



# SAR Alabama



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If I have visited your chapter recently you have heard me call for all members to tell your SAR story. I asked you to tell your SAR story as the first step in recruiting a new member. Why did you join SAR?

We all joined the SAR to honor and preserve the achievements of our patriotic ancestors but each of us has our own story of why we joined. Please join me in our recruitment efforts this year by sharing your SAR story with prospective members.

You are the most important component of SAR. Without you SAR does not exist. Therefore, we have started the process of creating a member survey.

As a member-led, member-driven organization, the Alabama SAR needs constant input from you regarding who and what we are, as well as how well we are serving your interests and needs.

The questionnaire will include questions about the Alabama SAR and questions about your chapter.

We also want to hear from you about how satisfied you are with current Alabama SAR and chapter programs and activities and your suggestions for future programs and activities.

Please respond as soon as you receive this survey and help us make an already vital and exciting organization even better.

We must have a current email address for you to participate in this survey. If you have changed email addresses, let your chapter secretary know so he can update your contact information.

—Fred Olive

## ALSSAR past president Stone receives Distinguished Service Medal at Congress

The President General's banquet held special meaning for the Alabama Society at the Boston Congress on July 12.

The event was highlighted with several special awards presented by PG Tom Lawrence to various compatriots for their distinguished service to the NSSAR.

These awards ranged from certificates of distinguished service to SAR National Roger Sherman and Meritorious Medals being handed out to deserving recipients. However, the evening banquet culminated with the special presentation of two SAR national Distinguished Service medals.



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Buehler

**NSSAR President General Tom Lawrence, right, presents award to ALSSAR compatriot Bill Stone.**

See STONE, Page 2

## Compatriot wins BSA's Silver Buffalo Award



COBERLY

Tennessee Valley chapter compatriot Daniel L. Coberly was honored in May for his lifetime of work with the Boy Scouts of America when he was presented the Silver Buffalo Award.

Created in 1925, the Silver Buffalo Award is the highest national-level distinguished service commendation of the Boy Scouts of America. It is presented for noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth on a national basis, either as part of, or independent of, the

Scouting program. Coberly was presented the award on May 27 at the BSA national meeting in San Diego by former Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert Gates, president of the Boy Scouts of America.

Coberly's exceptional national and international level adult service of more than 45 years brought critical acclaim. A Distinguished Eagle Scout and International Scouting Ambassador, he was

See COBERLY, Page 9

### Inside this issue:

SAR announces fund for digitization project	2
Chapters need to consider buying insurance	4
State well represented on NSSAR committees	6-7

# SAR announces fund for digitization project

The SAR Foundation has established a new restricted fund to benefit the SAR's digitization project. Donations are being sought from individual members as well as chapters, state and district societies.

Foundation Board president Dr. Samuel C. Powell announced the establishment of the fund at the recent annual conference of the Atlantic Middle States Association in Albany, N.Y. In response, members overwhelmingly approved a pledge goal of up to \$10,000 from the states represented by the Atlantic Middle States Association, which includes the Mid-Atlantic SAR district and the North-Atlantic SAR district.

Digitization of records is a major initiative of the National Society. With over 2.2 million paper records, it has become apparent that electronic copies complete with indexing are a must for our society. Done properly, digitization and indexing of our applications and proof documents could allow for the creation of a functional Genealogical Research System (GRS).

Digitization would also provide an electronic backup system for our paper documents. The National Society Trustees approved the digitization project as a top priority for funding at

the spring 2016 leadership meeting. The GRS Fund's initial fundraising goal has been set at \$100,000.

Multiple proposals that will define how genealogical records will be digitized, indexed and made available to members and prospective members are being received by the SAR trustees.

A final negotiated contract will be presented to the trustees for approval at a future meeting. In the meantime, the Foundation felt it prudent to open an avenue for giving to support this worthwhile project.

Individual members, societies and chapters that support the GRS project are encouraged to make pledges and donations to help achieve the initial goal of \$100,000. To discuss a pledge for the GRS fund, please contact the SAR Foundation at (502) 315-1777.

To make a donation restricted to the GRS fund, please make checks payable to SAR Foundation, Inc. and designate its purpose.

Checks should be mailed to SAR Foundation, Inc., 809 West Main Street, Louisville, Ky. 40202-2619.

Thank you for your support!

—Samuel C. Powell, president, SAR Foundation, Inc.

## Stone

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The National Distinguished Service Medal recipients are chosen by the outgoing President General and approved by the Executive Committee. Only one or two compatriots each year are selected from the entire membership of the NSSAR to receive this special award for long and outstanding national service to the SAR.

The first medal for distinguished service was presented to compatriot Bill Marrs of the Texas Society, in absentia, for his outstanding and dedicated work over the years in the development of our IT national computer programs and new national web site. The second medal for distinguished service was presented to our own current Alabama Society trustee and former ALSSAR president, Bill Stone, for his outstanding work as a two-year member of the national executive committee, committee chairman over the SAR national library and project manager of the Solid Light Museum project. Stone received a standing

ovation from banquet delegates and attendees upon receiving his certificate and medal.

"The national medal presentations represent achievement awards for all of us personally receiving them," Stone said, "but they also are a reflection of our values and service as a prominent patriotic state society participating and achieving positive results at the national level of the Sons of the American Revolution."

Earlier in the day, ALSSAR compatriots Bruce Pickette and Dr. David Billings received the national Roger Sherman Medal for their outstanding work at the national level over the last several years. The Gold Roger Sherman Medal is presented for outstanding service at the national or committee level of the SAR.

Several members of the Alabama Society also received national Liberty Medals for membership application recognition of 10 new members within the NSSAR.

—Bruce Buehler

## Compatriots, chapters should update contact information

Dues are DUE. You probably have received your dues card from your chapter recently. Please return these as soon as possible.

Members! Update your contact information. It is your responsibility to send changes in your contact information to your chapter secretary. He will then send these changes to the state secretary. Without your help you will not hear about chapter and state news and announcements. Please update your email address today!

Chapter officers! Update your officer contact information as soon as you install new officers. It is your responsibility to send changes to our state secretary, Edmon McKinley, at [edmonhmckinley@bellsouth.net](mailto:edmonhmckinley@bellsouth.net)



—Photo courtesy of Fred Olive

### *ALSSAR delegation at 2016 Congress*

*Alabama Society compatriots and wives that attended the annual Congress in Boston include, front row from left: Left to right on front row: Liz Wells, Wanda White, Nathan White, Mary McCarl, Hank McCarl, Fred Olive, Beverly Thornton, Hal Thornton and Linda Maples. Back row, from left: Michael Wells, Don Roberson, Bill Stone, Larry Crabtree, Susan Crabtree, Nancy Billings, David Billings, Shawn Thornton, Rita Pickette, Bruce Pickette and Jim Maples.*

## ALSSAR brings home awards from Congress

The 126th SAR Congress met in Boston this July. The Alabama delegates and their ladies had a wonderful time and missed each of you who were unable to attend. The Alabama Society was well represented at the Boston Congress.

Our Vice-President General of the Southern District, Michael Wells of the Alabama Society, hosted the Southern District Breakfast attended by delegates from Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi state societies.

Compatriot C. Bruce Pickette was reelected Librarian General. Compatriots Bill Stone, project manager of the SAR Museum, and Bruce Buehler, chairman of the strategic planning committee, were also chosen by the President General as members of the executive committee.

Alabama Society members were also awarded national medals for their service to the national society. Compatriots Bruce Pickette and David Billings each received the National Roger Sherman Medal and the National Distinguished Service Medal for the SAR was awarded to former Alabama Society president Bill Stone. A few of our state members were also awarded the Liberty Medal for being first line signers for 10 or more society memberships.

Among those earning Liberty Medals were William B. Bacus, Marcus B Byers Jr., Larry Cornwell, Shelly F. Mitchell

Jr., Harry D. Sessamen and John Wallace.

Awards won by the Alabama Society include:

- SAR Youth Award Streamer — presented to those societies that entered a contestant in at least four of the youth contests.
- CAR Activity Award and Streamer — for state societies who played an active role with the CAR.
- Franklin Flyer Award — presented to state societies with the largest recruitment of Friends of the Library as a percentage increase compared to their state society membership.
- Americanism Poster Contest Participation Streamer
- Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest Participation Streamer
- ROTC/JROTC Contest Participation Streamer
- George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest Participation Streamer
- Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Scholarship competition Participation Streamer
- Admiral William Furlong Memorial Award and Streamer — for state societies that have fulfilled qualifications of awarding flag certificates. The Alabama Society was one of nine state societies that were given “special recognition” because the ALSSAR had 100 percent involvement of its chapters in presenting flag certificates.

# In Memory...

## Colonel Mason Durden

**COLONEL MASON DURDEN**, a member of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, passed away on Aug. 3. He was 79.

In addition to his membership in the SAR, Durden also was a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' Cradle of the Confeder-

acy (Camp 692) but had attended meetings less frequently in recent years.

Colonel is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Shirley Glenn Durden; daughter, Barbara Durden Jones; daughter-in-law, Ginger Durden Coker; four grand-

children and one great grandson.

A member of Eastern Hills Baptist Church, he was a member of Masonic Lodge 886, Air Force 1.

Services were held Aug. 6 at Eastern Hills Baptist Church. Burial followed at Alabama Heritage Cemetery.

## Important information for chapters regarding insurance

*Note: The ALSSAR's Risk Management Committee has noted the need for insurance coverage to protect both the state society and its chapters from legal issues. Those issues are addressed in the following report assembled by ALSSAR senior vice president Hal Thornton.*

### ARE THE STATE SOCIETIES AND CHAPTERS VULNERABLE TO A LAWSUIT?

In an *International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law* article, dated March 2002, it was concluded, "that not-for-profit organizations, at one time immune from any liability, are now held liable for wrongdoings of their volunteers, employees, directors and officers. In addition, the exposure to other types of liability is now higher than ever and many not-for-profit organizations are looking for new alternatives to compensate for or insure against the potential losses that will come."

### WHERE'S THE EXPOSURE?

State Societies and Chapters are exposed through: Youth Programs; Social Activities; Color Guard Activities; Patriotic Functions; Fund Raising Activities; School Demonstrations; Serving of Food; Awards Presentations and almost any other function involving the public.

### TYPES OF INSURANCE NEEDED

Two primary types of insurance coverage necessary are:

Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance policy provides coverage for companies and individuals. CGL is a typical all-risk insurance policy that usually covers bodily injury or property damage caused by the insured to a third party, including bodily injury or property damage arising in connection with losses caused by the insured's operations.

Directors' and officers' (D&O) Liability Insurance policies

provide coverage for costs and expenses that board members, trustees, officers, employees, and volunteers may incur as a result of claims brought in connection with their service to the organization, as well as for expenses that the organization may incur to indemnify these individuals against such claims.

### HOW MUCH INSURANCE IS NEEDED?

This is a question that must be answered by each entity in accordance with what is considered to be the exposure. Small organizations which engage in few activities will obviously need far less coverage, if any, than larger ones engaging in multiple programs with many members' activities. Most policies offered by different companies will offer coverage up to a maximum of one million dollars coverage per occurrence, with an aggregate of two million dollars coverage.

### WHERE TO PURCHASE INSURANCE

The preferred solution for obtaining coverage is for National to negotiate with the Corporate insurance broker for an umbrella policy for the national organization and offer to the State Societies and Chapters a buy-in opportunity for their needs under the umbrella. For a myriad of reasons, this is not feasible in the near future, if ever. Therefore, States and Chapters are left to fend for themselves in purchasing coverage.

The National broker, BB&T, does offer services to procure coverage from multiple sources and ALSSAR did utilize this service, but found that the coverage offered was far more expensive than what we could negotiate for on our own with local agents. We were able to obtain coverage through a local State Farm agency which provided CGL coverage for \$350.00 and D&O coverage for \$875.00, for a total annual premium of \$1,125.00.

# 2016 Congress



—Photos courtesy of Susan Crabtree and Bruce Pickette

## *ALSSAR compatriots enjoy trip to Boston Congress*

*The Alabama Society picked up its share of awards and honors while taking in the sights at the 126th Congress held at the Westin-Copley Place on July 9-13. The SAR made its presence felt in the historic city with the display of the Color Guard, above left; the ALSSAR picked up a streamer from Congress for its involvement in the annual youth awards, which included Matt Stanley, above right, sponsored by the Little River chapter in the national orations contest; ALSSAR president Fred Olive picks up the Franklin Flyer Award from NSSAR President General Thomas Lawrence, below left; and Olive found a few extra minutes to enjoy the companionship of Vice-President General Michael Wells and his wife Liz, below right.*



# State well represented on national SAR committees

Recognizing the outstanding leadership qualities of ALSSAR members, President General J. Michael Tomme appointed 22 Alabama SAR members to 43 national SAR committees for the 2016-2017 year.

Of the 43 committees, Alabama SAR members are chairmen of five and vice-chairmen of six national committees.

The committee chairmen are Jim Alexander, flag committee; David Billings, investment committee; Bill Stone, library and archives committee; Walter Stevenson, membership committee; and

Bruce Buehler, strategic planning committee.

The committee vice-chairmen are Stone, education committee; John Wallace, George Washington Endowment Funds board; Price Legg, insurance and risk management committee; Fred Olive, library and archives committee and patriot biographies; Stone, museum board and SAR implementation; and David Billings, strategic planning committee.

In addition, Bruce Pickette, as National Librarian General, is an ex-officio mem-

ber of the facilities committee, hospitality & music committee, library and archives committee and the museum board.

The Alabama SAR congratulates all of our members who are serving on national committees, with special thanks to those serving in the leadership positions of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen.

A complete list of the Alabama SAR members and the committees they serve on is available on the Alabama SAR website, [www.alssar.org](http://www.alssar.org).

—Felton Mitchell

## 2016-2017 National SAR Committee Assignments

<b>James Gilbert Alexander Jr.</b> .....	<b>Chairman, Flag Committee Medals and Awards Committee Merchandise Committee Patriotic Outreach Veterans Committee</b>
<b>Robert Lee Anderson</b> .....	<b>Americanism Committee Education Committee ROTC/JROTC &amp; Service Academies Liaison</b>
<b>Clarence David Billings</b> .....	<b>Chairman, Investment Committee SAR Implementation Vice Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee</b>
<b>Bruce Alden Buehler</b> .....	<b>Executive Committee Knight Essay Contest Membership Committee ROTC/JROTC &amp; Service Academies Liaison Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee Veterans Committee Veterans Recognition Committee</b>
<b>Phil Rod Hildreth</b> .....	<b>American History Teacher Award History Committee Protocol Committee Rumbaugh Orations Contest</b>
<b>Price Lovell Legg</b> .....	<b>Facilities Committee Vice Chairman, Insurance &amp; Risk Management Committee GWEFB Distribution Committee</b>
<b>James H. Maples</b> .....	<b>Independent Audit Committee Information Technology Committee Internal Audit Committee Library and Archives Committee Patriot Index/Revolutionary War Graves Register Public Service and Heroism Committee</b>
<b>Felton Mitchell</b> .....	<b>Community Engagement Genealogy Committee Internal Audit Committee Legal Advisory Committee</b>



## Galvez members learn you're never too old to fight

Local historian Bob Glennon was the featured speaker at the September meeting of the Gen. Galvez chapter, held at Felix Seafood Restaurant on the causeway near the Battleship Alabama.

Chapter president Edmon McKinley welcomed everyone and introduced guests as well as the four new chapter members — Jerry Smith, Mark Smith, Tyler Smith and Bob Stevens. Also, John Van Zandt transferred into the chapter from Mississippi and holds dual membership in both Alabama and Mississippi.

Glennon, an author, historian and fourth generation of Sibley and McNeil families of Baldwin County that can be traced back to the American Revolution, is chairman of the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission, an active member of both the Gulf South Historical Society and the Alabama Historical Association and editor of the Friends of the Fairhope Museum of History Newsletter.

Glennon spoke on ties to the Revolutionary period to the bay area, covering Octavia Walton Le Vert and how Alabama briefly became the 14th British Colony in North America.

At the July meeting, held at the Bass Pro Shop in Daphne, chapter compatriot Jack Dwyer was the featured speaker.

Dwyer is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel with 26 years of service, including two tours of duty in Vietnam—1966 to 1967 and 1970 to 1971.

Following his military career, he served as a senior civilian within the Department



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

***New Gen. Galvez chapter member Merlin Miller, center, with Price Legg, left, and chapter president Edmon McKinley at July meeting.***

of Defense for 19 years, including as a staff civilian within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and within the Office of the Administrator, Federal Procurement Policy.

Later, he became Associate Dean and Professor of Systems Acquisition Management at the Defense Systems Management College and the Defense Acquisition University. His last assignment was as site manager and professor of the Defense Acquisition University campus at Eglin AFB, Florida where he retired in August 2008.

In 2010, he was elected to the Defense Acquisition University Hall of Fame.

He has graduate degrees in public administration, business management, educational leadership and adult education from the University of Dayton, Wright State University, Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio, and Virginia Tech. He has a Doctorate in Education and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies from Virginia Tech.

Currently, he is Lt. Governor, Gulf Coast Colony of the Mayflower Society; Junior Vice Commander, Major General James Wilson Camp #1, Sons of Union Veterans in the Civil War; charter member and former director of the Military

Officers Association of America in Baldwin County, and past chapter president. He is also a member of the Descendants of Colonial Clergy, the Society of the War of 1812, Masons, Scottish Rite, and Shriners.

His topic for this evening was “Never Too Old to Fight for Freedom’s Cause.”

The story of two 79-year-old farmers who became patriot heroes on April 19, 1775—what each of them did and how they are remembered today. Incredible stories of bravery, courage, and self-determination for freedom’s cause. His presentation was exceptionally riveting and detailed. Everyone, thoroughly enjoyed his presentation. Dr. Dwyer is available as a speaker for interested groups by calling (251) 929-0517 or emailing [cmdwyer843@earthlink.net](mailto:cmdwyer843@earthlink.net).

After the presentation, Merlin Miller was inducted into the chapter. Compatriot Miller’s ancestor was Samuel Carpenter, a Revolutionary soldier.

McKinley also paid tribute to compatriot Barry Booth for his contribution of an eight-foot bronze statue of “The Recruit” at the Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. It depicts an individual raising their hand as they take the “Oath of Enlistment” into military service for the United States.

—Mike Glass



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

***Local historian Bob Glennon, left, chapter president Edmon McKinley.***



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Buehler

*Nicholas Krishman (left) is inducted into the SAR by his uncle, chapter genealogist Earl Gillian Jr., and chapter president Paul Whaley II (right).*

## Gen. John A. Elmore compatriots share fish tales, comraderie at picnic

The Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter held its fifth annual summer picnic at the Bridge Creek Fishing Camp in Prattville on Aug. 6.

This marked the third year the picnic has been held at the fishing camp where Bridge Creek member and John A. Elmore compatriot Chris Booth has sponsored the picnic.

“This was the best turnout and picnic the chapter has held,” said chapter compatriot Bill Stone, noting the attendance of compatriots and their guests totaled 45, including two prospective members and one newly approved member.

The annual picnic has always been dedicated to families getting together to enjoy a relaxing day, fellowshiping and having a nice meal. It has been a tradition for the chapter president to cook the meat and this year was no exception. Chapter president Paul Whaley II cooked the “burgers and dogs,” as he put it. They must have been GREAT since there were few leftovers.

Normally chapter business is not been part of the agenda for the day. However,

a new member was inducted during the picnic. He is Compatriot Nicholas Hari Krishnan, nephew of Earl Gillian Jr., the chapter genealogist. Nicholas lives in Colorado. He and his mother were visiting Earl and his family during the date of the picnic. It was decided the chapter would conduct his induction ceremony since he would be in the area.

It was mentioned the picnic was dedicated to the family to enjoy the surroundings. One of the activities available was fishing in the lake.

Compatriot Chris Evey and his son Isaac decided to go fishing. According to Isaac he caught a “huge whale” on his line. Later, Chris stated it was a small catfish. We certainly appreciated Isaac’s enthusiasm. We are glad Isaac had a good time fishing and that he did catch a fish.

We look forward to Isaac (and Chris) coming next year to the picnic – maybe he will catch that big whale that got away.

Unfortunately, there is not a photo of the fish.

—Bruce A. Buehler

## NSSAR Fall Leadership

Make plans to attend the NSSAR Spring Leadership meeting in Louisville, Ky., on March 2-5, 2017. This is a great way to learn about SAR and visit your National Library at our headquarters. Get more involved at the national level! It’s not just for trustees and officers. All are welcome!

At the fall meeting, Don Roberson of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter and Bob Baccus of the Tennessee Valley chapter were first-time attendees.

## Coberly

(Continued from Page 1)

cited for his “visionary leadership” on national committees and his work supporting minorities, editing national publications, providing extensive publicity and for his role in shaping a public law authorizing military support at four national Scout Jamborees.

Dan has lived and worked on multiple continents as a youth and adult. His youth involvement in Scouting began in the Panama Canal Zone and Europe, then continued as an adult in Europe, the Far East, Atlanta, Oklahoma, Alabama and North Carolina.

He currently serves as national representative of the Transatlantic Council, Europe and as editing lead for the National Merit Badge Task Force. He is a James West and Baden Powell Fellow.

In 2014, Coberly was one of two retired soldiers inducted in the U.S. Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame. In 2015 he received the President’s Gold Award for Volunteer Service. In 2016 he was recently presented the President’s Life Time Achievement Award from the Corporation for National and Community service.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Excelsior College, a Master of Arts from Norwich University, graduate certificates from Alabama A&M and Oklahoma University and honorary doctorates. He is an elected member of the Excelsior College Alumni Council in Albany, N.Y.

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

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR**

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***Please send in your chapter news for the next newsletter***

If you're submitting material for the next newsletter, please e-mail your pictures and information to [timgaylesar@gmail.com](mailto:timgaylesar@gmail.com) or send information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events by December 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.

## Alabama Society endorses Pickette for new position

At the Alabama Society Board of Managers meeting on Oct. 8, members proudly endorsed ALSSAR compatriot C. Bruce Pickette for Registrar General.

Pickette, a compatriot of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter since 2002, first served on national committees in 2007 and has served as the NSSAR Librarian General since 2014.

Also, he served as ALSSAR president in 2010-11.

The Society also endorses compatriots Larry T. Guzy for President General, Warren M. Alter for Secretary General, John T. "Jack" Manning for Treasurer General, John O. Thornhill for Historian General, Douglas Thomas Collins for Librarian General, John D. Sink for Genealogist General, Matthew J. Barlow Jr., M.D. for Surgeon General, Davis Lee Wright, Esq. for Chancellor General and Dr. John C. Wakefield for Chaplain General.



—Photo by Susan Crabtree

***Librarian General Bruce Pickette and his wife, Rita, at Boston Congress.***