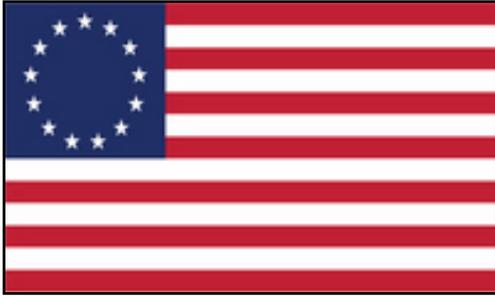


The Illinois Patriot



Illinois Society Sons of The American Revolution

www.illinois-sar.org

January 2021



How General George Washington Celebrated Christmas

Abundant Christmas feasts of Washington's later years were preceded by some years that were lean on Christmas cheer.

When young George was 8 years old in 1740, his home caught fire on Christmas Eve. As a soldier in the British army, Washington spent Christmas Eve of 1753 in a remote outpost known as Murdering Town getting in a skirmish with local

Indians, followed by a gift-giving trip to a local "Indian Queen."

The War for Independence brought highs and lows even on holy days. The low point was inevitably Christmas at Valley Forge, where many soldiers were near starvation and along with the meager mutton and cabbage, there was no whiskey or wine. The high point was the Christmas night where Washington caught snoring Hessians unaware as he crossed the Delaware River and attacked Trenton to turn the tide of the war.

But George Washington's best Christmas was in 1783., he rode up to Mount Vernon to celebrate his first holiday at home after eight years of revolution. He had resigned his commission just days before and was determined to surprise his family with his presence. They, in turn, surprised him with a feast that would almost make King George III feel at home.

First, soak in this description of Christmas Pie, a traditional British dish that makes a Turducken seem modest. Heaped inside a sturdy crust were layers of meat—"a turkey, a goose, a fowl, a partridge and pigeon"—seasoned with nutmeg, cloves, mace, pepper and salt and slathered with four pounds of butter, all cooked together for at least four hours. Then there was Martha's recipe for "great cake"—40 eggs, four pounds of butter, four pounds of powdered sugar, five pounds of fruit and a half pint of wine and brandy thrown in for good measure. Add in Washington's extended family and a few select friends, at it was a welcome respite after nearly a decade on the run in more than 200 encampments.

Christmas Day was primarily a religious holiday, though Washington was at best an occasional churchgoer, despite concerted efforts by subsequent evangelists to literally paint him as



far more devout than he was in life. Records show that he was more likely to attend the celebration of St. John the Evangelist at local Masonic lodges on the 27th of December each year than Christmas Day services, though he was a frequent parishioner at St. Paul's Chapel in lower Manhattan after he was as president.

The Christmas season lasted more than a week and

it was a time of celebration and general inebriation. Washington gave his servants—and, yes, slaves—four days off to mark the holiday in broad Mount Vernon-wide celebration. One of the largest distillers in the colonies, Washington supplied a gallon of whiskey as a modest gift even to his slaves and overcame his aversion to intoxication (which he once sonorously described as 'sacrificing their reason to Bacchus') to allow one valued employee four days of Christmas drunkenness, as enumerated in his contract.

Always a wealthy man, Washington was known to splurge on diversions for his family and guests. Once, during the war, he shelled out the cash to hire a band on Christmas Day. And in the winter of 1787, a surreal travelling salesman of sorts brought an Arabian camel up to Mount Vernon for the equivalent of \$77 today to entertain and educate the extended Washington family.

Presidential Christmases in New York and then Philadelphia were more formal affairs with leading legislators than the family-focused fetes most enjoyed by Washington at Mount Vernon. Often in physical distress and under unaccustomed political attack, after the big meal and a winter walk, Washington would play cards and write letters, restrained by the responsibilities of being chief executive.

But a few years of retirement brought Washington back to his beloved Mount Vernon, with its year-crowning Christmas cheer. And in 1797, with less than two years left in his life, he wrote a note to the husband of Martha's granddaughter which could serve as a Christmas coda from the original founding father: "We remain in Status quo and all unite in offering you, & yours, the compliments of the season, and the return of many, many more, and happy ones.



A Message From The President

By **ILSSAR President Michael Campagnolo**

First, I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

This has been a crazy year to say the least. The Illinois Society has had four Zoom BOM meetings since May 2020. We have made the best efforts under the circumstances to move the Illinois Society along during this difficult time. I am feeling very optimistic, with a vaccine coming soon, we will be able to finally meet in person (May in Springfield) and will be looking forward to having a very productive and fun year ahead for the Illinois Society. Keep your fingers crossed! Thank you all for your help!

On October 10, 2020 I met at the Bloomington Double Tree with Dick Chamblin and I presented him with the Past President's Pin and Certificate as well as a gavel plaque. Dick presented me with the ILSSAR President's medallion. Gordon Bidner, Drew Robinson, Drew's wife Tina, Chuck Erickson, and Bill Wheeler and Dick's wife Cheryl were also at the informal lunch get together.

On October 17, 2020 I attended a Zoom meeting with the MISSAR President David VanHoof and all the Michigan Chapter Presidents. I made a presentation to the Michigan compatriots on the ILSSAR Cemetery Marking program to help kick start their program.

On October 21, 2020 I attended a Zoom meeting with the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter compatriots celebrating its 45th anniversary and the life of General Joseph Bartholomew. Thank you GJB for putting on a great program. I learned a lot about General Joseph Bartholomew from Dan Leifel's presentation. I would like to shout Huzzah! to the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter for 45 years!

I attended the Kishwaukee Chapter Zoom meeting on November 21, 2020. President Jason Sturgis's two-year term has expired, and he was handing over the gavel to new Kishwaukee Chapter President Paul Zeien Jr. I along with Northern Region VP Mike Cobb swore in a great bunch of new officers to lead the fast-growing Kishwaukee Chapter. Good luck Paul and Thank you Jason and the Kishwaukee Chapter compatriots for inviting me. I see a nice future for your chapter.

The Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a society of active

It's Ceremonially Official



Recently, a small group of the Illinois Society SAR assembled (while practicing social distancing) at the Bloomington DoubleTree on Saturday October 10th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm to complete the installation of Michael Campagnolo as Illinois Society President. At the same ceremony, President Campagnolo presented the Past President certificate and pin to Dick Chamblin along with a gavel plaque to commemorate his accomplishments as ILSSAR President.

Members present were Mike Campagnolo, above left, Dick Chamblin, above right, Gordon Bidner, Bill Wheeler, Drew Robinson and Chuck Erickson. Also joining in were wives Cheryl Chamblin and Tina Robinson.

Notes from October's GLD BOM Meeting

Illinois SAR President Mike Campagnolo reported that as of October 6, 2020, the Illinois Society membership stands at 1153 with an additional 21 awaiting National Society approval.

ILSSAR maintains an active web page to post both state and chapter events and information. This includes the quarterly posting of the "Patriot" newsletter, containing articles of interest to our members.

The ILSSAR Color Guard under Commander Jon Fixmer and Vice Commander Jim Wallace have a roster of 76.

The ILSSAR will continue to hold the Board of Manager meetings (February, May, August and November) around the state at various locations to encourage attendance and participation. Chapters are encouraged to hold meetings in their respective regions at least once every two months.

Because of the Covid-19 outbreak all our Cemetery Marking Ceremonies, Chapter and State Parades with our Color Guard have been postponed until 2021. Our last face to face Board of Managers meeting was in Mt Vernon on February 7th & 8th. We have had virtual Board of Managers Zoom meetings on May 16th, June 27th, August 27th. Our final one of 2020 will be on November 12.

compatriots. If we just hung our paper certificates on a wall and nothing else the Society would wither and die. The value that the society brings to the communities throughout the state of Illinois is dependent on the compatriots that participate in the society.

Many of you have stepped forward and are filling Illinois Society committee positions and I thank you for what you are doing. We still have vacancies on several committees: Color Guard in the Central Illinois Region, Outstanding Citizenship Chairman, and Schweizer History Teacher Award Chairman.

If you are interested in helping the Illinois Society by volunteering to serve as Chairman or as a member on one of these committees,

please contact me.

I encourage ALL compatriots to join us at the state level for our quarterly BOM meetings. These meetings are NOT just for the Board of Managers but ALL compatriots statewide. I know during this pandemic we have not met physically, but ALL are welcome to join our Zoom meetings. The next one is will be the second week in February (on a weekday, TBD soon) at 6:30 pm. If you would like to join us just email me and I will send you an invite.

As ILSSAR President, my door will be always open to all suggestions and ideas. and I am a good listener.

The Illinois Sons of The American Revolution Board of Managers Meeting via Zoom November 12, 2020

Submitted by Recording Secretary Scott Sanders

The meeting called to order by President Mike Campagnolo at 6:33pm. via Zoom with 26 compatriots attending: Joe Harris, Larry Burgett, Jon Fixmer, Jim Petres, Bill Wheeler, Sid Welles, Scott Sanders, George Tinkham, Toby Chamberlain, Dick Chamblin, Mike Campagnolo, Gordon Bidner, Ed Bachesta, Jerry Whitsun, Ray Owens, Chuck Dobias, Lee Braden, Michael Cobb, Jason Sturges, Jim Wallace, Roger Swim, Ron Wood, Ken Kruta, Lou Myers, Sid Welles, and Dr. Allan Campbell.

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Sr. VP Chuck Dobias. Mike Campagnolo led the Pledge to the SAR. Invocation given by Chaplain Ray Owens.

President Campagnolo requested a moment of silence to remember long time compatriot and Ft. Dearborn Chapter past president John Dyrud who passed away September 13.

Great Lakes District VPG gave a summary of the recent meeting. Bill Wheeler moved previous BOM meeting be approved. Jerry Whitsun second. Approved by voice vote.

Trustee Report: Toby Chamberlain. Nothing to report. Bill Wheeler thanked Toby Chamberlain for making a motion at the last BOM meeting to donate money for a GWF pin and certificate for Diana Kwak following her presentation about the CAR Packages for Patriots program.

President's Report: Mike Campagnolo met at the Bloomington Double Tree with Dick Chamblin and presented him with the past president's pin and certificate as well as a gavel plaque. Dick presented Mike with the president's medalion. Gordon Bidner, Drew Robinson, Drew's wife Tina, Chuck Erickson, and Bill Wheeler were also at the informal lunch get together.

Mike also attended a Zoom meeting with the president of the Michigan society about their grave marking program. Mike also attended a Zoom meeting with the GJB chapter about its 45th anniversary and the life of General Joseph Bartholemew. He congratulated Virgil Short for putting on a great program.

Mike also mentioned that John Dyrud's uniform will be donated to the society for possible color guard use. Some unengraved medals will be donated to the medals committee.

Senior Vice President's Report: Chuck Dobias said the covid virus has really hit the southern region hard. In-person meetings stopped but the awards programs are continuing on he says. Certificates and medals are being mailed to winners. He is still working to have an in-person BOM meeting in Mt. Vernon on February 12-13. Chuck needs a general count on the number of people who might be going. Gordon Bidner gave it only a 10% chance of happening. Chuck was more optimistic at 20%.

Recording Secretary: Scott Sanders no report

Treasurer's Report: Lee Braden said the billing cycle is working well with 200-300 people paying online which saves "a ton" of time. There are still about 300 members who haven't paid yet, Lee said. He's getting somewhat concerned because contributions to other organizations are down due to the virus.

Registrar's Report: Jerry Whitsun said every chapter is growing in spite of the virus.

Historian Report: Ed Bachesta said he has received more material. Mike encouraged everyone to send Ed anything that might be of historical interest and worth preserving.

Chaplain Report: Ray Owens no report.

Northern Regional VP Report: Mike Cobb attended the ABC, GLD,

meetings. He's also contacted chapter presidents to encourage them to participate in other chapters' events to be aware of what other chapters are doing. He mentioned Bill Wheeler's genealogy efforts in Ft. Dearborn. Mike said, "It's all about sharing."

Central Region Vice President: Sid Welles reported the passing of long-time Compatriot James Neese 97 years of age. Sid gave a short bio of Compatriot Neese's many lifetime accomplishments.

Sid said it's pretty quiet in the Central Region now. Elijah Smith Chapter is finally getting word from the cemetery marking makers in Ohio that work is almost completed. Four compatriots will be remembered in Franklin, IL during the Spring.

Southern Region Vice President: Joe Harris said a grave marking for Wooten Harris in Fayette County was practically the highlight of recent activity in the southern part of the state. The virus has brought chapter activity to a standstill he said.

Jim Wallace said that the Long Knives Chapter had a 'Drill and Grill' at the Ft. Massac State Park and invited the new Capt. Virgil McKracken KY chapter to attend. Oct 17 Long Knives members went to the Ky chapter to help them with a grave marking for Patriot Private John Haines who is buried in someone's front yard there.

Long Knives also had a flag retirement ceremony scheduled for November 14 but had to cancel it due to Pritzker's new restrictions.

Chapter Presentation: Stephen Decatur VP Roger Swim attempted to present his report via power point. He gave it verbally instead.

In way to increase participation in club meetings, they decided to form a chapter book club to read and discuss books about seven men who were critical to founding the country. He also bought one of the "Great Courses" about the Federalist Papers for future meetings. Chapter President Larry Burgett said that it's been a good way to get our members involved. He said a lot of the members are "really interested in this. It's a good way to keep our chapter going during this Covid 19."

Audit Committee Report: Dick Chamblin said the audit hasn't been started yet. The audit committee is still waiting for the financial statements and Kevin Babb to get it started. It should have been started in June. Information is still needed from TIAA and 5/3 Bank that haven't been received yet.

Budget and Finance Committee Report: Lee Braden showed and explained the spreadsheet included here: "The moral of the story," Lee said is nothing much has changed from last year.

Dick Chamblin said there are some questions about some items and asked if some committee chairmen have been contacted about their needs. Lee said some have been contacted but not all of them.

An extensive discussion about details of budget items ensued and changes were made. Mike Campagnolo said more work is needed on the budget. Gordon Bidner moved for the approval of the 2021 budget. Seconded by Bill Wheeler. Motion passed.

CAR DAR Relations: Bill Wheeler said Diana Kwak really appreciated all the donations the CAR has received from the SAR.

Color Guard Report: Jon Fixmer nothing new to report.

Eagle Scout Report: George Tinkham said scholarship applications won't be received from national till December which is right before the deadline. He's trying to perfect the grading system to be efficient and fair. George said there should be chapter scouting

Continued on next page

Board of Managers Meeting Minutes Continued

awards in addition to state and national awards.

Historical Sites and Cemetery Marking Committee: A chairman is needed.

Patriot Newsletter Report: Scott Sanders said copy already received from several chapters already, with a month still to go before the deadline.

GWF Report: Toby Chamberlain said Illinois has 34 fellows now. We have a membership competition going with Missouri for membership totals he said.

Outstanding Citizenship Committee: Still looking for a chairman.

Patriot Medal Committee: Toby Chamberlain said the nominations do not carry over so past nominations must be sent in again if the same person is to be nominated again.

ROTC award committee: Chuck Dobias said there was not a single applicant last year. Chuck has the instructions and will send one if asked. Please make sure the senior military instructors in your high schools are aware of the program. Chuck needs the completed award information back from the chapters by April 1 in order to meet the national deadline of May 1.

History Teacher Award Committee: Still need a chairman.

Veterans' welfare committee: Lou Myers said that several people were quarantined at the Manteno veterans home.

Benediction provided by Chaplain Ray Owens

SAR Recessional recited and meeting adjourned by President by Mike Campagnolo at 8:45pm

American Bicentennial Chapter

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

This section highlights member's Revolutionary War ancestors. Thank you so much to Tim Hamman and Bill Scogland For providing details about their ancestor.

- Tim Hamman's 8th great grandfather was Lt. Jonathan Baxter. Jonathan Baxter served in the Medfield Militia of Norfolk County Massachusetts from 1775 through 1782. He earned the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Baxter served in Capt. Sabin Man's Company in the suppling of the Continental Army at Ticonderoga.

Jonathan Baxter was born about 1747 in Massachusetts. He married Susanna Field on the 17th of September 1768 in Braintree, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. He died in 1821 and is buried in the Hancock Cemetery in Quincy, Massachusetts.

- Bill Scogland's Revolutionary War ancestor was Christian Shank, who was a private in the 6th Pennsylvania battalion. After the War, he founded Shanksville, PA in 1798. There he

Congratulations to our new members:

Please welcome our newest members to SAR and the ABC Chapter:

- Jean Claude Radovanovitch
- Timothy (Tim) Hamman
- William (Bill) Scogland
- Nicholas (Nick) Koberstein

had two sawmills, a grist mill and a woolen mill. Shanksville is where United Flight 93 crashed on 9/11.

Additionally, Bill and his wife recently discovered that they both had Revolutionary War ancestors from Somerset County, PA.

Ewington Chapter

Revolutionary War Patriot Wooten Harris honored by SAR and DAR chapters in Fayette, County

Three members of the Ewington Chapter were honored to provide color guard for the grave marking ceremony sponsored by the Benjamin Mills DAR Chapter honoring Private Wooten Harris. Assisting with the ceremony were three members of the General George Rogers Clark Chapter. Descendants of the Revolutionary War patriot were in attendance. The event was held at the Harris Cemetery, Hurricane Township, Fayette Co., Illinois on October 14, 2020.



Fort Dearborn Chapter

Long-time Compatriot John Dyrud 1935-2020

By **Bill Wheeler.**

I regret to inform you of the passing of John Dyrud on Sunday, September 13th due to complications from sepsis. John was a great mentor to me and led me to become a member and supporter of the BOM both in Fort Dearborn and ILSSAR.

Compatriot John Dyrud was born September 17, 1935 and attended Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. He was a long-time employee of The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co.

He was a proud member of the SAR. He became a member of the SAR on November 22, 1993 based on lineage from Private Daniel Lewis of New Jersey.

Shortly after becoming a member of the SAR, John became active in supporting his local SAR chapters, starting with ABC and later with Fort Dearborn. He held a number of leadership roles in the SAR. These included VP, then President of the Fort Dearborn Chapter, National Merchandizing Officer, Hospitality and Music Committee, Rumbaugh Oration Contest Committee, National Society Alternate Trustee, Northern Illinois Region VP, and ILSSAR Color Guard Commander.

In addition to receiving more than 25 awards including the Liberty Medal and the National Roger Sherman Medal. One of his most recognized projects was that he worked with Indian tribes of Wisconsin to identify their patriot ancestors so they could become SAR members.

He was also active in the Illinois Society of the Colonial Wars where he served Governor. He was also a member of the Wisconsin Society of the Colonial Wars. In addition he was very proud of his Scottish and Norwegian roots and was active in their respective organizations.

He was interred with his wife, Suzanne



Mead Dyrud, at Christ Church, Church on the Hill, Winnetka, IL.

Compatriots remember John Dyrud

John was a great mentor to me and led me to become a member and supporter of the BOM both in Fort Dearborn and ILSSAR.

– **Bill Wheeler**

Thank you for the information about Compatriot John. Linda and I were so sorry to hear that.

Remembrances of John brought smiles to our faces. John took us both under his wing for history/restaurant tours of rural Springfield when the BOM met in Petersburg during Karl's tenure as ILSSAR President and gave us helpful information on what to do and not to do when going to Leadership Meetings in Louisville. Unless my memory has failed me John was also a member of the Wisconsin Society and has served as their Trustee at National meetings as well as being the National Trustee for the Illinois Society when some of our Presidents couldn't go to Louisville for National meetings. I remember seeing photos enclosed in his Christmas Card to Linda & I with he and his two brothers in kilts. Also, John had a son who may have

passed away, that had married a Japanese lady who bore him children. John visited Japan for extended visit(s) on one or more occasions to meet with his grandchildren and daughter-in-law which he documented in a Christmas card picture to us. He may have had two sons, I had James & Eric in my notes. John and Suzy would travel to and from Florida every winter and as well as back and forth to Leadership Meetings visiting many historic sites along the way.

Without John's interest and help the Fort Dearborn Chapter could have floundered with the passing of Bing Seibold (President for Life). Late in life he agreed to assume great responsibility and help get the Chapter on its feet. He was a candidate for the National Minuteman Award, although never was awarded that honor. – **Tom Ashby**

I am really sad to hear the news of John's passing. John was a very big part of the Illinois Society and the Fort Dearborn Chapter.

I remember John as President of the old Ft Defiance Chapter when I became a member.

I will always remember the great conversations we had over the years and I will never forget his laugh.

God Bless you John. May you rest in peace. – **Mike Campagnolo**

He was a good SAR Member and a loyal friend! He was a George Washington Fellow and ILSSAR Patriot Award recipient. Gee this was a surprise to me. – **Gordon Bidner**

So sorry to hear of John's passing. I remember how he made me feel welcome at my first BOM, and he always seemed to have wise words to impart. He will be missed.

– **Charles Dobias**

Truly sorry to hear this. –Dan Crafton

Ft. Dearborn JROTC Presentation

By Chris Gomez, Ft Dearborn Chapter

I presented a SAR JROTC Certificate to Cadet Martinez from Hubbard High School.

Hubbard which placed number 1 and 3 from the national and state competitions.

Standing to my left is Lt. Col John Wargo, United States Army (Ret.)



General Joseph Bartholemew Chapter

GJB Celebrates all Veterans with a speech by Lt. Col. John Cross

By Virgil D. Short MD

The General Joseph Bartholemew held its annual meeting of Veterans' Day, on Nov. 7, to honor GJB Member Veterans and all Veterans. Due to the meeting restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting used the ZOOM Platform Hosted by Robert Harshbarger (a GJB SAR member). There were 11 in attendance, eight of whom were veterans. Attendees included guests, Dick Chamblin, Past-Pres. ILSSAR and speaker, Lt. Col. John Cross. Rev. Ray Owens was the Host.

A short business meeting was carried out consisting of the election and installation of the 2021 Officers and Members-At-Large proposed at the October meeting.

After this matters turned to expressions of recognition and gratitude to our chapter veterans and all veterans for their services and sacrifices in protecting and maintaining our liberties and freedom. J. Gordon Bidner recognized individually all attending Member Veterans and expressed the chapter's gratitude for their service to our country. The GJB SAR Chapter has 24 members who have served during WW II, Korea, Viet Nam, Desert Storm, or Afghanistan Wars, and 1 member who is on active duty. Three members are recipients of the Bronze Star.

In recognition of our 24 Member Veterans a picture poster was created. The page was oriented horizontally with a background of a Viet Nam scene and a ribbon statement above of the thanks and gratitude for the service of the Chapter Veterans' and all veterans.

In the past, at this time of year, members have traditionally brought donations of items such as clothing, books, toiletries, or checks (for patients at the VA Illiana Health Care System, VAIHCS, in Danville, IL) for collection at this meeting which were then transported to that facility by members of the Veterans Committee. The VA facility recommended the donations be in the form of checks. The GJB Chapter sent \$100.

The speaker was Lt. Col. John Cross, who spoke on the history of Veteran's Day recounting our nation's military involvement on the world stage. He recounted how the United States became a global power through our involvement with the Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII. He concluded by thanking our chapter's veterans for helping insure the freedom and prestige that our nation continues to maintain as a global military power.

The General Joseph Bartholemew Chapter

Compatriot Walter Kelly Gray Jr.



The General Joseph Bartholemew Chapter
of the

The Sons of the American Revolution

It was with heavy hearts members of the Gen. Joseph Bartholemew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution received notification that Compatriot Walter Kelly Gray Jr. had passed away on Monday 16, 2020.

Kelly was born Oct 6, 1936 in Greenwood, MS the only son of Walter Kelly and Anne Flowers Mason Gray. He graduated from Mississippi State University, where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. After graduation he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force as a Captain. From there he joined State Farm Insurance in Dallas, Texas. He Moved to Jackson, MS where he worked for IBM Corporation. He married Margaret Lynn Morris in Jackson on Oct. 20, 1969. They moved to Bloomington, IL in 1970 where he joined State Farm Insurance in the Investment Accounting department for over 30 years.

He had 3 children and 3 grandchildren. He joined the Sons of the American Revolution Aug. 31, 2009 where he was an active member and was Chair of the GJB SAR Chapter Finance Committee. As a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, he has served as a Lay Reader and a member of the vestry. He held membership in Golden K. Kiwanis Club. In his earlier years he enjoyed golfing and gardening, but his most favorite pastimes were following Mississippi State University football and keeping in touch with his Mississippi friends and family.

We all will miss Kelly and his good sense of humor, and friendship.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and friends and pray God grant them the strength to withstand such a loss.

GJB Celebrates all Veterans with a speech by Lt. Col. John Cross virtually on Zoom

The General Joseph Bartholemew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held the celebration of its 45th Anniversary on Oct. 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm using the ZOOM Platform due to restrictions on large meetings imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Twenty Three participants attended including members from the GJB Chapter of SAR and honored guests from the IL Society of the SAR, the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the NSDAR.

The Celebration was a time to recall the basis of our organization dating from the Founding Fathers to today and our organization named after a Patriot who aided in the Revolution and ultimately settled in McLean County. A member, Dan Leifel, presented the life of General Joseph Bartholemew and another member, William Hammitt, presented the Chapter's last 5 years of Chapter matters, events, and meetings.

The President of ILSSAR, Michael Campagnolo, presented awards to the GJB members not previously presented and President Bidner presented chapter awards to GJB members. He also presented Recognition to 13 members who had been members for more than 20 years.

The booklet showed the 4 major community areas the GJB SAR Chapter recognizes and rewards (Good Citizenship/Scholarship, Flag Day, Constitution Day, and Veterans' Day). These were noted with description and pictures of one of these events of each event during the past five years. Also included were lists of all members, officers, and committees. The GJB SAR Chapter has been awarded Chapter-of-the-Year on four occasions most recently 2018-2019.

The 45th Anniversary Committee was co-chaired by Jay Cummins and Lance McCormick with Gordon Bidner, Bill Hammitt, Stephen Kern, Jeff Kretlow, Ray Owens, and Dr. Virgil Short as committee members.

Elijah Smith Chapter Long time chapter member and past president passes away at 97



Elijah Smith chapter member and Past President James A. Neese, 97 of South Jacksonville passed away October 29 in Jacksonville. He was born June 11, 1923 in Scott County. He graduated from high school in 1941 and spent three years in the Air Corps during WW2 as a chief radar technician. He served in the Solon Islands, Bismarck Archipelago, and on Mindanao, Philippines. While there, he helped in receiving the surrender of five Jap Imperial Marines.

After the war, he graduated from Bradley and worked at Motorola designing car radios for Ford. He then worked in design McDonnell Aircraft Corp on the design of missile aircraft, and space electronic equipment used to train Mercury and Gemini astronauts. After two marriages, he had a huge family with many descendants. In retirement, he moved to Jacksonville, IL.

He joined the Sons of the American Revolution and he served as president of the Elijah Smith chapter.

Funeral services were held Friday, Nov. 6 with burial at Winchester City Cemetery.

Become a George Washington Fellow

Are you not yet a George Washington Fellow?

Don't despair. There is still time in 2020 to join the growing list of ILSSAR George Washington Fellows. Presently Illinois Society has 34 Fellows comprised of ILSSAR Compatriots, DAR, CAR and family members.

You can become a Fellow in several Ways. Choose the payment schedule that works best for you.

-A \$1000 one time payment by check.

-Four \$250 payments completed over five years.

-Five \$200 payment completed over five years.

-10 \$100 payments completed monthly for 10 months.

Contact Compatriot Toby Chamberlain for additional information or to request an application form at saichamb@comcast.net, 217-483-6267 or 217-299-1966.

Springfield Chapter

New chapter member

Jake Stahl is the newest Springfield Chapter member. Jake aged up from the Illinois CAR Society and transferred to the Illinois SAR Society and the Springfield Chapter. He is from Illiapolis and is a senior at the University of Illinois in Champaign, His Patriot is George Bryan who served in the South Carolina militia as a private and spy.

Chapter Awards

Three Springfield chapter compatriots received the Meritorious Service Medal for their efforts in 2019/20 in support of the Illinois Society. Recipients are Richard "Dick" Chamblin, Andrew "Drew" Robinson and Karl Reed.

Additionally, the Springfield Chapter received a Certificate for participating in the Flag Certificate Program and a Presidential Citation Certificate.



Stephen Decatur Chapter

Chapter increases interest by creating a book club

By Roger Swim

As a way to increase membership and interest in chapter membership, Vice President Roger Swim put together a Power Point presentation to help starting a history-themed book club for the members. Books were selected to read and then discuss.

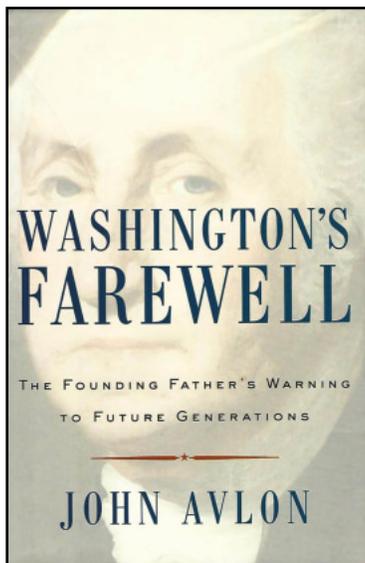
Washington's Farewell: The founding Father's Warning to Future Generations by John Avlon was chosen as our book of interest. Why? Because this book on George Washington's Farewell Address relates to Section 2 (10) of the Sons of the American Revolution Charter which refers to the Farewell Address in our need "to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people."

We began our new book club program with this book since the "Address" is one of the foundation pillars of the SAR in the Congressional Charter, and is quoted in the Mission Statement of the Stephen Decatur Chapter in its Constitution.



After reviewing a number of different formats for book club programs from LitLovers.com, the Committee decided for our first book club reading that we would present the questions that will lead the discussion at our Chapter meeting to the members, as they began their reading.

The Executive Committee had to plan the future. It was decided that one chapter meeting would not give enough time for a thorough exploration of the book and an answer as to why this reference to Washington's farewell address was one of the pillars of the Sons of the American Revolution. So, the Book Club started with two meetings for Avlon's book and from there a more ambitious plan to follow. We're history buffs!





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Pana Community Hospital was presented with an American flag by the Sons of the American Revolution at the hospital's Open House on December 12, 2019 which celebrated the completion of the hospital's building project. The second phase of the American Flag presentation, the Certificate of Authenticity, was recently presented on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020, recognizing the exemplary patriotism in displaying the Flag of the United States, dedicated to the Community of Pana at-large. From left are: Roger Swim, official of Stephen Decatur Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and Pana Community Hospital Veteran - an volunteer; Carol Chandler, Pana Community Hospital Director of Business Development; and Ricky Reed, Chaplain Veteran Volunteer.

Stephen Decatur Chapter presents American flag and flag award certificate to Pana Community Hospital

By Roger Swim

Stephen Decatur Chapter Vice President

On Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, Pana Community Hospital organized a drive-by veteran appreciation parade to the four nursing homes and one assisted living facility in town. The Hospice Veteran Volunteers were the presenters.

We traveled to each of the facilities, offering the flag, a prayer, a poem from outside through windows. The parade of two fire trucks, a police escort, and about twenty cars moved from one facility to the next, stopping for our presentation. After we completed our circuit, our little parade moved down Pana's main street saluting veterans and others on our route back to the hospital.

The flag presentation was at the beginning of the program, where the "parade" formed. So, all the folks participated in the flag presentation prior to beginning the Veterans' Day celebration. George Washington's prayer was read by the chaplain, I read a poem, and then I made the presentation of the certificate, followed by a flag salute.