



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 Gus Succop, President **Remember & Do Not Forget**

In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, there is found a reoccurring refrain. God exhorts the Israelites: "Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there" (Deut. 24: 18). Even to modern day Jewish people, remembering what God once accomplished for them so long ago remains a sacred trust. Remembering God's act of rescue has eternal value for the Jewish faithful. "Remembering" is their way of confessing there are some things only God can accomplish, things far beyond human achievement. Of course, the act of remembering is no less significant for Christians. During the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the faithful hear in their heart-of-hearts the Lord's voice: "This do in remembrance of me." The "this" speaks of the ways the risen Lord is present to us, to humanity, and at work in human lives redeeming, restoring, and, of course, rescuing as God once rescued Israel.

In recent times, the refrain to "remember" has become even more significant for Americans. The founders of our nation were biblically literate people; they were people of faith. They were quite aware of what God accomplished for Israel. In such light, they held great hope for what God was capable of doing for the cause of freedom. They, too, were willing to confess there were some things, if not *many* things far beyond human achievement, things only God is capable of accomplishing. In recent times, I have taken a page from our founders' hope in and understanding of God's providence. During the two-plus years of the COVID pandemic, I have reacquainted myself with doses of "remembering." Not infrequently, I have reminded myself of those things only God can accomplish especially when it comes to putting an end to the pandemic. By faith, I

see God at work in and through medical researchers, health providers and elected leaders.

I have been remembering that God has the power every nation needs to heal human divisiveness. Only God can aid Americans to notice how fragile and priceless our democratic form of government is (and, I guess, has always been). "We the People" is a call to be one people, not uniform but uniquely united as a nation. We need to remember there is far more that unites America than separates, and we need to capitalize on strengths and attributes that do unite. That is a vivid reason why I am a member of the Sons of the Revolution. That is why I seek to draw others into our fellowship to enrich our witness.



When I am asked why I belong to the Sons, I make it clear: "I am grateful. I am *very* grateful to be an American." I am grateful to all the ancestors who risked life, limb and fortune for the cause of independence. I am grateful to live in a land of particular freedoms and laws. I am grateful my voice is heard at the ballot box. And I am inspired that there are people from a variety of nations who want to be an American. They, too, want to live their life on the receiving end of a democratic way of life where their voice is heard and valued.

Let us not forget the goodly heritage that has come our way. *Let us not forget* ancestors who thought of the greater good so those who follow (you and me!) would have a land to cultivate and from which to draw a livelihood as free citizens. *Let us not forget* that the grand experiment of American democracy remains worth the sacred honor of our respect and allegiance. And *let us not forget* that perhaps, just perhaps, the American dream is less about what we have accomplished and more about what God has entrusted to us: a particular blessing to cherish and to pass on to a new generation of patriots.

Sign up now
2022 Annual Luncheon
Meeting
June 18, 2022
Carolina Country Club
Raleigh, NC. Register on [Web Site](#)

2022 Annual Meeting

The 2021-22 Annual Meeting luncheon will be held at the Carolina Country Club in Raleigh on Saturday, June 18. The cost will be \$55 per person. After a 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting, a Patriotic Social will be held (cash bar).



In addition to a 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 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. It is hoped a new hardcopy membership directory will be available for distribution.

Our Keynote speaker will be Mark Pace presenting as "John Penn". John Penn was born in Caroline County, Virginia, to a family of means. His father died when he was eighteen years old, and though he had received only a rudimentary education at a country school, he had access to a significant library. He was licensed to practice law in the State of Virginia at age twenty-two. In 1774 he moved to Granville County, North Carolina, where he established a law practice and soon became a gentleman member of the political community. He was elected to attend the Provincial Congress in 1775 and elected to the

Continental Congress that same year. He served there until 1777, participating in committee work. He was again elected in 1779, appointed to the Board of War, where he served until 1780. He declined a judgeship in his native state around that time, due to failing health.



Mark Pace as John Penn

Mark Pace is the Historian at the Richard H Thornton Library and is the recipient of the "2021 John Penn Citizen of the Year" in Granville County.

Please note that the Annual Meeting luncheon is a fine time to invite family members as well as prospective members to attend. Watch for additional details *via* e-mail communication.

Elections of Officers and three Directors

At the June 18 Annual Meeting, the SRNC will receive nominations for all officers and three 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 2022 Nominating Committee consists of Carlton Mansfield, Esq., Chairman, Robert Boykin, Jeff Lambert, Russ McCullough, and Bob Ray. You may

direct your nomination to these Members. Our current Board of Directors is below.

2021-2022 Officers

President: Augustus E. Succop III

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: J. Robert Boykin III

Color Guard Captain: Daniel L. Hopping

Directors

(end date of 3-year term)

2022 - Glenn M. Davis

2022 - Gregory B. Hunter

2022 - Brian Michael Tribble

2023 - David L. Gellatly

2023 - W. Timothy Lattimore

2023 - Ronald W. Steele

2024 – E. Allen James

2024 – Charles R. Odom

2024 – Frank B. Powell III



He was once called upon to be the solo jet to do a low rolling flyover salute during a visit by President Eisenhower. He had many great stories of night time operations flying off an aircraft carrier.

After his career with the Navy, Paul was 37 years a stockbroker with Merrill Lynch.

Paul had a lifelong passion for music and was the music director at Hillyer Memorial Christian Church for five decades. He founded the Hillyer Community Chorus which included 75 singers and presented two major works each year with a professional orchestra and accomplished soloists.

Paul received the “*Order of the Long Leaf Pine*” which is among the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor of North Carolina.

Paul Blackwell Conway

06/23/1932 – 02/04/2022

With great sorrow the SRNC reports the passing of Compatriot Paul Conway, US Navy Retired. Paul was a long time member of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina, holding several offices including Chaplain and was a valued member of the Board of Directors.

Paul was a great friend and led an exemplary life as a role model to many of us. He is survived by four children and fourteen Grandchildren.

Upon graduation from Duke University in 1954, he immediately entered in the Navy as an Ensign where he went to flight School and won his of Wings of Gold at Virginia Beach Naval Air Station.

He flew a new aircraft; the delta winged Interceptor F4D Skyraider. The mission was night, all-weather, high altitude, air to air raider and carrier operation.

Past Events

“Welcome Back”

2021 Annual Meeting

By Gus Succop, President

After a hiatus of almost two years, the North Carolina Society was convened for a spirited “Welcome Back” Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021.



Over 40 members and guests enjoyed a luncheon both bountiful and delicious. Various reports were received at the Board Meeting that preceded the luncheon. The Nominating Committee report was

approved. The new Officers and Directors were elected and installed.

Donald C. McLeod, Past President of the St. Andrew's Society of North Carolina and SRNC member, gave an informative presentation on the Highland vs. Lowland Scots and the role they played in the American Revolution in North Carolina.



Our Speaker Donald C. McLeod



Frank Hardeman, GSSR Regional Vice President spoke to us about news from the National Society

The Carolina Country Club, in Raleigh, proved to be a fine venue with attentive and courteous staff. This is where we will hold our June 2022 Annual Meeting.

2021 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.



Dan Hopping presenting the Wreath for the SRNC

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".

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.



Our Color Guard for this event was made up of Scott Kennedy commanding, Tom Davis, Bill DiBenedetto (prospective member), Gary Hall, Albert Hopping, Dan Hopping and John Ledbetter.

Photos are by Allen James.

241st Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford

By Gus Succop

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, the commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford was held at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church cemetery in Huntersville. Organized by the Mecklenburg Chapter of the SAR on behalf of the State and National Societies, the commemoration was held outside at the headstone of Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson, who was mortally wounded at the battle and buried under the cover of night.



Despite the cold and biting wind, a grateful gathering of patriots rendered honors to Gen. Davidson being mindful of the Revolutionary patriots buried nearby, some of whom were signers to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. SAR member Stephen McKee presided at the commemoration and offered the thoughtful message: "Why They Fought: To Be More than What They Were Born to Be."

SRNC members the Rev. Russ McCullough, John Misenheimer, and SRNC President Gus Succop attended. Russ gave the Opening and Closing Prayers; John served in the SAR Color Guard.

SRNC Speaker's Bureau Presents to the Cary Christian Academy

By Dan Hopping

The SRNC Speaker's Bureau was requested by a local Raleigh DAR Chapter to provide a learning experience on February 4th for the three 5th grade classes at the Cary Christian School in Cary, NC. February 4th is the school's Patriot Day. Hollis Posey pulled the team together and we had Hollis, Tom Davis, Gary Hall, Dan Hopping and prospective member Bill DiBenedetto attending to present to over a hundred 5th graders. Hollis was the principle speaker. (We all survived!)



We had an eighteen foot display of Revolutionary War Period maps, firelocks and artifacts since just speaking loses a fifth grader's interest quickly. The School asked us to return next year. Photos by Bill DiBenedetto.

241st Anniversary of the Crossing the Dan

On February the 19th, several SRNC Color Guard members attended the Anniversary of the February 14th 1781, event of General Green leading the Patriot Army across the Dan River and out of the reach of

the British Army. General Green had led Cornwallis' Army on a long march across North Carolina staying just far enough ahead so that Cornwallis burned his wagons and much of his supplies to try and keep up. General Green's brilliant tactics significantly depleted the Redcoats.

This was an important part of the Southern Strategy that helped precipitate the Surrender at Yorktown later that year.

Gary Hall, John Misenheimer and Tom Davis participated in the event. Gary Hall is the President of the Dan River Chapter of the Virginia SAR and was the host for the event.

246th Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

By Dan Hopping

On February 26th the SRNC participated in the 1776 Anniversary of the Moores Creek Bridge Battle near Wilmington.



**Gary Spencer, Tom Davis and Dan Hopping
at the Monument**

This battle stopped the Loyalists from forming at the port of Wilmington to join up with the British Army that was coming from Ireland for the purpose of subduing the Southern Colonies.

This was the first significant action of the Revolution in the South, and it kept the British from coming back for several years.



**Dan Hopping and John Misenheimer with Mother
Covington's Daughter, the cannon given to
Moores Creek Battlefield by the SRNC**

246th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves

By Dan Hopping

The Halifax Resolves is so important to North Carolina that it is one of the two dates on our state flag. On April 12, 1776, at the meeting of the Fourth Provincial Congress in Halifax, the North Carolina Assembly authorized her delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for Independence. At the same time, they cemented their resolve and intention on paper, writing their resolutions into the minutes of their meeting. These revolutionary resolutions have become known as the Halifax Resolves.

Every year on the 12th of April a ceremony is held on the field where the Halifax courthouse stood at the time. This year it was held on a Tuesday.

SRNC members attending were Tom Davis, Bill DiBenedetto (Prospective Member), Gary Hall, Dan Hopping and Gary Spencer. The Event was sponsored by the North Carolina SAR. Photos by Bill DiBenedetto.



Dan Hopping giving Greetings from the SRNC



Presenting at our Wreath



Our Wreath

Rev War Archeology Project

By Dan Hopping

The SRNC continues to work with the Wake County Historical Society and the property developer to recover and conserve the artifacts from an important Revolutionary War tavern building. The site is the Tavern building built by Isaac Hunter in the 1760s. At this tavern in 1789, the NC Legislatures decided that the Capital of NC would be within ten miles of the tavern, rather than on the coast. Raleigh is seven miles south of the tavern's site.

The site is now lost to a major development. We have recovered a large number of nails and artifacts from the site. We have documented the site as a historically important location for future generations.

The finished development will feature a display on the tavern and its importance to the location of the Capital of North Carolina by the legislature of the new state of North Carolina.



One of the last recoveries included a broken 1700s sword blade here with a typical 1700s sword

We are still sorting the nails by decade to make sure we have the nails of the original tavern building. The tavern was in operation from 1762 until the early 1800s and was then a tenant farmer building and finally used as a barn until the mid 1900s.

Sons of the Revolution Grave Markers Are Available!



After an absence of nearly a century, grave marker medallions are being made available to all Sons of

the Revolution (SR) state societies. The Reverend Augustus E. (Gus) Succop III, North Carolina Society President, spearheaded an effort to bring back these markers. He had enthusiastic support in the effort from GSSR President Larry Simpson, GSSR Regional VP Ivan Bennett and GSSR Executive Director Jeff Lambert. 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.

If the public is unaware that the society exists, there won't be new members. Publicity is key, but society publications are internal and of themselves of little help in promoting 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 new 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. 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.



Contact Allen James, Chapter President, for orders at: eajames@bellsouth.net

Chapters News

Cols. Hinton and Polk Chapter

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 meeting.



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

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 Dan Hopping.

Upcoming events

2022

- Jun 18 Annual Meeting,
Carolina Country Club, Raleigh
- Aug 6 House-in-the-Horseshoe
- Sep (TBD) Davidson Chapter Chartering
Dinner
- Sep Oct 7 OVTA Annual March to Kings Mtn
- Oct (TBD) Yorktown Victory Commemorative
Luncheon
- Oct 7 Kings Mtn. Anniversary
- Dec 17 "Wreaths Across America," Raleigh
National Cemetery

2023

- Jan 28 Battle of Cowan's Ford
Commemoration, Huntersville, NC
- Feb or Mar GW Birthday Observance
- Feb 25 Battle of Moores Creek
Commemoration
- Mar 11 Guilford Court House
- Apr 12 Halifax Resolves
- May 27-28 Memorial Day Weekend (Bennett
Place)
- Jun 10 or 17 Annual Meeting (TBA)

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

Article submission Guidelines

Font	Arial
Font size	10
Space before paragraph	None
Space after paragraph	None
Paragraph indentation	None
Line spacing	1.0
Columns	one
Alignment	left
Images	prefer .jpg
Title	Bold 16 point, center
Author	10 point center

Please do not use a low resolution phone for the images. I will crop and resize the images to fit the format.

Please send the photos separate from the text rather than in-line with the text. Attach them to the note. I can rarely do anything with an imbedded image.

Please send submissions to Editor, Dan L. Hopping (hopping@nextretailgroup.com).