

MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY THE MOTHER LODE CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

July 2008

Volume 7, Issue 6

Mother Lode Dispatch



1

7

Inside this issue:

Photos from Congress 2

Photos from Congress 3

Cliff Robertson 4

Cliff Robertson 5

The Revolution - Month 6 by Month - July

The Revolution - Month by Month - July

The Revolution - Month by Month - August

The Revolution - Month by Month - August

Photos from the meeting 10 held on June 24, 2008

Minutes from the meeting held on April 22, 2008

Fall Manager's Meeting November 2008



Calling All Compatriots



President's Message - Summer, 2008



Cliff Robertson and Tom Douglas before the Banquet on Tuesday evening, July 8, 2008

Fellow Compatriots and friends,

The 118th Congress of the NSSAR was, for me, a huge success. If you were not able to be there to participate, you missed a number of great events. Starting with the Host Society Reception at the Sacramento Train Museum, the business meetings, and the two formal dinners I attended, it was an event to remember. There were two very special events at the formal dinners. The first was having guest speaker Cliff Robertson speak and answer questions. His talk and responses to questions were absolutely wonderful. The entire banquet room was filled with laughter and energy when he talked. The other was the George Washington Ring ceremony passing the leadership from PG Bruce Wilcox to PG David Appleby, all the pomp and circumstance one could hope for. Julie Adams, Tom Adams' granddaughter, sang the Star Spangled Banner to open the meeting on Monday morning. She has a beautiful voice, and after a moment of stage fright, made us all very proud of her (see her photo on page 7). Working with a number of California volunteers was not only another plus but probably the best experience one could hope for while being completely exhausted. Now I am looking forward to the California Society Fall Board of Managers Meeting in Burlingame CA, November 7th and 8th. Register early and often. See page 12 for more information.

In Patriotic Service.

Tom Douglas,

President, Mother Lode Chapter

Photos from the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Congress July 5 through July 9, 2008, Sacramento, CA

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008

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ROTC Program

Vacant

Essay Contest

Vacant

Valley Forge Program

Vacant

Law Enforcement

Program

Vacant

Flag Certificate Program

Tom Douglas

Americanism Poster Contest



L - R: Rex and Jana Ruth (portraying Lt. Col. John C. and Mrs. Fremont), Coreena Ross (LAUX President & GCC), Steve Renouf (CASSAR President), Jim Young (MLC), Keith Bigbee (GCC), Tom Douglas (MLC), Lee Wolary (MLC), Dale Ross (GCC), and Wayne Griswold (CASSAR VP & GCC President) at Host Reception the California State Railroad Museum.

President-General Bruce Wilcox inspects the combined Color Guard.





Color Guard in front of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento...

CASSAR Members and wives recognized for their service to the 2008 National Congress include Mother Lode Chapter members Tom Douglas (Back row, 3rd from the left), and Jim Young (back row, 6th from the left).



Editors Note: The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution.

More photos from the 2008 National Congress



Jim Young and Cliff Robertson



L-R: Jim Young, Tom Douglas, and Lee Wolary at Host Reception at the California Railroad Museum.



Cliff Robertson, Yoncie and Wayne Griswold



L-R: Jim Young, Marilyn and Tom Chilton.



The California Delegation.



Tom Douglas.

Mother Lode Dispatch Volume 7, Issue 6

Cliff Robertson Honored at the 2008 NSSAR Congress

At the Tuesday Banquet for the 2008 NSSAR Congress, Bruce Wilcox awarded Compatriot Cliff Robertson with the Gold Good Citizenship Medal for his service to our country. As many of you know, Cliff spoke at a special meeting of the Sacramento Chapter on Thursday, July 10th. Rather than try to tell you everything Cliff has done, I am going to use the introduction given by Jim Faulkinbury when he introduced him at that meeting. Tom Chilton, Editor

It's my great honor this evening to introduce a fellow compatriot and our speaker As all of you are already aware, Cliff is one of America's foremost dramatic actors. In fact, he is the only actor to have won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his 1968 lead role in "Charly", an Emmy Award for Best Actor in his 1965 TV performance in "The Game", the Theater World Award for his stage performances, and the Advertising Age Award for Best actor in a T.V. Commercial. He has performed in over 70 motion pictures from "Picnic" in 1955 to "Spider Man III" last year. Karen [Jim's wife] fondly remembers him as the "big kahona" in Gidget. He was personally chosen by John F. Kennedy to portray the young Navy Lt. Kennedy in 1963's "PT 109".

I had the good fortune of joining Cliff for lunch and dinner during our 118th National Congress which ended yesterday [July 9, 2008] and found his sharp wit and humor to be amazing. On Tuesday, during lunch with him and several others, Lou Carlson, our Vice President North, was questioning Cliff to get some information Good Citizenship Medal awarded from which to introduce him as the keynote speaker that evening. One of the questions asked was whether he ever had a role about the Revolutionary period. Cliff's response was "Well, I didn't know General Washington personally, but I



Cliff Robertson, wearing the Gold to him by President General Bruce Wilcox (in the back ground)

think I may have had tended to his horse --- with a shovel of course". He also gave us a start when he said "Ohhhh, is it tonight that I have to put on the monkey suit and talk? I guess I'd better get back to my room and think of **something to say**". These are just a couple of his great comebacks during the conversation that day.

Cliff is also a World War II veteran having served in the Merchant Marine. He joined the Merchant Marine at age 17 shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor in his response to the clouds of war forming in Europe. He saw action in the South Pacific, the Mediterranean, the North Atlantic and the ports of France.

In his earlier acting career, he uncovered illegal activities by the head of a major Hollywood studio and reported it to the FBI, beginning a scandal and Federal investigation that rocked Hollywood. He testified before Congress and was commended for doing the right thing. The right thing, however, cost him 3 years of being unofficially blacklisted from work in Hollywood, but he's proud of what he did, and with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners established the "Sentinel" award for others who selflessly come forward to right a wrong regardless of the consequences.

Cliff is a licensed commercial pilot. In fact he still flies his own aircraft and is the owner of several historical airplanes. He told me he flew his plane to South Carolina to visit his granddaughter last month. He has won many aviation honors including awards for his humanitarian efforts in Africa during the 1969 civil war in Biafra and the 1978 famine in Ethiopia, and for his support as inaugural chairman of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program where he has worked tirelessly for programs that introduce youth to the joy of flight.

In 1969, he saw first-hand the horrors and starvation from the civil war in Nigeria against the Biafran people. He organized flights to provide supplies and medical aid and was arrested at least once during these efforts. He once again testified before Congress that year to expose the plight of the Biafran people and to expose the conspiracy of silence which was then hiding the magnitude of the horrors from the public. He also narrated a 1 hour film, "This is What Biafra Is" for the same purpose.

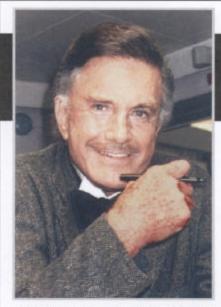
His awards are too numerous to list, but some of the highlights are being named Veteran of the Year in 2003 and in 2006, he was enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Two days ago at the 118th SAR National Congress Awards Banquet, he was presented with the SAR's Gold Good Citizenship Medal, the SAR's highest award for service by an individual.

I think we are all in for a treat tonight so please welcome our own Sacramento Chapter compatriot, Cliff Robertson.

By Jim Faulkinbury, Sacramento Chapter

[Editor's note: Cliff Robertson recently narrated a special program for PBS, to be aired on Veteran's Day, 2008. Watch your newspaper or TV guide for more information about this program.]

More about Cliff Robertson



Cliff Robertson – One of America's foremost dramatic actors, is the only actor to have won the Academy Award (Oscar), Emmy Award (Best Actor T.V.), Theatre World Award (Stage), as well as the Advertising Age Award (Best T.V. Commercial, AT&T.)

He played the lead male role in the original prize winning Days of Wine and Roses. He then played the starring role in Samuel Fuller's Underworld U.S.A.

Personally chosen by President John F. Kennedy to portray the President in the motion picture PT 109 – the story of Kennedy's heroic World War II exploits as P. T. Boat Skipper. PT 109 was followed by many more awardwinning performances on TV, in motion pictures, and on Broadway.

He gave one of his greatest performances as a presidential candidate in Gore Vidal's Pulitzer Prize Winning The Best Man.

He starred in the successful 633 Squadron, then as a modern-day Mosca opposite Rex Harrison in Joseph L. Mankiewicz's updated version of Ben Johnson's Volpone, The Honey Pot. His brilliant performance as a mentally retarded man in Charly earned him the

Academy Award Winner

CLIFF ROBERTSON

Academy Award for Best Actor.
That critical success was followed by
the Emmy Award for Best TV Actor
in the drama The Game. Returning
to films, he then starred in Too Late
the Hero, The Great Northfield,
Minnesota Raid, Three Days of the
Condor, and Obsession.

He also starred in, directed and wrote the outstanding rodeo drama J.W. Coop, and directed and starred in The Pilot. Other films include Star 80, Escape from L.A., Spider-Man, Spider-Man 2, Spider-Man 3, and the recently released Stephen King's Riding the Bullet.

He is currently writing his

well as a record-setting Glider. An avid sportsman - tennis and skiing he appears in many charity competitions, has won many aviation awards including the Experimental Aircraft Association Award, Soaring Society of America Award and the A.O.P.A. William Sharples Award for Rescue Flying in Africa. In 2003 Cliff was awarded the prestigious Veteran of the Year Award for his World War II service.

In 2006, Cliff was enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Although Cliff maintains a busy

"Since the Spider-Man films, I seem to have a whole new generation of fans. That in itself is a very fine residual."

"This isn't exactly a stable business. It's like trying to stand up in a canoe with your pants down."



autobiography, scheduled to be published in the near future.

A true renaissance man, Cliff Robertson's acting, writing, and directing skills have been applauded on TV, stage, and in over seventy motion pictures.

A native of La Jolla, California, Cliff now resides in Water Mill, Long Island, New York. An obdurate family man, he is close to his daughter Stephanie in Charleston, North Carolina. Cliff, a licensed Commercial Pilot, maintains and flies a stable of classic vintage aircraft, as after-dinner speaking engagement schedule between his other activities, he continues to devote much of his time to over fifty national charities.

Cliff's brave stand against corporate corruption was honored by the late Congressman Morris Udall on June 14, 1978 in the Congressional Record.

> Reach Cliff through www.cliffrobertson.info

The American Revolution – Month By Month - July 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

Following the battle at Monmouth, the American Army moved on to Englishtown where it spent two days for rest and recuperation. Ward relates the last evening was used "to publickly unite in thanksgiving to the Supreme Disposer of Human Events for the Victory which was obtained on Sunday over the Flower of the British troops." There is no doubt that if victory is awarded to the army holding the field, then the Continentals won. However, both sides claimed a glorious victory and, in a sense, each was victorious. But what was the true test of victory? Was the training at Valley Forge effective? Had the Continental Army really shown that it could successfully engage a professional European army on the open field? Flexner allows that the question may never be settled, but offers this remark, "On this issue, General Clinton gave his silent testimony by preferring, during the rest of his command, to fight where the Continental Army was not."

On the 1st of July the army began to move forward over terrain so much traveled in past months and years that its highways and byways were known by heart, which was indeed fortunate for there were no detailed maps showing roads and river crossings. The lack of such maps was the major cause of defeat at the Battle of Brandywine at Chadds Ford in Pennsylvania. Depending upon farmers to inform him of all fords and passages across the Brandywine, Washington was flanked when Howe discovered a distant and unguarded ford. Washington had asked Congress in January of 1777 to appoint a body to make actual surveys of "the roads, rivers, bridges and fords over streams, mountains and passes through the mountains." In July of that year Congress appointed Robert Erskine as Geographer and Surveyor-General to the Continental Army. It was not until 1780 that Erskine had progressed to the point of a pretty accurate map of four states: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut.

On the July 2nd, the Continental Congress returned to Philadelphia from York, Pennsylvania. On July 3rd, Loyalists and Indians massacred a settlement in the Wyoming Valley of northern Pennsylvania. I find no mention of any activity by the Continentals on July 4th. However, on that day, George Rogers Clark of Virginia captured the British garrison at Kaskaskia, located at the junction of the Mississippi and Kaskaskia Rivers. On July 9th, a British naval force

raided and burned Fairfield, Connecticut, and then moved on to deal the same fate to Norwalk.

At this point it should be noted that on July 8th, Washington established West Point as the official headquarters of the Continental Army. However, this did not mean that the Army itself was to be located at West Point, as on July 15th, the Continental Army was camped at Haverstraw. I do not find this town on today's maps, but the army had passed Paramus and must have been headed somewhat eastward toward the Jersey coast as the long awaited French fleet had arrived, and was laying at anchor off Sandy Hook. Washington ordered a large number of young bullocks (steers or young bulls), several hundred sheep, and much poultry to be presented to the French in honor of their arrival.

Comte (Count) D'Estaing, Admiral of the French Fleet, had arrived off the Delaware Capes on July 8th, far too late to catch Admiral Lord Richard Howe's fleet bottled up in the Delaware at Philadelphia. Failing to catch Howe on the Delaware, D'Estaing, with twelve ships of 834 guns and carrying 4,000 French marines, was now standing off Sandy Hook, the entrance to New York harbor, observing Howe's fleet of nine ships of 534 guns. D'Estaing appeared to have the advantage for an engagement, but his ships were larger and of deeper draft than the British who lay behind a sand bar in the bend of Sandy Hook. The greater draft of the French ships prevented them from crossing the bar. Washington furnished the best pilots, and D'Estaing offered a 50,000 Crown reward to anyone who could show him a safe passage across the bar. However, it was to no avail. The French ships were simply too big to cross the bar. The fleet lay there for 11 days before proceeding toward Newport, Rhode Island, which had been held by the British since December of 1776. It was occupied by 3,000 Redcoats as well as a number of warships and transports.

The move to Newport was a combined operation between D'Estaing and General Sullivan with 1,000 Continentals, who were to be supplemented by local militia. The New England states raised not only the 5,000 men as requested, but also 1,000 more. D'Estaing arrived off Newport on July 29th. As planned and agreed to with Washington, he landed the 4,000 Marines south of the city. He then turned his attention to Newport. There are only two

Mother Lode Dispatch Volume 7, Issue 6

The American Revolution – Month By Month - June 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers



General Sullivan 1740 - 1795

Newport's harbor. D'Estaing sent ships up both passages engaging in battles in which the British lost seven warships. However, he was unable to proceed because his way was blocked by the retreating Royal Navy, British transports blocking both passages to the inner harbor. D'Estaing was stymied; he controlled the sea but he could not

achieve his goal if he could not enter Newport's harbor. Raising, organizing, and deploying the militia, Sullivan's army was not prepared to fight.

Had Sullivan been ready for combat on the 29th,

passages from the sea to there should have been a different ending to the siege of Newport. Unfortunately, there was too much of a delay in time to coordinate with French, which jeopardized the entire operation. To this mix, stir in some naiveté by Sullivan, petty who intentionally sank two jealousy by D'Estaing, naval reinforcements from England on the way to reinforce Howe in New York, a hurricane moving, into the North Atlantic and you have the makings of a first class debacle.



Jean Baptiste Charles Henri Hector, Comte d'Estaing 1729 - 1794

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Cliff Robertson at the 2008 **NSSAR** Congress in Sacramento. Cliff is a member of the Sacramento Chapter.



Tom Adam's granddaughter, Julie Adams, sang our National Anthem at the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 **NSSAR Congress in Sacramento.**

The American Revolution – Month By Month - August 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

North American colonies, Britain now controlled only a great gale blew up separating the fleets. Had Britain's interest in the American to the ships than actual combat. storm?

In fact, the only major British activity in North further significant American activity would be in withdrew from his forward position and began predominant, and held the upper hand. occurred to radically change the equation.

reinforced by 6,000 Hessians on an island near the 4,000 marines. By pre-arrangement, D'Estaing landed 4,000 as best they could.

July in the New York area had been a month of proceeded against Howe, who declined engagement adjusting to the new location of the opposing armies, while seeking to gain the wind advantage from Clinton's return to New York City meant that in all of its D'Estaing. This dance continued for two days until a portion of two: the area around New York City and battles which had been joined between individual ships the city of Newport, Rhode Island. In the entire summer were terminated, ending in a draw. After the storm, there had been only one major land battle, and that a neither fleet was in a condition to continue to fight. The defensive action. Was this the beginning of the end of violent hurricane force storm had done more damage colonies waned? Or, was it just the lull before the scattered fleets, Howe turned back to New York while D'Estaing returned to Rhode Island.

On August 15th, Gen. Sullivan with 10,000 men America in 1778 would be defensive, while the only moved down upon Newport. British Gen. Pigot conjunction with D'Estaing and the French fleet in the building defenses; Sullivan followed and did the same. area around Newport, Rhode Island. The fleet arrived There was much cannonading against both sides with off Newport on July 29 for a combined operation no appreciable results. On August 20th, D'Estaing's against Newport. Unfortunately, Sullivan's army was fleet re-appeared at Newport. Sullivan and Lafayette not ready to cooperate with D'Estaing's forces until pleaded with D'Estaing for aid, but the Admiral, still August 5, so there was no action against Newport in smarting from an earlier slight, said that the condition July. The week's delay would in the long run doom the of his ships required that he sail for Boston at once to expedition. To this point, it appeared that the Franco-refit. Sullivan, with Lafayette as a spokesman, again American forces assembled around Newport were appealed asking for but two days cooperation from This the fleet and its marines. They believed that a predominance did not last very long; several things combined effort would assure the immediate fall of Newport. Lafayette pointed out that the lack of a To counter D'Estaing, the Royal Navy had combined action would probably doom the expedition dispatched 13 ships of the line under Vice Admiral as Howe had been able to further reinforce the John Byron (the poet's grandfather) to bolster Howe's Newport ground forces. D'Estaing refused, and on fleet. The original 3,000 Redcoats in Newport were August 21st, sailed for Boston, carrying with him his

D'Estaing's departure was a psychological defeat. French marines and a sizeable Patriot force on the Militia, valiant in battle, were also noted for their island to oppose the Hessians. However, on learning independence. Disgusted by D'Estaing's departure, of the arrival of Byron in New York, D'Estaing became they began to disappear in droves. Their loss so fearful that Byron and/or Howe's fleet would arrive weakened Sullivan's force that there was no further and trap him with a superior force. On August 10th, ability to attack Newport. On August 28th, Sullivan D'Estaing, without a "by your leave" or warning of any began a retreat followed by six British regiments, an kind, scooped up his marines, hauled anchors, and undetermined number of Hessians, and a shadowing sailed away, leaving the patriots to get off the island force of sloops of war designed to prevent any departure by sea by the now beleaguered If D'Estaing was fearful of a battle with a Continentals and the remaining Militia. The battle was numerically superior British fleet and thought that he joined with the Americans in an orderly retreat. There could escape combat, then he was mistaken. Admiral was much cannonading in a battle that raged for hours Howe, reinforced with four ships from Byron's fleet, in which even the British sloops of war moved into shore moved with the resoluteness that had given Britons the to fire on the Patriot Army. Only 1,500 of Sullivan's appellation of "Bull Dogs", and sailed to the general men had ever been under fire, but they all fought well. area of the French fleet. D'Estaing, now outclassed, After being forced back at one point they rallied, and but having the wind favorable and the first sighting, by their fire drove the British back in confusion. A

Mother Lode Dispatch Volume 7, Issue 6

The American Revolution – Month By Month - August 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

newly organized Black Regiment, under Colonel killed, 137 wounded, 44 missing; British casualties occur. the towns of New Bedford and Fairhaven.

The failure of the Newport operation can be snubbed by the less experienced and lower ranking positions for protection against the Americans. American General; not only had it been agreed that D'Estaing would order the first attack, but that the forces since D'Estaing was the ranking officer.

Washington was furious with D'Estaing for Christopher Greene of Rhode Island, were mentioned abandoning the American troops, but he could not in dispatches as having repulsed the Hessians in three afford a comment for fear of harming the delicate successive assaults for which they were formally agreement with the French by further offending commended for their valor under enemy fire. Darkness D'Estaing and the French government. Ward states brought a halt to the engagement. Boatmen from that Washington reminded Sullivan that the French Marblehead, who had saved Washington on Long were "a people old in war, very strict in military Island, once again proved their worth. By morning etiquette, and apt to take fire where others are they had ferried the Continentals over the water to scarcely warmed." He discreetly recommended to his Tiverton, proceeding on to Providence where Sullivan's generals to get along with the French and to keep Army spent the winter. American casualties were 30 from their soldiers any misunderstandings which might Outside of Lafayette and a few others, were 38 killed, 210 wounded, 12 missing. It was a Washington was sick of French officers, who constantly fortunate escape as the next day a British fleet acted in a condescending manner to him and his brought another 5,000 British regulars directly generals. Washington acted to smooth over relations commanded by Sir Henry Clinton. Finding the French with the French by an apology to D'Estaing which was gone, the fleet ranged up the coast burning ships and accepted, but this was not to be the end of poor relations with the French forces in America.

It should be noted that Washington, during this time. attributed not only to the Americans' failure to be had moved the main part of the army from Haverstraw ready on time, but also because D'Estaing had his nose to King's Ferry where he crossed the Hudson to White out of joint because early in the operation Gen. Plains. This was the same place where he had begun Sullivan had reacted to a minor tactical advantage his retreat across New Jersey two years before. The and ordered American troops into a clash with British difference was that previously the Americans were forces before the agreed upon first attack by French building defensive works to protect themselves; this troops. D'Estaing felt that he had been deliberately time it was the British who were building defensive

Ref: Ward's, "The War of the Revolution"; Flexner's, honor of the first action should have gone to French "Washington, the Indispensable Man"; Higginbotham's "The War of American Independence."

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Gadsden Flag

This flag was first used by Commodore Esek Hopkins, the first Commander in Chief of the New Continental Fleet. When his ships put to sea for the first time in February, 1776, flags with the symbol of the rattlesnake were very popular in Rhode Island at that time. Colonel Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina copied this flag and presented it to the Continental Congress.

Photos from the meeting held on June 24, 2008.



L-R: New members Matt and Tom Adams .



President Tom Douglas presents the SAR Certificate of Appreciation to June speaker Paul Shields.



Joyan and John Krahn



Cecilia and Lee Wolary



Mel Roush, Mother Lode Chapter Historian



L-R: Gene Bell, President Tom Douglas, and Jim Young, Mother Lode Registrar.

Minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2008.

by Brian Sonner, Secretary

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tom Douglas. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, the minutes for the previous meeting were approved as presented.

2. Reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report: There is \$384 in the Checking Account and \$500 in the Savings Account.
- c. Registrar's Report: Mr. Gene Bell's application for membership was forwarded to National. Tom Adams', Vince Adams' and Matt Adams' applications were approved by National and the Certificates are en route.
 - d. Historian's Report: There was nothing to report.
- 3. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:
- a. Brian Sonner volunteered to act as permanent Secretary until the next election. He was nominated, seconded, elected to the position.
 - b. The National Congress will be in Sacramento July 4 9.
 - c. The new name tags have been ordered but have not been picked up.
- d. Tom Chilton brought two Revolutionary Flags to the meeting: The Sons of Liberty Flag (13 red and white stripes), and the Philadelphia Light Horse Flag (yellow with blue and white stripes in upper left corner with coat of arms in center).
- 4. Guest Speaker: The guest speaker was retired FBI agent Paul Shields. He had a long and interesting career which considerable experience in counterespionage work targeting the Soviet Union and Chinese organized crime.
- 5. After the Benediction, SAR Recessional, and singing God Bless America, the meeting was adjourned. Brian C. Sonner, Secretary







CASSAR Host Reception held at the California State Railroad Museum on Saturday, July 5, 2008.



The California Society room rate of \$105.00, plus tax, per night, single or double occupancy, is available through October 1st, 2008. There are a limited number of discounted rooms, so reserve early. Hotel parking is \$10.00 per day. Free Shuttle to/from SFO runs every 20 minutes. (There is a BART station at San Francisco International Airport). There is also a free shuttle service to downtown Burlingame shopping and dining area.

For Room Reservations call: 1.650.340.8500

If you need a copy of the Registration Form, call Tom Douglas (530-677-3905).

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
BY THE
MOTHER LODE CHAPTER OF
THE SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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