

ALSSAR President Michael Martin
2024 - 2025

Installation Speech February 24, 2024



As I stand here before you, I am humbled. I look out at all of you and I think about the collective accomplishments and leadership that each of you has brought to the Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution and ponder the future while asking myself, “How can I use these talents to make this great organization even greater?” You see, I was asked just last week how it felt to be “taking over the reigns” as President. To which, I jokingly replied, “The first thing you always have to ask yourself when ‘taking over the reigns’ is whether the horse is lame or not.” But that is an easy question to answer in this society. This society is anything but lame. In fact, I would say, “This horse is a thoroughbred!”

Under the leadership of my predecessor, Jim Griffith, the Alabama Society was able to turn a trend of decline in membership into one of growth. We fostered a culture of evangelism and pride in the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. We began work on the development of educational programs centered around a one-of-a-kind Washington War Tent showpiece. We began watching and listening to Revolutionary War Rarities as SAR further embraced technology and our mission. Members from all across this state came together to honor patriot ancestors by talking in schools, celebrating veterans, promoting the love of country, appreciating first responders, demonstrating history, and illustrating that the United States, as Jim said so well in his acceptance speech last year, “The greatest nation in the history of the world and we are the ones who are not only blessed to live within it but blessed to be the offspring of the founders.”

So, what about the future? Let me start with this illustration...



You see here a picture of the first United States dollar and cent. It was designed by Benjamin Franklin and it is called the “FUGIO”. Fugio is Latin for “I fly” and I have created a small token as we fly together to fulfill the SAR mission.

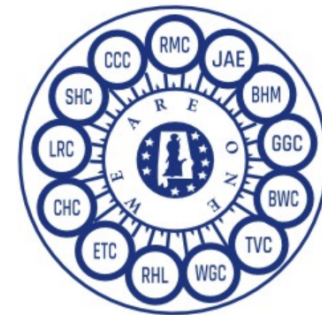


This Fugio ALSSAR Challenge Coin has three areas I want you to notice.



The top front is emblazoned with our Sons of the American logo and the three primary goals of our organization - Education, History, and Patriotism. However, what I want you to notice most is the Sun and Compass. These symbols represent the letter “F” for FOCUS. For goals without focus are of little importance. Let us remember why we all joined SAR, tap into everyone’s diverse talents, help all our members find their niche, tell our story, and have a little FUN in the process.

The second area is the back of the coin. On this side, you will find the of all thirteen chapters of the Alabama Society. From north to south and everywhere in between let’s remember the letter “U” and UNITE to illustrate saying “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” As the thirteen colonies had to “Unite or Die”, so must our thirteen chapters come together, communication throughout, encourage an exchange of ideas, build on common ground, and embrace our differences.



initials
the old
original
improve



Finally, on the bottom front, are the words “MIND YOUR BUSINESS”. This phrase is also on the original Fugio coin. The phrase isn’t being rude BUT it is a reminder that we need to concentrate on our business and not all the diversions and chaos that surrounds us every day. As the top of the coin lists our goals and gives us guidance, the bottom tells us to Nourish (or “N”) our organization and ourselves. We need to spread the good news of SAR. Tell others “Who we are!” and “What we do!”. Encourage new members to join. Connect and retain existing members. And most importantly, don’t get burned out!

In the end, remember why you became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and why you got fired up to be a member and, while you are at it, have a little FUN (Focus Unite Nourish) in the process.

SAR Mission

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.