



The Hiester Herald

Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

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Presidents Message

Compatriots,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers and get well wishes as I battled through a bout of double pneumonia in December. I was down for a full month. I came down with pneumonia the day of our Chapter's annual meeting. By all accounts those who attended the affair at the Berkshire Country Club enjoyed the evening. Thanks to Compatriot William Koch for reserving the ballroom at the country club for our dinner meeting.

The Governor Joseph Hiester color guard took part in the annual Veteran's Day observance at Veteran's Grove in Reading City Park. This was the first time that a wreath could be placed at a marker for Revolutionary War veterans. It was a very moving experience for those of us who have ancestors who took part in the American Revolution. Thanks to Compatriot Turner and his efforts to have a monument erected in honor of the first patriots, we will be able to mark their sacrifices along with those from subsequent wars. Our Color Guard also attended the Wreaths

Across America ceremony at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery where Floyd Turner acted as MC.

Now I would like all of you to make good on the promise that you made during the swearing in of our officers. You promised to aid the officers in their duties. I am asking each of you to try to convince a member of your family or a friend to join the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter

SAR. As our chapter grows, so does the opportunity to reach more people to promote the ideals of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Enlarging our chapter's membership is a goal we should all be striving to attain.

You are probably aware of the fact that Compatriot Miles K. Dechant is running for a second term as Librarian General NSSAR. Let's wish Miles success as he works at the national level in the SAR.

I hope to see many of you at our next Chapter Meeting which will be held at the Stouch Tavern in Womelsdorf on March 11, 2010.

Let's gather for a night of camaraderie in one of the taverns where George Washington actually stayed.

I am looking forward to a productive 2010. Please feel free to bring your suggestions to me and/or the executive board.

Eric H. Troutman

President



Eric H. Troutman

2009 Annual Dinner Highlights



Dr. Robert Kline is presented the certificate marking his fiftieth anniversary as a Compatriot of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter SAR. Dr. Kline has been a featured speaker at several of our membership meetings.

Compatriot Robert W. Murray proudly displays his Meritorious Service Medal and certificate presented to him by President Floyd Turner, II. Robert is currently serving the chapter as Eagle Scout chairman and chapter treasurer.



Richard Long listens intently as President Turner reads the inscription on the certificate accompanying the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal which was presented to Compatriot Long along with a certificate documenting his 25th anniversary as a member of the SAR. Not pictured is Compatriot Bruce Dietrich who also received the Silver Good Citizenship Medal.



Compatriots Raymonnd Longacre, Nevin Miller, Lawrence Ramberger and Miles K. Dechant were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by President Turner. Mr. Longacre has been serving as Aide to the President, Mr. Miller served as Chapter Secretary, Mr. Ramberger serves as Chapter Chaplin, and Mr. Dechant, Librarian General NSSAR, is always available when GJH Compatriots need his advice. These Compatriots are part of the back-bone of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter.

Vice President Robert Hillegas along with past President and Secretary Nevin Miller, presented Compatriot Floyd Turner with the Past President's medal. Mr. Turner was also presented the Meritorious Service Medal. Floyd has kept the Governor Joseph Hiester chapter in the media spotlight for at least the past four years with his publicity



releases. He worked diligently to secure grants and donations to have a granite marker dedicated to our Revolutionary War ancestors fabricated and then erected in Veterans Grove in Reading City Park, no simple project to say the least! He has been the editor of the Hiester Herald for several years and he has served as the GJH Color Guard Captain since the guard's inception. Floyd is the CAR Liaison and last, but not least, he is the PASSAR secretary.

Wreaths Across America



From Arlington to Across America

From [Wreaths Across America website](#).

[Wreaths](#) Across America was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester ([Worcester Wreath](#)) in 1992 with the donation and laying of 5000 Christmas wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. This became an annual journey for Mr. Worcester. It was relatively obscure until 2005 when a photo of the stones adorned with wreaths and covered in snow circulated around the [internet](#). The project received National attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries spurred the creation of "Wreaths Across America". Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Mr. Worcester conceived the idea of sending 7 wreaths (one for each branch of the military as well as POW/MIA). In 2006 with the help of the CAP and other civic organizations, over 150 locations held wreath laying ceremonies simultaneously.

By 2007 the requests for more wreaths grew. The Worcester family established the non-profit group Wreaths Across America to further promote Veterans remembrance. The mission Remember, Honor and Teach characterized the projects goals perfectly.

By 2008 over 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 over-seas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated.

The wreath laying is now held annually on the second Saturday of December. Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of the volunteers, many active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry.

We collectively thank our military and their families for "Our Freedom"!

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.

Ronald Reagan - 40th United States President (1911 - 2004)

Wreaths Across America ceremony was held at Indiantown National Cemetery on December 12, 2009. Compatriot Floyd Turner served as MC for the fourth year in a row. Compatriot Bob Hillegas stood guard during the ceremony as over 1,000 wreaths were placed on veterans graves.



Compatriot Turner was invited to speak during the Wreaths Across America ceremony held on December 7th in the Rotunda of the Pennsylvania Capitol building. Similar ceremonies were held in every state on that day. Quite an honor for Floyd and the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter SAR!

Committee Reports

Eagle Scout Committee

We heartily welcome William G. Koch, Jr. as a new member of our Eagle Scout Committee.

During the 2009 calendar year our committee attended sixty-five Courts of Honor and sent an additional thirty-five certificates to scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle.

Our Recognition and Scholarship Award winner for 2009 is John David Watts, 3242 Haycreek Road, Geigertown, PA 19523 a member of Troop # 595. Eagle Scout John Watts will be recognized at our dinner meeting in June. His application has been forwarded to the Pennsylvania State Sons of

the American Revolution for their consideration in the state competition.



Thanks to the entire committee for their dedication and support during 2009.

Robert W. Murray,
Eagle Scout Chairman

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country;
To obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake and morally straight

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,
friendly, courteous, kind, obedient,
cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

*These are the words that have molded
boys into men for the past 100 years.
Happy Anniversary Scouting!*

Membership

The membership of the Governor Joseph Hester Chapter at the start of 2010 is comprised of 66 Regular, 5 Life, 2 Emeritis, 1 Dual, and 1 member on active service plus 1 Junior member for a total of seventy-six. compatriots.

During 2009 several compatriots have given monetary contributions to our local chapter or the state society, either included with their dues

payment or sent separately We are grateful to these individuals for their generosity. Our local dues have remained constant while our expenses continue to increase.

Robert W. Murray, Treasurer

Genealogist's Report

Currently there are 12 men preparing their applications for submission to join our ranks. Applications for three memberships and one Junior membership are at National Headquarters awaiting approval. Jacob Loos has been approved as a supplemental for Compatriot David G. Loose, Jr. Compatriot Eric H. Troutman has added Jacob Allwein, Christian Battorff, Jacob Dundore and Georg Zeller to his list of supplementals.

With 17 new members added during 2009, GJH has the Trimble Trophy in its sights!

Eric H. Troutman
Registrar/Genealogist

2010 Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter Officers

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Chaplain	Lawrence E. Ramberger	610.488.6513	None
Surgeon	Dr. Thomas Shultz	610.372.6605	None
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Color Guard Captain	Floyd N. Turner, II	610.929.5840	floyddt2@comcast.net

2010 Calendar of Events

March 11	Membership Meeting, Stouch Tavern
May 13	Executive Committee Meeting Troutman Home
June 10	Membership Meeting Site TBA
August	Executive Committee Meeting Troutman Home Date TBA
August 14-15	Atlantic Middle States Conference New York
Sept.9	Membership Meeting Site TBA
Nov.	Executive Committee Meeting Troutman Home Date TBA
Dec. 2	Annual Membership Meeting Berkshire Country Club



National Society Sons of the American Revolution 120th Annual Conference will take place in Cleveland, Ohio from June 26 through June 30, 2010. Check the upcoming SAR Magazine for more information and registration forms. GJH Compatriots might consider carpooling, Cleveland isn't that far from Berks County!

Veteran's Day 2009



Captain Floyd Turner, II led the Governor Joseph Hiester Color Guard in its salute to the memory of Berks County Revolutionary War Veterans. It was the first time that Revolutionary veterans were memorialized during this annual event. Members of the Color Guard are left to right : Compatriots Nevin Miller, Raymond Longacre, Eric Troutman, Bruce Reppert, and Floyd Turner.



The GJH Color Guard is joined by members of the Reading High School Jr. ROTC Color Guard. Quite a representative mix of the past and the future.