



SAR Alabama



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots,

It has certainly been a fast start for me as the president of the ALSSAR. Beverly and I have visited 12 of the 16 chapters and will catch up with the remaining — Etowah, Richard Henry Lee, Tri State and Galvez — after the summer break.

The visits have been very enlightening for me, as it is a revealing experience to meet and talk with the chapter members in a one-on-one environment.

Meeting the compatriots and their wives in their environment gives you an understanding and perspective of their challenges for their chapters that is not available in a hotel at an annual meeting or BOM.

A good example is the distance that many of the Wiregrass members must drive in order to attend the monthly meeting. Almost half of their membership lives in excess of 35 miles of the meeting place. Today, 35 miles is not an excessive distance on the interstate but we're not talking interstate in their area.

Another challenge that is not obvious is the population density of regions from which chapters are recruiting members. Recruiting in Huntsville is very different than recruiting in Dothan or Lamar County or the Shoals area. These are factors that must be considered

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BOM works on expanding youth programs, raising visibility, retaining compatriots

The ALSSAR spring Board of Managers meeting was held at the Shelby County Archives and Museum in Columbiana on May 6.

Out of the May meeting, several other actions were taken by the ALSSAR Executive Committee, which was established to handle any issues that arose between the BOM meetings and the state convention business meeting.

The Executive Committee is comprised of ALSSAR president Hal Thornton, senior vice-president Robert L. Anderson, secretary Bruce Buehler, treasurer Charles Nuckolls, Richard Henry Lee chapter president V. Wilson Lee, Black Warrior River chapter president David Jones, past ALSSAR president Fred Olive and ALSSAR chancellor Edmon McKinney (non-voting).

The Executive Committee was asked to consider supporting NSSAR President General Tomme's youth programs initiative. This is an effort by



—Photo by Jim Maples

ALSSAR president Hal Thornton speaks to BOM members about increasing and retaining membership.

Tomme to assist the national effort to raise funds for all youth programs in order to keep the awards at an appropriate level commensurate with other national organization awards. Tomme challenged each of the state societies to contribute \$1,000 to-

ward the effort and the executive committee approved the contribution.

Another committee has been established to review the current practices and procedures specified for the ALSSAR

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Minuteman presentation highlights Congress

The Alabama Society will send 23 delegates to the 127th annual Congress in Knoxville, Tenn., on July 7-13.

Included in that group is former ALSSAR president and NSSAR Librarian General Bruce Pickette, who will receive the prestigious Minuteman Award at the Tuesday night banquet.

Pickette will become the 13th ALSSAR member to receive the Minuteman, joining Robert H. Smith (1953), William T. Carpenter (1955), Robert P. Gordon (1959), Ryall S. Morgan (1968), John L. McConnell (1984),

Horace R. Jordan (1995), O. Lee Swart (2001), P. Rod Hildreth (2003), John R. Wallace (2008), Larry P. Cornwell (2012) and Michael C. Wells (2013).

A total of 395 compatriots have received the honor since its unveiling at the 1952 Congress.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Jon Meacham will be the guest speaker at the President General's banquet on July 11.

A new slate of NSSAR officers will be voted on as well. At the spring leadership and trustees meeting, Pickette was nominated for the position of Registrar General.

Message

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when we are trying to formulate strategies for assisting chapters in increasing their membership base. And membership base continues to be the backbone or our organization.

These are some of the challenges I've discussed with chapter presidents Perry Vickers, Malon Murphy, Carl Thornton and Bob England. Without constant influx of new members, we will soon stagnate and "age out," where our membership is beyond the age of being able to support the organization's demands for management and operational and financial support. Speaking of financial support, our Society owes three big "HUZZAHS" to Dr. J. Fred Olive, who through his own initiative and cleverness, obtained grants to help offset almost the complete cost of reproducing the outstanding color map of Alabama, defining the historical perspective of Alabama to the Revolutionary War. This map is a beautiful depiction of our state and its involvement in Revolutionary War events. All chapters will receive this brochure and it will be distributed through the Alabama Welcome Centers by the Alabama Tourism Agency.

The grants obtained by Fred were from the SAR George Washington Endowment Fund and the Alabama Tourism Agency. Both organizations made significant contributions and enabled the continuation of this program for the near future. The ALSSAR is very grateful for the assistance from these two organizations and their participation is prominently noted on the brochure.

This financial assistance made available funds that could be used to support SAR President General Tomme's Youth Initiative challenge program. This program is an effort to increase the cash awards for the national youth programs. PG Tomme pledged to donate \$10,000 from his own pocket to support these programs if the state societies will each contribute \$1,000.

A meeting of the ALSSAR executive committee was convened and the proposal was put forth to the executive committee to support this effort. The motion was made to donate \$1,000 to PG Tomme's initiative and it was approved unanimously.

The ALSSAR Board of Manager's meeting (BOM) was held May 6 in Columbiana at the Shelby County Court House and Museum. Much business was discussed, committees appointed, votes taken, and delicious food consumed. Our special appreciation to the ALSSAR ladies auxiliary for their support as always in providing an on-site lunch for all. The barbeque was very good but the real treats are when all the fantastic Southern cooks bring their specialties for us, it is something that can't be had anywhere else. Thanks again to all the ladies.

Unfortunately the Shelby County Court House and Museum, although a great place to visit and take in the artifacts, is not very user friendly to many of our members. The stairs are a killer when lugging heavy boxes of lunch stuff. Therefore, we have made arrangements to have our next BOM at the American Village in Montevallo on Oct. 14, 2017. So note the change and make a note for this date on your calendar for the next ALSSAR BOM. And please attend as this is your organization and it is your business we are discussing. All are welcome to register and attend.

The next event of note is the National SAR Congress, held every July. This year it is being held in Knoxville, Tenn., beginning July 6 and ending July 13. This year ALSSAR will have 22 attendees. We will dutifully take notes and report on the results of all the meetings, discussions, votes, committee meetings, etc., upon our return.

One last thing, we all owe a special thanks to Bruce Buehler for his willingness to assume the duties and responsibilities of the ALSSAR Secretary position. He has also been given some very able assistance from another Bruce, Bruce Pickette.

Well, that is enough rambling and remunerations from me. Again, I encourage you to attend and participate in all your chapter activities and functions. This is your organization and it will respond to your input and queries. If any one of you has a question, suggestion, or complaint, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the ALSSAAR officers. Like you, we are all volunteers, trying to have an organization that we are proud of, enjoy, and identify with in our life goals. Remember, we are all Americans by Heritage. God Bless America.

— Hal Thornton

Nominating a Vice-President General from the ALSSAR

Every four years the Southern District Vice President General (VPG) position rotates among Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama, in that order. The Southern District VPG nominating committee consists of the incumbent presidents of the state societies of the district.

The incumbent VPG, currently of Mississippi, serves as chairman of the committee, and in advance of a district annual meeting solicits the name of the candidate for the office of VPG endorsed by the State Society next in rotation.

The district annual meeting is held in conjunction with the annual meeting, or spring meeting, of one of the state societies in the district.

At the appropriate time (i.e., year) prior to the state's annual meeting, the Alabama Society nominating committee, appointed at the state's fall BOM meeting, recommends a member for VPG, in addition to nominating the officers of the state for the coming year.

That member has traditionally been the senior past state president who has not served in the position before and who accepts the offer of the state nominating committee.

The VPG position will rotate to the Alabama Society for the 2019-2020 term. That is, the member will be named by the state nominating committee and confirmed by vote of the membership at the state annual meeting in February 2019. That compatriot's name is then passed to the incumbent VPG.

The VPG for the Southern District from the Alabama Society would be installed at the annual Congress of the NSSAR in summer 2019.

There are five living former VPG's of the Southern District from the Alabama Society:

Lee Swart
Rod Hildreth
John Wallace
Jim Maples
Mike Wells



—Photo by Jim Maples

ALSSAR president Hal Thornton, left, presents Neal Shepherd Americanism Award certificates to Tennessee Valley, Gen. John A. Elmore

BOM

(Continued from Page 1)

Endowment Fund management, consisting of chairman Bruce Buehler, John Wallace, J.L. Gipson, Brian House, Ed Kilgore and Roger Vaughan.

Through the efforts of Olive, the ALSSAR received two grants totaling nearly \$3,000 to pay for the cost of printing the ALSSAR's Revolutionary War brochure. One grant is from the George Washington Endowment Fund, the other from the Alabama Department of Tourism. These 12,000 brochures will be distributed primarily through the state's Welcome Centers.

In the BOM meeting, Thornton noted that chapters in this state are experiencing the same problems in attracting new members and the retention of current members and asked for any suggestions on how to retain members.

Nuckolls presented his report, noting the state society is overspending its budget every year but is improving by cutting expenditures. A discussion followed on the feasibility of eliminating newsletter printing costs by e-mailing every edition.

ALSSAR registrar Ron Bearden said the society is approximately 20 applicants ahead of this point last year, growing as many as 10 per week as compared to 10 over a two-month period last year.

The Neal Shepherd Americanism Award, recognizing the promotion of principals of freedom and liberty, was presented to the Tennessee Valley chapter for chapters with 100-199 members and to the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter with 50-99 members.

The theme for the Americanism Poster Contest for the upcoming year will be a "Revolutionary War Event," not a person.

Youth Protection Training Available For Compatriots

All compatriots who represent SAR and interface with persons under the age of 18 should complete the Youth Protection Training (YPT) program and print out the certificate.

SAR has partnered with the Boy Scouts of America to be able to use their training module which includes a certificate. Go to the web site:

www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx

After you gain the certificate, please send a copy to Bob Anderson, the ALSSAR youth programs & protection training coordinator.

You and your chapter should also retain a copy. Exposure to youth can include giving medals or certificates, helping to enter SAR youth contests, attending C.A.R. events, making a presentation to youth, etc.

It would not be required if they have constant parental control.

The Friends of the Library Committee asked for support of the National Library. There is a concerted effort to digitize the entire collection of the SAR Magazine but there are still copies missing. The state society needs to play a more important role in contributions to the society. Also, on a similar note, the state society is looking for past issues of the ALSSAR newsletter to put online (and go to the ALSSAR Historical Archives) located at Samford University. The ALSSAR web site is getting 5000-6000 hits per month.

The youth program protection coordinator needs to have all youth program chairmen take Boy Scout training as well as all people who work with youth (see story on page 3). At present, it is voluntary. It will become mandatory.

ALSSAR officials have submitted the first program that can be downloaded from the web site and used for patriotic education – "The Fourteen Forgotten Presidents."

The American Village Committee is asking for all records of anyone that has served under the American flag to submit their information to the American Village. This can be done through the web site individually.

BOM members discussed the upcoming 2018 annual business meeting and convention. In years past, the annual convention has been hosted by the chapter of the current president, but in an effort to centralize the location and simplify the process, the state society will be moving the convention to one location, beginning in 2018 when the event moves to the Prattville Marriot Convention and Golf Resort on Feb. 16-18.

Also, BOM members voted on the 23 delegates for the 2017 Congress, which will be held in Knoxville, Tenn.

In Memory...

Arthur Frederick Gates Josiah Frederick Reed Jr. George Brewer Beasley Gene Arthur Matthews Hammond Curry Turner

Former Cheaha chapter president Arthur Gates is among those ALSSAR compatriots who recently passed away.

ARTHUR FREDERICK GATES passed away on April 4 at Hospice of the Western Reserve in Cleveland. He was 88.

Born July 12, 1928, he had lived in Anniston before moving to Lake County 14 years ago. Gates was a retired lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Army. Arthur loved the military and served in the Korean War. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and First United Methodist Church in Anniston. His passion was collecting military items and was a huge history buff.

He was the loving father of Cynthia G. Yoke and William F. Gates and cherished grandfather of Matthew, Elizabeth, Ashley, Catherine, Courtney, Jamie and Katie. Arthur was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Grace.

Services were held April 22 at First United Methodist Church in Anniston.

JOSIAH FREDERICK REED JR., passed away at his home on May 24. He joined the Sons of the American Revolution on Oct. 9, 1942 at the age of 18. He had dual membership in the Pennsylvania Society and the Alabama Society and was a member of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter.

Jess was born in Harrisburg, Penn., on Sept. 21, 1924. He was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Walter Reed Army Hospital and entered the Air Force as a flight surgeon, transferring to Maxwell Air Force Base as chief of the urology service from 1956-1959. He returned to Harrisburg as chief of urology at Polyclinic Hospital before moving back to Montgomery in 1971, serving as one of the founding partners of Montgomery Urology until his retirement in 1996.

During this time, he remained active in the military, attaining the rank of colonel before his retirement from the Air Force Reserve in 1980. Jess was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service as Wing Surgeon and Hospital Commander, 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing, Suwon, Korea and was recognized as the Commander, USAF (Reserve) Outstanding Organic Medical Unit (1976) and as the USAF (Reserve) Aerospace Medicine Physician of the Year (1976).

In 1985, Jess founded the Montgomery Rehabilitation Hospital, serving as the first medical director, chief of the medical staff and as a member of the active staff. He has held numerous hospital and teaching appointments throughout his career and has belonged to a plethora of medical societies, receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the American Urological Association in 1993 and established the Ambrose-Reed Socioeconomic Lecture Award with the Southeast Section of

the AUA.

Upon his retirement, Jess obtained his Coast Guard captain license and explored the southeast in his Grady-White. He also enjoyed offshore fishing with his family and playing golf with his wife, Jeanne. He remained active in Rotary and looked forward to the monthly meetings of the Leon Loard Lunch Bunch.

He is survived by his son John Reed of Auburn, daughter Beth Reed of Orange Beach, special companion Marguerite Wood, sister Jane Pope of Harrisburg, Penn., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held May 27 at Alabama Heritage Cemetery.

GEORGE BREWER BEASLEY, a resident of Fort Payne and a member of the Little River chapter, passed away on March 30. He was 86.

Services were held on April 2 at the First Baptist Church in Fort Payne with Dr. Pat McFadden and Dr. Nathan Van Horn officiating. Burial was at Glenwood Cemetery in Fort Payne.

GENE ARTHUR MATTHEWS, 85 and a resident of Foley, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 20.

Matthews was born in Birmingham on Oct. 21, 1931. After graduating from Auburn University, he spent most of his working years with Westinghouse/North American Philips as a manufacturing engineer in Alabama, New Jersey, West Virginia and Arkansas. After retirement, he moved to Foley in 2002. He was an avid golfer, hunter and fisherman.

A member of the Gen. Galvez chapter, Matthews enjoyed his family and serving others in the community. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Glenn (Sis); and only daughter, Deborah of Aurora, Ill. Other surviving family includes his brother, Mack (and wife Doret) of Mobile; Flora Grimes of Gulf Shores, along with five nephews (Sonny, Bill, Doug, John and Marc).

Services were held at Pine Rest Funeral Home in Foley on Feb. 23.

HAMMOND CURRY TURNER, a resident of Huntsville, passed away on April 26. He was 87.

Curry was descended from early settlers of Madison County. He graduated from Monrovia High School and attended the University of Alabama. In 1949, he married Naomi Landers, his high school sweetheart. He was employed by Beatrice Foods as CFO. He was a member of the Huntsville Sertoma Club, Quarterback Club, Downtown Development Association, Huntsville Track Club (running in five marathons), Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans,

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—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter officers for 2017-18 are, from left: Rev. R. Jefferson Coker, president; William Houston Rozier, treasurer; Ed Wilson, historian; John Gruenewald, sergeant-at-arms; Robert Folsom, secretary; Pete Morgan, registrar; and outgoing president Ed Killgore.

Cheaha chapter installs new officers for 2017-18

The Cheaha chapter installed their new officers for 2017-18 on May 10 at their annual luncheon at Classic on Noble in Anniston.

The officers were installed by ALSSAR president Hal Thornton.

The new officers are Rev. R. Jefferson Coker, president and chaplain; Robert Folsom, secretary; William Houston Rozier, treasurer; Pete Morgan, registrar; Louis Quigley, genealogist; Ed Wilson, historian; Hon. John Charles Thomason, chancel-

lor; and John Gruenewald, sergeant-at-arms. The vice-president's position is open at this time.

Outgoing chapter president Ed Killgore made several awards during the luncheon, presenting Judge Mac Smith the Distinguished Service Certificate, Annette Smith the SAR/DAR Medal of Appreciation, Rev. R. Jefferson Coker the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal and William Houston Rozier the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal.

—William Rozier

Turner

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vice president of the military Heritage Commission, Chairman of the Board of Special Forces Society, Huntsville, Wall of Honor, president of the Monrovia High School Alumni Association.

In 1980, he moved to Gadsden where he was district manager for Beatrice Foods. He was a member of the Gadsden Country Club, served on the YMCA Board, BIGMEN, the Red Cross Board, United Way Allocation, Gadsden Chamber of Commerce, Track Club and served as president of Gadsden/Rainbow City Coin Club, served on the board of the Coosa Valley Chapter Military Officers Association. He was inducted into the Patriots Hall of Fame in Gadsden in 2009.

He had joined the Sons of American Revolution as a member of the Etowah chapter and maintained his SAR membership through that chapter.

In 1947, he began his military service with the U.S. Naval Reserve. He entered the Army in 1950 and served in the Korean Conflict in 1951. He attained the rank of colonel, serving 18 years with the 20th Special Forces 82nd Airborne Division,

and commanded "A," "B," "C" teams and Battalion. He also served as assistant chief of staff with a corps support command. He was awarded Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation, Alabama Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Korean Service Medal with 4 Bronze Campaign Stars and United Nations Service Medal. He served with the Alabama National Guard. In 1971, a chapter of the Airborne Association of the U.S. was named for him. He served a total of 43 years in the service. While serving as a paratrooper, he made a total of 179 jumps.

He was a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Career Infantry Office Course, Fort Benning, Georgia; Basic Airborne School, Fort Benning, Georgia; Advanced Airborne School, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and attended 101st Airborne, US Army Special Warfare School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Naomi Landers Turner; daughters, Lind Turner Burks and Carlyn Turner Deeds; grandsons, Turner Alan Burks and Parker Hammond Burks; sister, Barbara Brosemer; and numerous nieces and nephews. Services were held at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Historian describes state after Revolutionary War

Local historian Mike Hutchison was the guest speaker at the June meeting of the Gen. Galvez chapter at the Bass Pro Shop in Daphne.

The Fairhope resident has been involved in the study of Alabama history since college and has been an active speaker on early state history, including Civil War history. Mike has worked as a national and state park speaker since 1982 and fires the cannon at the Grand Hotel in Fairhope.

The topic of his program was "Alabama History Before and After the American Revolution, between 1780s to 1820." Hutchison brought many artifacts with him and displayed them for all to see, including Spanish stirrups from the old Indian village in the Daphne area, British musket parts recovered from the Baldwin County area, musket, flint lock long rifle, a Colonial grill, trade axe, powder horn and many trade items.

Hutchison had a complete Colonial frontiersman outfit and explained everything in detail for us. Also, he is part Cherokee and had some artifacts from this tribe. His accretments of deer skin were decorated with feathers, deer antlers and beads. His collection was very impressive as was his detailed knowledge of history.

In the time frame he covered, the Mobile and Baldwin County area was of immense importance as a trade center for the Spanish, British, Indians and Americans.

Hutchison was presented a certificate of appreciation from chapter president John Goss.



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

Hutchison receives certificate from chapter vice president John Van Zandt, left, John Goss.

At the May meeting, compatriot Leroy McGaughey discussed his family heritage.

Edward Leroy McGaughey was born in Fort Worth, Texas. His family moved to

Camden, Ark., after their home and business was destroyed by fire during the Depression. He graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in chemical engineering in 1957, became an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1957 and married his wife Suzanne in 1957.

He has lived in Mobile for the last 35



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

McGaughey, left, earns certificate of appreciation from Goss.

years. They have two sons, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Leroy has served as a deacon in the Church of Christ for four different congregations and served as an elder for more than 35 years. He became a member of SAR in 2002 and served as vice president in 2005, president in 2006 and 2007 and secretary-treasurer for the next four years before the office was split into two positions. Since 2014, he has served as treasurer and is also the chapter's chaplain.

Leroy gave a presentation on "The McGaughey/McGaughey Family (1600-2017)." The "e" in the original name was removed due to a mispronunciation of the name. His ancestors lived in the Great State of Franklin and had palisades around their homes. They were called Fort McGaughey with one on each side of the river. Another family home still stands today near Sevierville, Tenn.

After his presentation, Goss had McGaughey stand in for his son, Patrick Colin McKinley, who recently became an SAR member. He was sworn in by proxy.

Goss updated the chapter on the BOM meeting he attended and noted the local DAR chapters are holding a "Bell Ringing" ceremony on Sept. 18, at 1 p.m. at Alabama Battleship Park in remembrance of the Liberty Bell.

At the April meeting, the guest speaker was H. F. "Tighe" Marston, a second-generation cemeterian who is currently

the Municipal Cemeteries Manager for the City of Mobile.

He is responsible for all record systems duties at both cemeteries and the educational programs related to Mobile's historic, municipal cemeteries, with 44 years in the cemetery profession.

A fifth generation Mobilian, Marston attended McGill-Toolen High School and the University of South Alabama. Tighe gave a detailed explanation of the symbolism and markers in cemeteries.

Most people are unaware of these symbols and the historical significance of each one. We will never view a cemetery again as we did in the past.

In addition, a special SAR memorial service was held for Dr. Wilson Wilhite Jr., who recently passed. Goss, McGaughey and chapter vice president John Van Zandt performed the memorial service.

Dr. Wilhite will be missed by all who knew him. He was an extraordinarily talented individual and loved by all who knew him. He never failed to serve anyone in any way he could and his warm and friendly attitude was admired by all. His wife and daughter attended this tribute.

Also, our chapter lost compatriots Gene Arthur Matthews and William "Bill" Jo-



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

Marston receives certificate from chapter Van Zandt, left, and Goss.

soph Boor and they, too, will be missed.

Goss informed everyone that compatriot Ralph Utley will be our new Eagle Scout chairman. He will head up the chapter SAR Eagle Scout awards contest.

Compatriot Mike Glass notified the chapter that the SAR is going digital. We will be using Facebook to connect all chapters, state, national and international SAR societies. By going digital we can communicate directly with all SAR entities and exchange information.

—Mike Glass

ALSSAR increasing recognition of state's public service personnel

During this reporting period from June 2, 2016 to June 1, 2017 five Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution Chapters presented a total of 20 medals for Public Service and Heroism. Seven of the medals were Heroism Awards, 12 were Law Enforcement Commendation Awards, and one was a Fire Safety Commendation Award.

In each case the chapter making the presentation held an appropriate ceremony and awarded the medals and certificates to each individual with the exception of one posthumous Heroism Award which was recognized and passed to family members.



—Photo courtesy of David Jones

Black Warrior River chapter president David Jones presented award to civilian Justen Little in August.

Black Warrior River chapter president David Jones is shown presenting a Heroism award to 19-year-old civilian Justen Little, at the Northport Police Department on Aug. 20, 2016.

Little had been walking through his neighborhood on March 17, 2016 and saw smoke coming from an apartment. After hearing children screaming, he rushed into the burning apartment and removed five children before any first responders arrived.

Black Warrior River chapter also presented three Hero medals to Deputies Jackie Miles and Slade Reeves of the Walker County Sheriff's Department who rescued a immobile woman from a burning apartment and to Sgt. Chuck Tidwell, also from the Walker County Sheriff's office, who convinced an armed man threatening other law enforcement and himself to put down the weapon and surrender himself without harm to anyone.

On Dec. 12, 2016 at the Tennessee Valley chapter's annual awards meeting, president Bob Baccus presented three Hero-

ism Awards and seven Law Enforcement Commendation Awards.

Civilian Calindo Fletcher Jr., who had just graduated from high school, was recognized posthumously for giving his life in an attempt to save a drowning victim who also perished. The incident occurred on July 4, 2015, but the family members had so much grief to deal with, the presentation could not be made at an earlier date.



—Photo by Jim Maples

ALEA Trooper Jimmy Hopkins, center, Huntsville officer Tony Bryant honored by Tennessee Valley.

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Trooper Jimmy C. Hopkins and Huntsville Police Officer Tony W. Bryant are shown receiving the Heroism medal for their involvement in trying to arrest a man in a strip mall in Huntsville.

Trooper Hopkins saw the man pull a weapon out of his car and was close enough to reach the man and try to control him. Officer Bryant arrived to assist and when the offender refused to drop the weapon, deadly force had to be employed. No one else was injured.

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—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

Color Guard members participate in 13th annual Blue Star Salute

Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter color guard members, from left: Tom Smith, William Kirkland and Jack Caraway, along with Alabama Congressman Bradley Byrne and ALSSAR president Hal Thornton join in the 13th annual Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc., celebration at Battleship Park in Mobile on May 20.



—Photo by Jim Maples

Investigator Cathy Davis worked with Homeland Security in cracking child pornography rings.

Heroism

(Continued from Page 7)

Law Enforcement Commendation Awards were presented to seven other law enforcement officers during the Tennessee Valley chapter's annual awards ceremony, ranging from the investigation of a child pornography ring to the delivering of a baby on the side of the interstate.

Additionally, the Cheaha chapter, the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter, the Birmingham chapter and the Cahaba-Coosa chapter all recognized and honored members of our Public Service personnel to include not only Law Enforcement but also Fire Safety and Medical Emergency personnel.

In addition to these awards for obvious reasons, there were Distinguished Service certificates for actions that did not meet the criteria for the medal and certificate awards. Such as the situation when two officers used their own money to replace a bicycle a young boy had turned in to police. The boy had spent all of his money to purchase the bike which he found out was stolen and he reported the fact to the police himself.

Our citizenry owes so much to all our first responders and law enforcement personnel and to all good citizen who do the "right thing" without thought for themselves.

These awards are a very small and inadequate recognition for their sacrifices but at least it is a small token of our appreciation.

We, in the Alabama Society of the SAR urge all SAR chapters everywhere to take the time and effort to make these annual presentations and say thanks to all our "First Responders."



—Photo by Linda Maples

ALSSAR president Hal Thornton inducts the new officers, from left: president Mac Moon, vice president Randal Jennings, recording secretary Kim Keller, corresponding secretary Jim Maples, treasurer Chip Pharr, registrar Charles McMurry, historian Bob Doherty and chaplain Richard Tingle.

Tennessee Valley honors auxiliary at annual banquet

The Tennessee Valley chapter held its annual awards and installation banquet at the Huntsville Country Club on March 24, handing out some much-deserved recognition before ALS-SAR president Hal Thornton installed the new officers for 2017-18.

In addition, the chapter took a moment to honor several of the women's auxiliary for their hard work and sometimes overlooked but certainly appreciated dedication to the chapter's success.

Members of the auxiliary were presented Distinguished Service Certificates for their contributions to the chapter. In addition to other activities, the ladies prepare a light lunch for each of the chapter's monthly meetings at the Huntsville Madison County Library. This allows working compatriots to attend the

meetings without missing lunch.

Auxiliary members Linda Baccus received the Lydia Darrough Medal and Sue Royer received the Daughters of Liberty Medal.

Chapter awards presented to TVC compatriots included the Distinguished Service Medal, Kim Keller; Meritorious Service Medal, Mac Moon and Charles McMurry; Bronze Roger Sherman Medal, Richard Tingle, Chip Pharr, Bob Anderson, Jim Alexander, Topper Birney and Tom Jones. Bob Doherty and Jim Maples received Roger Sherman Oak Leaves.

Compatriot David Byers received a George Washington Endowment fund pin for his contribution to the fund.

More than 50 members and guests attended the event.

—Bob Doherty



—Photo by Jim Maples

Chapter president Bob Baccus recognizes auxiliary members, from left: Linda Baccus, Janice Jennings, Nancy Billings, Pat Cook, Janie Byers, Kay Anderson, Linda Doherty, Linda Maples, Abby Alexander, Wilma Stone and Beverly Thornton.

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

3104 Cabot Street Phone: 334-328-4580
Montgomery, AL 36110 E-mail: timgaylesar@gmail.com



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

—Photo courtesy of Ken Brown

***Cullman chapter honors
JROTC cadet at graduation***

Col. Ken Brown, president of the Cullman chapter, presented the SAR Bronze JROTC medal and certificate to West Point High senior and JROTC cadet Staci Prater during graduation ceremonies on May 16. Prater was recognized for her leadership qualities and military bearing, reflecting the characteristics of the Alabama Society's patriotic ancestors.

