



Winter 2024

The Illinois Patriot

Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution
Illinois-sar.org

Illinois Society President New Year's Message

Happy New Year Compatriots and friends! Hopefully you all had a spectacular holiday. Over the holiday I was able to attend a number of SAR meetings and celebrations. One of my favorite events in December is Wreaths Across America. This year I was a guest of the Signal Hill chapter of the DAR at the Evergreen Cemetery in Barrington, IL. While it was a bit breezy, the weather was certainly more pleasant than we have had in past years. Wreaths Across America in 2025 will be on Saturday, December 13th.

As we head into the new year, it is an exciting time for me as we reflect on our commitment to nurturing the future leaders of our nation. SAR proudly offers a variety of youth programs designed to instill a deep appreciation for our nation's heritage, foster a sense of patriotism, and promote academic excellence.

1. Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest One of our most engaging initiatives, the Americanism Poster Contest, invites elementary school students to create posters depicting a specific theme related to the American Revolution. This program encourages young students to explore pivotal events and figures from our nation's founding era while expressing their creativity.

2. Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest Targeting middle school students, the Brochure Contest challenges participants to create informative and visually appealing brochures on topics related to the American Revolution. This contest not only enhances students' research and design skills but also deepens their understanding of

the founding principles of our nation.

3. George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest The Knight Essay Contest provides high school students with an opportunity to explore the historical significance of the American Revolution through original research and writing. Participants are encouraged to delve into the complexities of the era, fostering critical thinking and a deeper appreciation for the values that shaped our nation.

4. Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest For those with a talent for public speaking, the Rumbaugh Oration Contest offers high school students a platform to present their original orations on topics related to the American Revolution. This program hones participants' public speaking skills while encouraging them to articulate their understanding of the historical events that defined our nation. You may recall that Shreya Nallamothe, from Illinois, was the national winner in 2024.

5. Enhanced JROTC and Sea Cadet Programs Recognizing the importance of leadership and character development, the SAR supports the Junior ROTC and Sea Cadet Programs. These initiatives offer scholarships and awards to outstanding cadets who demonstrate

exceptional leadership, academic performance, and a commitment to service.

6. Eagle Scout Recognition Program Our commitment to fostering leadership extends to the Boy Scouts of America through the Eagle Scout Recognition Program. The SAR honors Eagle Scouts who have completed projects that reflect the values of patriotism and citizenship, encouraging them to continue their journey as exemplary leaders in their communities.

Over the next several weeks we will be selecting state winners for these programs. These winners will be invited to attend our annual youth awards luncheon in May. If you would like information about these contests, please reach out to your chapter. You can also find information on the national website at <https://www.sar.org>.



The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

**Illinois Society Sons of the
American Revolution Officers
2024-2026**

President

BILL WHEELER
bill.wheeler@illinois-sar.org

Senior Vice President
VACANT

Vice President Northern
JEFF CASE
jeffbcase@gmail.com

Vice President Central
STEVE KERN
steve2204@comcast.net

Vice President Southern
JIM WALLACE
wallberries2600@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer
ANDREW ROBINSON
therobinsons_20@comcast.net

Recording Secretary
MIKE CAMPAGNOLO
mcsfoxvalleysar@att.net

Registrar
GREGG WESTFALL
gjwestfall1974@gmail.com

Genealogist
ROBERT ROSS
robertross0929@att.net

Chancellor
TERRY BENSHOOF
tbenshoof@earthlink.net

Historian
VACANT

Chaplain
VACANT

Sergeant At Arms
JEFF CASE
jeffbcase@gmail.com

Trustee
MIKE CAMPAGNOLO
mcsfoxvalleysar@att.net

Alternate Trustee
TOM ASHBY
tdashby@me.com

Illinois Society Briefs

At the November 2024 Member Meeting, it was decided to increase new member applicant fees from \$20 to \$30 immediately. As you work with new applicants going forward, please include the updated fee price. If you are currently working with someone and quoted the old fee that is fine. Please transition to the new fee amount as you work with new applicants.

Also, beginning September 1, 2025, all adult dues will increase from \$20 to \$25 and Family member packet discounts for the originating applicant will increase from \$9 to \$15.

February 8 2025 Meeting—Springfield: Our next meeting is coming up on Saturday, February 8th, 2025. You may recall that we wanted to try a different format for some of our meetings which don't include a dinner the night before. Our February meeting will try that format. As such, we do not have a block of rooms if you are traveling. However, there is the Northfield Inn Suites (3820 Northfield Drive; Ph: (217) 523-7900) or the Ramada by Wyndham Springfield North (3281 Northfield Drive; Ph: (217) 523-4000) if you would like to arrange accommodations. Our meeting will start at 10am CST and we will wrap up by 3pm CST (if not before). Lunch is \$15 per person. Lunch will be provided by the VFW in the form of sandwiches, chips, cookie, and drink (tea and water). Please complete the following form to

RSVP (<https://forms.office.com/r/Vjy4Bdtrht>). Please make checks payable to ILSSAR and send to Drew Robinson (2216 Grandview Drive, Decatur, IL 62526). Payment can also be made via Zelle (treasurer@illinois-sar.org).

In the RSVP form, there is a place where you can contribute topics for the agenda. One of the items of feedback from the last meeting was that others did not have an opportunity to present. Fair! If there is a topic you would like to discuss, please include that in the RSVP form and we will add it to the agenda.

There are few topics that I would like to drill into such as the upcoming Great Lakes District meeting (Illinois is hosting and Mike Campagnolo is our Great Lake District Vice President General), upcoming Awards Banquet in May, youth awards, America 250th flags presented to each county (a funding request will need to be approved), and the National Liberty Tree project. We should also touch on dues renewals.

UPCOMING ILLINOIS PATRIOT DEADLINES:

Friday, March 21, 2025
Friday, June 20, 2025
Friday, September 19, 2025
Friday, December 19, 2025

*The Illinois Patriot
is the official newsletter of the
Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Published Quarterly (Jan/Apr/July/Oct)
Jason Butterick, Editor*

*Submissions, Photographs, Articles, and Chapter announcements/events can
be submitted at the following e-mail address:
kybrd76@hotmail.com*

*Editor reserves right to edit submitted materials for space.
The Illinois Patriot Spring 2025 (April 2025)
Deadline for Submissions: **Friday, March 21.***

Richard (Dick) Chamblin Remembrance



Richard (Dick) was born on May 12, 1931 in Arthur, Illinois to Harry Chamblin and Doris Dixon. The family moved to Decatur in his early years. Dick attended Decatur High School, where he played football and excelled at English and math. After high school, he attended the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy and joined the ROTC. He returned to Illinois to complete an undergraduate degree in accounting at Millikin University (1957).

As part of the US Army, Dick spent time in France working on

bridge repair. He later was stationed at the Naval Reserve in Chicago, where he got his tattoos.

He was married to JoAn Christensen and together they had three children: Cindy, John, and Sue, who survive him.

Dick became a Certified Public Accountant and opened his own CPA firm, which he operated in Decatur IL for many years. After selling his firm, he earned a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree from University of Illinois – Springfield. Dick then taught accounting at Millikin University. While at Millikin, he participated in a seminar on Entrepreneurship at Harvard University, where he presented a paper.

Dick's time at Millikin opened a new chapter in his life. He met his wife Cheryl, who was also on the Millikin faculty. They were married just a few months shy of 25 years. During these years the couple traveled all over the U. S. from Hawaii to New York, and from New Orleans to Minnesota. They built an amazing life together, sharing interests in genealogy and travel.

Dick was active in the Decatur community, serving on boards and volunteering for other causes. The

most prominent evidence was the restoration of the original one room schoolhouse built around 1860, which he single-handedly restored to use as his accounting office. Dick was honored for the work on this historic project.

One of his passions was sailing. He owned a Lightning sailboat which he sailed almost weekly, sometimes in a competitive sail with other boats and sometimes for a relaxing sail just for fun.

Dick became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution on April 20, 2012 in the Springfield chapter. He proved 14 patriots in his genealogy. His service to the SAR included as president of the Springfield chapter, 2014-2016; Illinois Society Treasurer, 2014-2018; Great Lakes District Vice President General, 2018, and; Illinois Society President, 2018-2020. Additional service included the re-establishment of the Stephen Decatur chapter and on several Illinois Society committees. For his dedication, he received an Illinois Society Patriot Award.

After relocating to Florida, he was a member of the South Shore chapter.

The Decade of the American Revolution 2023-2033

In 2025, the 250th anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord will be observed.

The rest of the decade series follows:

- ⇒ 2026 Declaration of Independence
- ⇒ 2027 Battle of Saratoga
- ⇒ 2028 French Alliance
- ⇒ 2029 Siege of Vincennes/ Fort Sackville, Battle of Kettle Creek
- ⇒ 2030 Battle of Kings Mountain
- ⇒ 2031 Siege of Yorktown
- ⇒ 2032 Battle of Blue Licks
- ⇒ 2033 Treaty of Paris.

State Societies and local chapters are encouraged to coordinate and host observances for each of the highlighted national observances. Local chapters should connect with D.A.R. chapters, Boy Scout troops, and other partnerships and organizations to coordinate a public event or activity highlighting the historical milestone. As was spoken at the previous Congress, “Just because the historical event did not happen in your area does not mean your area cannot have an event observing the historic

anniversary.”

The America 250th SAR Programs Committee has collected programs, materials, videos, and more to help your chapter organize and resource teachers, students, and the general public about the significance and impact of the Revolutionary War. You can review these resources at their website: america250sar.org

Welcome New Compatriots & In Memoriam

American Bicentennial

Norris Carl Harstad
Thomas Joseph Hickey, Jr.
Christopher Ira Reynolds, Jr.

Captain Elijah Smith

Richard Craig Davidage

Captain Zeally Moss

Fred Clifford Jenks

Fort Dearborn

Christopher Malcolm Foley
John Cameron Foley
John Lee Ford
Roger Emery Huddleston

Fox Valley

Ronald Arthur Benshoof
David Milligan Clark
Ian Michael Ogdon
Douglas Edward Yeo

General Joseph Bartholomew

Timothy Scott Harshbarger
Michael David Harshbarger
Kurtis Milton Rudsinski

Kishwaukee

Michael Francis Allen

Lewis & Clark

Lance Edward Geiger
Robert Glenn Hughes
Brett Allen Manis, Jr.

Long Knives

Gregory Allen Webb

In Memoriam

Richard “Rick” Allen Chapman

November 16, 2024
Captain Elijah Smith

Edward Joseph Farrelly

November 2024
Fort Dearborn

John Albert “Jack” Firse

September 29, 2024
Lewis & Clark

John Curtis Griswold

August 23, 2024

Jimmy Jamison Rogers

May 13, 2024
Ewington

Dr. Virgil Short

September 30, 2024
General Joseph Bartholomew

Wayne Thomas “Tom” Walker

July 14, 2024
Ewington

John Seward Wills

December 29, 2022
Lewis & Clark



Long Knives Cannon crew at Constitution Week Celebration in Jonesboro



John Albert “Jack” Firse presented with his military service award by Ken Kruta, Lewis & Clark Chapter President, 2019. Compatriot Firse served as Flag Awards chairman and ROTC committee.

Chapter Capsules

News from Our Chapters

American Bicentennial

On October 27th the American Bicentennial Chapter (ABC) had Sarah Sullivan, the Department Chair Economics, Political Science, and History for McHenry Community College present on George Washington's Smallpox inoculation plan for the Colonial Soldiers.

On November 10th, the chapter joined the Aaron Miner C.A.R. Society and the Eli Skinner DAR Chapter for a joint meeting at the Palatine Public Library. The guest speaker was DAR District IV Director Audra Gray.

On December 14th, the chapter participated in the Wreaths Across America with the Aaron Miner CAR Society at Elk Grove Cemetery in Elk Grove, IL. The Eli Skinner DAR Chapter is the coordinator for the cemetery and invited both the C.A.R. and SAR to participate. This is an annual tradition that ABC is very thankful to be part of with DAR and C.A.R. The Elk Grove cemetery has two Revolutionary War soldiers buried in it, Aaron Miner and Eli Skinner. The chapter laid a wreath at Frederick Miner's grave. Frederick was a Civil War Union Soldier and son of Aaron Miner. ABC facilitated getting the Illinois SAR Color Guard to present to colors. They did a wonderful job, and The Eli Skinner DAR always asks for their participation every year. This year the weather was pleasant, with temperatures in the low 40's, no rain, and not too windy.

February 16th the chapter will be inducting three new

members into the Chapter and presented and will have the Illinois State Children of the American Revolution President Jack Rosenthal present on his state project which is raising money for the Torstenson Center which helps to introduce youth to the great outdoors.

Ewington

Deanna Higgs received a certificate and medal of appreciation from the Ewington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. The presentation was made during the October meeting of the Ann Crooker St. Clair Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Deanna Higgs is a 46-year member of the NSDAR and currently serves as Chapter Registrar. Bob Lybarger, Registrar and Joe Harris, Vice President from the Ewington Chapter NSSAR cited her helpfulness with genealogy over the years as an "invaluable" contribution to the growth of their chapter.

Compatriot Glen Bauer was recognized for his 50th anniversary as a member of the SAR.

Fox Valley

The chapter participated in Wreaths Across America with a wreath laying at Elk Grove Cemetery at the gravesite of Patriot Aaron Miner and his descendants.

General Joseph Bartholomew

The annual Veteran's Day Chapter meeting and election

of officers was held November 8 at St. Luke Union Church in Bloomington. Following the welcome and introductions by President Jay Cummins, Bud Lewis led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, while Jeff Kretlow led the SAR Pledge. Rev. Ray Owens delivered the invocation. President Emeritus Gordon Bidner recognized the veterans in attendance, which included a slideshow depicting each veteran. A moment of silence was observed for our deceased member veterans. Because there will be no meeting again until 2025, we celebrated the upcoming 99th birthday (in December) of member and WWII Navy veteran Franklin "Bud" Lewis — happy birthday, Bud! Lunch was provided by St. Luke. We welcomed three new members — Kevin Crutcher, Tony Norman, and James Herrman — with three additional certificates to present soon (Michael Harshbarger, Tim Harshbarger, Kurt Rudsinski). Hadley Welsch was presented a Military Service certificate and medal for his service in the Marine Corps. Bidner provided the installation ceremony for the 2025 Chapter Officers.

Our Veteran's Day program was "Mental Health Challenges for Today's Vets" presented by Justin Anweiler, Director of the Peoria Vet Center. He shared about the services available in the 22 Central Illinois counties they serve. More details can be found at va.gov/peoria-vet-center. A veteran himself, Anweiler served in the US Navy and Army National Guard. In concluding remarks, Cummins

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

shared that more than \$300 in donations were received for the Danville VA.

We will be participating with the DAR chapter in Iroquois County to present Outstanding Citizenship awards to six Iroquois County high school students.

Rainy and cold! But General Joseph Bartholomew compatriots Steve Kern, Jay Commins, Clay Held and Sonny Rudsinski braved the inclement weather on December 14 to be present at the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington for the Wreaths Across America event. About 75 people were in attendance for the event including not only members from the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter but also members of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In excess of 800 veterans are buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. After a three volley rifle salute and the sounding of taps by the American Legion Honor Guard those attending set off to place wreaths at the tombstones of deceased veterans.

After the ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery Steve Kern ventured to Stout's Grove Cemetery which is two miles west of Danvers. There he placed a wreath next to the patriot grave marker dedicated on September 29, 2024 by the Chapter and the Danvers Historical Society in honor of the three American Revolutionary War Soldiers interred at Stout's Grove Cemetery.

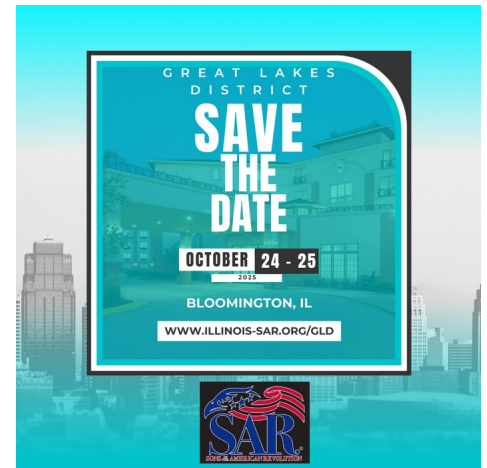
Long Knives

The Long Knives Chapter of

the SAR was extremely busy during the month of September. The group participated in the annual Veterans on Parade event in Marion, Illinois on September 7, 2024. But that was just a warmup for the next week, when the Chapter participated in a Constitution Week celebration at a park in Jonesboro, Il, where the color guard fired three volleys from their muskets and cannon.

During the Fort Massac Encampment the group took advantage of the opportunity to not only participate but to also work on their fund-raising efforts. In November the group entered the Anna Veterans Day parade complete with their cannon float. Following the parade the group went to the Anna

Christmas dinner at the Springfield Elks Club on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. Featured program was a presentation on George Rogers Clark by Jim and Nan Leinicke who participated in a re-enactment of the trek taken by Clark and his rangers in 1778-1779. The C C Hall award was also presented.



General Joseph Bartholomew Compatriots Steve Kern, Jay Cummins, Clay Held and Sonny Rudsinski participated in Wreaths Across America event on December 14 at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Bloomington.

Veterans Home and presented the administrator with gifts for the resident veterans. In true patriotic spirit, several chapter members finished out the year by participating in the laying of wreaths during the Wreaths Across America campaign.

Springfield

The chapter held its annual

**Your Chapter News
Missing in the Illinois
Patriot?**

**Submit Your News
Here!**

Attn: Illinois Patriot

kybrd76@hotmail.com



The Illinois Society was honored to attend the Holiday Party hosted by the Morgan-Kosciuszko chapter of the Wisconsin Society SAR, the Society of the War of 1812 of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and the Society of Colonia Wars in the state of Wisconsin.



Congratulations to Compatriot Thomas Lamb of the Captain Elijah Smith chapter. Compatriot Lamb was presented the Bronze Henry Knox achievement medal (by chapter President, Sid Welles) for all the work that he has done documenting Patriots buried in parts of the state covered by the Capt. Elijah Smith chapter. Compatriot Lamb also volunteers to support the work done for the NSSAR Patriot Research System (PRS).



Illinois Society Sons Of
The American Revolution
999 N. Plaza
Schaumburg, IL 60173

DATES TO REMEMBER

Illinois Society Members Meeting
Saturday, February 8, 2025

Spring Leadership
Galt House—Louisville, KY
Thursday, February 27—Saturday, March 1, 2025

Illinois Society Members Meeting
Friday & Saturday May 9-10, 2025
Springfield, Illinois

135th National Congress
Mohegan Sun Resort
Uncasville, CT
Saturday, July 12—Friday, July 18, 2025

Illinois Society Members Meeting
Friday & Saturday August 8-9, 2025
Effingham, Illinois

More Ways To Stay Informed

Here are even more ways to connect with SAR events & news

National Society
sar.org

[facebook.com/
sonsoftheamericanrevolution/](https://facebook.com/sonsoftheamericanrevolution/)

Great Lakes District
illinois-sar.org/gld.html

Illinois Society
illinois-sar.org



The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.