



# The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society

Sons of the American Revolution

May/June 2026



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## Meeting Schedule

### 11 May 2026

11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
1st Floor Meeting Room

### 6 June 2026

11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
1st Floor Meeting Room

Greetings Compatriots,

It is a great honor to be inducted as President of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for 2026. I understand the demands and requirements of this office, so I do not take this position lightly. I will be following Don Wolfe and the other really great men who have served as President, and I just hope I can continue their outstanding work. I am up for the task and I am committed to excellence.

I accept this position with great anticipation and excitement. I intend on being a decisive leader. I intend on being practical on all matters. I am looking forward to this challenge with great enthusiasm. In March, our slate of officers was inducted at the annual banquet at Valley Hill Country Club by Ron Dains President Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution. Please support our officers when they request assistance.

We have an outstanding core of workers who have made this chapter great. It is not possible for one man to run this organization so I am counting on a lot of help to keep our elite category. Our officers, committee chairmen and the general membership are dedicated to the goal to educate the public about our history and those who won our independence and gave birth to the United States. For 250 years the experts have stated that we have the best Constitution of all nations on the planet.

This is going to be an important year due to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We have had several teleconferences concerning activities on Independence Day. As you hear about celebrations during the year, I encourage you to attend and even get involved by helping the event to be successful as we recognize those who took a dangerous stand against the most powerful country in the world and the many patriots who gave their lives for our freedom and liberty.

This year on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, our chapter will be very busy covering two major Independence Day events. The first one is in Sparkman Park, Hartselle, Alabama beginning at 9AM and lasting for several hours. Bob Anderson is putting together a list of Revolutionary War educational stations which will need to be manned. Children will be going from station to station learning history and getting a stamp. Then they will proceed to a final station where they sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence. He is in need of many volunteers and scripts will be provided. Colonial clothing is not required for helping with these learning stations.

Continued on next page

Later that same day will be the Huntsville city parade downtown following part of the typical parade route. We would like to have members dressed in colonial clothing and the chapter is trying to roundup extra clothing for outfitting those members who do not have colonial clothing. We will have a float and more information will be available by Mark Hubbs as plans are made.

We had an early start with American 250 with an educational program at Tut Fann State Veterans Home on Meridian Street. Bill Sommers directed the program with the DAR. Our color guard presented the colors and spoke to the veterans about Patriot uniforms, weapons, and camp life.

Our chapter has a magnificent collection of talent which will be needed to make these events successful. Since our goal is to educate the public on the Revolutionary War era, this is our time to shine.

The Tennessee Valley chapter has won honors in the past as the best chapter in National Society Sons of the American Revolution. The Tennessee Valley Chapter has been recognized for our hard work performing our mission of educating the public on the American Revolution. I am amazed at the successful programs that this chapter has created and maintained through the years. Some of the job tasks have required a considerable amount of time and dedication.

We will continue to be active and supportive of the local DAR chapters, especially with grave markings. Benny and his SAR crew members have been busy the last 12 months cleaning cemeteries. When they are finished we will have some grave marking ceremonies. I enjoy these very much particularly with the firing of our muskets.

As your President, I realize it is going to take a lot of hard work, and I hope you have some patience with me while I get started. The Tennessee Valley Chapter demands excellence. I am confident that we will continue our goal and mission statement of educating the public about our founding fathers, our heroes, the events that led to our freedom and other aspects of the American Revolution.

*Lawrence Hillis*  
*President*

**Our April speaker was Bob Anderson. Bob's topic was "The Battle of Blackstocks Plantation."**



## Officers for 2026-2027

From left to right: Mark Icenogle Genealogist, Mark Hubbs Registrar, Ray Cassell Vice-President, Ken Michel Treasurer, Lawrence Hillis President, Steve Brouse Recording Secretary, Jim Maples Corresponding Secretary, Larry Layne Chaplain



## *Upcoming Events*

Monday, 11 May 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Monday, 8 June 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Monday, 6 July 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.  
**NOTE: FIRST MONDAY**

Tuesday, 11 August 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.  
**NOTE: SECOND TUESDAY**

Tuesday, 8 Spetember 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.  
**NOTE: SECOND TUESDAY**

Monday, 5 October 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.  
**NOTE: FIRST MONDAY**

Our Annual Chapter Banquet was held on Friday, March 20th at Valley Hill Country Club. We were honored to have State President Ron Dains join us for the installation of our 2026-2027 officers. Below and on the facing page are some of the awards given at the banquet.



Scott Owen  
Henry Knox  
Medal



Martha Brouse  
Martha Washington Medal



Steve Brouse  
Henry Knox  
Medal



Bob Anderson  
Meritorious Service  
Medal



Randal Jennings  
Meritorious Service  
Medal



Dudley Burwell  
Meritorious Service  
Medal



Sarah Curtis  
Lydia Darragh Medal



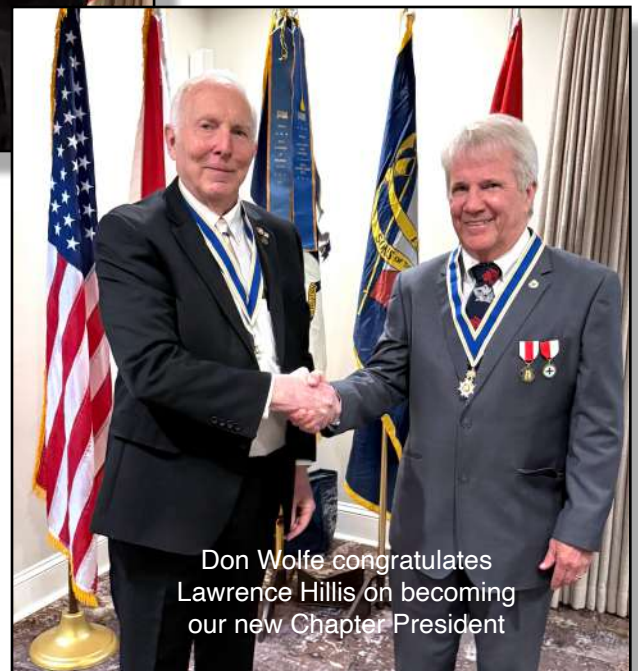
State President Ron  
Dains was our guest  
speaker and installed our  
new officers for  
2026-2027



George Royer  
Award from State  
Convention for most  
Supplementals in  
2025



Lawrence Hillis  
Distinguished Service  
Medal



Don Wolfe congratulates  
Lawrence Hillis on becoming  
our new Chapter President

## Approved Supplemental Applications



Mark Icenogle



Charlie Jones



Keith Albyn

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Click on the link below for the latest episode entitled: "Children of the American Revolution"

<https://youtu.be/5kSwYuxhBwU>





Wesley Smith was approved as a new member of the SAR but passed away before he could receive his new member certificate. At the left his wife Gina accepts his certificate. Below his son Daniel (TVC member) and daughter are shown with their mother and their father's certificate.



At the left Gina Smith accepts the Abigail Adams medal and certificate for recruiting 2 new SAR members using the DAR Finder form. Gina is the first recipient in the the State Society to receive this medal! The medal was presented to Gina by past State President Benny Hannah.



Every year Susan Crabtree solicits local businesses for donations to be used in the ALSSAR Ladies Auxiliary Silent Auction at the State Convention. Susan took Certificates of Appreciation to each of the local businesses. Thanks to these local businesses for their outstanding support!



Above is Ashley Turner, Sam's Club Assistant Manager.  
At the right is Leticia Taylor, Walmart Neighborhood Market Manager.



Above from left to right at Home Depot, Alicia Ward, Customer Service Desk Lead, Roland Perry, Assistant Manager, and Lynette, Customer Service Desk Representative.  
At the right is Josh Smith, Weathers Ace Hardware Manager.

**JROTC/ROTC Awards**  
Below and on the next two pages are some of the JROTC/ROTC awards given this school year.



Cadet LTC Jackson Douglas  
Austin High School



Cadet Blake Simmons  
Columbia High School



Cadet Anderson Ramos  
Decatur High School



Cadet Madison Geron  
Mae Jemison High School



Cadet Thomas Zeigler  
Buckhorn High School

Below, President Lawrence Hillis presents a special recognition award to Senior Military Instructor Lt Col David Murphy for his outstanding support, Huntsville High School



Cadet Izaiah Acuff  
Cullman Area Technical  
Academy



Cadet Lincoln Goss  
Huntsville High School



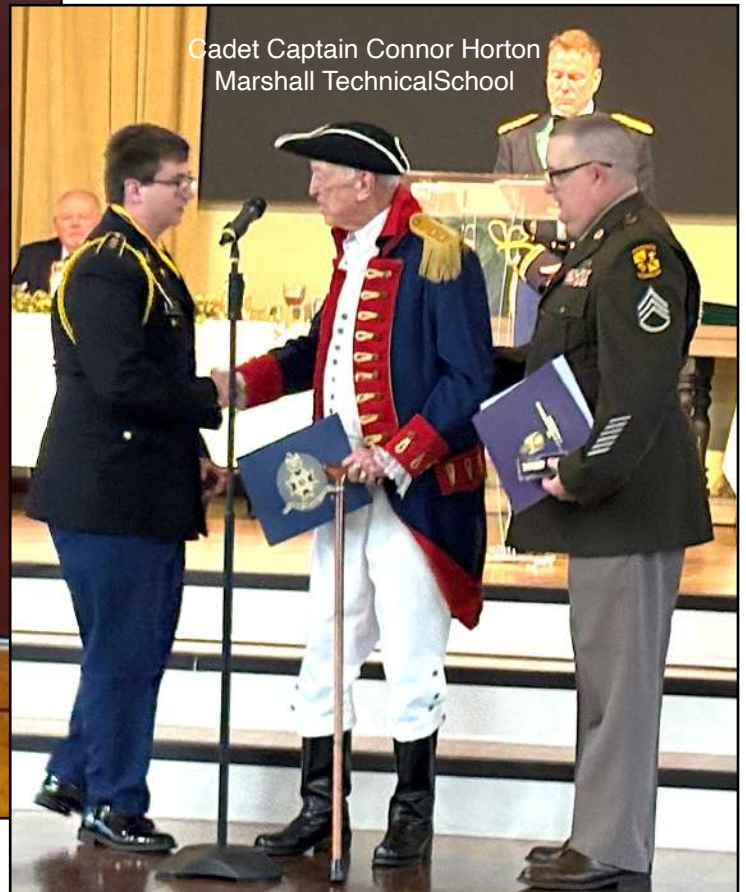
Cadet Lucius Grant  
Lee High School



Cadet Emilio Ortiz  
Athens High School



Steve Brouse presents the Senior ROTC  
Medal and certificate (Schlorship) to  
Cadet DeAngelo D. Stewart at A&M  
University



Cadet Captain Connor Horton  
Marshall Technical School



The Color Guard gave a program at Tut Fann Veterans Home on April 16th.

