



*Sons of the American Revolution*  
**The Mississippi Society**



For Immediate Release – May 12, 2022

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## Mississippi Desoto Chapter Color Guard Honors Deceased Veterans

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On May 7, 2020, the Desoto Patriots Chapter, National Society Sons of the American Revolution honored four compatriots at ceremonies held across three counties with representatives from the Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution and Society Color Guard in attendance.

Organized and led by Past State President Charles Garrison, the event included Chapter Presidents Mike Dudas and Chris Heuer, and Past State President Gerry Brent, who acted as Chaplain. Members of the Society Color Guard included State President Rev. Tommy Thompson, Past State Treasurer Lyn Herron, William Horne as Musician, Randy Hailey, Vice President General Michael Schenk from Madison, and State Corresponding Secretary Jerry Lilly from Oxford acting as Commander. The group also included Nita Thompson as photographer, Diane Horne, and Dorothy Herron. A printed program was produced and distributed, and family members of the compatriots were present as well.

The group began the morning at Emory Cemetery in Byhalia, Marshall County, Mississippi, where they honored Compatriot Maurice Rolden Van Hook, Jr. He was born November 2, 1934, in Blytheville, Arkansas. He was a retired heavy equipment mechanic and a veteran. Maurice joined the chapter in June 2001 on the service of his Patriot Thomas Hawks. He died December 13, 2017.

The group traveled to Desoto Memorial Gardens in Southaven where they honored Compatriot Billy Floyd Paris. He was born May 21, 1937, in Brush Creek, Tennessee. He was a US Air Force veteran and former deputy sheriff. Billy joined the chapter in May 2003 on the service of his Patriot James Paris. He died November 28, 2020. Members of his family were present at the ceremony.

Then, the group proceeded to Twin Oaks Memorial Gardens in Southaven where they honored Compatriot David Earl Stephens. He was born October 9, 1935, in Kenton, Kentucky. He was a US Marine Corps veteran. David joined the chapter in April 2003 on the service of his Patriot William Stephens. He died September 1, 2020.

After lunch, the group traveled from Desoto to Quitman County, specifically to Marks Cemetery in Marks where they honored Compatriot James Madison Roseberry. He was born January 7, 1939, in Lambert, Mississippi. He was retired military contractor and veteran of United States Air Force and Army. Madison joined the chapter in September 2008 on the service of his Patriot Henry Furr/Furrer. He also served in the State Society Color Guard for several years. He died December 16, 2021.

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



Figure 1: (L-R) Chris Heuer, Lyn Herron, Tommy Thompson, Gerry Brent, William Horne, Mike Dudas, Diane Horne, Randy Hailey, Charles Garrison, Mike Schenk, and Jerry Lilly. Photo courtesy of Nita Thompson/ Charles Garrison.



*Figure 2: (L-R) Jerry Lilly, Lyn Herron, Tommy Thompson, William Horne, Charles Garrison, Randy Hailey, Gerry Brent, Mike Dudas, Mike Schenk and Chris Heuer, with members of the Paris family. Photo courtesy of Nita Thompson/ Charles Garrison.*



Figure 3: (L-R) Jerry Lilly, Charles Garrison, Gerry Brent, Mike Dudas, Lyn Herron, Tommy Thompson, William Horne, Randy Hailey, Mike Schenk and Chris Heuer. Photo courtesy of Nita Thompson/ Charles Garrison.



Figure 4: (L-R) Chris Heuer, Jerry Lilly, Lyn Herron, Tommy Thompson, William Horne, Randy Hailey, and Mike Schenk. Photo courtesy of Charles Garrison.