



SAR Alabama



Volume 37, Number 3

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our main initiative this year was to reverse the downward trend in membership.

If you attended the Board of Managers' meetings, then you will recall several projections that were presented along with our plans for increasing membership. We asked everyone in attendance to identify five potential members, grab as many recruiting cards as might be needed and begin the process of recruiting those individuals into our society.

As of the writing of this letter, our membership is at 1,120. The good news is that is a significant jump from our numbers at reconciliation in January. You will recall that we closed our dues process at 999 members, meaning that we are now up by 121 members.

The bad news is that is still well below the number of average drops per year, meaning that unless something changes, our membership number is going to drop again this year.

So what are we doing about that? All chapters received their dues notices and membership cards by Aug. 27 this year. So we have given every chapter about four to six additional weeks to gather dues from every member of the Alabama Society.

So what are we doing about that?

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ALSSAR compatriots attend Congress

The 133rd Congress, hosted by the Florida Society, was held from July 14-20 in Orlando, drawing more than 550 compatriots and guests.

President General Bruce Pickette, a former president of the Alabama Society and the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, presided over the event before turning over the reins to the new president, John L. Dodd of California.

Among the 2023-24 officers are Chancellor General Edmon McKinley of the Gen. Galvez chapter and Librarian General Fred Olive of the Birmingham chapter.

Dodd's message was simple — raise awareness of the Sons of American Revolution. You can do this by wearing SAR logo shirts or posting your chapter's events on Facebook, X or YouTube. State societies and chapters, he added, need to be creative in raising the organization's profile over the next few years.

The most debated issue at Congress this year was a dues increase, a \$15 increase which took place on Sept. 1.

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—Photo courtesy of Jim Griffith

The "colonists" are, from left: ALSSAR past president David Jones, current ALSSAR president Jim Griffith and actor Seth Somers.

Documentary uses compatriots to tell story of their ancestors

You can ask them for their autograph later, but ALSSAR compatriots had a blast helping in the production of Zach Kincaid's documentary, *An Appeal to Heaven*.

The documentary was filmed on Aug. 16-17 at the American Village, using several actors as well as ALSSAR compatriots as the "extras" in the town scenes.

On Kincaid's web site, www.appealtoheavenfilm.com, the director describes the August shooting as a "15-minute pilot (that details) the story of April 18, 1775, the night before the Lexington and Concord battles. In many respects, it's the night

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Wiregrass honors patriot with marker

On Oct. 15, the Wiregrass chapter dedicated a patriot marker to Revolutionary War patriot Jacob Beverett, who is buried at the Mt. Enon Baptist Church Cemetery — originally known as the Old Beverett Graveyard.

Some of the land around the church continues to remain in the Beverett family. Jacob Beverett is one of 13 identified patriot soldiers buried in the original Dale County formed in 1824. Probably there were many others, but their names and contributions have been lost to time.

Jacob, his wife, and several of his children and their spouses came to Alabama from Duplin County, N.C., based on the urging of a son who had served in the area during the War of 1812.

North Carolina Revolutionary Army accounts show him being "paid for services," which were

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Message

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All chapters received their dues notices and membership cards by Aug. 27 this year. So we have given every chapter about four to six additional weeks to gather dues from every member of the Alabama Society.

In addition, every chapter received separate letters for all dropped members since 2019. Each chapter then committed to send all dues and reinstatement notices to the appropriate individuals by Sept. 15. So we are trying to maximize recruiting, reinstatements and dues payments.

So what does all of this mean? Well, recruiting doesn't solve every problem. Reinstatements don't solve every problem. But membership retainment can!

What is the value that your chapter offers its members? If your chapter doesn't offer value to its members, then why would they pay their dues?

SAR is not an inexpensive organization to be a part of, so is your chapter a good example of what the Sons of the American Revolution really is? Does your chapter exemplify the patriotic, historical and educational goals of our organization by actively pushing these within your community?

Dues payments go toward supporting the goals of our organization. But does your chapter support the goals of our organization?

There are many, many examples of chapters failing due to becoming passive about the organizational goals or inactive

in their pursuit of patriotic, historical or educational activities. So if your chapter has a lack of energy or focus and is having problems maintaining its membership, please do not hesitate to reach out to your state society. We have resources and experience. We have people who have seen failing chapters and people who have saved failing chapters and people who have built tremendously successful chapters.

There were numerous times when our forefathers were at the point of total defeat in the American Revolution. And each time they created a plan, they found the strength and showed the sheer tenacity to capture ultimate victory. Now it's our turn.

—Jim Griffith



—Photo courtesy of David Jones

Tuscaloosa County holds annual reading

The Tuscaloosa County Bar Association held its annual reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse steps on June 30. Since 2016, the Black Warrior River chapter has provided the Color Guard for the event, from left: David Jones, Martin Brady, Buddy Irving and Cade McCool. Behind the Color Guard to the far right is Tuscaloosa District Attorney Hays Webb, who started this event in 2012.

Patriot

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probably for his participation in the N.C. Militia, Wilmington District. He is recognized by both the SAR and DAR as a Revolutionary War patriot.

Approximately 50 guests and family members gathered under very gray skies for the program which included remarks by ALSSAR president Jim Griffith. The chapter was also pleased to have NSSAR Librarian General Dr. Fred Olive in attendance.

Family remarks were provided by Marcus Beverett, a third great grandson of Jacob Beverett, who also assisted in unveiling of the SAR marker.

It should be noted that there appears to be a "longevity gene"

in the family as the 1840 census of Dale County lists the patriot at over 100. In brackets following his name is the annotation of 109 (or 107).

In addition to the ALSSAR state wreath, floral presentations were made by two SAR and two DAR chapters along with the VFW and Color Guard. Elements of the state Color Guard presented the colors and provided a three volley musket salute followed by the playing of "Taps" to honor the patriot.

Very favorable remarks were received from family members and there was interest in potential membership within the SAR. The event was followed by a reception in the church hall sponsored by the Wiregrass chapter.

—John Wallace



—Photo courtesy of Jim Griffith

Alabama Society delegation to the 2023 Congress in Orlando

The Alabama delegation to Congress 2023 in Orlando poses for a picture at the annual event, which was a well-attended highly productive meeting of the National Society. There was significant business conducted, including a well-debated increase in national dues. We also witnessed Alabama's very own President General, Bruce Pickette (in the forefront of the picture above, along with his wife Rita), lead the Congress and walk off into retirement (at least as PG). If you have ever thought of attending Congress but have not done so or have questions about Congress, please talk with one of the state's delegates pictured above. Next year's Congress will be in Lancaster, Penn.

Congress

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Six compatriots were presented the Minuteman Award, including Robert B. Fish Jr., of West Virginia; Kenneth L. Goodson Jr., of Michigan; W. Allen Greenly of Georgia; David G. Jessel of Georgia; W. Lee Popham Sr., of Florida (escorted by Pickette); and C. Louis Raborg Jr., of Maryland.

The Alabama Society also took home several awards and honors, including participation streamers for the Americanism Poster Contest; the Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest; the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Orations Contest; the John C. Haughton Award (enhanced JROTC contest); the George S. and Stella M. Knight Award; and the Marian L. Brown Eagle Scout Award.

In addition, the ALSSAR was one of 21 state societies that received the CAR Activity Award for its work with the Chil-

dren of the American Revolution and was awarded the Walter G. Sterling Award for the largest number of new SAR compatriots who transferred from the CAR.

The state society also received the Genealogist General's Award for the lowest number of pending applications for membership and the Officers' Streamer Award for participation from its president and trustees in attending the previous trustees' meeting and the previous Congress.

Among the ALSSAR chapters, the Tennessee Valley chapter was once again among those presented the President General's Cup for recognition of complete program of activities.

The chapter, along with the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter, was among those presented the President General's Education Outreach streamer. The streamer recognizes those chapters whose compatriots perform a certain number of new historical presentations or an existing presentation in a new venue or to a new audience.

In Memory...

Howard Murfee Schramm Jr.

HOWARD MURFEE SCHRAMM JR., a compatriot in the Gen. Galvez chapter better known as Spud, passed away on July 20. He was 81.

A native of Mobile and longtime resident of Point Clear, Schramm was born on April 22, 1942 and was a graduate of University Military School, Washington and Lee University, and the University of Alabama School of Law. He was a member of the Mobile and Alabama Bar Associations.

Passionate about family history, he was a member of national, Alabama and Mobile genealogical societies — Sons of the American Revolution, Society of the War of 1812 and the First Families of Alabama.

A captain in the U.S. Army, Spud served in Fort Bragg, N.C., and in the Vietnam War. He was buried with military honors in Magnolia Cemetery on July 24, 2023.

Following discharge, he began permanent employment with Turner Supply Company, where he worked during high school and college. He became the company's third president in 1975.

Under his leadership the company expanded from one location in Mobile to several operations across the southeast. He served on many committees and the board of directors of the Southern Industrial Distributors Association and its successor, Industrial Supply Association.

Spud was an active community leader on the boards of the Florence Crittenden Home, the Visiting Nurse Association and the Jaycees Greater Gulf State Fair, all of which he served as

treasurer and later president. He also served on the board of Mobile Opera.

From a young age Spud enjoyed Mardi Gras and was a member of several mystic societies. He was honored to reign as the Mobile Carnival Association's King Felix III in 1968. He served as secretary then president of the Floral Parade committee, and as secretary and treasurer of the Mobile Carnival Association for many years. Additionally, he was involved in the Mobile Carnival Museum.

An active volunteer at UMS and its successor UMS-Wright, he was treasurer of the board. He was a loyal supporter and active participant in the fine arts program. In recognition of his continuing efforts with the drama and music programs, he was inducted into the UMS-Wright Arts Hall of Fame in 2011. In 2014 he was named Alumnus of the Year.

He served on the vestry of St. Francis Church in Point Clear and later joined Christ Church Cathedral.

Services were held on Aug. 4 at Christ Church Cathedral in Mobile.

He was survived by his wife of 59 years, Elizabeth Gideon Schramm; children Howard Murfee "Chip" Schramm III (Audra) of Birmingham, and Laura Schramm McLeod (Billy) of Mobile; four granddaughters, Cornelia Carter Drechsler Schramm, Sadie Louise Harper Schramm, Margaret Turner McLeod and Hilary Mae McLeod; sister-in-law Dr. Margaret Meyers Selby Nix of Fairhope, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

—Photo courtesy of Jason Williams

Richard Henry Lee adds new compatriots

The Richard Henry Lee chapter welcomed four new members with their induction at the chapter's April meeting at Saughatchee Country Club. Pictured are, from left: chapter president Bob Harris, Thomas W. Sparrow V, Thomas W. Sparrow IV, George H Blake III and Desmond P. Allen.





—Photos courtesy of David Jones

Black Warrior River honors compatriots for their service

The Black Warrior River chapter recognized compatriots for their long-term membership at its Sept. 28, meeting, including five-year service certificates (above), from left: David Darden, Beverly Leigh III, David Carroll, Rich Johnson and Stephen Asbury. Compatriot David Jones, below right, presents 20-year certificates to David Hartin (center) and Danny Roberts (right), while Jones, below left, presented 25-year certificates to founding chapter members James Kerry Barksdale (left) and Craig Patterson (center). Jones also presented compatriot Beverly Leigh III with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Award, right. Leigh will be inducted into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame in October.



Film

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before the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

"We might think we know the story but we have several surprising historical turns as the colonial town of Lexington prepares for what they have every suspicion to think is an assault on their freedom."

After receiving permission from the American Village to film his documentary, Kincaid put out the call for volunteers to serve as extras and the SAR responded to the call. His needs included extras, clothing and period weapons.

"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 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."

There were numerous tavern scenes, indoor and outdoor shoots, and all of this occurred throughout the night. It was an incredible opportunity for SAR to be a part of this effort, which if picked up will expose SAR to many, many individuals. Everyone who participated agreed that this effort was tremendous fun and gave us the opportunity to spend a significant amount of quality time together all while focusing on an educational effort.

Kincaid and his production company, Red Hill Town Films, spent the month of September working on post-production. The pilot should be available in late October or November, with additional episode scripts completed in the same general time frame.



The "colonists," above, are pictured with Zach Kincaid, left, and photography director Micah Kincaid, right.



—Photos courtesy of Jim Griffith

The extras in the documentary included ALSSAR compatriots, their wives (and one daughter).

Twenty Principles of the American Revolution

BY DANIEL L. HAULMAN

This essay lists 20 principles of the American Revolution, derived from such documents as the American Declaration of Independence, the first state constitutions, the Constitution of the United States, the Federalist Papers, the Bill of Rights, the inaugural addresses of the first presidents and Revolutionary War pamphlets such as Thomas Paine's Common Sense.

(1) "All men are created equal."

The Declaration of Independence, approved by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, is in effect the birth certificate of the United States. Its first principle is that "all men are created equal." Not all men are identical in size or strength or intelligence or appearance, but each man has the same rights as any other man, and no man should be under the subjection of any other man.

In 1776, this was an ideal, not a reality, because of slavery and other forms of institutional racism. At first only white men with certain amounts of property were able to vote and hold office. But the principle of equality continued to inspire America to improve.

As Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address, the ideal of equality is the foundation of the United States and it inspired him to end slavery. It continues to inspire advocates of freedom here and in all nations.

(2) Rights are God-given.

The source of the rights of each individual is not government but God. If government were the source of the rights of each individual, government could take those rights away. Even without government, individuals have rights.

Since individual rights are God-given, they belong not just to Americans but to all human beings.

(3) Rights should be defined in a written declaration of rights.

Rights should be spelled out in a written declaration of rights so that govern-



The signers of the Declaration of Independence certainly had the idea that all men were created equally, even if that wasn't a reality in 1776.

ments do not violate those rights and so that others do not violate those rights.

Englishmen appreciated that fact when the English Declaration of Rights was written at the time of the Glorious Revolution of 1688-1689. Americans continued the tradition. Many of the first state constitutions had declarations of rights, before the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution of the United States in 1791.

(4) The primary purpose of government is to protect the rights of the people.

In other words, the primary purpose of government is to protect persons from being killed, from being injured, from being held against their will, from having their property destroyed, damaged, or stolen. In other words, the primary purpose of government is to protect citizens from being victimized, either by crime or by foreign attacks or invasions.

Governments have other functions, too, but protecting rights is the primary function.

(5) Governments should be representative.

Whoever is under the control of a gov-

ernment should have some control over that government. Laws should be made with the consent of the people who have to obey them, and no one should make laws to which he or she is not also subject. Those who pay taxes should have the opportunity to determine what those taxes are, and no one should author taxes to which he or she is not also subject.

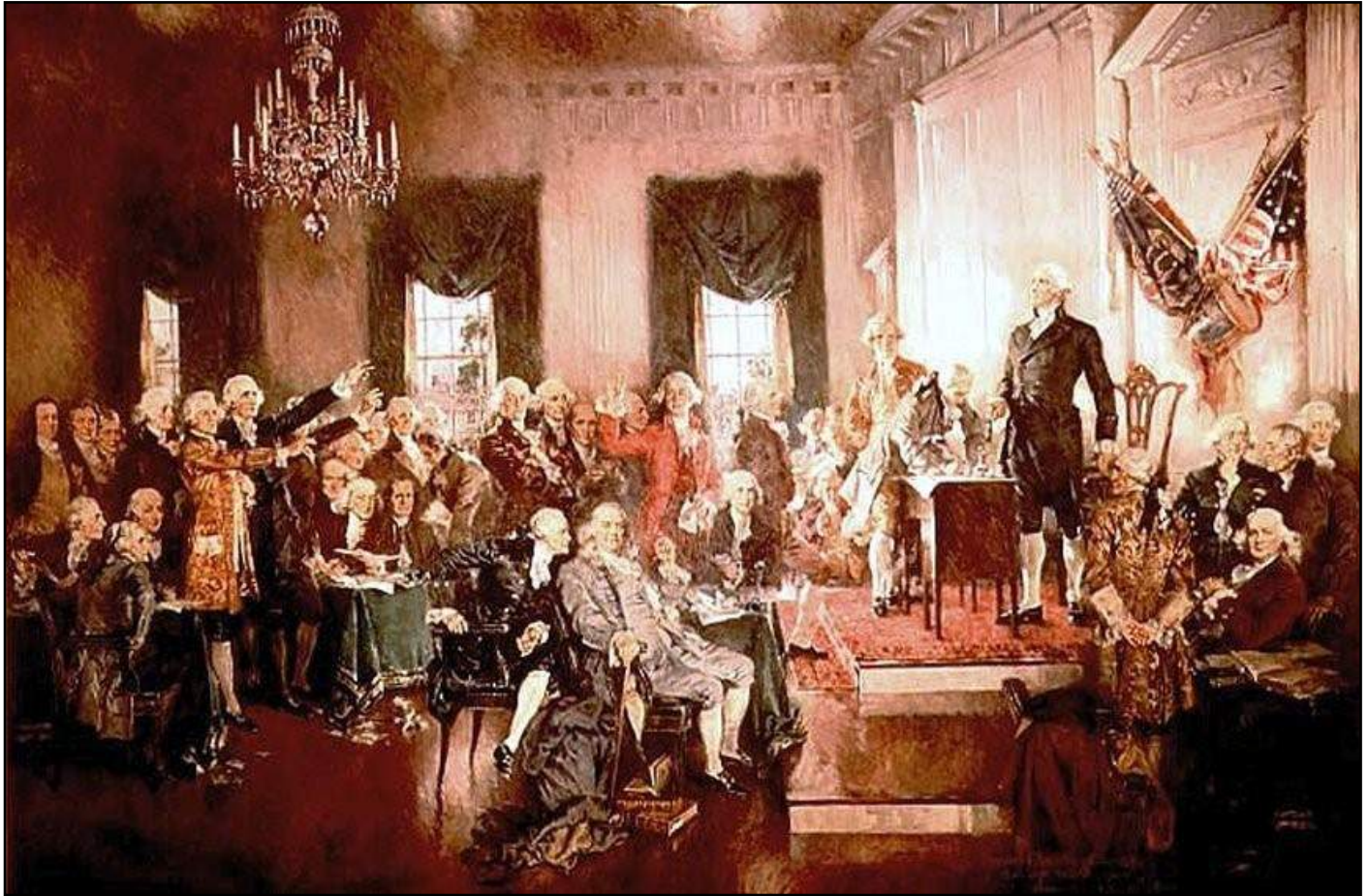
There should be no legislation without representation, and there should be no taxation without representation. People should elect their legislative and executive leaders. All officials should either be elected or chosen by those who are elected.

(6) Governments should be limited in power.

Government leaders do not have unlimited authority over the people they govern, but should be the servants of the governed. Governments should not exceed their constitutionally defined powers or violate the rights of the people they are designed to protect.

Governments exceed their proper authority if they presume to force people to do things for their own good, or if they

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The debate over the U.S. Constitution among leaders of the new country always recognized the value of a written document where government derives its power from law and not from men.

Principles

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forbid people from doing what harms no one else. Governments exist to prevent harm, not to require people to give their property to others, or to require them to work for others.

(7) The powers of government should be defined in a written constitution.

By requiring a government to have a written constitution, composed by the people who will be under the government's authority, there will be less temptation of government leaders to exceed their proper authority. Written constitutions help insure that we have governments of law and not of men.

(8) Constitutions should be subject to amendment.

Governments should be able to accommodate new conditions and challenges with amendments to the written constitution, and those amendments should be composed by and ratified by representatives of the people.

One generation should not forever completely define a constitution applied to another generation, but no constitution should violate the declaration of rights.

(9) Governments should be republics, without monarchs or aristocrats.

Monarchs and aristocrats inherit their power. Titles of royalty and nobility have no place in a society of political equals. Governments of free men should have no kings or queens, princes or princesses, dukes or duchesses, barons or lords or earls.

(10) Executive and legislative officials

should have limited terms.

All officials and legislators, who make and enforce laws and taxes, should be elected by the people who must obey those laws and pay those taxes, and those elections should be held periodically after a very limited number of years, so that if those officials and legislators do not serve the people, the people may replace them. Executive officials and legislatures who have no limit to their terms are more likely to become despots without regard to the rights of the governed. They are to be servants, not masters.

(11) There should be federalism to balance the powers of states and the central government.

In other words, each locality and each state or province should have its own

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Principles

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government, even if there is a federal government, and each of those governments should have its own jurisdiction and defined authority.

No government should exceed its proper authority. The central government should not infringe on the authority of state governments, and state governments should not infringe on the authority of local governments. By the same token, the state and local governments should not infringe on the power of the central government.

By balancing the powers of the larger and smaller governments, the individual rights of the people may be better protected.

(12) There should be checks and balances among the branches of government.

Each government should have separate branches, such as executive, legislative, and judicial, each with its own defined functions and authority, and each branch should have some power over each other branch, so that none of the branches becomes dominant or oppressive of the rights of the people. No person or set of persons should have unlimited power over the government or over the people.

(13) New territories should be allowed to become states.

If the nation expands into or acquires new territories from other nations, the people of those new territories should not remain as colonies of the nation, but should become new states of the nation, because all people of every area should be able to govern themselves, and be represented in the central government if that central government has authority over them.

(14) States or provinces of a nation should be represented in the national government in a bicameral legislature, with one representing them according to their respective populations, and one to represent them equally.



States with more people should have more influence in one house of the national legislature, and states with fewer people should have equal influence with larger states in the other house of the national legislature. The bicameral legislatures help insure that legislation is carefully considered, and represents the interests of all who will be required to obey it.

(15) Government should not require or forbid any particular religion.

There should be no state religion, and no one should be compelled to attend the worship services of any faith, or be compelled to contribute to any particular religious institution. No government should interfere with religious groups or institutions as long as those religious groups do not violate the individual rights of the people.

The rights of individuals and groups to express themselves, and what they believe, should be preserved, even if those in power do not agree with them or share those beliefs.

(16) If a government fails to fulfill its purpose to protect the rights of the people it is supposed to represent, the people have the right to change that government, either through election of new officials and legislatures in that government, or by amending the constitution, or, as a last resort, revolution or secession for independence.

(17) A legitimate government does not have subservient colonies in an empire.

Men on one side of the ocean have no authority over men on the other side.

Each nation should govern itself, and not be under the authority of another nation as its colony. People should be able to govern themselves, and not be under the control of other people over whom they have no control.

(18) Property requirements for voting and holding office should be reduced so that more people are represented in the governments that exercise control over them.

(19) Representation of each part of a state should be based on its population.

If the western parts of state gain in population, they should also gain in representation in the legislature. Periodic reapportionment allows each man's vote to count as much as each other man's vote.

(20) Slavery is morally wrong.

Jefferson's initial draft of the Declaration of Independence stated that emphatically. Soon after independence, states began passing laws to gradually abolish slavery, and the United States outlawed the importation of slaves from Africa when Jefferson was president. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 forbid slavery in the territory between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. By the time Jefferson and Adams died, exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence, half of the states had passed laws to abolish slavery.

Some of these 20 principles of the American Revolution were ideals, not yet reality, but they were goals toward which the United States has moved inexorably since. They are principles of liberty for all peoples everywhere. They have inspired other revolutions all over the world, and continue to inspire people to govern themselves, and to resist and overthrow tyrants and conquerors. The American Revolution continues to remind us that our governments should insure equality and liberty and justice for all, and to represent those who must obey their laws and pay their taxes.

**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 Dec. 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.



—Photos by Dale Crawford

From induction to featured speaker

Ryan Rogers, left, is presented his certificate and pin by president Jerry Haynes as the newest compatriot in the Little River chapter on Sept. 18, then becomes the featured speaker at the Oct. 16 chapter meeting, above, showing 10 flags of the American Revolution and giving a brief history of each one.