



# SAR Alabama



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots, hello. Seems only like yesterday I pinned my last update. I'd like to highlight several key items from the past and to point out several ongoing initiatives.

**June 14, 2022:** the Alabama Society's Color Guard posted to colors and joined the Blue Star Salute Board and team from the U.S. Navy Honor Guard at the funeral for T. Simmons, U.S. Navy, Seaman Second Class. Seaman T. Simmons lost his life on Dec. 7 aboard the U.S.S. California at Pearl Harbor. On June 14, Seaman Simmons was finally returned home to Corner Creek cemetery in Geneva County. His remains were identified by DNA analysis in November 2021.

**SAR Congress:** The Alabama Society had approximately 20 delegates attend this years Congress in Savannah, Ga.

- ▶ The Highlights of the Congress:
  - Our OWN, SAR President General C. Bruce Pickette (ALSSAR Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter) was sworn in as President General 2022-2023.

- Earlier in the week the Class of 2022 Minutemen were inducted; from Alabama (ALSSAR Birmingham chapter), Librarian General J. Fred Olive III.

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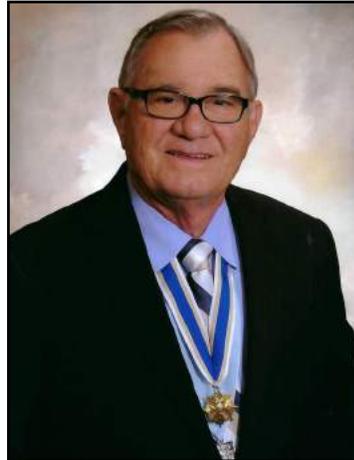
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## ALSSAR compatriot C. Bruce Pickette elected President General at Congress

The highlight of the 132nd Congress in Savannah, Ga., was the election of officers, which included President General C. Bruce Pickette, a former ALSSAR president and compatriot in the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter.

Pickette is the 118th President General and only the second President General from the Alabama Society. Pickette paid homage to his state's predecessor, Ryall S. Morgan, who served as President General in 1972-1973 and how he hoped he could mark his grave in the Ryal Cemetery in Effington County, Ga., with a compatriot marker, a tribute he hopes will



spread to other President General grave sites.

Pickette acknowledged the Alabama Society compatriots

and their ladies during the installation banquet at Congress. He thanked his fellow state compatriots for their support throughout the years. The Alabama Society hosted a reception following the banquet for Pickette and First Lady Rita Pickette.

Bruce recognized his wife, Rita, for her love and tolerance for 53 years. He also presented their daughter Laura and two of her three children, Megan and Garrett, and their son Greg, with his wife Lyz and their two boys, Bennett and Charlie. Their oldest grandson Kenneth is home in

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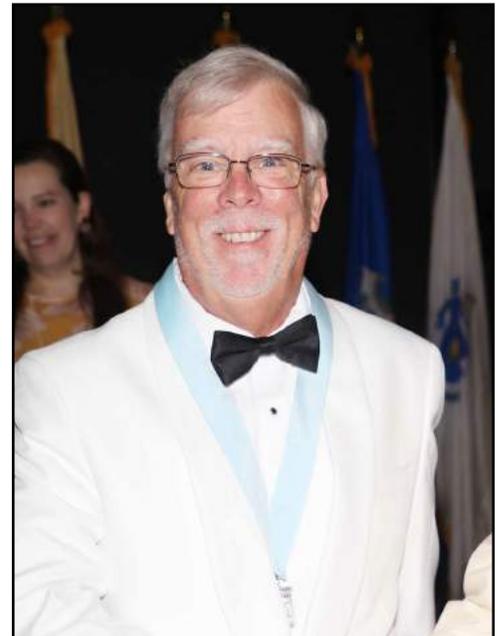
## Fred Olive selected for Minuteman Award

The election of Bruce Pickette as President General wasn't the only highlight at the 132nd Congress as Birmingham chapter compatriot Fred Olive received the prestigious Minuteman Award, giving the Alabama Society its fifth recipient in the last six years.

The Minuteman Award is the most prestigious award of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The National Executive Committee established the award in 1951 and only six compatriots nationally may be recognized each year. Only those compatriots who have made distinguished and exceptional contributions to the National Society may be recognized.

Olive, in addition to his support at the state and chapter level, has served for the past decade on the national level, including his participation on the NSSAR executive committee in 2019 and 2020 and serving as the Librarian General in 2021. He was reelected at the 132nd Congress.

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## Message

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Special call-out: The John C. Haughton Award, (ALSSAR – Black Warrior River chapter) sponsored the winner in the Enhanced JROTC Contest.

For society, chapter and individual awards at Congress, please review pages 10–14 of the SAR Magazine, Summer Edition. Congratulations to all our winners!

### Heads Up:

We are entering the annual dues cycle. Dues card should be mailed to your chapter secretary by mid-September. This year you have a choice of paying by check or paying online. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

### Mark Your Calendar:

▸ **SAR Fall Leadership:** Sept. 29–Oct. 1, Louisville, KY.

▸ **BOM:** Oct. 22 at the American Village, Montevallo. PG C. Bruce Pickette will be our special guest. Compatriots, the Ladies Auxiliary has requested you bring your bride, we need their support.

▸ **Upcoming Color Guard engagements,** please see the ALSSAR Color Guard Journal emailed monthly.

I need your assistance:

The State Society needs volunteers:

▸ Patriot Graves Committee Member (South Alabama)

▸ Oration Committee Chairman

Serving as your president is both an honor and a pleasure, I thank you all.

—Bill Daniel

wed0057@gmail.com

## Olive

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Olive, in addition to his continued support at the state and chapter level, has served for the past decade on the national level, including his participation on the NSSAR executive committee in 2019 and 2020 and his service as the Librarian General in 2021. He was reelected as Librarian General at the 132nd Congress.

In addition, he has served as a member of the NSSAR nominating committee, as a national trustee for two terms and as an alternate trustee for one term, representing the Alabama Society.

He has served on the Library & Archives Committee for nine years, the Protocol Committee for seven years (serving as vice-chairman for four years), the Americanism and Patriot Biographies committees for six years each and the Council of State Presidents for five years.

In addition, he served on the Headquarters Building and Maintenance Committee for two years, the Patriot Records and Education committees for one year each and the Museum Board digitization program to preserve the SAR historical institutional records collection.

He worked to have the SAR Genealogical Research Library designated as a FamilySearch Affiliate Library by FamilySearch International through a cooperative agreement. He also worked as a triage manager working with editors who submitted Patriot Biographies for the Patriot Research System to edit the biographies and assist in making them ready for public use.

Olive is the first line sponsor on 19 new members and assisted in the creation of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter.

In addition to Olive, other compatriots receiving the Minuteman Award included

James C. Fosdyck of California, Gary O. Green of North Carolina, T. Brooks Lyles Jr. of North Carolina, William Anthony Robinson of Ohio and Daniel K. Woodruff of South Carolina.

The Minuteman Award was first presented at the 1952 National Congress. The first honoree was former President General Benjamin H. Powell of Texas. The award has been presented annually since 1952. Since 1967, a maximum of six awards may be presented each year.

Following tradition, the new Minuteman recipients are escorted at the banquet by a former Minuteman winner. Olive was escorted by 2019 recipient Bill Stone.

## Olive is 16th Alabama Minuteman recipient

Alabamians honored with the Minuteman Award include:

*1953	Robert H. Smith
*1955	William T. Carpenter
*1959	Robert P. Gordon
*1968	Ryall S. Morgan
*1984	John L. McConnell
1995	Horace R. Jordan
*2001	O. Lee Swart
2003	P. Rod Hildreth
2008	John R. Wallace
2012	Larry P. Cornwell
*2013	Michael C. Wells
2017	C. Bruce Pickette
2018	C. David Billings
2019	William O. Stone
2021	James H. Maples
2022	J. Fred Olive III
*deceased	

—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

**The Color Guard at Congress**  
Members of the ALSSAR Color Guard joined with other SAR color guards at Congress, posting the colors at Fort Morris, holding a patriot grave marking at Midway Cemetery, participating in the annual memorial service and assisting in the opening and closing of meetings and banquets throughout the week. At right, the ALSSAR Color Guard participates in a bench dedication at Savannah's Johnson Square.



## Pickette

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Montana with his wife Brooke. Greg and all four of the grandsons are also compatriots.

Pickette made a point of acknowledging and thanking the SAR headquarters staff in Louisville for all they do and have done. "They truly go above and beyond to support us," he noted. "You should know that they also deeply believe, as we do, in our purposes and missions."

Later this year Pickette will celebrate 20 years in the Sons of the American Revolution, which includes nine years as a NSSAR General Officer. He said he has been honored to serve us previously as Librarian General (2014, 2015 and 2016), Registrar General (2017 and 2018), Treasurer General (2019 and 2020) and Secretary General (2021).

Pickette thanked a long-time committee chairman who is stepping down, Flag Chairman Jim Alexander of the Alabama Society. The appointed members of the National Executive Committee have an important role to fulfill and PG Pickette says he is extremely grateful Edmon McKinley of the Alabama Society has accepted a position on the executive committee.

Pickette then turned his attention to "matters at hand," in which he pledged to stay the course on several important areas of focus for the SAR.

- Activities surrounding the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

"We have approved the five-year operational plan developed by the Strategic Planning committee, known as 'SAR 2026,' identifying goals and objectives for us to accomplish as the focus year of 2026 nears," he said. "State Societies need to establish their own America250 SAR committee. Many of you have already done so, just as many compatriots have begun to track their 250th activities for purposes of earning the anniversary medal.

"In support of our 250th efforts and to bolster coordination among the committees, I have asked (outgoing) President General (Davis Lee) Wright to be the 'Program Coordinator, 250th Programs and Commemorations' to ensure programs and efforts are aligned and not duplicative across the committees and to

keep his eye on our involvement with other organizations at the national level.

"I ask that the committees and States derive their own goals and objectives in support of the SAR 2026 strategic plan by Nov. 1. It's proper that we, as a society, celebrate this historic commemoration of our nation, and secondly, it is a terrific opportunity to attract new members through our activities."

- The second area Pickette focused on is the SAR Education Center and Museum. The objective remains to open the museum to the public by July 2026. In early July, the trustees approved the Design Deliverable documents of the Museum Plan prepared by Solid Light, Inc. Pickette urged compatriots to view the animated video of a walk-through the museum that the trustees have seen.

He added that the SAR has reached its current level after nine years of work at a cost of 2.63 million dollars, which includes the generous donations of SAR members and friends and more than a half of a million dollars given by Solid Light. Pickette commended those involved over the long term to bring the project to this point and singled out the efforts of project manager Bill Stone of the Alabama Society who conceived so much of the museum and who devoted countless hours to it.

- Pickette also announced a return to the practice begun by former President General (Warren) Alter of holding virtual meetings with the General Officers, the Vice Presidents General, and the Executive Committee on a scheduled basis throughout the year. Communication among ourselves, he observed, is vital.

"We have many national priorities to accomplish in addition to the 250th anniversary and the SAR Education Center and Museum," he concluded "But I know, as you do, the hard work of the Society is accomplished at the state and chapter levels where our efforts in the local communities are most important. No matter what the situation is within our organizations, there are still opportunities to find positive activities that can be used to further the missions of the SAR.

"Lastly, allow me to announce what Rita has chosen for her First Lady's project which is your financial support for our youth programs and contests. As we travel around, you'll hear more about that from her."

—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

***Fireworks with the Braves***  
***Members of the Alabama Society Color Guard joined forces with Georgia SAR members to help celebrate the Fourth of July with pre-game festivities at Truist Park in suburban Atlanta. Not only did the Color Guard members get to enjoy all the festivities that accompanies a Braves game, they also enjoyed a 6-3 Atlanta win over the St. Louis Cardinals as well as a fireworks show after the game.***



# In Memory...

## Henry Oldham

"Please don't shoot the piano player, he's doing the best he can."

**HENRY NEVEL OLDHAM**, the piano-playing, airplane-driving, life-of-the-party rocket scientist has laid his silver tongue to rest. He died peacefully in his sleep on Aug. 28.

Never known to be without his keyboard (you could always find one in the back of his car), Henry learned piano starting when he was five years old and still played until his very last weeks. He said that his stubby fingers weren't that of a piano player, but Henry was renowned for his virtuosity, especially his ability to play by ear. He usually had to hear a song once only before being able to play it and improvise.

His music interests were as varied as the venues he performed in: from gospel, bluegrass, rock 'n roll, and country, Henry played in churches, bars, at home, and virtually any function where there was a piano. His favorite tunes were too numerous to mention, but included most any song by Ray Charles, "Cast Your Fate to the Wind," and a substantial amount of songs whose titles are inappropriate for publication.

A native of Athens, Ga., Henry attended both the University of Georgia and Georgia Institute of Technology, becoming the first person ever to graduate from both universities at the same time.

Henry continued his studies at the University of Virginia, where he obtained a masters in aerospace engineering. A rocket scientist by education and trade, Henry also earned a commission in the United States Army, where he served as an engineer in the reserve corps and deployed to South Korea.

Henry moved to Huntsville in the 1970s, where he was active in the Huntsville Jaycees, the Rotary Club and eventually the Sons of the American Revolution, among countless other civic and professional organizations. In the late 1980s, Henry started a successful defense contracting firm, Dynamic Analysis.

At the same time, Henry and several others were instrumental in renovations to the Huntsville International Airport, where Henry served on the board for nine years including a stint as chairman. All the while, Henry continued to serve in the Army Reserve with the 87th MAC, graduating from the Army War College in 1989 and obtaining the rank of colonel before retiring in 1998.

Henry sold DynAl shortly after retiring from the Army and spent the next many years traveling with his wife, Wynn, and remaining active professionally, civically, and socially in Huntsville.

Much like piano playing, aviation was a part of Henry's identity, Henry owned a Piper Lance II and -- not one to pass up an opportunity to employ his wry sense of humor -- eventually registered the craft as White Knuckle Airways with the FAA, developed a logo (the plane crashed into a tree) and slogan ("Fly Lo-N-Slo"), and purchased enough WKA merchandise to stock a small department store. He flew for decades, transporting friends and family around the country, most memorably with his sons to the Oshkosh fly-ins in the 1990s.

Henry's personal and professional travels took him to England, Ireland, France, Italy, Singapore, Luxembourg, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, and countless destinations in the United States.

His charismatic and engaging personality, genuine interest in learning about people and events around him, and quick wit will be missed by all who knew him.

Henry was born on April 29, 1943 in Athens, Ga. He is survived by children John (Dawn) of Huntsville, Michael (Robyn) of Woodstock, Ga.; and Laura McCann (Morgan) of Nashville, Tenn.

Services were held on Sept. 6 at the Wesley Center of First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Coy Hallmark officiating.



—Photo courtesy of Jess Brown

### *Tennessee Valley compatriot travels to Missouri for museum opening*

*Tennessee Valley chapter color guard member Bill Sommers, at the front of the SAR Color Guard line, joined the Fernando de Leyba chapter's color guard in Missouri to present colors for the opening of the American Revolutionary War in the West Exhibit on May 21 at the St. Charles County Heritage Museum. The exhibit features artifacts, original documents, uniforms, flags and interactive components that explore life in the Mississippi River Valley region during the American Revolutionary War. A supplemental patriot of Sommers served in the militia fighting the British in Louisiana, one of the campaigns featured in the exhibit and the inspiration for his uniform.*

## After 81 years, World War II hero finally comes home

A very hot Alabama day did not keep the ALSSAR Color Guard and other ALSSAR compatriots from honoring Seaman T. Simmons at his burial at Corner Creek Cemetery in Samson on Flag Day.

Tceollyar Simmons, born June 7, 1923, in Defuniak Springs Fla., enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17 and was serving as a Seaman Second Class on the U.S.S. California on Dec. 7, 1941, when he and 103 other crew members were killed during the infamous attack by Japan.

“T” as he was known to loved ones was the son of Garfield and Ina Simmons, and the stepson of Jim Morgan whom Ina married in Detroit Mich., where she had moved with T after Garfield’s untimely death from complications of injuries he suffered during World War I.

T’s remains were first interred with other unknown KIAs at the Halawa Naval Cemetery in Hawaii. Following unsuccessful efforts over the years, the remains of unidentified casualties from the U.S.S. California were exhumed and transferred to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor.

Subsequent DNA analysis conclusively established the identity of T’s remains on Nov. 18, 2021. The Department of the Navy worked with known surviving family of Tceollyar to arrange his transport to Geneva County to be buried next to his mother and father at Corner Creek Cemetery on June 14, 2022.

T is survived by three first cousins: Col. Kenneth Blan (USAF-Ret.) of Palm Harbor, Fla., James Blan of San Diego, Calif., and Lera Baker Smith, also of San Diego.

Along with the ALSSAR Color Guard presenting the colors, the Patriot Guard Riders stood a flag line at the funeral home, escorted the hearse from the funeral home to the cemetery, and stood a flag line at the cemetery.

The Blue Star Salute Foundation presented the family with a Gold Star Service Banner, a Governor’s Certificate of Memory, a Governor’s Commendation of Military Service and an Alabama flag flown over the state capitol in memory of Seaman Simmons.

The service ended with full military honors provided by the United States Navy Chaplain and Honor Guard.





—Photo courtesy of Jess Brown

*Tennessee Valley chapter compatriots and descendants of patriot John Peyton Powell gather at Powell's grave site in Eldridge Cemetery near Meridianville to place a new marker detailing his accomplishments.*

## Tennessee Valley begins '250' activities with grave marking ceremony for patriot John Peyton Powell

On Aug. 20, the Tennessee Valley chapter commenced its activities associated with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. The chapter marked the grave and commemorated the service of patriot John Peyton Powell who served in the Virginia Continental Line's 1st Regiment.

This activity is one of many grave marking events to be undertaken by the chapter between 2022 and July 4, 2026. The chapter's grave marking initiative, under the direction of former chapter president Benny Hannah, expects to identify the gravesites and honor approximately three dozen patriots who are buried in Madison, Morgan or Limestone counties but currently have either a poorly maintained grave site or no SAR marking.

Patriot Powell served under Col. Daniel Morgan for whom Morgan County is named. His pension application indicated that he had interaction with John Marshall, the future Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He also participated in the Siege of York/Yorktown in 1781.

He arrived in Madison County approximately 10 years prior to statehood and died there in 1844.

Several descendants of Powell were in attendance and spoke at the event. Included among them was prominent Madison veterinarian Dr. Charles Whitworth. Representatives of DAR and CAR also laid wreaths. The state and chapter color guards presented the colors and engaged in a ceremonial firing of muskets.

To date, the chapter's effort has involved extensive clearing of unmaintained cemeteries, cleaning of headstones and even the reconstruction and refurbishment of tomb boxes. Compat-



—Photo courtesy of Jess Brown

*Powell's grave was last marked by DAR in 2006 but new headstone recognizes the lieutenant as a patriot.*

riot Hannah and his SAR compatriots also have mobilized the resources of other individuals and organizations in this effort, including city and county officials, property owners and descendants of the patriot.

The overall goal of TVCSAR is to identify and eventually mark the gravesites of all patriots with known burial locations in Madison, Morgan or Limestone counties.

—Jess Brown

## Gen. Elmore chapter presents the British side of the war

Prior to taking a brief summer sabbatical from monthly chapter meetings, the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter was provided a “British View of the Revolutionary War” from Wg Cdr Richard Milburn.

Wg Cdr Milburn is an RAF Air Battle Manager and graduate of the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) and School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) at Maxwell Air Force Base and has also served as a faculty member at both ACSC and the Air War College.

Milburn recently returned to England for posting as a professor at the Defence Academy of the UK having earned his Doctorate in Strategy from SAASS. He kept the audience rapt through discussion of the British view depicted in various works of art.

He pointed out that while the colonists were indeed a menace, Great Britain was more concerned with France as a global power and a more existential threat than were the colonists.

He chose as the artwork most reflective of British sentiment *The Fighting Temeraire*, by Joseph Mallard William Turner, which depicts one of the last ships that played a role in the Battle of Trafalgar. In his view, Wg Cdr Milburn felt that the picture also reflected the changes coming about regarding the United Kingdom’s place in the world.

He reflected on his seven years in the United States with great fondness and juxtaposed the fervent “flag waving patriotism” seen in America against a more sedate or understated approach to patriotism in Great Britain.

The artwork he felt depicts his view of America was Childe Hassam’s *The Avenue in the Rain*, which depicts the rising



—Photo courtesy of Jim Griffith

***Rich Milburn, second from left, is pictured along with Martin Brady, far left, Michael Araiza, Joe Barker, Allen Herrod and Rick Wells.***

sense of patriotism just prior to the United States entering World War I – changing from isolationism to interventionism.

Wg Cdr Milburn’s presentation touched all in attendance and offered “food for thought” regarding the shifting sands of time and how the UK and the US will continue to engage with all nations to achieve a more peaceful future.

—Ron Dains

## American Village names Alan Miller as new president and CEO

**By EMILY SPARACINO**  
**Shelby County Reporter**

MONTEVALLO – A Shelby County resident and attorney has been selected to fill the leadership role at American Village.

The Board of Trustees of the American Village Citizenship Trust has hired criminal defense attorney Alan B. Miller of Chelsea as the new president and CEO.

Miller succeeds American Village founder Tom Walker, who retired from his position as president in February and currently serves as president emeritus.

“Tom’s incredible vision and leadership is evident everywhere on this campus,” Miller said. “My primary focus is to simply continue the amazing work that is already underway. The ideals our founders expressed in the Declaration of Independence present a challenge for us to be striving toward together. The American Village will continue to promote unity and responsible citizenship by teaching and inspiring all our guests.”

Miller was a founding partner of Hepburn & Miller LLC in Shelby County.

His prior work included serving as executive director of Shelby County COMPACT 2020 and as chief assistant district attorney for the 18th Circuit District Attor-

ney’s Office in Columbiana.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Tulane University and a juris doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law.

Miller’s background also includes military service and leadership.

He is a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve with experience in the Marine Forces Europe (Republic of Georgia), 4th Marine Logistics Group (New Orleans, Louisiana), Force Headquarters Group (New Orleans, Louisiana) and 3rd Battalion 14th Marines (Chattanooga, Tennessee). He attended Air War College.

“The mission of the American Village ‘to strengthen and renew the foundations of American liberty and self-government’ is one that speaks directly to my heart as a Marine Corps officer and an attorney,” Miller said. “I am incredibly excited to have this opportunity to continue the work Tom Walker started with the American Village nearly 30 years ago.”

Miller’s community service includes the Shelby County Law Enforcement Personnel Board, Boy Scouts of America Troop 354, Liberty Baptist Church and as a Backpack Buddies volunteer and advocate.

“Alan is committed to continuing our

educational mission of building new leaders by teaching the foundations which built this great country we all are honored to call home,” said Carol Brown, chair of the American Village Citizenship Trust Board of Trustees. “We look forward to his tenure at the Village as we move into a period of growth and new and exciting partnerships that will continue to expand our reach outside the Village campus.”

Miller is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Shelby County and has received numerous other accolades, including the Voice for Victims Award; Member of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara, Meritorious Service Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; and Combat Action Ribbon.

“My wife and I moved to Shelby County from Tuscaloosa 20 years ago,” Miller said. “I remember being thankful for having such an incredible organization here in Shelby County. It is a joy to watch people engage with our historical interpreters and the immersive learning experiences that are available at the American Village, and we are excited about the possibility of expanding those history and civics learning opportunities in the years ahead.”

## History of early warfare included use of edged weapons

The subject of “Edged Weapons” comes up a lot. “Can I carry a sword?” or “Why do you have a spear?”

Sometimes the answers are easy; “No” and “it’s NOT a SPEAR!” More often, though, it has an answer that takes a bit of explaining. The term edged could include sword to clasp knife.

As you research you will find every uniform or rank had some form of edged weapon, whether for use as an actual weapon or symbol of rank and position.

The best book I can refer you to on this subject is George C. Neumann’s “The History of Weapons of the American Revolution.”

Yes, most officers (as gentlemen) carried some type of sword. The few who did not were usually company grade officers promoted from the lower ranks. They were however, expected to obtain / purchase one at first opportunity.

There were several types of swords; the silver-hilted sword, small sword, saber, hunting sword, hanger and the cutlass.

Silver-hilted swords were the most prestigious but usually worn for formal or ceremonial occasions. Engravings decorated the sword and saber and naval swords had nautical motifs. For daily wear they carried a small sword. Small not in size but in ranking to the silver-hilted.

There were sabers, both horseman’s and short. The horseman’s was heavy and as the name implies were carried by cavalry and dragoons. The short saber was a lighter shorter version used by some officers.

The hunting sword for the



American officers was probably the most popular. This was a short serviceable civilian sword, while having a quillon or guard, lacked a solid knuckle bow. The grips were made of a variety of materials — wood, antler, horn, ivory, ebony and wire-bound exotic leather. In my opinion, some of the most beautiful of the period. These were carried by many officers who could not afford or had not yet acquired a proper military style sword.

Hanger or “infantry hanger” were short heavy swords carried by infantry till just before the Revolutionary War. Many Grenadier units retained them.

The Cutlass, short and heavy with stout hand guard, famous for ship board duty but also saw service on land.

A different edged weapon carried by officers was the spontoon or espontoon or half pike. This spear-looking weapon usually had a cross piece below the blade and mounted on a six to seven

foot shaft (the haft).

It was a badge of rank or position for a company officer, captain and subaltern (or Lieutenant).

Yes, he would also wear a sword with this if he had one.

At the time of the Revolutionary War, the spontoon was being replaced by the fusil, a light caliber version of the musket. However, Gen. Washington noticed the officers paid more attention to their fusils in battle than their troops. So he ordered the company grade officers to retain their spoontoons!

Another pole arm in use during the war was the halberd. This looked like a medieval broad axe on a long pole. In fact, it was a throwback to that time. It had an axe blade for chopping, a spike for stabbing and a bill hook (beak) for unhorsing a rider. The ultimate anti cavalry weapon!

This was the distinguished badge of rank for a sergeant as the spontoon for a company officer. These were also

being replaced by fusils or muskets.

Pikes were also used by enlisted men, as were bayonets, belt axes and hunting/ scalping knives.

Can you carry these in the Color Guard? No, yes, or no answer here. It depends on your position. Swords are not carried or even permitted in the Color Guard. If you are wearing a sword it becomes a trip hazard for you and the compatriots on your right and left.

A sword is usually worn or carried by the Color Guard commander but he must be positioned in front and away from the Colors.

If other sword-carrying officers are present, they should be detached from the actual Color Guard, as well as those carrying a sword, spontoon or halberd with the Honor Guard.

Bayonets are never fixed to muskets in a Color Guard for fear the Colors may be torn or damaged. This is also why the sword-carrying commander is positioned away from the Colors.

All sharpened edged weapons (knives & belt axes) are to remain “sheathed” or covered at all times. If edged weapons such as swords are drawn out they must be dulled for use. As with muskets and other firelocks, when showing your edged weapon to a curious public, never relinquish control of it.

The proper edged weapon can add a great deal to your uniform and appearance. It also prompts discussion with the public at events. Please choose the right one and when you can wear or carry it, do so safely.

—M.P. Brady

—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

## Remembering 9-11

*The ALSSAR Color Guard assisted the ALSSAR's Wiregrass chapter with a special service at the courthouse in Elba to honor those who died in the terrorist attacks on our country on Sept. 11, 2001. Presentations were made by local officials and first responders on the 21st anniversary of the attacks.*



—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

*ALSSAR Color Guard compatriots assist their Mississippi counterparts in the safe use of black powder.*

## ALSSAR compatriots go to Mississippi to assist black powder training

Members of the Alabama Society Color/Honor Guard traveled to Star, Miss., on Aug. 27 for fellowship with our neighboring compatriots and to train the MSSAR's newly formed Honor Guard members on the safe use of black powder.

Compatriot Martin Brady led the charge as the primary instructor for the safe use of black powder. Compatriots Joe Barker, Michael Araiza, Michael Martin, Buddy Irving and David Jones acted as range safety for the seven members of MSSAR. The training was a tremendous success for both societies.

Numerous ideas pertaining to Color Guard and Honor Guard were exchanged between societies as well as future events. The time spent in camaraderie with fellow compatriots was well worth

the trip. Compatriot Bryant Boswell and wife Sarah graciously hosted the joint training event at their home in Star, Miss.

The Honor Guard is an extension of the Color Guard. Membership has increased considerably since the introduction of the Honor Guard here in Alabama and we expect the same to happen in Mississippi.

The ALSSAR Drill & Ceremony (Color Guard) Manual is being adopted by MSSAR in the very near future.

Help spread the word to other societies that the ALSSAR stands prepared to travel wherever needed to assist our fellow compatriots in their missions.

—David Jones

**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](mailto:timgaylesar@gmail.com)



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**Tell everyone in the next newsletter what your chapter is doing**

If you're submitting material for the next newsletter, please e-mail your pictures and information to [timgaylesar@gmail.com](mailto: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 David Michael Martin

***Gen. John A. Elmore Color Guard assists the Biscuits, then enjoys the game***

*The Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter scheduled an outing at Riverwalk Stadium on Aug. 6 to take in a Biscuits' game, but decided to promote the SAR in the process by making a flag presentation by members of the chapter's color guard for the national anthem, above left. Members of the color guard posed with Big Mo, the Biscuits' mascot (above right) before settling in and enjoying a Biscuits' victory over the Pensacola Blue Wahoos in a battle between the Southern League South Division's top two teams.*