conclusion at the BOM meeting. Compatriots Bill Stone and Walter Stevenson were responsible for the production of the ALSSAR Member Medal and organizing a program that far exceeded anyone's expectations. The program was concluded by distributing the medals to each chapter for the ones who had ordered medals for themselves and family members and checks were given to the chapters for their participation in the program at the. There is no way to properly thank these two compatriots for their hard work and diligence in making this program a huge success.

Out of these great times visiting with some wonderful people, I had the opportunity to attend several special events with the Children of the American Revolution. These children are committed to remembering the history of our families and even though some of them are very young they participated in the activities. There was a two-year-old boy who held the flag while a four-year-old girl led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. It was great to be there to witness this event. I hope all of you have the opportunity to visit a CAR chapter to show your support for what they do.

The program that I present at chapter meetings is about how the American Revolutionary soldiers actually became a soldier and how they lived and fought during the war. It was hard to be a soldier and persevere against such great odds. They were not soldiers but instead were people much like you and me trying to make a living to support their families who took up arms to defend what they believed in and establish freedom for all of us.

If we have the commitment and fortitude that our forefathers had we will strive to keep their memory alive through education. The pledge I made on each of my visits was to continue presenting a central theme to our members about what they can do to continue educating their compatriots and families throughout 2012 and into 2013. The central theme is:

"Honor our Forefathers who Gave us our Freedom and Teach our Children the Values and Cost of Freedom."

Congratulations to our new compatriots who have recently been inducted into our Society. We look forward to your continued efforts to preserve the heritage you enjoy and hope you will be an active member of your chapter.

I look forward to seeing you at many more events throughout the year. Keep a close eye on the Web site for announcements about upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,

—C. W. Posey Jr.

Report of the National Trustee

July 11, 2012 – October 3, 2012

2012-13 Trustees Meeting. The National Society Trustees and Alternate Trustees for 2012-13 were elected and inducted on July 11 at the 122nd Annual Congress in Phoenix, Ariz. After the adjournment of the business session of the Congress, the Trustees met in separate session. The Trustees confirmed the appointment of Executive Committee members as identified by President General-Elect Stephen A. Leishman (DE). Those members were PG Larry Magerkurth (CA), John Dodd (CA), Sam Powell (NC), David Billings (AL) and Davis Wright (DE).

Center for Advancing America's Heritage. At the opening session of Congress on July 9, President General Magerkurth recognized Executive Committee member Sam Powell and wife Karen. They announced their personal challenge matching gift of \$1.5 million to the CAAH.

National Headquarters Building Phase II. Secretary General Stephen Leishman gave his report which included a presentation by PG McClanahan, TG Dooley (VA), and Compatriot Randy Ellis (TX) about the development of Phase II of the National Headquarters Building. The objective of this phase is to make the building habitable and functional. All personnel now at headquarters will be accommodated. The \$3.5 million to complete this phase will be available over the 15-month construction period. Operational costs of the Society are fully covered over the next 3-5 year period with no dues or fee increases. The Congress, by unanimous vote, authorized the Executive Committee to contract for implementation of Phase II.

Chancellor General's Report Impacting State Societies and Chapters. In addition to his written report, Chancellor General Tom Lawrence (TX) discussed (1) the implications of Non-Profit Compliance Policies: the Code of Business Ethics and Conduct, Conflict of Interest/Code of Organizational Conduct, Conflict of Interest Statement, Records Retention and Destruction, Whistleblower, and the Chief Compliance Officer to ensure compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Those items are in the Handbook, Volume II. (2) He rendered the opinion that State Societies and Chapters are obligated to follow these policies under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. (3) He discussed the activities of the SAR regarding endorsement of politicians as they relate to the IRS Regulations. (4) He discussed that archived membership applications of State Societies and/or chapters cannot be published on the web as we have an agreement with Ancestry.com for their exclusive rights.

—David Billings

Congress

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Cornwell, of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, is the first-line signer for 360 new compatriots and has received the Kendall Award five times. In addition to his role as Genealogist General and his service as past national trustee and alternate trustee for the ALSSAR, he has served on the NSSAR’s Veterans Committee for seven years; the Genealogy Committee for six years; the Membership and Color Guard committees for five years each; and the Central for Advancing America’s Heritage Advisory Committee for three years.

The past ALSSAR president has also been a member of the SAR Census and DAR Liaison committees, has served as chairman of the Task Force for Recruitment of Notable Members, Patriots of the NSSAR and the Application Backlog Committee. He is a George Washington Fellow and a contributor to the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage.

A total of 370 compatriots have received the Minuteman Award since its inception in 1951. A maximum of six compatriots can be awarded the Minuteman each year at Congress.

The Alabama Society received several national awards at the 122nd Congress. It was among 22 state societies receiving the CAR Activity Award and Streamer for its work with the Children of the American Revolution; was among 19 societies receiving the Officers Streamers Award for its president and national trustees’ attendance at trustees meetings and Congress over the past year; and was among 14 societies to receive the Furlong Memorial Award and Streamer for its number of flag certificate presentations made over the past year.

The ALSSAR was also recognized by the SAR Americanism Committee with the Liberty Bell Americanism award and the President General’s Streamer for its best outreach programs supporting SAR programs. The Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter received a similar President General’s Streamer at the chapter level.

Other awards received by the ALSSAR included a runner-up recognition to the *SAR Alabama* for the Paul M. Neibell Award to the state society of 100 or more members with the best news publication; a second-place recognition for the Len Young Smith



—Photo courtesy of C.W. Posey

At fall BOM meeting, ALSSAR president C.W. Posey, left, presents Walter Stevenson with activities award the SAR won at Congress in July.

Award to the state society that enrolled the largest number of new members younger than 40; third-place recognition for the Genealogist General’s Award, presented to the three societies with the lowest percentage of pended applications for the year; and first place for state societies with fewer than 1,000 members for the President General’s State Society and Chapter Activities Competition Award.

Alabama’s entrant in the Rumbaugh Orations Contest, Rachel Thompson of Fort Payne (sponsored by the Little River chapter) placed third in the national contest behind Phillip P. Cozzi of Illinois and Rebecca Kneebone of Maryland. The NSSAR is attempting to increase the current endowment of \$238,000 and the distribution of funds to contestants (\$11,000), maintaining that it needs an endowment of \$1 million and distribution of funds of \$30,000 annually to remain competitive with other service organizations.

—Photo courtesy of George Royer

Tennessee Valley participates in Cemetery Stroll

Tennessee Valley chapter compatriot Ken Carpenter does his part to help the city of Huntsville in its annual Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll on Oct. 14. The annual event draws volunteers who dress up as famous (and infamous) figures from Huntsville’s past who share the city’s history. Carpenter portrayed Lt. Albert Russel, who served in the 12th Virginia Regiment on the Continental Line during the Revolutionary War. Lt. Russel would later settle in Huntsville, in 1816, and was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati.



In Memory...

The Alabama Society recently lost two World War II veterans in August who were longtime compatriots of their respective chapters.

BILLY THOMAS GAMBLE of Hoover and a member of the Birmingham chapter, passed away on Aug. 24. He was 88.

Gamble, a native of Blount County and a 1941 graduate of Blount County High, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in December, 1941.

He served 22 years of honorable service to his country, primarily on submarines, and attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

Following his military retirement in 1963, he returned to Birmingham and was employed at Samford University. While at Samford he earned a B.S. in Business Administration, followed by a Masters Degree in Vocational Education and a Masters In Business Administration from UAB. He served as superintendent of Samford's physical plant for 10 years and then became an educator in the School of Business for the duration of his career, retiring in 1987.

Gamble was preceded in death by his

parents, Cyrus Grady and Mary Jane Brown Gamble, and his brother Wilburn Gamble. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Stella Ingram Gamble; daughter Susan Gamble Tucker; son David Gamble; nine grandchildren, Drew Lacy, Peter Lacy, Kelly G. Favata, Karen G. Allen, Will Gamble, Donna T. Porter, Amy T. Looney, Julia Starr and Carrie Starr Martin; and 16 great-grandchildren.

He is survived by sister Myrtle Mize and brothers Delbert and Phil Gamble.

Gamble was a faithful member of St. Mark United Methodist Church in Vestavia Hills, where he was a Sunday School teacher for more than 20 years. In addition to his devotion to the Birmingham chapter, he was a member of the Alabama Genealogical Society and the Samford Retired Faculty.

Services were held Aug. 27 at Currie-Jefferson Funeral Home with Rev. Steve West and Rev. Don Cross officiating. Interment was at Alabama National Cemetery.

HERMAN B. GORMAN, a member of the Gen. Galvez chapter who was honored this past summer for his service in World War II, passed away on Aug. 9. He

was 86.

Gordon was one of five Gen. Galvez chapter members awarded the SAR War Service Medal for their service in World War II at the chapter's July meeting. Gordon was not able to attend the meeting because of health problems but was presented with the medal at a later date by fellow Galvez chapter compatriot and brother in law Bub McDonald.

Gorman was a longtime member of Creekwood Church of Christ and a recent member of Spanish Fort Church of Christ.

He was a sergeant, rifle specialist and mortar crewman in the U.S. Marine Corp, 5th Regiment, where he served at Iwo Jima. He was also a seaman in the Naval Reserves and a corporal in the Army.

His hobbies included fishing, gardening and wood working.

Gordon was preceded in death by his wife Vivian; son Patrick; two sisters and one brother. He is survived by his children Beth Watson and A.B. Gordon, sister Laurine and grandchildren Michal LaFave, Meg Watson, Heather Kinder and Andrew Gordon.

Services were held at Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home on Aug. 14.



—Photo courtesy of John Wallace

Compatriots support Tennessee events

On Sept. 14, compatriot John Wallace, left, presented the Wiregrass chapter wreath at the grave dedication of Capt. Christopher Taylor in Jonesborough, Tenn. Tennessee Valley compatriot Bob Doherty also attended. The next day both Doherty and Wallace represented the ALSSAR at the 232rd Gathering at Sycamore Shoals where the Over the Mountain Men gathered prior to marching to victory at Kings Mountain. Taylor, who had been honored the previous day, was a member of this group of patriots along with one of Wallace's ancestors, Jonathan Tipton. Many historians consider the victory at Kings Mountain a major turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Cahaba-Coosa recognizes tornado relief workers

In May 2011, the *Shelby County Reporter* printed an article on David Michael Seales concerning his dedication as a paramedic during the April 2011 storm with his work for Regional Paramedical Services (RPS). The article read, in part:

“On Tuesday, April 26, Seales left his home in Alabaster to report for duty in Jasper. Tuesday was regular but by 2:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, the action had begun. No power, spotty cell service, buildings collapsed, people around Jasper, Parrish and Aldridge pinned under debris. With phone service in and out, Mike made a 12-year veteran’s decision — follow the line of destruction and help whomever, wherever and however, from doing triage to moving trees from the road. By 2:30 p.m., he was back to Alabaster, changed clothes and then ran nonstop from St. Clair to Shoal Creek and surrounding areas. That was 48 hours of nonstop duty.

“When asked how he could do this, he answered, ‘You have to have a certain mindset and know for all you can’t help, there are more you can help.’”

From this article, the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter saw the work, dedication and sacrifice that Seales gave to help these people in distress. Mike Seales is a charter member of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter that was formed in 2003 in Shelby County. On Aug. 19, 2012, he was honored by the chapter with the Emergency Medical Services Award and presented a medal and certificate by Cahaba-Coosa chapter president Rick Booth.

“It is very rare that anyone that works in the health care field gets any type of recognition or thanks,” Seales said. “I am very honored to receive this award.”

Seales is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Joe Seales of Alabaster.



—Photo courtesy of Bobby Joe Seales

Mike Seales, left, receives award from Cahaba-Coosa president Rick Booth at August meeting.

Bobby Joe is the current ALSAR treasurer and served as the first president of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter with dual membership in the Birmingham chapter.



—Photos courtesy of John Thomas

Honoring tornado relief workers

At its July meeting, the Cahaba-Coosa chapter honored relief workers who helped in the April 2011 tornado as awards chairman John Thomas presented certificates of appreciation to Matthew Roberts, top left, Mark Hyde, left, and Jeff Browning, above left, and bronze medals and certificates to Michael Wilder, above right, Gwen Wilder, top right, and Heather Goolsby Roberts, right.



Tennessee Valley marks grave of Valley Forge patriot

The Tennessee Valley chapter color guard participated in a grave marking ceremony near Hazel Green in Madison County on Oct. 7. The ceremony, sponsored by the Alabama Brigade of the Society of Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, honored patriot John Amonnet, who served as a private with the 10th Virginia Regiment at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78.

Dr. Marion Lane, Commander in Chief of the Society of Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, attended the ceremony and participated in the dedication of the grave marker. TNSSAR President Charles Dammann also attended the grave marking and brought greetings from the Tennessee Society.

Following the ceremony a reception was held in Huntsville at the home of ALSSAR past president Dr. David Billings and his wife Nancy, who is also a member of the Society of Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge.



—Photo courtesy of George Royer

DVF Commander in Chief Dr. Marion Lane is joined by Tennessee Valley Color Guard members, from left: Bob Baccus, Ken Carpenter, Jim Maples, Bob Anderson, Otha "Skeet" Vaughn and Harrell Phillips.

Tennessee Valley teams up with Tennessee chapter in ceremony



—Photo courtesy of George Royer

TNSSAR president Charles Dammann, left, joins forces with Tennessee Valley color guard members Bob Anderson, second from left; Storm Hill, fourth from left; Hoyt Smith, sixth from left; Jim Maples, fourth from right; James Smith, second from right; and Bob Baccus, far right.

The Tennessee Valley chapter held a joint grave-marking ceremony with the Joseph Greer chapter (TNSSAR) on Oct. 28 at the Elliot Cemetery near Ardmore in Giles County, Tenn., to mark the grave of patriot Thomas Holland, who served as a private with the South Carolina Militia during the Revolutionary War and is an ancestor of Tennessee Valley compatriot Jim King.

TNSSAR president Charles Dammann attended and brought greetings from the Tennessee Society. Six members of the Tennessee Valley chapter Color Guard teamed up with members of the Tennessee Society State Color Guard in the presentation of colors.

Tennessee Valley chapter president George Royer and Joseph Greer chapter president Mark Russell both delivered remarks dedicating the grave marker.



—Photo courtesy of Carl Thornton II

ALSSAR president C.W. Posey presents Koonce with Martha Washington Award as Sons of Liberty president Carl Thornton looks on.

Sons of Liberty makes special presentation

ALSSAR president C.W. Posey Jr., and the Sons of Liberty chapter presented Kawatha “Kay” Chandler Koonce, regent of the DAR’s Daring Dicey chapter in Vernon, with the Martha Washington Award and medal at a special meeting on Aug. 5 in the Lamar County Department of Public Health community room.

Koonce received the award in recognition of her outstanding service to the SAR. She has been instrumental in rec-

ommending speakers and programs for the chapter at monthly meetings and was of great help in organizing the SAR chapter by helping individuals do the necessary research to prepare their application papers for membership.

“If it were not for Kay’s help there would not be a chapter of the SAR in Vernon,” observed Sons of Liberty com-patriot Bill Mixon.

—Carl Thornton

Wiregrass

(Continued from Page 1)

chapter to sponsor the event honoring Constitution Week. Circuit Court Judge Jeff Kelly was the guest speaker while John Taylor, Vice-President General of the Southern District, brought greetings from NSSAR President General Steve Leishman. Colors were presented by five color guard members representing both the Alabama and Florida SAR societies.

One of the goals of this annual event is to recognize the contributions of members of the local community.

The SAR Law Enforcement commendation medal was presented to Judge Kelly for his years of faithful service on the local circuit court bench which includes both Coffee and Pike counties.

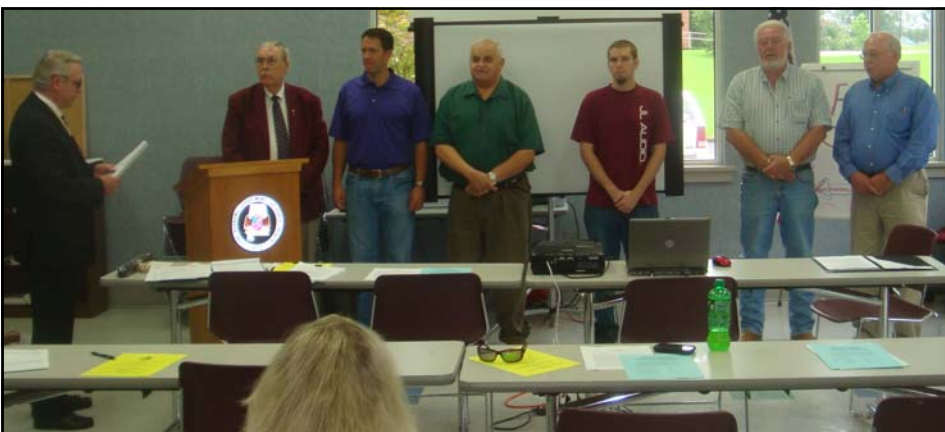
Also honored in the ceremony were two EMS technicians of the Enterprise Rescue Squad, Joseph McCullough and Todd Phillips, who received the Emergency Medical Services award.

While on a return from Dothan back to Enterprise, they were stopped at a traffic light in Daleville and noted the driver of the car next to the ambulance was in distress. The driver had suffered a heart attack and through their prompt action of providing immediate on-site care and transporting him back to Dothan, these gentlemen saved his life. The patient walked out of the hospital within five days!

Mrs. Mitzi Gaye Hines, regent of the John Coffee chapter, was recognized with an SAR appreciation medal while Mary Ann Wallace received the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to her Bronze Good Citizenship medal and Elizabeth Vickers received a certificate of appreciation.

Like all chapters, without the support of our ladies, the Wiregrass chapter could never continue its work to keep alive the principals of our patriot ancestors.

--John Wallace



—Photo courtesy of Carl Thornton II

Sons of Liberty chapter elects officers for 2012-13

ALSSAR president C.W. Posey Jr. installs new officers, from left: president Carl Thornton, vice president Samuel Andrew Johnson, treasurer Williams Pierce Mixon, secretary Carl Thornton II, registrar Ray Chandler and chaplain Eddie Posey at the Aug. 5 meeting.

SAR helps with genealogy workshop in Birmingham

The Sons of the American Revolution was well represented at the annual meeting of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) conference held in Birmingham on Aug. 29-Sept. 1.

Members of the Alabama Society set up and staffed a booth in the exhibitor hall with membership information as well as SAR Genealogical Research Library materials for the event, which drew more than 1,000 interested participants from all walks of life.

More than 60 membership application sets were handed out at the booth to prospective members.

A raffle for a handheld scanner was also sponsored by the SAR. In addition to the exhibitor table, the ALSSAR Color Guard posted the colors at the first keynote session on Aug. 30.

One of the keynote speakers at the event was Elizabeth

Wells, the special collections librarian and archivist at Samford University. Wells is the wife of former ALSSAR president and current Librarian General Mike Wells.

NSSAR assistant librarian and archivist Rae Ann Sauer attended the conference on behalf of the SAR Genealogical Research Library. Sauer attended Librarian's Day on Aug. 29.

Librarian's Day is an event sponsored by ProQuest that offers librarians an opportunity to learn about advances in the field, especially as it relates to genealogy.

Sauer discovered new products displayed at the conference related to the field of genealogy. Her attendance at several genealogy seminars will enhance her ability to better assist library patrons in their genealogical research.

The FGS Conference is just one of many outreach initiatives that the SAR participates in throughout the country.



—Photo courtesy of John Wallace

Chaplain spreads the SAR gospel

On Sept. 11, Wiregrass chapter chaplain Perry Vickers presented a program on the "History of Arlington Cemetery" to the S.T.A.R.S. (Still Thoroughly Active Retired Servants) monthly luncheon group of the First United Methodist Church in Enterprise. His remarks were very well received, again demonstrating that there are many different venues where SAR members can have an opportunity to speak about our history.

—Photo courtesy of Sam Gambrell

Black Warrior River awards flag certificates to Tuscaloosa groups

Continuing a program started last year, the Black Warrior River chapter recently awarded six flag certificates to organizations in Tuscaloosa. Compatriots Walter Dockery, left, and Sam Gambrell, right, present a certificate to William H. Cassels, executive vice president of DCH Regional Medical Center. Other organizations presented certificates were Alabama Credit Union, Randall Reilly Publishing, Taylorville Baptist Church, Valley View Baptist Church and Wells Fargo Insurance Services.



**ALABAMA SOCIETY, SONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

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Please submit your chapter's news and events

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.

State compatriots attend Kings Mountain ceremony

On Oct. 7, five ALSSAR compatriots participated in the wreath laying ceremony commemorating the 232nd anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

The event is hosted by the SAR's North Carolina Society and includes participants from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Children of the American Revolution and other heritage organizations.

ALSSAR members at the ceremony included NSSAR Genealogist General Larry Cornwell, NSSAR Librarian General Michael Wells, Richard Wells, Walter Stevenson, and Bruce Pickette.

ALSSAR genealogist Walter Stevenson of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter presented the ALSSAR wreath on behalf of the state. Cornwell, Richard Wells and Pickette also participated as members of the SAR Color Guard.

—Bruce Pickette



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

Walter Stevenson, left, presents the ALSSAR wreath at Kings Mountain. Richard Wells is holding the Alabama state flag for the ceremony.