



The Fife & Drum

The official publication of the The Society of 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

Bi-Partisan Virtues

Some may think the title of this article is a cute oxymoron. Others may well be tempted to read on. I hope you will do just that.



Speaking for myself and not for the Society of Sons, generally or locally, I am alarmed by the firestorm of partisanship that greets me with almost every newscast. I am alarmed but not surprised. According to historian H. W. Brands, strident partisanship rested at the core of our nation's founding. It is a romantic naiveté to believe the founders were in harmonious lockstep in establishing and creating our democratic Republic. They were not, and far from it. The likes of Hamilton, Madison, Jefferson, Adams and a host of others were possessive of their individual vision of the nascent nation while Washington feared where such political visions might lead. In some ways, what is being displayed in our day might be considered "child's play" when compared to the divisive spirit that prevailed after 1776. The "miracle" is that the American experiment was born, and for almost 250 years it has withstood a host of political headwinds. In one sense, today's assortment of headwinds should make us proud: it could be argued American political divisiveness is soundly patriotic; but at what cost? When do good-old-fashioned political differences cease to make America great and, instead, become a corrosive chipping away at the precious fabric of what makes America the envy of the world?

For Christmas, I received Brands's newest book, **Founding Partisans**. Let me urge you to obtain your copy from bookstore or library, and to read it

before you cast your vote in the Fall presidential election. Brands gives me a glitter of hope that the divisive spirit plaguing our political system can be worked through and it might even strengthen the core values of our Republic for years to come. However, a caution must be raised: in the midst of our prideful political positions, we may end up doing irreparable harm to our party system, and by harm I mean it may dissolve eventually the mutual and civil discourse that was intended to define our form of government. Such an ultimate loss would be tragic, and it might well deliver us into the hands of a form of government many of us, including our Revolutionary ancestors, believe to be anathema to our democratic form of government.

In the meantime, I am buoyed by the witness the Society of Sons provides in our day. The purpose of being Sons is not to minimize the cost of our freedom, a cost each generation must pay not just every four years but year after year. Our witness, our vigilance must ceaselessly point to and advocate for a particular concord among our parties, a temperament that seeks not to destroy but to debate, not to vilify but to voice the greater good that binds us together as Americans. To be sure, I am not asking for one party to surrender principle for the sake of righteous indignation; rather, I want to advocate for a re-engagement of a key ingredient that delivered our nation into existence: *compromise*. In making America great, both in our day and in days to come, we need to view compromise not as a cudgel but as a way to move forward as Americans, citizens who love being members of a free society and who are willing to trust one another with the precious vision for which our ancestors fought and died. Such trust is worth the compromise of being Americans together, united, respectful, and forever free.

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

**** JOIN US - Sign up now! ****
Annual Luncheon Meeting
June 29, 2024
Carolina Country Club
Raleigh, NC.
Register on: <https://nc-sor.org/store/ols/products/2023-annual-meeting>

2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024, @ **The Carolina Country Club**, in Raleigh (www.carolinacc.net). Our speaker will be **Harry L. Albert, Jr.**, a graduate of Davidson College (with a BS in Accounting from UNC-Charlotte). He recently retired as CFO of Electrical Equipment Company. He is active in the American Philatelic Society and the NC Postal History Society. Harry will present "**Exploring NC Postal History Connections to the American Revolution**," including items related to the American Revolution. A few first day covers will be exhibited and several historically significant covers dating from 1796 to 1831 will be showcased featuring correspondence from veterans of the Revolutionary War.

Saturday's schedule will include a 10:30 a.m. open **Board Meeting** followed by an 11:30 a.m. time of **Patriotic Hospitality** after which we will enjoy a **luncheon and presentation**. The luncheon cost is \$60/pp. Payment may be made either by mail (check made out to: "SRNC") or on-line: <https://nc-sor.org/store/ols/products/2023-annual-meeting>.



In addition to the keynote speaker, friends and members may hear from a UNC-P student who will be the recipient of the SRNC scholarship prize named in honor of the late SRNC President emeritus, 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 event to which family members and prospective members are cordially invited to attend.

Elections of Officers & Directors

At the **June 29 Annual Meeting**, the SRNC will receive nominations for ALL officers and five Directors (two filling existing gaps).

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 **2024 Nominating Committee** consists of the following: Daniel Pate (Chairman), and committee members Greg Catledge, Frank Powell, Bob Ray and Gary Spencer. You may direct your nomination(s) to any of these members.

The current Board of Officers is as follows:

2023 - 2024 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)

2024 - E. Allen James
2024 - James R. Davis
2024 - Frank B. Powell III
2025 - J. Robert Boykin III
2025 - J. Randall May
2025 - Joseph A. Steele
2026 - Steve T. Christmas
2026 - William G. Tubbs
2026 - Glenn M. Davis

Past Events

Annual Meeting – Carolina Country Club, Raleigh – June 24, 2023



The 2023 Annual Meeting luncheon was held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at The Carolina Country Club, Raleigh. Our speaker was UNC-CH **Professor Harry Watson**, Atlanta Distinguished Professor of Southern Culture. He informed us about North Carolina's three signers of the Declaration of Independence. Our patriot founders - William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and John Penn. These unsung NC Revolution heroes were given their just moment in the 21st century spotlight that they somehow keep avoiding.

The events included a SRNC Board Meeting followed by patriotic hospitality and then the luncheon program presented by Prof. Watson. Our state society annual meeting program included the nomination and election of officers and Board members and their subsequent installation. This benchmark meeting set the tone for an excessively busy calendar for the next year.

Yorktown Luncheon – Nov 11, 2023 Arbor Acres, Winston-Salem

The 2023 Yorktown Commemorative Banquet was celebrated on Veterans' Day, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023. Our speaker was well-known historian **Randell Jones**, whose patriotic witness was delivered in a presentation called "Daniel Boone Footsteps" (www.danielboonefootsteps.com).

Thanks to our resident Treasurer, Andy Smith, who graciously and tirelessly made arrangements to host an exceptional event at a remarkable venue.



Arbor Acres, Winston-Salem, NC

Visitation of Revolutionary War Memorial - Centre Presbyterian Church, Mooresville



A November Grave marking ceremony was attended by SRNC President Succop and Chaplain McCullough. A monument placed by the Mecklenburg Chapter of the SAR was dedicated in 2018 to honor members of Centre Church who fought in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). The memorial is located beside the historic cemetery where more than 35 Revolutionary War soldiers are buried.

2023 Wreaths Across America

The SRNC was 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.

SRSC Evacuation Day Commemoration – Dec 16, 2023

At the invitation of the South Carolina Society of Sons, President and Vice President, Gus Succop and Randy Sprinkle, respectively, attended the second Annual SRSC Evacuation Day Commemoration. They were joined by other NC Society members Carlton Mansfield and Joe Steele. 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.



Evacuation Day Gala – (l-r) SRSC Pres. Jeff Murrie, SRNC VP Randy Sprinkle, SRNC Pres. Gus Succop, and (seated) former GSSR Pres. Mitchell Bush

Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter Honors their Namesake at 243rd Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford

On January 27, 2024 in Huntersville, NC, a contingent of compatriots of the Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter, SRNC, gathered to pay tribute and render honors to their fallen namesake.

Messrs. Bob Ray, Fred Decker, Chuck Decker, John Misenheimer, and Russell H. McCullough gathered and represented the chapter to remember the **Battle of Cowan's Ford** (1 February 1781) and to lament the loss that day of our hero, General William Lee Davidson, aged 35 ½. Rendering honors for all was Mr. Bob Ray. The final benediction was given by Russell H. McCullough, State Chaplain for the SRNC.



Descendant of Patrick Henry, Patrick Henry Jolly, speaks at Cowan's Ford commemoration

Battle of Moores Creek Commemoration – Feb. 24-25, 2024



Color guard members Gary Hall and Joe Steele participated in events commemorating the 248th Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge. The battle was brief, as loyalists mistakenly assumed Patriot forces had retreated - instead they were quickly defeated by the rebels that met them with fierce and fast musket and cannon fire from the patriot earthworks. The whole skirmish possibly lasted only three minutes. The battle would mark the first decisive patriot victory of the American Revolution. Allowing North Carolina to become the first American colony to instruct their delegates sent to the Continental Congress to vote for independence!

Unlike many observances in past years, where bitter cold was the norm, today's ceremonies were held in seasonally warm weather, though under cloudy skies. A large crowd made up of many patriotic societies, gathered from places as far away as Arizona. After a fine breakfast, the congregation assembled in the sanctuary of the ancient Hopewell Presbyterian Church, still extant, not far from the battlefield where outnumbered Patriot forces sought, unsuccessfully, to deter General Charles Cornwallis from crossing the Catawba in his ongoing assault on North Carolina in pursuit of the stealthy and evasive General Nathaniel Green. Valiantly, General Davidson lost his young life that day in the cause of Liberty. "Honor to whom honor is due," was given him at his graveside after a spirited and patriotic discourse spoken by the 5X great grandson of Patrick Henry, Patrick Henry Jolly of Ohio in the hallowed hall. An honorary musket volley closed the ceremony. Many commented on the numerous wreaths presented as well as the multitude of honors rendered by attendees.

The Sons of the Revolution erected a monument here in the graveyard several years ago commemorating the battle and the loss of General Davidson. Pictured left and below, two new memorials were presented today by our friends from the Children of the American Revolution and the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge.

George Washington Commemorative Birthday Luncheon – Mar. 2, 2024



Guest Speaker Steven Campbell

The North Carolina Society convened on March 2, 2024, to commemorate the 292nd birthday of George Washington. The venue was the commodious and hospitable Pine Crest Inn, Pinehurst, NC. Local arrangements were coordinated by VP Randy Sprinkle and Drew Gross, Pine Crest Inn General Manager.

After a Board Meeting where guests were introduced and New Members were received into membership, a superb luncheon followed and was enjoyed by over 35 members and guests. The speaker was Steven A. Campbell, a retired 30-year veteran of the High Point Police Department as well as a current Ambassador from North Carolina for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, VA. Mr. Campbell's presentation was entitled, ***"The Will to Win & Conquering Adversity: George Washington as a Young Officer to Commander-in-Chief."***



President Gus Succop & Region 3 GSSR VP Frank Hardeman



GW Celebrants at The Pine Crest Inn

Halifax Resolves Day in Historic Halifax, NC – April 12, 2024

Members of the SRNC Color Guard attended the commemoration of the 248th 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.



Looking Ahead: 250th Anniversary & Lafayette Bicentennial

The SRNC will be observing and participating in the celebration of the 250th issuance of the Declaration of Independence and the Bicentennial of Gen. Lafayette's 1824-25 return visit to the United States at the invitation of President Madison. Carlton Mansfield will keep us informed about the Lafayette Bicentennial and Gus Succop will do the same regarding the 250th of the DOI. Stay tuned for more updates.

OTHER NEWS

Sons of the Revolution Grave Markers Are Available Again!



After a lengthy hiatus, due to Covid and manufacturing delays/complications, grave markers will be made available soon to all Sons of the Revolution (SR) state societies. Special thanks to the Allan Rellinger (**CenTec Cast Metal Products**), SRNC Pres. Gus Succop, and SRNC Treasurer Andy Smith for striving towards the finish line.

An older cast medallion, possessed by the New York Society, was used to re-make the mold pattern. The museum piece is a significant historical marker. Soon, the new replica commemorative markers will be available. Prior to reestablishment of the forging process, the SR had been without a general embodiment for state societies to honor ancestors or to identify publicly membership in the society. Sometime this summer, inventory will be available once again!

Grave marking ceremonies provide high profile Society and color guard opportunities to enhance a state society's visibility. A grave marking ceremony does not necessarily require a color guard to be present; 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 contacted. Cemeteries will have rules for graveside ceremonies. Representatives should be contacted before working with the family.

The SR grave markers are bronze, 5 ¾ 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, which 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.

Ordering ability will be available in the coming weeks - as we reestablish the process and make sure it is operational and ready. Currently, pricing for the bronze and (lighter) aluminum grave markers, together with shipping and handling, is being determined, based on current manufacturing costs. **Stay tuned for more information on this matter.**

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 made a gift to FOHH that will be used to enhance the garden at the Visitors' Center in the historic district of Halifax.

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). 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. 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!

As you may know by now, we have launched a **new website** that complements "The Fife & Drum" newsletter. Look for the newsletter to be published *at least* once a year usually in the Spring. Our hope is for two issues a year. The website (www.nc-sor.org) is managed by Webmaster Glenn Davis. Gratitude is expressed to Glenn Davis and Andy Smith for their leadership with both media instruments.

NC & SC Societies forging common cause with Grave Marker efforts



During the Presidency of Ivan Bennett (2016-18), SRSC became interested in the recasting efforts of the traditional grave markers by neighbors in NC. The revived marker, in concert with General Society approval, became available in 2015 after a long absence. SRSC viewed the markers as a unique opportunity – for use in wreath laying, monument dedication, plaques and grave markers.

A plaque presented to the Heritage Library on Hilton Head Island at Zion Cemetery and Baynard Mausoleum was the first bronze marker presentation. Four Revolutionary War soldiers are buried at the cemetery.



The markers were in the annual wreath laying and presentation at Ft Thicketty near Gaffney SC. SRSC celebrates the engagement at Ft Thicketty, every August. The marker was mounted to the door frame of the building by Chuck Swoope (pictured above), Past President of SRSC.



A grave marker was installed at a ceremony and wreath laying at the Isaac Hayne Plantation Cemetery and Grave site (above). Isaac Hayne was a Revolutionary War martyr who was hung in Marion Square, Charleston, SC. His plantation is in Jacksonboro, SC. Initially posted in the ground and in consideration of the upcoming Semiquincentennial, state park officials thought it best to affix permanently the grave markers to the brick columned entrance of the cemetery.



A grave marker was placed at the Thomas Heyward Jr. monument in Ridgeland, SC Cemetery. The SRSC had its annual pilgrimage to Thomas Heyward Jr. cemetery in July for a wreath laying presentation with ancestors of the signer of the Declaration of Independence. The ceremony is a youth event with SR Junior Members responsible for the program.

Chapters News

New Chapter Forming: “Hewes, Hooper, Penn” in the Triad



The most recent grave marker ceremony was a \$1400 monument largely funded by the GSSR, SRSC, and SR Greenville Chapter. Small donations came from Colonial Dames and DAR. The location is in Pickens county (near Clemson). The annual December ceremony is in conjunction with Wreaths Across America. The cemetery of 30-35 Rev War soldiers is behind Pickens Chapel. This impressive monument is a contemporary addition to two other monuments in Charleston (from 1895 and 1905) at the Liberty Tree and the Old Exchange.

These many uses of grave markers have been provided by the SRSC with sincere appreciation and gratitude to SRNC. Through the use of these been plaques, monuments, and grave markers, we support the efforts of the General Society to commemorate the sacrifices of our ancestors for coming generations.

Author: Ivan Bennett Med, President SC SR 2016-2018, Region 3 VP GSSR 2018 – 2021, Member of SRNC since 2023

NOTES



After numerous organizational meetings and recruitment drives, the incipient chapter in the Triad area is coming into its own. The selected name is to be the **Hewes, Hooper, Penn Chapter**. The naming comes after much debate over many illustrious and historic figures and places. The gentlemen forming the core of the chapter determined it would be an honor to name our chapter after the 3 unsung heroes of the Revolution – NC's three Signers to the Declaration of Independence.

The Chapter members look forward to becoming more versed in the stories and personalities of the Signers who pledged their “Lives, Fortunes and ...sacred Honor” in order to leave an impactful mark upon our state and nation. Next up is electing officers and applying officially for the chapter charter from SRNC and GSSR.

Cols. Hinton & Polk Chapter “The SRNC Shirt”

The Colonels Hinton & Polk Chapter is still 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: eajames@bellsouth.net



Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter

Friends and members of the **Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter** enjoyed a patriotic social at Osteria LuCa, Park Road Shopping Center, on Saturday, April 13. Over 15 members and friends attended. Chapter President Gus Succop reminded the attendees of the September Chartering Dinner (TBA). Attending the social were: Helen & Bob Ray, Sally & Wallace Smith, VP David Boggs, prospective member Randall Boggs, Wells Van Pelt, Elizabeth & Hugh Dussek, Chaplain Russ McCullough, Chris Stonestreet, and Beth & Gus Succop.

Consider a Bequest to the Society of Sons of the Revolution in NC in your estate planning



A bequest to SRNC 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 ensure the Society receives valuable ongoing support that will benefit future generations of members. Donors can make a bequest by including a provision for the Society in their wills or trusts. For more information about bequests, please contact our Treasurer: stevechristmas7@gmail.com.

The SRNC is a 501(c)(3) Corporation. All donations and bequests are tax deductible. ***This note is for informational purposes only.*** It is NOT tax, investment or legal advice - please consult your professional legal and tax advisor(s) for further information and guidance.

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

Gratitude is expressed to Immediate Past Pres. Dan Hopping who produced for years the publication of "The Fife & Drum," and whose patriotic inspiration makes possible every issue! Huzzah!

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

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**Sons of the Revolution
in the State of North Carolina**
And receive periodical updates

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27-28	Memorial Day Weekend (Bennett Place)
June 29	Annual Meeting (Carolina Country Club, Raleigh NC)
Aug. 3	House in the Horseshoe Battle Reenactment *
Sept.25-Oct.7	OVRTA march to Kings Mtn.
Sept. (TBA)	GWLD Chartering Dinner, CLT
Oct. 3-5	GSSR Triennial Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)
November 9	Yorktown Luncheon, River Run Club (Davidson, NC)
December	Holiday Social (TBA)
Dec. 14	"Wreaths Across America" * (Raleigh National Cemetery)

*SRNC Color Guard participating