



SAR Alabama



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have quickly discovered that the ALSSAR president's position is a very active one. I have had the pleasure of speaking to the following chapters — Tennessee Valley, Little River, Etowah, Birmingham, Black Warrior River and Gen. John Archer Elmore.

I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of people and have enjoyed every minute of it. I have scheduled presentations with most other chapters, but not all of them.

Our Board of Managers meeting held on May 6 was well attended and a lot was accomplished:

- We had the unpleasant task of shutting down two chapters (Tri-State and Lamar County Sons of Liberty). These actions were taken only after having numerous conversations with the leadership of each chapter and only after the leaders of each chapter voluntarily stated that they were, for all practical purposes, "defunct."

Unless we have received a different request from members of those chapters, all Tri-State members are being transferred into the Wiregrass chapter and all Lamar County Sons of Liberty compatriots are being transferred into the Shoals Area chapter.

- We elected delegates to the 2023 Congress being held in Orlando in July.

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Tent provides opportunities for ALSSAR

As our membership is aware, the Alabama Society now owns a full-scale replica of the George Washington War Tent. As an educator, Michael Martin was selected to head the committee responsible for defining the programs around the GW War Tent.

This committee has been hard at work defining exactly how this mobile museum will be utilized to educate students around Alabama.

Initially, the design will include a multi-station approach to include an in-class briefing, pre-tent discussion/presentation (multiple signs and a mockup of the Concord Bridge),

tent presentation (includes eight signs as well as mockups of a George Washington Desk, Cot and a table) and a post-tent presentation where all students will receive copies of the Declaration of Independence as well as the Constitution.

There is much work remaining on this effort, but significant progress is being made and this promises to be an incredible educational resource that will open up the ALSSAR presence in school districts around the state.

See TENT, Page 3

Film director wants compatriots as extras

Zach Kincaid, who can trace his own heritage back to Revolutionary War patriots, said that era of American history is often watered down or distorted in today's society.

That's why he is planning a series based on the historical events of the Revolutionary era.

"It seems like the cultural wind we're dealing with now sort of wants to rewrite that history in a way that's not heroic or celebratory or patriotic," Kincaid said. "It's people that put their lives on the line, people we know and people that we



—Photo by Melanie Poole

Colonists fire on the British in the documentary filmed by the American Village on Feb. 13, 2021.

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Push continues for hosting 2027 Congress

As our members are aware, the Alabama Society voted to be a part of a district-wide effort to host Congress in New Orleans in 2027. Eric Alford has been appointed to chair the committee responsible for coordinating the ALSSAR with the remainder of the Southern District, which includes Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

He will be presenting at the fall BOM his committee's plans for raising funds required to support the Congress. Those plans will be discussed and presented for a vote at the state

convention in February.

Alabama has committed to supporting Congress up to \$15,000.

Likewise, Alford was part of a group that included NSSAR and Southern District members in the hotel selection process. That process was presented at the spring BOM.

Stay tuned for more information on Congress 2027 as the plans become more defined and our actions become more frequent and critical. Your state society commits to keeping you all up to date on this effort.

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

- We heard from Joe Barker and his call for expanding membership in the Color Guard.

- The public relations initiatives were presented and have been posted to the ALSSAR web site.

- The ALSSAR "Speaker's Bureau" was rolled out at the BOM and includes 50 different presentations from numerous presenters. *Note that these presentations are available to all state chapters and other organizations of a kindred spirit.*

- There were numerous discussions around Congress 2027 which Alabama will be co-hosting with the other states in the Southern District. Eric Alford is chairing the committee that is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the Alabama Society.

- There was a vote to support the use of Mailchimp to communicate with all ALSAR members.

- Michael Martin gave a presentation on the progress of the George Washington War Tent. This included preliminary plans on signs and artifacts to be included in the tent.

- David Jones requested an increase in the amount of the youth awards from the state society. This request was approved. More information is contained in the minutes from the BOM.

The biggest focus at the Board of Manager's meeting was our "growth initiative." **We need everyone's help.** Our society has been trending down in membership. This trend must be reversed and that effort has started. We presented our 5-5-5

program involving 5 cards, 5 people, and 5 months. We are asking all members in the state to present a recruiting card to 5 different people. The ultimately objective is to recruit them into the Sons of the American Revolution and to do so in the next 5 months. We handed out 1,000 recruiting cards that look like this at the BOM:

WHO WE ARE:
We are the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution. We honor their memory, we teach their stories, and we protect their artifacts. And, we are proud of the nation that our Great-Grandfathers created.

HOW TO BECOME A PART OF HISTORY:
If you are a descendant of someone who fought or supported the American cause during the Revolution, then you qualify to be a member! We are excited to talk to you and lead you through the application process.

Contact me to find out more!

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

SAR WEBSITE
www.sar.org

AL SOCIETY
www.alsar.org

THE APPLICATION PROCESS STARTS HERE.
Find your local society contact today by scanning the QR code or visiting www.sar.org/find-your-contact!

Finally, we informed everyone at the Board of Managers meeting that your Alabama Society is committed to having all membership dues cards and notices to all chapters no later than Sept. 1. We have asked each chapter for a commitment to have these dues cards and notices to all members no later than Sept. 15.

We are asking that each chapter follow up with members on a regular basis in order to guarantee that we have a minimum number of membership drops due to non-payment of dues.

Your state officers are actively engaging with chapter officers from across the state. There have been and will continue to be calls between all secretaries and treasurers, presidents, vice presidents, etc...

Your state society desires a bi-directional relationship with each chapter and that can only happen if all officers participate. We feel that engaging proactively with officers from across the state builds trust, communications and ultimately creates this bi-directional relationship that we seek.

Please put the fall Board of Managers' meeting on your calendar. It is scheduled for Sept. 30 at the American Village. Also, the state convention will be held in Birmingham on Feb. 23-25.

In summary, your state society is working hard. Your Color Guard is all over the state and needs additional members. We are marking graves and marching in parades. We are working with schools, driving membership and getting our organization on billboards. We are trying hard to reach potential members, including the next generation.

But we need your help.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or if I can be of assistance in any way. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your state president and I'm always open to your thoughts and suggestions.

—Jim Griffith

New committee tasked with increasing membership

ALSSAR president Jim Griffith created a new committee during his induction ceremony at the annual meeting. His focus with this new committee is the four R's — Recruit, Retain, Reinstate and Re-energize.

Committee members have been reaching out to members who have been dropped from the active member roster for the past five years, with a big focus on those dropped in the last two years.

There is a strong possibility that some members never received their renewal notice. With such a large task, the committee has reached out to the chapters to assist in contacting these members.

At the spring Board of Managers meeting the committee gave a presentation on the process of retaining members, recruiting new members, and why this task is so important. President Griffith gave a stunning and eye-opening statistic on the current trend for the Alabama Society. If we do not retain members, the Society will not exist in 10 years based on the number of new members versus the number of dropped members.

The fourth "R" (Re-energize) is going to be the biggest factor in retention. Each chapter is encouraged to create a mentor or spon-

sor program. Encourage new members to participate in events and committees but do not drop them into a position of leadership within the first couple of years. They are still learning the ropes and need that mentorship so that when they become comfortable, they will most likely ask to be placed in charge of a committee or a chapter office position.

While the membership brochure is a good tool for us to give potential new members, we must write in a lot of information on the back page. The membership committee has simplified the recruitment process. President Griffith has created a card slightly larger than a business card but small enough to fit inside a shirt pocket. In the age of technology, this new recruiting card has three QR codes — one to the National web site, one to the Alabama web site and the most important one, a QR code to get started with the membership process. For those of us who are not "tech" savvy, the web sites are also printed on the card.

So let's all get on the membership train and get our membership back up to a level that it was pre-covid.

—David Jones

ALSSAR needs your help to increase public awareness

The ALSSAR Color Guard and Honor Guard is the face of the Sons of American Revolution, our public trademark.

As noted in *The SAR Colorguardian* of July 2012, the Colorguard is the most public way we honor our ancestors. Our Colorguard has marched in parades, presented the colors at DAR dedications and meetings, at patriot grave markings and before football and baseball games.

We perform opening ceremonies at dinners and historical events. Our Honor Guard has fired to start races, ball games and 21 gun salutes in tribute to our fallen warriors and patriots.

However, we would like to increase the public awareness of ALSSAR in Alabama through our social media footprint:

- Internet: The web site continues to evolve; Jim Maples has done a fantastic job! Check it out: <https://alssar.org/>

- Facebook: Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution

- Twitter: Yes, we can also be found on Twitter (follow us @ALSSAR2023).

Your help is needed!

We would like to post all announcements of all future events on Twitter, Facebook and ALSSAR.org well in advance.

Please send me your public service announcements to post. My e-mail address is wed0057@gmail.com

We would like to have a member of each chapter on the ALSSAR public relations team. I hope you will join us.

—Bill Daniel

ALSSAR Public Relations Committee Chairman
wed0057@gmail.com

ALSSAR initiates Speaker's Bureau

The Alabama Society has introduced a Speaker's Bureau, which is available to all of our chapters as well as other organizations.

The original intent of the Speaker's Bureau was to provide easy access for speakers at chapter meetings. During my calls with various chapter presidents, there were a number of them who mentioned issues in getting speakers.

The current Speaker's Bureau has 50 presentations available to most chapters so the issue of scheduling speakers should be resolved. But please note that these speakers are available for other organizations as well.

This is part of a public relations effort in getting our name out across the state. The more members we have speaking to organizations around the state, the more our name will get out. Hopefully, this will eventually assist us in driving new membership for our organization.

For more information on the Speaker's Bureau, please visit the Alabama Society website at: <https://alssar.org/speakers-bureau>

Now, let's spread the word about SAR around the state. Let's get these speakers scheduled and let's make this new resource known!

Your state society is working hard to provide our chapters with all of the resources needed to be successful. We just need to make sure and use them.

—Jim Griffith



—Photo courtesy of Jason Williams

Richard H. Lee essay champ

Reeltown High senior Cameron Tubbs, pictured with Richard Henry Lee chapter president Bob Harris, took first place in the chapter's George and Stella Knight Essay Contest with her essay, "What the Constitution Has Done."

Tent

(Continued from Page 1)

If you are interested in helping to define how this tent will be used, e-mail Michael.martin@cahabacoosasar.org.

Many thanks to our state chancellor, Jay Maples, for helping to define some of the legal paperwork that will be needed as we move forward with displaying this tent across the state of Alabama.

—Jim Griffith

ALSSAR will be well represented at Congress

Orlando, here we come.

The 2023 Sons of the American Revolution National Congress starts on July 14 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Fla., and runs through the following Thursday.

This promises to be an exciting and productive Congress and Alabama will be well represented. With 16 approved delegates as well as three national officers (President General C. Bruce Pickette, Librarian General Fred Olive and Chairman of the SAR Foundation Edmon McKinley), Alabama will be in the middle of the actions taken by SAR and well prepared to relay that information to all of our Alabama Society members.

Just as the State Society cannot be successful without the participation of all of our chapters, the National Society cannot be successful without the participation of all of the state societies. So, rest assured that Alabama is doing their part at all levels to make SAR as successful as possible.

Please remember to renew youth protection training

Just a reminder that several members are up for renewal of their SAR Youth Protection Training this year.

If you are a chapter, state or national officer, or you are a member of a youth program committee, you must have a current certificate on file with the state youth program coordinator, compatriot David Jones.

Please complete the training through the www.sar.org web site and email your certificate to djones36@aol.com

In Memory...

Winfield Scott Hughes Jr.

WINFIELD SCOTT HUGHES JR., a compatriot in the Black Warrior River chapter better known as Scotty, passed away in Tuscaloosa on June 7. He was 80.

Hughes was born on May 17, 1943 in Birmingham and was a lifelong resident of Tuscaloosa. He attended Verner Elementary School and Tuscaloosa Junior School before graduating from Tuscaloosa High School in 1962. He was a graduate of the Marion Military Institute and the University of Alabama.

He served his country in the Air Force Reserve. He worked at Greene Beverage Company for many years and retired from Tuscaloosa County.

His family arrived in the Tuscaloosa area before Alabama was a state and he was devoted to historical preservation and genealogical research. He was active in the Military Order of

the Stars and Bars, the Order of the Southern Cross, the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the Sons of the American Revolution, the War of 1812 Society and the American Battlefield Trust.

Hughes will be remembered by his family and friends as a man with a gentle demeanor who demonstrated kindness to everyone he knew and met. He loved playing golf, traveling, volunteering at the Soup Bowl and spending time with friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 25 years, Kathleen Patrick Hughes of Tuscaloosa, his parents, Winfield and Helen Hughes of Tuscaloosa, a sister, Joyce Hughes of Birmingham, and a nephew, Eddie Lusk, Jr. of Marietta.

Services were held on June 15 at First Presbyterian Church, followed by a private family service at Evergreen Cemetery.

Film

(Continued from Page 1)

want to make known with this project, ordinary folks that did something pretty extraordinary.

"Our hope is the pilot is part of a drama series that we want to put out. And then we also have all this documentary stuff we've done with experts around the country about the various points of touch before, during and after the Revolutionary War."

An Appeal to Heaven will be shot at the American Village on Aug. 15-19. The pilot takes place the night before the first shots of the war were fired at the Lexington Battle Green on April 19, 1775. Solomon Brown comes into town from Boston and reports to John Parker and William Munroe that he saw disguised British soldiers on the road from Boston and that he suspects something is happening.

The town gets ready as Sam Adams speaks to the people. John Hancock is also there. The short pilot ends just before the first shot is fired.

"The documentary part is more educational, a true documentary, but what we're shooting in August is more of the entertainment component," Kincaid said. "It's live action with actors -- we've done a casting call already -- for this pilot. We started with just wanting the documentary but the more we talked about it and tossed some ideas around, we feel like there's not (this type of film on the market).

"There are several films out there -- (the 2008 HBO miniseries) *John Adams*, (the 2000 Mel Gibson film) *The Patriot* (and the AMC 2014-17 series) *Turn* -- and the John Adams' film hits the mark but it is

through John Adams' lens, it doesn't get the full story. We feel like there's a lot of room to tell the story in a dramatic, adventure kind of way.

"We're wanting to stick with the facts, but those facts have been generalized some in history classes. For example, you get Paul Revere's ride that happens that evening, but you don't often hear about Solomon Brown coming to town (to warn them of the British approach), hours before Paul Revere does. So we actually tell that story. Which is in the (history) books. You can look it up and figure out what happened when, but history professors or teachers reduce it to Paul Revere, riding around, yelling. So we want to tell the true story in these small vignettes that people might get surprised about."

Kincaid, a Virginia native who lists Washington, D.C., as the address for his film company, Redhill Town Films, started talking with the American Village last fall about possibly shooting his film at the 188-acre campus in Shelby County.

"As an advocate for what's true about the history of our country, I think there's a lot of commonality between the American Village and what we're doing," he said. "That's the primary reason. We're up in northern Virginia and have a lot of connections with Mount Vernon and folks like that, but it's hard to film in historic settings because you have to make sure you're not disturbing anything."

Kincaid is looking for 25-30 extras to film town scenes in his pilot and is working closely with the Alabama Society for extras with period clothing.

"We have had many members who have volunteered to be a part of this film,"

ALSSAR president Jim Griffith said. "The purpose of the pilot is to attract attention from PBS, the History Channel, or others and potentially get a commitment to support the entire series. The details of this series can be found at the following link: <https://anappealtoheavenfilm.com/>

"In short, the purpose of this series is to:

- Educate — Tell the honest story that leads up to the days of the Revolutionary War, the reasons we sought independence and point to what follows as the United States is established by ratifying the Constitution.

- Inspire — Highlight the importance of personal and corporate faith of the colonists, among other motivations, that pull them toward war and then to the wise establishment of a new country.

"How exciting it is for those volunteers to help portray their forefathers and the challenges that they faced as critical decisions were being made about our revolution and ultimately about our country."

As Kincaid's title indicates, the film delves into the religious beliefs of the Founding Fathers, something he realizes might not be embraced in today's society.

"Even John Adams and others said, during the time, that we fought for religious freedom," Kincaid said. "We want to make sure that's a major focus among all the other moving parts that are happening."

"That's going to come out in a big way, not in a watered-down way. We've got to kind of thread the needle to people who may not know or respect or think that way, (that they) are entertained and can be persuaded. We don't want it to be preachy but we want it to be accurate."



—Photos courtesy of John Ziegler

Birmingham president Paul Petznick, second from right, and compatriot Bob Thomas, far right, present awards to CAR's Emma Leal, above left, and Eagle Scout Tristan Mitchell, above right, with David Luthin.

Birmingham chapter hands out youth awards at luncheon

The Birmingham chapter presented its annual youth awards program at its April meeting at The Club.

Following a delicious luncheon, ROTC chairman Bill Clement presented the JROTC award to Cadet Major Christian Griffin, a junior at Vincent Middle High School.

Eagle Scout chairman and Children of the American Revolution liaison Bob Thomas recognized Tristan Xavier Mitchell with the chapter's Eagle Scout award. His Scout leader, Dr. David Luthin, attended the awards program as well. Mitchell has 106 merit badges — only 21 are required to obtain Eagle Scout status — earning 17 palms as an Eagle Scout. The Helena High School junior is planning on an engineering career.

The CAR recipient is Vestavia Hills High School senior Emma Leal who was presented a bronze SAR-CAR medal of appreciation and certificate. Emma is president of the Jane Bland Society, CAR. Her mother Rebecca Hargraves attended the luncheon.

In addition, CAR adult president Cass Tinsley received a bronze Good Citizen Medal.

Finally, Roger Vaughan presented the Birmingham chapter's George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Award to Ramsay High senior Tyra Davis. Bronze Good Citizenship awards were presented to Briarwood Christian School students Samuel Joseph Olsen and Mary Bradford Latta.



Youth awards were also presented to Sam Olsen and Mary Latta, above; Tyra Davis, below left; and Cadet Major Christian Griffin, below.





—Photos courtesy of Jess Brown

At left, Tennessee Valley chapter compatriot Jess Brown and compatriot Lawrence Hillis (in uniform) present award to Army JR ROTC Cadet Honoree Severo Daniel of Columbia High School. Above, Tennessee Valley Color Guard commander Randal Jennings (in uniform) and ROTC program coordinator Ray Livingston present award to Huntsville High School's Space Command JR ROTC Cadet Honoree Dominic Fisher.

Tennessee Valley recognizes ROTC leaders at area schools

The Tennessee Valley chapter continues to recognize outstanding students within ROTC programs at both the high school and collegiate levels.

During April and May, representatives from the chapter made presentations to honor students at the ROTC program at Alabama A&M University and 21 high school-based JR ROTC programs. Students were selected based on exemplary performance in both the classroom and ROTC program requirements.

At most of the presentations were two compatriots from the chapter with one of them dressed in the attire of a Continental

Regular or a state militia. This extra effort had the effect of clearly distinguishing SAR from the other groups issuing awards at a high school's honors convocation.

The Tennessee Valley chapter's ROTC program is coordinated by Ray Livingston, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and a former chapter president.

High schools covered by the chapter's ROTC award reach included Arab High, Athens High, Bob Jones High, Brewer High/MCS Technology Park, Buckhorn High, Butler High, Cullman Area Tech Academy, Columbia High, Decatur High, Grissom High, Hazel Green High, Hunts-

ville High, Johnson High, James Clemens High, Mae Jemison High, Lawrence County High, Lee/New Century High, Limestone County Career Technical Center, Madison County High, Marshall Technical School and Sparkman High.

Assisting Ray Livingston with the numerous awards presentations were chapter compatriots Bob Anderson, Jess Brown, Steve Brouse, Dudley Burwell, Ray Caspell, Smokey Ferguson, Benny Hannah, Lawrence Hillis, Mark Hubbs, Randal Jennings, Chip Pharr, Anson Seebeck and Bill Sommers.

—Jess Brown



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

British perspective on the war

Wing Commander Rob Kemp of the Royal Air Force presents "The Howe Brothers and Leadership" at the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter meeting in March. Kemp spoke about the problems the British faced in trying to fight the war in North America.



—Photos courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha installs officers for 2023-24

The Cheaha chapter held its annual officers' installation luncheon on May 10 at the Classic on Noble. Above, ALSSAR vice president Michael Martin Jr., right, installed the new chapter officers for 2023-2024, from left: Rev. Jefferson Coker, chaplain; William Rozier, treasurer; Mannon Bankson, historian; Ronald Burson, vice president; John Gruenewald, secretary; Herbert Morgan, registrar; Eric Sloughfy, president; and Robert Folsom., chancellor. Martin, at right with president Eric Sloughfy, presented a program on Benjamin Franklin while in the character of one of our most beloved Founding Fathers.



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Chapter aids historical convention

Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter vice president Skip Dotherow stands in front of the chapter's display table at the 75th Alabama Historical Association annual meeting held at the Marriott on April 13-15. The annual convention included presentations from historians as well as displays such as the one from the SAR chapter. The convention, which will be held in Huntsville next year, also conducted tours of Autaugaville and Prattville and wrapped with an awards banquet. More than 250 people attended.





—Photo by Jeronimo Nisa/The Decatur Daily

Tennessee Valley chapter compatriot and retired Capt. Mike Rose, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, presents a wreath at the grave site of John Wade Keyes, Alabama's first veteran, in Athens on June 14.

Tennessee Valley recognizes Alabama's first veteran

On June 14, the Army's 248th birthday, the Tennessee Valley chapter conducted a grave marking for patriot John Wade Keyes. The event occurred in the historic section of the Athens city cemetery and was organized in conjunction with John Wade Keyes chapter of the DAR, based in Athens.

This grave marking was deemed a special one and generated much attention. The chapter designated Patriot Keyes as the state's first U.S. military veteran. This designation was reinforced by Senate Joint Resolution 91 passed by the Alabama Legislature.

Keyes had been an original member of the rifle company commanded by Captain Hugh Stephenson and organized near Shepherdstown, Va. (now West Virginia) in June, 1775. This unit was one of the first 10 rifle companies organized as a result of a resolution by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775. Soon after its organization, the unit undertook the so-called Bee Line March of 600 miles to join General Washington in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The service of Patriot Keyes commenced more than a year prior to the Declaration of Independence! A review of the service records of the 1220 Revolutionary War Patriots with a connection to Alabama found no other patriot with a prior service date. Since the Continental Army started with the 1775 resolution, soldiers in these first 10 units must inevitably be the first veterans of the U.S.

military.

The ALSSAR Color Guard under the command of Joe Barker presented the colors, engaged in a musket salute to the patriot, and presented a wreath. A wreath on behalf of chapter was presented by compatriot Capt. Mike Rose (retired), a recipient of the Medal of Honor. Others wreaths were presented by Pam Porterfield, regent of the John Wade Keyes chapter of DAR and by Caroline Pennington for the Capt. John Farrar Society of the CAR. John Fulwilder, former president of the Mississippi SAR, was also present and presented a wreath.

Dignitaries who made comments included Ronnie Marks, the mayor of Athens and SAR compatriot, state Sen. Tom Butler, who sponsored the legislative resolution, ALSSAR president Jim Griffith and Janice Jennings, second vice regent of the Alabama DAR.

A special element of the program was the music. Julie Estes, an accomplished flutist, played Chester, the anthem/hymn which would have been prominent among early supporters of independence in Massachusetts churches.

Tennessee Valley compatriot and ALSSAR secretary Benny Hannah coordinated the event as is the case with all TVCSAR grave marking activities.

—Jess Brown

Revolutionary hymn 'Chester' should be resurrected

*Their Vet'rans flee before our Youth,
And Gen'ral's yield to beardless Boys.*

As we enter the summer we will see most of the year's patriotic holidays come and go. Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veteran's Day to name a few.

The Tennessee Valley chapter will celebrate Flag Day (aka Army Birthday) on June 14 as they mark the grave of Patriot John Keyes. Keyes began his military career in 1775 in one of the first 10 companies of the new Continental Army. He is Alabama's earliest United States veteran.

A question was asked if it would be appropriate to play "Taps" during the ceremony. In my opinion, "Taps" is never inappropriate, but for honoring Revolutionary War patriots, it may not be the most fitting.

"Taps" (slang for Tattoo) was written as we know it today in 1862 by Gen. Abner Doubleday and was intended as a "lights out" signal. Soon it was being used at military funerals in the Army of the Potomac. It was not recognized as an U.S. official Army bugle call until 1874 and did not become a standard part of U.S. Army funerals until 1891. Our Revolutionary War ancestors would have had no familiarity with the tune or its current use.

I was delighted to learn that playing the song "Chester" had already been arranged as part of the Keyes' grave marking. "Chester" was an anthem, almost a hymn, that was made popular among patriot soldiers and the public during the War. Originating in New England, its popularity soon spread throughout the patriot ranks. Practically all Continentals and militia serving with the Continentals would have been familiar with the tune and words.

"Chester" was so popular among the public that there has been speculation that, if a national anthem had been adopted by Congress earlier in U.S. history, "Chester" would have been a

prime candidate.

William Billings wrote "Chester" about 1770 and added the words we now know during the conflict. "Chester" is almost forgotten today but it should be resurrected and used more often at Revolutionary War commemorative events.

Let tyrants shake their iron rod,
And Slav'ry clank her galling chains,
We fear them not, we trust in God,
New England's God forever reigns.

Howe and Burgoyne and Clinton too,
With Prescott and Cornwallis join'd,
Together plot our Overthrow,
In one Infernal league combin'd.

When God inspir'd us for the fight,
Their ranks were broke, their lines were forc'd,
Their ships were Shatter'd in our sight,
Or swiftly driven from our Coast.

The Foe comes on with haughty Stride;
Our troops advance with martial noise,
Their Vet'rans flee before our Youth,
And Gen'ral's yield to beardless Boys.

What grateful Off'ring shall we bring?
What shall we render to the Lord?
Loud Halleluiahs let us Sing,
And praise his name on ev'ry Chord.

Here is a version of Chester by folk singer, Diane Taraz:
<https://youtu.be/HxcYmCvkaeA>

— Mark Hubbs, ASSAR Historian

—Photos courtesy of Jason Williams

Chapter recognizes supplementals

At its May meeting, the Richard Henry Lee chapter recognized two of its compatriots for documentation of their supplemental SAR ancestors. In right top photo, chapter president Bob Harris is with compatriot Bill Sauser, far left, and Randy Tucker. Sauser's additional ancestor is Robert Overton Harris Jr., who served as a captain in the Virginia Militia and was the son of Major Robert Overton Harris and Mourning Glenn. Tucker's additional SAR ancestor is John Hahn, who was paid for service provided in North Carolina. The featured speaker at the meeting was Melissa Gatlin, below right, who presented a very informative program on "A Walking Tour of Opelika."



**ALABAMA SOCIETY, SONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

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If you're submitting material for the next newsletter, please e-mail your pictures and information to timgaylesar@gmail.com or send information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events by Sept. 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.

—Photo courtesy of David Jones

Chapter presents Nick and Terry Saban with award

Black Warrior River chapter President Ryan Montgomery, far left, and compatriot David Jones, far right, presented the SAR Good Citizenship Silver Award to Nick and Terry Saban for their work in the West Alabama area with Nick's Kids Foundation. The University of Alabama football coach and his wife have made a tremendous impact in the Tuscaloosa community with their work in Habitat for Humanity, the Children's Hands On Museum and soon the Saban Center. Saban received the award at his office on behalf of the couple. Terry Saban was unable to attend the event due to a scheduling conflict.

