



THE PATRIOT JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Raleigh Chapter
North Carolina Society Sons of the American
Revolution

Winter 2023

Our next chapter meeting is Feb.18 at Milton's
Pizza on Six Forks. Read about the details, and
latest chapter news and events, at sarraleigh.org.

The President's Corner

Happy New Year, Compatriots! It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your new Chapter President. We had a great past two years under the leadership of the [Immediate Past President, Richard Pena](#). Few will understand just how much time, energy, and effort he put into making this such an outstanding chapter. We are truly grateful to him for all that he did and helped us to achieve.



Never forget that it is the members of this chapter that are the heart and soul of what we are, do, and accomplish. Whether you come to a chapter meeting and break bread with your fellow compatriots, or simply pay your dues, it is all about you and honoring our Patriot ancestors. Several members have stepped up to take on challenging roles of responsibility(see [New Chapter Officers Elected](#) below), bringing new enthusiasm and perspectives. They are already achieving positive results. There are many ways for each of you to become more involved in the great many things we do, and I truly hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. If you're interested, but don't know what is available, just [reach out to me or any of the officers](#). We will match you with something based on your availability, skills, and interests. We have an immediate need for compatriots to help with our [JROTC](#) and [ROTC Medal](#) program as liaisons with the various schools in our area.

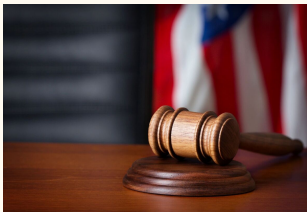
I am truly excited about this year as your Chapter President. We are planning several [grave marking ceremonies](#) to honor our Patriot forefathers. This is something we have not done in a while, so we will need help from you. [Our Color Guard](#) has a big year lined up, with many events to represent our chapter and state. We're always looking for more members to step up and be a part of this highly visible Color Guard. We even have funds to help you buy the uniform.

One of the new things we are doing this year is a [weekday evening meeting](#). There are many who simply have too much going on during the weekends to attend a Saturday meeting, so now we are having a quarterly weekday meeting to accommodate those that cannot make it on a Saturday. We are also bringing back an old favorite, a dinner banquet. I hope to have at least two each year. Our first one will be April 28th during which we will celebrate our 95th year as a Chapter of the North Carolina Society.

There are quite a few other things we are working on, like engaging schools and youngsters with the Traveling Trunk (AKA "The Patriot's Chest"), a flag retirement ceremony, planting and dedication of a Liberty Tree, and participating in the many upcoming historic anniversaries and commemorations.

[We have published a list of all our upcoming meetings](#). Please check it out and give us the pleasure of your company by attending as many as you can. Speaking of publishing, our Communications Director Karl Feld has built [our Chapter's very own website!](#) He has put in countless hours pulling it all together, which was no easy task. Please visit at <https://sarraleigh.org/>.

Do not hesitate to [reach out to me by email](#), text, phone, or even in person if you have anything that you need to address. I will do my best to be available for you. Do be mindful that I typically go to bed early and rise early. Nevertheless, I am here to serve you. I hope to see you at our next meeting! --Gary Spencer



New Chapter Officers Elected

The chapter elected inducted new officers at its general meeting on Dec. 10. President Gary Spencer, Vice President David McCracken, Secretary Darwin Roseman, Member at Large Gary Horne, and Member at Large Richard Pena assumed new offices. Treasurer Bob Sigmon, Registrar Bob Whitehead, Chaplain Van Jones, and Communication Director Karl Feld were reelected to the same positions. [Reach out to them!](#)

Compatriots Receive SAR Awards

At the chapter meeting on Nov. 12 President Pena awarded Compatriot Karl Feld the Robert Sherman Medal "in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding services" during Karl's last two years of work on behalf of the chapter. Karl stepped in as JROTC/ROTC Committee Chair in 2020 and accepted the role of chapter Communication Director in 2022.



Outgoing Chapter President Richard Pena was presented with the Past Commander Certificate for his years of service at the chapter meeting on Dec. 10. Gary Horne and Tom Davis were presented with Certificates of Appreciation.

One Patriot Ancestor's Story

Samuel Caswell (1742-1785) and 2nd wife Eleanor Shine (1756- aft. 1805)

Samuel was born in Joppa, Maryland as the youngest son of Richard Caswell, Sr. and his wife Christian Dallam. The family moved to near present-day Kinston, North Carolina following the older son, future NC Governor Richard Caswell. Samuel was a lieutenant in the Dobbs County, NC militia. He served in the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, and subsequently in the North Carolina State Troops as commissary officer of the powder magazine at Kin(g)ston with the rank of Captain. [Read about more of our Patriot ancestors.](#)



SAR Compatriots Remember Patriot Stedman's Service

Raleigh Chapter Color Guardsmen Participate In Grave Marking

On Nov. 19 Raleigh Chapter President Richard Pena and [Chapter Color Guardsmen](#) Robert Sigmon and Gary Spencer joined compatriots of the Sandhills Chapter of the SAR to honor

American Revolutionary War

Patriot Nathan Stedman III, at Pittsboro United Methodist Church. They were joined by by Stedman's descendants and members of the public to [dedicate the grave marking](#) with the SAR Medallion to honor his military service. Descendant Victor Burns of Carthage provided a life chronology and record of Stedman's service to the American Revolutionary War. Representatives of the North Carolina SAR, Daughters of the Alfred Moore DAR Chapter of Southern Pines, and Daughters of The Deep River DAR Chapter in Pittsboro were also present. Sandhills Chapter Compatriot and N.C. Senator Tom McInnis offered the benediction and the invocation prayer.

Chapter Members Speak on Revolutionary History

At the December monthly chapter meeting, chapter President Gary Spencer presented "[Drink Water](#)", a [lecture on the different canteens used by soldiers during the American Revolution](#). At the January meeting, Chapter Vice President David McCracken addressed the reasons George Washington accepted an officer's commission in the Virginia militia, his involvement against the French in what is now western Pennsylvania, and [how his tactical decisions between 1753 and 1756 launched the Seven Years War between France and the Kingdom of Great Britain](#). The engagements included the one and only time Washington ever surrendered to an enemy in battle.



Upcoming Chapter Talk on Valley Forge

Chapter member Bruce Hustis served as a docent/tour leader at Valley Forge for many years. On Saturday, February 18 he will present speak on

"The Third Winter Encampment at Valley Forge" at the [February Raleigh Chapter](#) meeting at [Milton's Pizza on Six Forks Road, Raleigh](#).

For a full list of upcoming chapter meetings and events see sarraleigh.org.

ROTC Medal Awarded To NCSU Cadet

On Nov. 16, the Raleigh Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution awarded Cadet Rebecca Daniels of North Carolina State University Air Force ROTC Detachment 595 [the Outstanding Cadet Medal](#) for superior leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence in volunteer service that exemplifies the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors. The award was presented by NCSU Air Force ROTC Detachment Commander Lt. Col. Steven Jordan.



Chapter Donates 127 Wreaths and 11 Participate at Historic Oakwood Cemetery

Throughout Nov. and Dec., chapter membership was involved in Wreaths Across America preparations at Historic Oakwood Cemetery. The chapter solicited the donation of 127 wreaths for the ceremony and chapter volunteers identified veteran graves in advance of wreath placement by marking them with flags, including the graves of the Hinton family Patriots buried in the cemetery. Compatriots Chris Ackiss, Buck Anderson, Russell Chafin, Van Jones, Norm Matthias, Jennifer Midthun, George Midthun, Walther Midthun, Richard Pena, Gary Spencer, and Ron Stanton from the Raleigh Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution laid wreaths on the graves of veterans at Historic Oakwood Cemetery on Dec. 17, National Wreaths Across America Day (NWAA). They were joined by Bette Pena from the North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution. [Learn more about Wreaths Across America.](#)

Five Households Receive Flag Certificates

On Sep. 9 last year, Compatriot Spencer and his daughter, Vivian (a member of the [Joel Lane CAR](#)), presented five [SAR Flag Certificates](#) to neighbors in the Raleigh neighborhood of Fox Run. Certificates were presented to Andrew & Brittany Pais, Edward &



Linda Maxa, Fred & Rebecca Kenowski, Carl & Catherine Robbins, and Albert James Hedeem.



Welcome Michael Joseph (Mike) Costantino

Compatriot Costantino was born in Binghamton, NY and was raised in Concord, NC from the age of 5. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill, graduating in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in history and political science. This was followed by two years of graduate school at Chapel Hill, where he earned a master's degree in teaching secondary social studies. For the last 24 years, Mike has taught high school history, civics, and psychology in the Wake County Public School System. He also coached cross country and announces football games. In his free time, he enjoys reading. Mike is married to Elizabeth (Beth) Clack of Wendell, NC. They live in the house Beth grew up in with their daughters Frankie—a freshman at the school where Mike works—and Maggie—a 7th grader. Compatriot Costantino's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on bloodline descent from Philip Stowits. [Learn more about Philip.](#)

Welcome Arther Ford Krueger, Jr.

Compatriot Krueger was born in Newport News, Virginia and raised in Atlanta area where he graduated from Woodward Academy (formerly Georgia Military Academy) and completed advanced education at The Graduate School of Banking of the South at LSU. He completed JROTC 1964-1966 at GMA and personal military service in the US Army Reserve, 397th Army Security Agency Company 1970-1976. Krueger completed a 45 year career in community banking and retired in 2016 as Chief Credit Officer at Roxboro Savings Bank. He was married to the late Flora Antoscia (1956-2017) and presently lives in Youngsville, NC. He has a stepdaughter and three grandsons who live in the Tampa area. Krueger's qualifying ancestor is Capt. John Cocke Pleasants of Virginia. [Read more about Pleasants.](#)





Welcome Michael and Andrew Link

Compatriot M. Link was born in Cleveland, Tennessee on October 11, 1956. Michael's parents, William D. Link and Gail Evelyn Hawkins Link taught their children the value of hard work. Michael attended Bradley Central High School. He completed an AS at Cleveland State Community College and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the U of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Growing up in the south; the family members who fought in the Civil War made history and genealogy easy subjects of interest. Michael has been fortunate to track a lot of relatives as they immigrated to America and then as they spread out across the country. It's been interesting to have found family branches in each of the four states that Michael and his family have lived in. Michael and his wife Tina have been married 34 years and moved from Texas to the Raleigh area in January 2022 to be closer to their two adult children. Their son Andrew is joining the SAR at the same time as Michael. Their daughter Victoria and her husband Mark Batey have blessed them with a beautiful granddaughter, who will turn three on Thanksgiving Day. Michael and Tina are members at Summit Church and are involved in a variety of programs there. Michael works in Aerospace and has had way too much fun. When Michael retires, he plans to write a book about his experiences that no one will read, much less buy.

Do You Have A Story To Share?

Write and let us know!

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