



SAR Alabama



Volume 38, Number 4

December, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Compatriots,

'Tis the season of hustle and bustle, when we often get so busy that we forget what the season is all about and all the great things that we do every day as members of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Sons of the American Revolution does more than just focus on history, patriotism and education.

We touch lives! We visit with veterans and let them know that they are not alone, they are appreciated, and we are thankful (in so many ways) of their service. We reach out to communities and help them embrace their heritage and realize that it is a VERY American thing to love thy neighbor, learn from our mistakes, and try to make our country and the world better.

And let us not forget our future, we also take this time to not only gather presents for our kids but also to kindle their innate curiosity and talents through our plethora of youth programs and awards.

But just as a year comes to a close, a new year is soon to begin. With that we must look to the future.

When I became president, I began my tenure by talking about **Focus**, **Unite**, and **Nourish**. At our Spring Board of Managers Meeting, our discussions about **Focus** laid forth a listing of programs and committees and challenged every member to find

See MESSAGE, Page 2

Preparations under way for convention

The ALSSAR state convention will return to the Hoover Embassy Suites on Feb. 21-22 and compatriots are encouraged to attend the annual two-day event.

Activities get under way on Friday (Feb. 21) with a trio of free seminars before the welcome reception at 6:30 p.m.

Compatriots can sign up for "Tools for the Family Detective," a presentation by Aimee Cross detailing the latest technology on searching for family ancestors; the "SAR Scavenger Hunt," a presentation by secretary Ron Dains and past president Jim Griffith on how to navigate the SAR web site; and "Tips and Tools for SAR Application Success" by

ALSSAR registrar Ron Bearden.

A registration form to attend the convention can be found on pages 6-7 of this newsletter or online at www.alssar.org.

Saturday's events include the Southern District meeting, the ALSSAR business meeting, the annual orations contest and the youth awards luncheon.

The convention wraps up on Saturday night with the annual awards banquet, which includes recognition of compatriots, a special guest and the installation of new officers for 2025-26.

Deadline to register for the convention is Feb. 13.

Bearden to hold annual genealogy workshop

Once again, ALSSAR registrar Ron Bearden will hold the annual genealogy workshop at the state convention. This year, the workshop will be entitled "Tips & Tools for SAR Application Success."

Bearden will cover the basics of completing an application for those just starting out as an SAR application preparer. He will discuss a few new web sites and links that are now available to aid us in genealogical research, then discuss new developments using artificial intelligence in genealogical research.

Bearden will conclude with a discussion on writing a proof argument or using the new proof argument forms when a proof argument is needed to prove the genealogy, service, residency, or specific place of occurrence on an SAR application.

There will be opportunities for questions during each segment of the workshop and



BEARDEN

there will be plenty of handouts.

The workshop will be a little later in the afternoon this year to give everyone plenty of time to get there. It will take place from 3-5 p.m. on the first day of the convention (Friday, Feb. 21) at the convention hotel, the Embassy Suites in Hoover.

There is no cost for the workshop.

Attendees do NOT have to be registered for the conven-

tion to attend and the workshop is open to any SAR or DAR member or prospective member of either organization.

However, any attendee who is not registered for the convention should still fill out and submit a convention registration form (on pages 6-7 of this newsletter) and indicate they will attend the genealogy workshop only.

We need this information to make sure we prepare the right number of handouts.

Bearden has been a member of the SAR since 1989 and has served as the ALSSAR registrar for 20 years.

He is a member of the NSSAR Genealogy Committee, has been awarded the NSSAR Gold Liberty Medal for (200) first line sponsorships and has personally sponsored over 325 members to SAR.

For more information, you can email Bearden at rbearden@farmerstel.com.

Inside this issue:

JA. Elmore chapter provides Christmas to homeless vets	3
In Memory... McGee, Swann	4
Cheaha chapter recognizes Purple Heart recipient	8
Richard Henry Lee chapter installs officers	9



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickett

Cahaba-Coosa chapter holds dedication for Pomeroy Foundation patriot grave marking

The Cahaba-Coosa chapter held a Revolutionary War patriot grave-marking ceremony on Oct. 19 for Lt. John Mahan of the 13th Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line and Private John Neely of the South Carolina Militia along with the dedication of a Patriot Historical Marker provided by the William Pomeroy Foundation at the Community Baptist Church and cemetery in Brierfield.

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

an area of interest to “plug in,” focus your efforts and move forward doing the work of the Sons of the American Revolution. In the fall, I asked every chapter to share the good news of the many deeds that each of you do and Unite with all of our chapters to bring forth great ideas and a quest for common purpose that makes our state society great.

Now, I want each of you to Nourish yourselves and our organization.

Our society’s state convention will be Feb. 21-22, 2025. **EVERYONE** is invited. Registration can be found at <https://alssar.org/events>. I want all members to come to our convention and not only find out how **YOU ARE THE FOUNDATION** of our society. I challenge you all to please nourish yourselves and nourish our society by doing the following:

- Similar to our last Board of Managers meeting, I want **EACH CHAPTER** to bring a display of all the many great things your chapters are doing. Bring pictures, memory books, posters, etc... Share your enthusiasm and ideas to **ALL CHAPTERS**.

- Come on **FRIDAY**. Take part in our workshops. Expand

your knowledge of genealogy. Learn about the resources that our national organization have for you with leadership and officer training. Find out how to make a successful supplemental (and a new member) application.

- Download and install the Family Tree app on your phone to access your FamilySearch data before you come to the convention. Then use that app to find out how you are related to your fellow SAR compatriots at the Friday night reception, and throughout the convention. It might surprise you.

- On **SATURDAY** morning, attend the Southern District and Alabama Society Business Meetings to expand your insights and to add your leadership for a better organization.

- For lunch (Saturday), be sure to attend the Oration Contest and the Youth Luncheon and discover how our youth of today are making a brighter future for tomorrow.

- Finally, come to the Saturday night banquet. Share in the fellowship. Meet a surprise historical personality. And, welcome next year’s Alabama Society leadership team as they continue to work with you to continually make the Sons of the American Revolution the best it can be.

—D. Michael Martin Jr.



—Photo courtesy of Benny Hannah

Tennessee Valley chapter portrays ‘Washington Crossing the Delaware’ for Veterans Day

The Cahaba-Coosa chapter held a Revolutionary War patriot grave-marking ceremony on Oct. 19 for Lt. John Mahan of the 13th Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line and Private John Neely of the South Carolina Militia along with the dedication of a Patriot Historical Marker provided by the William Pomeroy Foundation at the Community Baptist Church and cemetery in Brierfield.



—Photo by Skip Dotherow

SweetPea Christmas

Through the generosity of the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter, the nine veterans residing at SweetPea Homes were able to enjoy Christmas. Administered by Barbara Clark (left), the home has residence capacity for nine singles and a separate facility dedicated to female veterans, which currently houses three women. Past Peter Forney chapter regent Terry Dotherow (right), wife of Elmore compatriot Skip Dotherow, assisted in the purchase and delivery of the goods. The chapter contributed in excess of \$500 in goods and services.

In Memory...

James Eldridge McGee Allie Cavett Swann

The Black Warrior River and Tennessee Valley chapters are mourning the recent loss of compatriots Buddy McGee and Allie Cavett Swann over the last two months.

JAMES ELDRIDGE MCGEE of Cottdale, a member of the Black Warrior River chapter, passed away on Nov. 12. He was 89.

McGee, on Feb. 18, 1935, lived in Cottdale all his life. He was a lifelong member of Cottdale Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where he was baptized in his youth. This church is his family's home church with a rich history that started in 1885 with his great grandfather and first minister B.F. Hinton. He was very proud that his legacy continues into the seventh generation. McGee was a trustee, a deacon and was instrumental in the construction of the family life center.

He attended Cottdale Elementary School and graduated from Holt High School in 1953. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball, receiving the Jimmy Walker Award for the most outstanding student athlete. He was a member of coach Woody Clements' first football team.

After high school he was recruited to play fastpitch softball for the Pepsi Cola team where he and his family enjoyed traveling throughout the southeast. He was honored to be inducted into the West Alabama Softball Hall of Fame in 1999.

McGee was a master electrician and a member of the IBEW Local 136 for 71 years. He was the owner of McGee Electric Company, a commercial electrical contracting business. During his years in business, he was a mentor and made many friends along the way.

In addition to his membership in the Black Warrior River chapter, he was a Mason and Shriner, a member of the Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and president of the Cottdale Cemetery Association.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Carolyn Ray McGee; his children Elisa M. (David) Ember, Ashley (Sara) McGee, Chris (Miriam) McGee and Jennifer M. (Raiford "Bo") Wilson; his grandchildren, who fondly called him "Bud", Brett (Julie) Ember, Meghan E. (David) Adair, Rachael M. (Josh) Pope, Jason McGee, James "Gee" (Heather) McGee, Jon Wesley McGee, Bryant Wilson and Walker Wilson; his great-grandchildren, Jacob and Josh Ember, Emberly and Adley Adair, Lincoln Pope, John Ashley McGee, Estes and Marek McGee, Aiden and Ryder McGee.

Services were held on Nov. 15 at Tuscaloosa Memorial Chapel Funeral Home. Interment with Masonic Rites followed at Tuscaloosa Memorial Park Cemetery.

ALLIE CAVETT SWANN, a member of the Tennessee Valley chapter, passed away peacefully on Dec. 11. He was 91.

Swann was born to Evelyn and Allie Swann on Sept. 14, 1933, in Columbus, Miss., at his mother's family home and

grew up in Macon, Miss., with two younger sisters, Sallie and Rose.

He attended East Mississippi Junior College before enlisting with the U.S. Army, serving in Okinawa as a member of the Army Band during the Korean War. Upon returning to Mississippi following his military service, he graduated from Mississippi State University with a dual degree in accounting and economics. At MSU, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and created many lifelong friendships there. He went on to earn his MBA from the University of Alabama.

Swann worked briefly for an audit firm before he began his long tenure of 37 years at Marshall Space Flight Center, before retiring from his position as Center Comptroller.

While working as a young accountant at NASA, he was introduced to Linda Calline Reitzel by her mother with whom he worked. Allie and Linda married in July 1962, adding five children to their family within eight years.

He was a member of Trinity UMC for 62 years, and he and Linda raised all five children at Trinity. He and Linda were members of Cokesbury Class and longtime members of their PC Group. Allie also participated in two mission trips to Bolivia with the church to support construction of a Methodist school.

In addition to working at NASA, later in his career Swann taught accounting classes at Snead State, Alabama A&M University, Athens State University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Following his retirement from NASA, Swann was passionate about being involved with several local non-profits as a board member and volunteer, working tirelessly on improving financial reporting, policies, and processes, as well as improving the business administration functions of nonprofits. He worked with First Stop as a board member, worked with a group from Trinity to establish Team Read at Whitesburg Elementary and was a member of Sons of the American Revolution.

With a deep interest in genealogy and tracing his family history, Swann was instrumental in the restoration of the Cavett Cemetery in Meridianville, where ancestors are buried.

One of his most loved roles was as a board member and Foundation Board member for Burrirt on the Mountain as well as Volunteer of the Year. He served as the project manager for the Baron's Bluff building construction at Burrirt and was honored with a plaque at the entrance of Baron's Bluff.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Linda Reitzel Swann; five children, Cynthia Diaddario (Dave), Steven (Beth), Douglas (Katherine), Hallie Swann (Pat Moffatt), and Laura Swann; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two additional great-grandchildren on the way; his sister, Sallie Ellis; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held on Dec. 15 with a memorial service following at Laughlin Service Funeral Home.



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Gen. John A. Elmore chapter joins with DAR in marker dedication ceremony in Millbrook

On Nov. 2, compatriots in the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter joined the DAR’s Captain William Bibb chapter as they dedicated a Real Daughter grave for Mary Bibb Hall and rededicated the DAR grave marker for Revolutionary War Patriot Bolling Hall at the Hall-Rawlinson Cemetery in Millbrook. The event was attended by several descendants of Mary Bibb Hall and Bolling Hall.



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

John A. Elmore compatriots honor veterans

Gen. John Archer Elmore compatriots took part in the annual Prattville Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony, from left: Gary Backus, Ron Daines, Skip Dotherow, Allen Herrod and Rick Wells.



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Elmore compatriot volunteers for the frontier

Gen. John Archer Elmore compatriot Michael Arai-za was a participant at this year’s Alabama Frontier Days on Nov. 6-9, an annual event at Fort Toulouse in Wetumpka.

**Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Annual Business Meeting and Convention Registration**

February 21 - 22, 2025 - Hoover, Alabama



Hotel Reservation Information

**Hoover Embassy Suites
2960 John Hawkins Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35244
Phone Number: 205-985-9994**



SPECIAL ROOM RATE

<u>Room Type</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Standard King	\$159.00
Standard 2-Queen	\$179.00

**PER NIGHT RATE PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES
(Use "Sons of the American Revolution" to get the special rate.)**

ATTENDEES MUST MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS (cutoff date is con REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ATTENDANCE AT ALL FUNCTIONS)

If you wish to reserve your hotel room online, you can go to <https://links.alssar.org/con25hotel>


Name:		Guest(s):	
Chapter:		Office Held:	
REGISTRATION FEES:	SAR Members:	#	x \$35.00=
	Guests:	#	x \$20.00=
<u>FRIDAY - 21 February 2025</u>			
Tools for the Family Detective - 1:00 - 2:00 pm - NO COST <i>Find that elusive pre-1850 relative and fire up your search with the latest technology tools.</i> Presented by Aimee Cross, Ancestry Consulting By Aimee - https://www.youtube.com/@AncestryAimee		# attending=	
SAR Scavenger Hunt - 2:00 - 3:00 pm - NO COST <i>Leadership training, membership data, and lots more await you on the SAR website.</i> Presented by ALSSAR Secretary, Ron Dains -and- ALSSAR Past President, Jim Griffith		# attending=	
Tips & Tools for SAR Application Success - 3:00 - 5:00 pm- NO COST <i>Ensure your new or supplemental application succeeds with these latest tips and tools.</i> Presented by ALSSAR Registrar, Ron Bearden		# attending=	
RECEPTION (Business Casual - Jacket Preferred) Friday 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (Cash Bar)		#	x \$25.00 =
			SUBTOTAL =

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

SUBTOTAL FROM PREVIOUS PAGE =				
SATURDAY - 22 February 2025				
SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEETING (Coat and Tie) - 8:00 am - NO COST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (Coat and Tie) - 9:00 am - NO COST ORATIONS CONTEST (Coat and Tie) - 11:00 am - NO COST <i>Select your meal choice below...</i>				
YOUTH AWARDS LUNCHEON (Coat and Tie)- 12:00 - 2:00 pm				
● Option 1 - CHARDONNAY CHICKEN	#		x \$35.00 =	
● Option 2 - FETTUCCINE PASTA with SHRIMP SCALLOPS	#		x \$35.00 =	
● Option 3 - EGGPLANT PARMESAN	#		x \$35.00 =	
MOVIE MATINEE - Mike Rowe presents <i>SOMETHING TO STAND FOR</i> - NO COST Saturday - 2:30 - 4:00 pm				
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET (with special historical guest) Social / Cash Bar - 5:30 - 6:30 pm / Dinner - 6:30 pm - til <i>Men - Black Tie for head table and new officers; Others, Black Tie, Uniform, or Coat and Tie</i> <i>Ladies - Dress as appropriate.</i> <i>Select your meal choice below...</i>				
● Option 1 - CHICKEN PICATTA	#		x \$55.00 =	
● Option 2 - GRILLED ATLANTIC SALMON	#		x \$55.00 =	
● Option 3 - ROASTED EGGPLANT	#		x \$55.00 =	
OVERALL TOTAL TO PAY =				

Please advise of any food allergies: _____

A HEADCOUNT FOR MEALS AND THE RECEPTION MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE HOTEL BY NOON ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 - REGISTRATION WILL BE CLOSED AFTER THAT TIME.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEND YOUR REGISTRATION</u></p> <p>Option 1 - By email your to Scott Martin, ALSSAR Treasurer at bevel67@aol.com</p> <p>Option 2 - By mail this form to... ALSSAR 2024 Convention Attn: Scott Martin, ALSSAR Treasurer 108 Tanglewood Drive Alabaster, AL 35007</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PAYMENTS</u></p> <p>Option 1 - Use this QR Code or the link below...</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">https://links.alsar.org/con25reg</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE NOTE: You DO NOT have to pay the default donation processing fee at checkout!.</p> <p>Option 2 - Mail check payable to <i>ALSSAR Convention</i> at the address to the left.</p>
---	---



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Compatriots learn about Founding Fathers

Dr. Bill Lester was the guest speaker at the Cheaha chapter's October meeting, presenting a program on the religious views of the Founding Fathers, followed by a presentation on the Electoral College. Lester (center) was awarded the NSSAR's George Washington Challenge Coin by chapter president Eric Sloughfy (left) and vice president Ron Burson.

—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter honors veteran with Wounded Warrior coin

Cheaha chapter president Eric Sloughfy presented Sergeant First Class Paul M. Robertson with the SAR's Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate during a special ceremony at Jacksonville State University's Rowe Hall on Nov. 19. Robertson, who serves as Jacksonville State's Army ROTC Senior Military Science Instructor, was previously awarded the U.S. Army's Purple Heart for injuries sustained from an enemy Vehicle Borne Improvised Device during combat operations in Kunar Province, Afghanistan in May 2011. Robertson was assigned to 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division during the battle and has been serving his country for 18 years.



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha compatriots talk Electoral College

Redge Thagard, a retired high school counselor at the Donoho School, kept the Cheaha compatriots entertained at their November chapter meeting with a presentation on the Electoral College. Thagard (center) was awarded a George Washington Challenge Coin by chapter president Eric Sloughfy (right) and vice president Ron Burson.





—Photo courtesy of Jason Williams

Richard Henry Lee installs 2025 officers at December meeting

ALSSAR vice president Benny Hannah conducted the installation of the Richard Henry Lee chapter officers for 2025 during the December 2024 meeting, from left: Sid Harden, Alva Webb, Walker Jackson, Larry Leonard and Will Mooty, along with Hannah (far right). Not pictured is Bill Sauser.



—Photos courtesy of Jason Williams

Chapter honors veterans

At the November meeting, the chapter recognized all of its veterans (left); in December, Walter Dorsey, center in photo above left, was honored with a Meritorious Service Medal; above, Bob Harris (second from right) and Walker Jackson (far left) were the inaugural recipients of the Walter Dorsey Loyalty and Service Award.

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

3104 Cabot Street Phone: 334-328-4580
Montgomery, AL 36110 E-mail: timgaylesar@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/AlabamaSocietySAR

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 432
Montgomery, AL

Visit the ALSSAR Web site at www.alssar.org

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



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

***Chapter donates
legacy tree to school***

On Oct 4, Melvina P. Phillips, Kate Smith DAR School Board of Trustees Chair, accepted the gift of a James Madison Legacy Tree from the Tennessee Valley chapter during the school's dedication ceremony of the Centennial Campus Commons. From left, chapter compatriots Jason Hodges (Director of Development at KDS), Bob Anderson, Chip Pharr, Don Wolfe, Randal Jennings, Lawrence Hillis and Daniel Wrenn.