



# The Fife & Drum

The official publication of the  
**The Sons of the Revolution**  
in the State of North Carolina

A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation

<http://www.nc-sor.org/>

## From the President

\*\*\*\*

“Two Books to Read, One Nation to Celebrate”

**Greetings,** Friends & Members of the Society of Sons in North Carolina.

As Dr. Samuel Johnson, the distinguished man of letters once said, “People need to be reminded more often than they need to be informed.” With such counsel, allow me to remind you of new opportunities to learn new facets of the distinguished heritage we share through our patriotic ancestors. For me, the best way to increase one’s knowledge of the American Revolution is to read about the Revolution from authors such as the late David McCullough. If you have not picked up his books **John Adams** and **1776**, I hope you will do so sometime this summer.



Two other writers of American history you should know about are Harlow G. Unger and Nathaniel Philbrick. Books by them landed in my hands last Christmas season. Unger’s book, **The Last Founding Father**, is an in-depth look at James Monroe, the nation’s fifth president. Monroe had a distinguished career as a Founder of our nation. Not surprisingly, he fell under the influence and admiration of George Washington. Younger than most of the founders, Monroe is known primarily for his presidential order aptly named “The Monroe Doctrine.” However, Monroe is worthy of our attention for far more selfless accomplishments. Notably, he is the president who invited in 1824 the Marquis de Lafayette to return to the United States for his final tour. Sadly, like not a few of the founders, Monroe’s final years were defined by hard and unfortunate circumstances. I commend Unger’s book, and without taking anything away from the author’s royalties, you may be able to find the book at a used book sale. If Unger’s book is a serious look at one founding member of our nation,

Philbrick’s book takes us on a delightful journey with THE Founder of our Nation, George Washington. **Travels with George** is modeled somewhat on John Steinbeck’s **Travels with Charley**, but it is far more than that. Philbrick takes us along as fellow traveling companions in retracing Washington’s 1789-1791 tour of the new nation. It was Washington’s desire to get to know the new nation through its people. Staying in taverns and homes while traveling the nation’s 18<sup>th</sup> century version of today’s “interstates,” Washington sought out a taste of the hard-won fruits of the Revolution. He ventures first to New York for his Inauguration. Eventually, the first president travels, with minimal escort, through New England, Long Island, and the South. Philbrick informs us of many interesting and delightful anecdotes about the nation and Washington. However, Philbrick makes us also aware of the struggles the nation and Washington came to know because of the economic and inhumane slave trade. Published in 2021 but written in the aftermath of the Charlottesville race protest and George Floyd’s murder, Philbrick draws our attention to the ongoing struggle of slavery in light of our nation’s profession that all people are created equal. Philbrick highlights for us that although Washington’s tour proved informative, his time on the road allowed him time to do hard thinking about issues once considered common practice but were no less divisive in his day as they have been in our day. As with Unger’s book, Philbrick’s **Travels with George** is available at a used book store. Both books are worth purchasing and adding to one’s shelf and knowledge of our patriotic witness.

Finally, I trust you will become “reminded” of the many ways we are planning to make known our patriotic witness in 2023. Consider the various opportunities to participate. The heritage we have inherited is worthy of our full-hearted and full-throated celebration *Huzzah!*

Augustus E. Succop III  
President, Society of Sons in North Carolina

**Sign up now!**  
**Annual Luncheon Meeting**  
**June 24, 2023**  
**Carolina Country Club**  
**Raleigh, NC.**  
 Register on [Web Site](#)

## 2023 Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting luncheon will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, @ **The Carolina Country Club, Raleigh, NC** ([www.carolinacc.net](http://www.carolinacc.net)). Our **speaker** will be **UNC-CH Professor Harry Watson**, Atlanta Distinguished Professor of Southern Culture. He will tell us about North Carolina's three signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Saturday's schedule will include a 10:30 a.m. **Board Meeting** followed by an 11:30 a.m. time of **patriotic hospitality** after which we will enjoy a **luncheon and program**. The luncheon cost is \$60/pp. Payment may be made either by mail ("SRNC"; Treasurer SRNC, P.O. Box 25882, Winston-Salem, NC 27114) or on-line: <https://nc-sor.org/store>.



In addition to the keynote speaker, friends and members will hear from a UNC-P student who is the recipient of the SRNC scholarship prize named in honor of the late SRNC member and Past President Jim Ebert. The business to be taken up at the Board Meeting will include receiving New Members, a report from the Nominating Committee, and approving a budget for the coming fiscal year. A brief Membership Meeting will follow the luncheon in order to elect new Officers and Board Members.

Please note: the Annual Meeting luncheon is a fine opportunity to invite family members and prospective members.

## Election of Officers & Directors

At the June 24 Annual Meeting, the SRNC will receive nominations for all officers (excluding President and Vice-President) and five Directors.

The SRNC is a member led organization. Our witness depends on us, its members. Like all heritage organizations, the SRNC needs you in order to grow and to bear a vivid patriotic witness. You can nominate yourself or another member for any of these positions. Do not be shy! If you think that you can be of service to the organization, there are a number of committees on which you can serve if you don't want to serve on the Board.

The 2023 Nominating Committee consists of the following: Randall Sprinkle (Chairman), Allen James, Robert Ray, Glenn Davis, and Greg Hunter. You may direct your nomination to any of those members.

The current Board of Officers is as follows:

### 2022-2023 Officers

- President:** Augustus E. Succop III
- Immediate Past Pres.:** Daniel L. Hopping
- Vice President:** Randall E. Sprinkle
- Secretary:** Gary L. Hall
- Treasurer:** Andrew C. Smith
- Chancellor:** Carlton M. Mansfield, Esq.
- Registrar:** John R. Harman, Jr.
- Historian:** W. Daniel Pate
- Chaplain:** Russell H. McCullough, III
- Color Guard Captain:** Daniel L. Hopping

### Directors (with 3-year term end date)

- 2023 - David L. Gellatly
- 2023 - W. Timothy Lattimore
- 2023 – (vacant)
  
- 2024 - E. Allen James
- 2024 – (vacant)
- 2024 - Frank B. Powell III
  
- 2025 - J. Robert Boykin III
- 2025 - J. Randall May
- 2025 - Joseph A. Steele

## Past Events

### Yorktown Luncheon at Historic Halifax – Oct 14, 2022

Pursuant to the Board’s action at the June 2022 Annual Meeting to be in partnership with Historic Halifax, the 2022 Fall Yorktown Luncheon was held at “The Hen and The Hog Restaurant” in Halifax, NC. On Friday evening, Oct. 14, Board members were welcomed at “Heptinstall,” the 1850 home of Karen & Charles Vaughn, who are instrumental in the “Friends of Historic Halifax” advocacy. On Saturday, the Board was convened. After the business meeting, Board members and guests enjoyed a most enjoyable luncheon served by owner Patterson Wilson and her staff. After lunch, Mark Pace, resident historian of the Richard H. Thornton Library, Granville County, spoke of events leading from the 1775 publication of the Halifax Resolves to the 1781 British surrender at Yorktown. Afterwards, Board members and friends were taken on a tour of the historic district of Halifax. The SRNC has approved a yearly gift to Historic Halifax. This year’s gift will go to the renovation of the Halifax Visitors’ Center. Future gifts will go towards the continuing redevelopment of Halifax’s historic district.



Entrance to Halifax restaurant The Hen & The Hog

### SRSC Evacuation Day Commemoration – Dec 12, 2022

At the invitation of the South Carolina Society, President and Vice President, Gus Succop and Randy Sprinkle, respectively, attended the first Annual SRSC Evacuation Day Commemoration. The occasion commemorates the day of Dec. 14, 1782, when all British troops left the City of Charleston.

Hosted by the South Carolina Society and President Jeff Murrie, the black tie soiree was attended by members of the GSSR, SRSC, SRNC, SOC, SAR and DAR. The evening was accented with an assortment of archival documentation from the founders of the South Carolina Society as well as enjoyable and convivial hospitality. The 2023 Evacuation Day Commemoration will be held on Dec. 16. Details will be forthcoming later in the year.



VP Sprinkle, former GSSR Pres. Bush, and Pres. Succop at SC Evacuation Day Gala

## 2022 Wreaths Across America

The SRNC is a co-sponsor of the Wreaths Across America Ceremonies at Raleigh National Cemetery.



Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. The Raleigh National Cemetery has over 5600 graves and each year we get enough wreaths sponsored to have a wreath on every Veteran's grave.

Every year, the SRNC lays a wreath in honor of the Revolutionary War Soldiers who fought to create the United States.

Our Color Guard closes out the solemn ceremony by firing a volley with Revolutionary period correct firelocks and going to "Morn Arms" as the trumpet plays "Taps."



**Dan Hopping presenting the SRNC Wreath**

This year we had seven firing the volley in the uniform of the North Carolina Militia and firing Revolutionary

War period correct firelocks. There is something soul satisfying about having ten feet of flame and your own cumulonimbus, complete with thunder!

## 242<sup>nd</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford – Jan. 28, 2023

On a bright and crisp January morning, members of the SR, SAR, DAR & CAR gathered at Hopewell Presbyterian Church's cemetery to remember the Battle of Cowan's Ford, the event that caused a slowing down of Lord Cornwallis's troops and exacted the high sacrifice of the death of the commanding patriot leader, Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson. Prior to giving honors at Gen. Davidson's gravesite, the gathering was treated to a program of a first-person portrayal of "His Excellency General George Washington."



**SRNC Pres. Succop with "Martha & George Washington" at Cowan's Ford**

Leadership of the meeting was provided by SRNC member Greg Catledge, who serves as the President of the Mecklenburg Chapter, NCSSAR. In addition to Greg's leadership, SR members also included Russ McCullough, who coordinated the presentation of

wreaths and the rendering of honors at Gen. Davidson’s gravesite, John Misenheimer, who served in the NCSSAR Color Guard, President Gus Succop, who offered the morning Invocation and expressed greetings from the State society, and Bob Ray, who serves as the Mecklenburg’s chapter’s Registrar.

were GSSR District III VP Frank Hardeman, SRSC President Jeff Murrie, SRNC member and Mecklenburg SAR Chapter President Greg Catledge, and Professor Hugh Dussek, who assists us in the scholarship essay at Central Piedmont Community College.

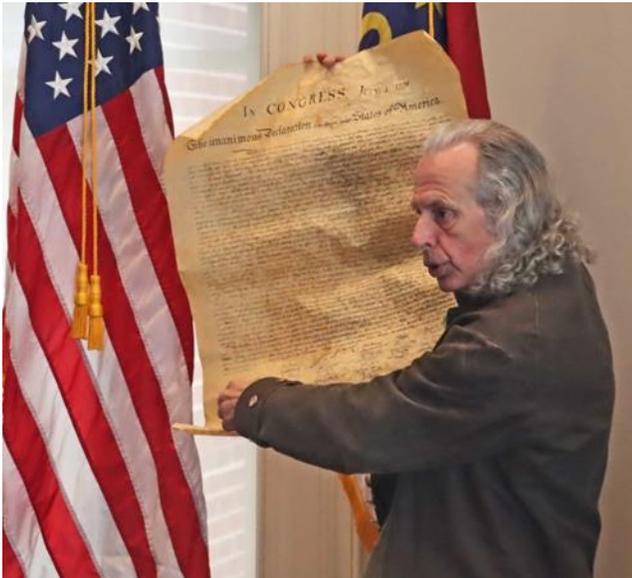


**Patriots at Cowan’s Ford Commemoration**

**Halifax Resolves Day in Historic  
Halifax, NC – Apr 12, 2023**

Members of the SRNC Color Guard (Dan Hopping, Captain) and President Gus Succop attended the commemoration of the 247<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Halifax Resolves. The April 12, 1776, resolution calling for independence from Great Britain, was the first among the British colonies. It was followed by comparable proclamations by other colonies culminating with the Declaration of Independence in July 1776. The commemoration was organized by the NC Sons of the American Revolution. President Succop gave remarks and brought greetings from the Society of Sons.

**George Washington Commemorative  
Birthday Luncheon – Feb. 11, 2023**



**Mark Pace as “John Penn”**

The annual “George Washington Commemorative Birthday Luncheon” was a fine event with over 38 friends and members in attendance. The luncheon was held at The River Run Country Club, Davidson, NC, through the kindness of SRNC member John Allen and his wife, Ann, members of the Davidson community and the club. Our speaker was Mark Pace, who told us about John Penn, a NC signer of the Declaration of Independence. Also in attendance



**Patriots on the March**



Pres. Succop delivering remarks at Halifax



## Ronald W. Steele

03/20/1943 ~ 04/23/2023

Patriot Ron Steel, of Elon NC, passed away on Sunday, April 23, 2023. He was a native of Alamance County, and was the husband of Nancy Jo Higgins Steele, who survives. Ron was a former Systems Analyst and Consultant with IBM, and a member of Delta Sigma Phi at N. C. State, the Sons of the American Revolution, and Sons of the Revolution. He was a Board Member who helped organize the Children’s Museum of Alamance County. He was also a member of Elon Community United Church of Christ.

In addition to his wife Nancy, survivors include a daughter, Jennifer Marion Steele; son, Michael Reed Steele (Asheville); five grandchildren; and a brother, Joseph Alan Steele (Greensboro), also a member of the SRNC. Ron and his brother are descendent from Pvt. Francis Steele, 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment. Ron inspired us with his attendance at the February GW Birthday Luncheon at The River Run Club, Davidson, NC.

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.*

## OTHER NEWS

\*\*\*\*\*

### Partnership with Friends of Historic Halifax

Pursuant to the Board’s action at the 2022 Annual Meeting, the SRNC has entered into partnership with the “Friends of Historic Halifax.” Halifax, North Carolina, is important to the cause of American Independence. On April 12, 1776, the Halifax Resolves were published. The Resolves, the first proclamation from a British colony, called for independence from Great Britain. Months later in Philadelphia, the spirit of the Resolves would find full expression in the passing of the Declaration of Independence by Congress. For 2023, the SRNC has made a gift to FOHH that will be used to enhance the garden at the Visitors’ Center in the historic district of Halifax.

On April 12, 2023, the program in the restored garden featured Sarah E. Koonts, State Archivist of NC. Sarah spoke about the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Declaration of Independence, and which is being observed in 2024-2025. Immediate Past President Dan Hopping is the SRNC representative to the **America 250** Commission for North Carolina.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA)

Each year, the SRNC supports organizations that promote the spirit of the American Revolution. Recently, the SRNC entered into partnership with Historic Halifax, the location where the Halifax Resolves were published calling for Independence from Great Britain. The significant fact about the Resolves is that it marked North Carolina as the first colonial entity to call for Independence. The SRNC supports also another organization, an organization that some may not recognize but whose witness reminds us of a deciding battle of the Revolution, the Battle of Kings Mountain (Oct. 7, 1780).

Like our support of Historic Halifax, the SRNC gives annually to the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA; [www.ovta.org](http://www.ovta.org)). The association makes it possible for thousands of students to learn about the Revolution, in general, and the Battle of Kings Mountain, in particular. Specifically, the association makes it possible for school children to take a field trip that informs them about American history. In 2022, the OVTA sponsored 398 programs, inspiring 11,783 students and 12,462 adults, and the overall effort resulted in volunteer hours that can be valued at \$443,949. Whether a OVTA program site is visited or whether the OVTA takes a program to a particular school, the history lesson learned is invaluable. Hopefully, one day, many of the students who come in contact with the OVTA will seek membership in the SRNC or a comparable hereditary organization, to which we can all say, *Huzzah!*

\*\*\*\*\*

### New SRNC Website & Newsletter!

Please know we are actively engaged in establishing a **new website** for the SRNC and publishing a **newsletter**. The website and newsletter should be launched/finalized prior to June’s Annual Meeting. Gratitude is expressed to Steve Avent, Glenn Davis, Dan Hopping, Frank Powell, Andy Smith and Randy Sprinkle for their leadership with both media sources.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Patriot Brothers – SAR Raleigh turns 95 years!

The Raleigh SAR Chapter is celebrating 95 years. Look forward to possible collaborative efforts between the NC and Raleigh SAR organizations and

SRNC to confirm our shared mission and patriotic witness.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sons of the Revolution Grave Markers Are Available!



Grave marker medallions are being made available to all Sons of the Revolution (SR) state societies. Special thanks go to the New York society, which graciously loaned its antique marker from the Fraunces Tavern Museum to be used to make the mold pattern. The museum piece is a significant historical marker and it is thrilling to see replica commemorative medallions being made available to state societies. The SR has long been without a general embodiment for state societies to honor ancestors or to publicly identify membership in this distinguished organization. This announcement remedies that.

Grave marking ceremonies are one of the more visible events that promote the society and honor our ancestors. The process is straightforward and the General Society has a book titled “*Prayer Book Memorial Service and Grave Marking Ceremony*”. This short book is available for \$5.00 plus shipping and handling from the GSSR Williamsburg Office. The book has an outline and a script for the participants. The ceremony is short, simple and reverent.

It is most important that we continue to renew and grow the society – especially as many older members are passing on. Some are unaware that the Society of Sons exists. Publicity is key. Society publications are internal and, of themselves, offer little help to promote the SR to prospective members.

The public face of the SR today most often rests on the state color guard units. New York’s and Pennsylvania’s color guards are well regarded and maintain a high visibility, for example. Color guards are not required to be in Revolutionary War attire - blazers with matching pants and/or hats are perfectly acceptable. It is the professionalism of the color guard

in public events and parades that attracts public attention and reflects positively on the organization.

Grave marking ceremonies provide additional high profile color guard opportunities to enhance a state society's visibility. But a grave marking ceremony does not necessarily require a color guard to be present, and it can be done in conjunction with other hereditary societies. It does need to be done with descendants of the patriot and the cooperation of the cemetery, however.

Publicity is key to visibility and needs to be arranged weeks before. Local newspapers, TV and social media should all be utilized.

For state societies that have not done a grave marking ceremony in the memory of the current members, an easy start is with an ancestor of one of its members. Identifying a standing group of descendants for an eligible ancestor is an even better starting point.

Cemeteries will have rules for graveside ceremonies. Representatives should be contacted before working with the family.



Many cemeteries do not allow markers to stick up where a mower might hit them. Most markers are attached to a grave stone and the cemetery will likely have a company that they recommend to do the work. Grave markers that mount on a rod with room for a flag to be put on top are not in favor with cemeteries, since they are often stolen and can interfere with maintenance.

The SR grave markers are bronze, 5 ¼ inches in diameter and have two lugs for screws on the back. To mount to a stone, two half inch holes are drilled into the stone to a depth of about an inch. Cement or epoxy is put into the holes and screws placed into the back of the marker are pressed into the filler. This makes the marker permanent. In the case of a fragile gravestone or a stone with no room, a concrete pad of about twelve by eighteen inches can be buried in the ground

so that a mower can pass over it without damaging it. The local society can add an inscription to the pad as desired.

Lighter aluminum markers with an adhesive backing are also available. These can be placed on a wood backing with a plate or certificate as an award or recognition of membership. The aluminum marker has a bronze finish.

Orders can be placed for the aforementioned ceremony book from the GSSR Headquarters by going to the GSSR website (<http://www.sr1776.org/>) and clicking on the Merchandise link on the right side of the page.

Orders for grave markers can be made by downloading the order form from the NCSR Web site at: <http://www.nc-sor.org/>

Currently, bronze grave markers are \$85.00 plus shipping and handling. The lighter aluminum markers for awards and plaques are \$50.00 plus shipping and handling. You can have the wood plaque and sublimated plates done locally.

## Chapters News

### Cols. Hinton & Polk Chapter (Raleigh)

#### The SRNC Shirt

The Colonels Hinton & Polk Chapter is making Sons of the Revolution shirts available to the SRNC membership. The order forms can be found on the SRNC Web site.

You can pick up your order at the next meeting. There will be a small shipping charge if you want it sent to you. There are a number of summer weight Navy blue shirts that will be available at the Annual Meeting.



The shirts are high quality Port Authority polo and oxford shirts. They can be ordered in several colors and sizes.



Shirt orders may be made by contacting Allen James, Raleigh Chapter President:: [eajames@bellsouth.net](mailto:eajames@bellsouth.net)

**Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter  
(Charlotte)**

Watch for details of a chapter social in the Fall. Please contact Chapter contact, Gus Succop, for details: [gus.succop@gmail.com](mailto:gus.succop@gmail.com).

**Consider a Bequest to the Sons of the  
Revolution in North Carolina**

A bequest is one of the easiest and most meaningful ways to make a gift to the SRNC. Gifts of any size

made through a bequest help to ensure that the society receives valuable ongoing support that will benefit generations far into the future.

The SRNC is a 501(c)(3) Corporation and all donations and bequests are tax deductible.



You may make a bequest by including a provision for the Society in your will or trust. You may also choose to give the society a specific dollar amount, property, or a percentage of an estate. Your bequest is a gift to the future of the society and to the preservation of the story of our ancestors who fought to create our nation. For more information, please contact our Treasurer, Andy Smith or Immediate Past President Dan Hopping.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- May 27-28 Memorial Day Weekend  
(Bennett Place)
- June 24 Annual Meeting (Carolina Country Club, Raleigh NC)
- Aug. 5 House in the Horseshoe \*
- Sept. 22-23 GSSR Annual Meeting  
(Williamsburg, VA)
- Sept.28-Oct.7 OVTA march to Kings Mtn.
- October Yorktown Luncheon (TBA)
- December Holiday Social (TBA)
- Dec. 16 "Wreaths Across America" \*  
(Raleigh National Cemetery)

\*=SRNC Color Guard participating

### **Preamble from our By-Laws**

The Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina, Inc. has been chartered and organized to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in military, naval, or civil service, by their act or counsel, achieved American Independence.

#### **Objectives of our Society are:**

- To keep alive the spirit of patriotism
- To foster devotion toward the institutions of our country
- To encourage historical research in relation to the Revolution
- To preserve documents, relics and individual records of the Revolutionary period
- To promote the celebration of patriotic anniversaries
- To impress the importance of these subjects upon the rising generation

### **Like us on Facebook**

**Sons of the Revolution  
in the State of North Carolina  
and receive periodical updates  
Our Facebook group is at 157 members**

### **Submission Guidelines**

Articles and photos may be sent to the Editor. They will be edited, accordingly. Please do not use low resolution photos. Please send photos separate from the text rather than in-line with the text.

Please send submissions to Editor, Randy Sprinkle:  
([randall.sprinkle@gmail.com](mailto:randall.sprinkle@gmail.com))

**SPECIAL THANKS to Immediate Past Pres. Dan Hopping** who has provided most all content, format and the editing template for **The Fife & Drum** for numerous years! *Huzzah!*