



SAR Alabama



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ALSSAR, chapters receive awards at 134th Congress

The 134th Congress, hosted by the Pennsylvania Society, was held on July 10-16 in Lancaster, Pa., drawing more than 630 compatriots and guests.

A slate of new officers were elected, including President General Darryl Addington of Tennessee. Two former ALSAR presidents are members of the NSSAR staff, including Chancellor General Edmon H. McKinley, who served as ALSAR president in 2019-20, and 2015 president Bill Stone, who was appointed to Addington's five-man Executive Committee.

Among the awards won by the chapters were the President General's Education Outreach Streamer, presented to chapters who do a certain number of new historical presentations or an existing presentation at a new venue or to a new audience. The Black Warrior River, Little River and Tennessee Valley chapters were presented streamers.

The Tennessee Valley chapter also won third place for the Liberty Bell Americanism Award and Streamer, presented to the chapter that presents evidence of best implementing SAR resolutions and principles.



Edmon McKinley, right, receiving an award from then-ALSSAR president David Jones, is NSSAR Chancellor General.

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Former ALSSAR president Jim Alexander passes away

Former Tennessee Valley chapter and Alabama Society president James Gilbert Alexander Jr., passed away on Aug. 9.

Alexander was born in a little community named Frenchman's Bayou close to Joiner in northeast Arkansas. His parents were James Gilbert Alexander Sr. and Josephine Elrod Alexander.

He grew up in southeast Missouri, graduating from high school in Kennett, Mo. Afterward he served in the United States Air Force. He was proud to be a veteran and to have served his country.

Following his military service, he studied electrical engineering at the University of Missouri where he was inducted into Eta Kappa Nu, the National Honor Society for electrical engineering students. He graduated in 1962



—Photo by Jim Maples

Then-ALSSAR president James Alexander, right, presents Distinguished Service Medal to Hoyt Smith at 2008 convention.

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Wiregrass chapter works on expanding reach of SAR



—Photo by Bob Cooper

Wiregrass chapter president Perry Vickers, left, with ALSSAR president Michael Martin.

The Wiregrass chapter was more than honored to have ALSAR president Michael Martin as the guest speaker at its June meeting at the Enterprise Country Club.

Everyone enjoyed hearing him speak on education, history and patriotism and his call to bring the 13 ALSSAR chapters together, in mutual support, of the efforts that each chapter makes to educate and preserve the history of our great American Revolutionary War ancestors and keep alive their goals of freedom. His remarks were warmly received by the membership.

In keeping with the idea of education and history, chapter members discussed the possibility of having a program during Black History Month next year at the memorial headstone of Jim Capers in northern Pike County.

Capers was a “Free Man of Color” who, at over 106 years of age, walked into the Pike County Courthouse in July 1849 and applied for a Revolutionary War Pension.

Not only would this honor a black Revolutionary War soldier during Black History Month, it supports the goals of the 250th anniversary program and would also mark the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army which has such a strong influence in this area of the state.

President Martin was in full support of this concept and several chapters members are going to investigate potential concepts over the summer.

As everyone knows, in addition to helicopters, Enterprise is known for its Boll Weevil Monument. Chapter president Perry Vickers presented Martin with a “Fear No Weevil” coffee mug along with a bar of hand soap made locally by the Boll Weevil Soap Company. Certainly, fitting mementos of his trip to Lower Alabama.

—John Wallace

Black Warrior River chapter, CAR join forces to promote event

On July 2, the Tuscaloosa County BAR Association held their annual reading of the Declaration of Independence on the steps of the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse.

This year, the Black Warrior River chapter and the Children of the American Revolution’s Lafayette Society joined forces to provide the Color Guard for the event. District Attorney Hays Webb, who hosts the ceremony, was elated to see the CAR members participating this year. The audience grows larger each year for this momentous event.

D. A. Webb begins the program with stating the purpose and importance of the Declaration of Independence. Each member of the BAR takes turns reading a section of the document as passers-by stop to listen. Courthouse employees and other members and organizations from the community attend this annual event.

Compatriot Milam Cain, senior leader of the Lafayette Society, encourages his children to engage in activities with the SAR. The Cain children have represented the Black Warrior River chapter and the Alabama Society in youth programs over the past several years.

—David Jones



—Photo courtesy of David Jones

From left, Black Warrior compatriot David Jones and president Cade McCool join forces with CAR members John Cain, Hope Cain, Zach Cain and Kate Cain.

We need to recognize Constitution Day more than ever

In 1911, Iowa schools began celebrating Constitution Day. Six years later, the Sons of the American Revolution announced the formation of a committee to encourage the celebration of Constitution Day. Members of this SAR committee included World War I hero Gen. John Pershing, later President Calvin Coolidge and John D. Rockefeller. Constitution Day became a holiday in 2004 when Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia made an amendment to an Omnibus Spending Bill that Constitution Day would be recognized on the federal level.

Skeptics mock the idea of American exceptionalism, stating that our country is just another system of government and just another conglomerate of citizenry destined for the ash heap of world civilizations. But I wish to submit that our country's exceptionalism is founded upon our governing document — the United States Constitution.

Customarily, a founding document for a country/government expounds the controls claimed by that government. But our wise Founding Fathers formulated a document to constitute the role of that government by limiting the power of that government. To prevent a dictatorship or an oligarchy, our wonderful United States Constitution presents limits on the Federal government. Our system presents three branches of our federal system: Judicial, Legislative and Executive.

Each branch has a specific purpose. The legislative branch

establishes laws. The judicial branch interprets the laws. The executive branch carries out the laws. Each branch is kept from total control because of the checks and balances contained in the U.S. Constitution.

The Bill of Rights, adopted to pacify opponents to the body of the Constitution, reserves rights of the states and of the individuals. The Tenth Amendment specifically declares the primacy of the rights of the several states.

I submit to you that these United States have remained a Constitutional Republic and has maintained a semblance of liberty because of our United States Constitution. Currently a movement is afoot that claims that we need a constitutional convention to stop runaway federal spending, to adopt term limits for Congress and various other reforms.

Please remember that we have no issues with liberty from our Constitutional Republic. Our problems with an overbearing federal government come not from our Constitution but our attacks on liberty come due to not following the Constitution.

So, celebrate Constitution Day and thank our Almighty God for our system that assumes liberty and recognizes the danger of too much authority in any one corner of government. Let's defend our Constitution from those who would open Pandora's Box and risk tampering with our rights.

—Rev. John Killian, *ALSSAR Past President (2009-10)*

Alexander

(Continued from Page 1)

from Missouri with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He also did graduate work at the University of Alabama in Birmingham and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

He married his high school sweetheart, Abby Alexander, in 1959, and together they had three children, Mark, Brian and Kimberly.

After graduation, Alexander worked for General Electric in Sunnyvale, Calif. He moved his family to Huntsville when the space program started to boom. He worked for over 30 years for the Army Missile Command (MICOM) and (AMCOM) Aviation and Missile Command. During his career, he earned several awards which included the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Alexander enjoyed sports and coaching young men. He coached little league teams and for several years coached basketball teams at Westminster Christian Academy.

Another favorite of his was genealogical research and participating in genealogical organizations such as the Sons of the American Revolution, the Alabama Society Sons of the War of 1812 and the Alabama Division Magna Charta Dames and Barons.

Alexander moved up the ranks before serving as the president of the Tennessee Valley chapter in 2003-04. His love for the organization was obvious as his sons followed in his footsteps, with Mark serving as chapter president in 2005-06 and Brian as chapter president in 2007-08.

He served as the ALSSAR president in 2007-08, then moved on to the National Society ranks where he proudly served as the NSSAR Flag Committee chairman for several years.

In 1979, the Alexander family joined Mount Zion Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, a Sunday School teacher and on several committees.

Services were held Aug. 13 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, with burial following in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Congress

(Continued from Page 1)

The Alabama Society won several awards as well, much of it based on their participation in youth activities.

- The CAR Activity Award and Streamers go to state societies for their work with the Children of the American Revolution.
- The Council of Youth Programs Poster Contest goes to societies that participated in the Americanism Poster Contest.
- Societies receive a participation streamer for their work in the Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest.
- Societies receive a participation streamer for their work in the Joseph Rumbaugh Historical Orations Contest.
- Societies receive a participation streamer for their work in the JROTC Cadet Contest.
- Societies receive a participation streamer for their work in the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest.
- Societies receive a participation streamer for their work in the Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Scholarship competition.
- The Council of Youth Programs Outstanding Participation Award was presented to the 10 societies that submit entries to at least six of the seven national youth contests.
- The Genealogist General's Award was presented to the 10 societies with the lowest percentage of pending applications for the year.

In Memory...

Peter C. Booher

The Tennessee Valley chapter lost a valuable compatriot recently when **PETER C. BOOHER, M.D.**, passed away on June 2 after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 83.

Booher was born July 16, 1940, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Paul and Louise Booher. After graduating from Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, Peter attended Emory University Medical School. During that time, he met his future wife, a nursing student, Carole Rogers. They married upon his graduation from Emory, and he immediately began his service as a captain in the United States Air Force.

He was stationed at Beale Air Force Base for a short time before deploying overseas to Thailand. After completing his tour and returning to Birmingham for residency training, he settled in Huntsville where he established his 38-year career as a radiologist with Radiology of Huntsville and raised three daughters.

He had many interests including a love of history, genealogical research, studying and teaching the Bible, playing the banjo, and relaxing at the lake with his family. He loved classical and bluegrass music. He always enjoyed a good joke and kept his sense of humor and quick wit all his days.

An enthusiastic supporter of his 10 grandchildren, Booher often attended sporting events, school functions, birthday parties and other activities.

The family is appreciative of the care he received over the years from John Fanning, M.D. and the UAB team; Michael Butler, M.D.; John Cox, M.D.; James Flatt, M.D.; David Greer, M.D.; William McFeely, M.D.; Christopher Parks, M.D.; and the care at Huntsville Hospital, Home Instead Senior Care and Hospice Family Care.

He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 57 years, Carole; three daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie Kolb, M.D. (Chris), Vicki Caneer (Matthew), and Betsy Summers (Ben); sister, Vicki Terry; nine grandsons and one granddaughter, Peter Kolb, James Kolb, Josh Kolb, Charles Caneer, Will Caneer, Sam Caneer, Eli Summers, Grace Summers, Gabe Summers, and Jeremiah Summers; two nieces, Chris Parker (Jason) and Betsy Matsunaga (Yasuyuki); nephew, Chet Terry (Ally); and several grandnieces and grandnephews, Payton Parker, Sheridan Parker, Ian Matsunaga, and Jaden Matsunaga.

Services were held on June 8 at Laughlin Service Funeral Home with Rev. Coy Hallmark of First United Methodist Church officiating, followed by burial at Maple Hill Cemetery.

—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Memorial Day ceremony
Members of the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter took part in the annual Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony in front of the Autauga County Courthouse. The wreath laying ceremony is an annual event in partnership with American Legion Post 122 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1349. Participating in the event were, from left: Eric Alford, Allen Herrod and Gary Backus.





—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter officers for 2024-25 include, from left: William Rozier, John Gruenewald, Herbert Morgan, Ronald Burson, Rev. Jefferson Coker, Mannon Bankson and Robert Folsom.

Cheaha chapter installs officers for 2024-25 in May

The Cheaha chapter held its annual officers installation luncheon on May 8 at noon at the Classic on Noble.

Former NSSAR President General Bruce Pickette was the featured speaker for the May meeting and installed the officers for 2024-25.

Pickette presented a program on the importance of the Sons of the American Revolution. Following the program, chapter vice president Ronald Burson presented the Gen. George Washington Challenge Coin to Pickette.

The officers for the Cheaha chapter are president Eric Sloughfy, vice president Ronald Burson, historian Mannon Bankson, chaplain Rev. Jefferson Coker, chancellor Robert Folsom, secretary John Gruenewald, registrar Herbert Morgan and treasurer William Rozier.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a national organization made up of the male descendants of the patriots who helped secure America's independence and promotes our nation's heritage and history and all of its meetings are open to the interested public.

—William Rozier



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter vice-president Ronald Burson, left, presents challenge coin to Bruce Pickette.



—Photos courtesy of Jason Williams

Richard Henry Lee chapter combines with DAR to celebrate Constitution Week

Featured speaker Bob Cochran and Richard Henry Lee chapter president Will Mooty, above right, joined with the Color Guard and the DAR presidents of Light Horse Harry Lee (Auburn), Tohopeka (Dadeville), Coweta Town (Phenix City) and Martha Wayles Jefferson (Opelika), above left, at the annual DAR-SAR luncheon commemorating the signing of the United States Constitution. Even though Sept. 17 is designated as Constitution Day, the event was recognized during Constitution Week on Sept. 20. The Richard Henry Lee chapter hosted the event this year and the ALSSAR Color Guard posted and retrieved the colors.



—Photos by Dale Crawford

Attorney speaks on constitutional law at Little River chapter's September meeting

Scottsboro attorney Parker Edmiston, above right, was the keynote speaker at the September meeting of the Little River chapter. Edmiston spoke on constitutional law using some of his previous cases for illustration. After the meeting, chapter president Jerry Haynes presented Edmiston with a certificate of appreciation.



—Photos courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter welcomes renowned artist, installs new compatriots at September meeting

Renowned local artist Jerry Marks presented his combination of history and art in “A Local Artist’s Story of Art and Colonial History” at the September meeting of the Cheaha chapter. Marks, above, far left, is pictured with new members Albert Ward of Ohatchee and Rev. John West of Childersburg, along with his son Rev. Steve West and chapter president Eric Sloughfy. Below, chapter compatriot Herbert Morgan, far left, and Sloughfy, far right, pose with the chapter’s newest compatriots.



Six Foreign-Born Heroes of the American Revolution

By Evan Andrews
History.com

1. Baron von Steuben

During the early stages of the revolution, the Continental Army had a reputation for being disorganized, undisciplined and poorly drilled. That started to change in early 1778, when the extravagantly named Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin, the Baron von Steuben, arrived to assist the patriots. The Baron was a former Prussian military officer who had once served on the staff of Frederick the Great. Though prone to exaggeration—he wore flashy uniforms and styled himself a lieutenant general even though he had never risen above the rank of captain—he also possessed a keen military mind. Upon arriving at George Washington’s winter encampment at Valley Forge, he introduced new sanitation measures and gave the troops a crash course in 18th-century military tactics that included bayonet combat and more effective techniques for firing and reloading muskets.

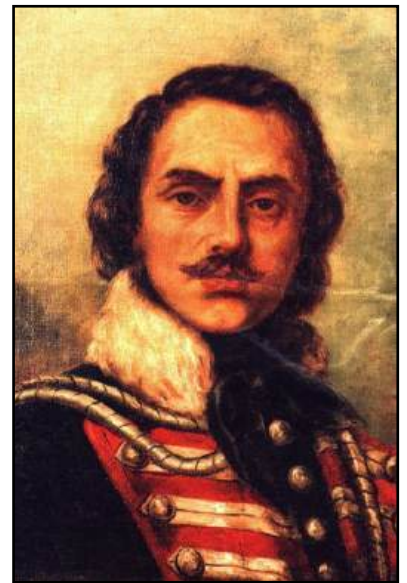
The Baron’s successes saw him appointed inspector general of the Continental Army in May 1778. Over the next two years, his drill methods helped transform the Patriot forces into an accomplished fighting force. He also penned the first military manual for the American army, “Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States.” This “Blue Book,” as it was known, remained the bible of the American armed forces until the War of 1812.



2. Casimir Pulaski

Polish-born Casimir Pulaski spent his brief life fighting as a revolutionary on two separate continents. The man later called the “Father of the American Cavalry” first distinguished himself as a leader of the Bar Confederation, a band of nobles who fought against foreign domination of Poland. After being exiled from his homeland in the early 1770s, he made his way to France and came into contact with Benjamin Franklin, who recruited him to the cause of American independence. The dashing young officer immediately proved his value in his first engagement at September 1777’s Battle of Brandywine, where he led a rearguard action that helped cover General George Washington’s retreat.

Despite not speaking a lick of English, Pulaski was later made a brigadier general in the Continental Cavalry. By 1778, he had taken over as commander of the “Pulaski Legion,” an independent cavalry unit composed of American and foreign recruits. In the spring of 1779, the Legion was posted to the war’s Southern theater and sustained severe casualties in the defense of Charleston. Just a few months later, Pulaski was mortally wounded by grapeshot while leading a cavalry attack during the Siege of Savannah. The 34-year-old’s heroic death established him among the American Revolution’s most famous foreign volunteers. He is now honored with two holidays, Casimir Pulaski Day and General Pulaski Memorial Day.



3. The Marquis de Lafayette

In 1777, the 19-year-old French aristocrat Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, left behind a sizable personal fortune and a pregnant wife and set off in search of military glory with the Continental Army. “When I first learned of that quarrel, my heart was enlisted,” he later wrote, “and I thought only of joining my colors to those of the revolutionaries.” The young idealist secured a commission as a major general and was wounded in the leg during his first engagement at September 1777’s Battle of Brandywine. He soon became a close confidante of General George Washington, and later served with distinction at the Battles of Gloucester, Barren Hill and Monmouth.

In 1778, Lafayette traveled to France to help rally support for the patriots. He then returned to the United States, took command of an army in Virginia and played a pivotal role in cornering British commander Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781. The man known as the “Hero of Two Worlds” later returned to Europe after the war ended, but he remained a beloved figure in the United States for the rest of his life. When he made a visit to America in 1824, nearly 80,000 grateful citizens turned out in New York Harbor to welcome him.



4. Tadeusz Kościuszko

Polish military officer Tadeusz Kościuszko arrived in the United States in the summer of 1776, having been forced to flee his homeland after an unsuccessful attempt to elope with a general's daughter. Commissioned a colonel by the Continental Congress, the 30-year-old soon established himself as one of the Continental Army's most brilliant combat engineers. Following the fall of Fort Ticonderoga in 1777, Kościuszko oversaw the damming of rivers and the destruction of bridges to delay the British advance. He was also instrumental in setting up the fortifications that secured the Continentals' crucial victory at the Battle of Saratoga. After spending two years beefing up the defenses of West Point, Kościuszko transferred to the war's Southern theater in 1780 and served under General Nathanael Greene, who placed him in charge of building fortifications, scouting territory and constructing troop transport boats.

Always a staunch believer in the revolutionary cause—he supposedly wept the first time he read the Declaration of Independence—Kościuszko later returned home after the war and became a leading figure in Poland's conflicts with Russia and Prussia. Thomas Jefferson, who had a friendship with Kościuszko, would later call him “as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known.”



5. Bernardo de Gálvez

Though never a member of the Continental Army, Spaniard Bernardo de Gálvez was one of the best friends the cause of American independence ever had. In his role as the governor of the Spanish province of Louisiana, the young nobleman aided the colonials by allowing munitions, medicine and other vital supplies to be shipped up the Mississippi River. Once Spain entered the war in 1779, Gálvez launched a bold offensive operation against British-controlled West Florida. Raising a diverse army of Spaniards, Creoles, free blacks, Indians and a few Americans, he seized control of several British forts along the Mississippi. Though constantly hindered by hurricanes and a lack of supplies, he then marched on Pensacola in 1781 and captured it following a siege.

While he remains little known today, Gálvez is credited with having transformed the war by bottling up British forces along the Gulf Coast and preventing them from pressuring the colonials. Along with serving as the namesake of Galveston, Texas, he is one of only eight people in history to have received honorary American citizenship.



6. Johann de Kalb

While he's now hailed as a hero of the American Revolution—among other places, the city of DeKalb, Illinois is named for him—Baron Johann de Kalb was nearly denied a chance to serve in the Continental Army. The Bavarian-born veteran of the French army first sailed for North America in 1777 alongside the Marquis de Lafayette and was initially passed over for a commission before finally being made a major general just as he was preparing to return to Europe. De Kalb went on to command a division during the dreary winter at Valley Forge, often working closely with Lafayette and General George Washington.

De Kalb's final campaign unfolded in 1780 when he took command of around 1,200 Maryland and Delaware troops in the war's Southern theater. While serving under General Horatio Gates that August, he participated in the Battle of Camden, where British forces under Lord Cornwallis made a ferocious frontal assault against the Continental lines. While Gates immediately fled the field, de Kalb and his men stood firm and even went on the counterattack before finally being overwhelmed. During the melee, the 59-year-old Baron was slashed with a saber, shot three times and repeatedly bayoneted. Taken prisoner by the British, he died three days later, supposedly after uttering the words, “I die the death I always prayed for: the death of a soldier fighting for the rights of man.”



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

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

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Help spread the word about your chapter in the next newsletter

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.

—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Prattville's Poppy Project

Members of the ALSSAR Color Guard presented the colors at the fifth annual Alabama Poppy Project ribbon tying and opening ceremonies at Spillway Park in downtown Prattville. Members of the Color Guard are, from left: Michael Araiza, Allen Herrod, Joe Barker and ALSSAR president Michael Martin. Also participating in the presentation of the colors were the American Legion Riders Post 122. The Alabama Poppy Project is hosted by Julianne Hansen Fine Arts and includes 2,024 poppies in the park in remembrance of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

