



## Message from the President



Happy New Year Compatriots,

As we begin this new year, let us commit ourselves to the principles upon which our great nation and this society were founded.

We will begin our outreach with a flag retirement at the Cornerstone Christian School on January 22. The junior and senior civics students will be planning and conducting the ceremony with support and guidance from

the chapter. We will provide the color guard, the ceremonial drum and any procedural guidance requested by the students. Let us show our support for these students by attending this event at 10:00 on January 22nd at the school.

Members of our color guard and chapter officers will be attending various events over the next few months both locally and at various locations in NC, SC and VA. If anyone would like to accompany them, please contact of the officers.

Plans are currently underway for the Halifax Day Ceremonies.

On April 9th we will begin by conducting a Flag Retirement ceremony at 10:00. Then at 12:00 we will be hosting a luncheon at the Halifax United Methodist Church. The commemoration ceremony for the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves will begin at 2:00 and will feature Dr. Jeff Broadwater as the keynote speaker. Dr. Broadwater is a Professor of History at Barton College in Wilson, NC. As always, we need volunteers to assist the officers in overseeing these events. If you can help, please contact an officer.

We are fortunate this year that our state convention will be held in Raleigh April 15th-16th. This is the closest location we have seen this event in recent years. Everyone should make an effort to attend. You will be surprised at the new friends you will make and the great fellowship encountered at this gathering.

I hope everyone will attend the next meeting and bring a friend. The program will be on the Halifax Resolves.

Fraternally,

*Ken Wilson*

**President, Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR**

If you haven't yet visited the Chapter's website, be sure to check it out. It contains information about Halifax and the Halifax Resolves, a history of the Chapter, general information about the SAR and several recently-added photo slideshows of Chapter events. Every Chapter newsletter since the Chapter was chartered in 2003 can be downloaded, as well as the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.

To access it, just go to the NCSSAR State website at

<http://www.ncssar.com>

And click on "North Carolina Chapters", then look for "Halifax Resolves" on the map and click that link. You can also go directly to it at this address:

<http://www.ncssar.com/chapters/halres/halresmain.htm>

The January chapter meeting will be held on **Wed., January 12**, at the Halifax United Methodist Church on **152 S. King Street (Main Street) in Halifax at 6:30 pm** and the women of the church will provide the meal. The cost will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Ken Wilson or Steve Avent if you're coming (contact info on last page of newsletter). On the agenda: Ken will present a program on the Halifax Resolves.

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President Wilson reported on the following chapter activities since our September meeting:

- He acted as part of the Color Guard at the October and November veteran's ceremonies at the Roanoke Valley Veteran's Center
- He awarded 5 SAR Flag Certificates
- He attended the Fall NCSSAR Board of Managers meeting at Chapel Hill, where he accepted the SAR Partners in Patriotism certificate on behalf of the Chapter. Steve Avent was presented a certificate for the Carl F. Bessent newsletter award in which the Chapter's newsletter placed 2nd nationally.
- He represented the Chapter at the October meeting of AMVETS Post 101 where he discussed the upcoming Veteran's Day Parade in Roanoke Rapids
- He participated in the graveside ceremony for Pearl Harbor survivor Bill Thorpe.
- He participated in the Veteran's Parade and ceremony at Veteran's Park in Roanoke Rapids.
- He is currently working with the Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade committee for the December 5 parade.
- Participation by the Chapter Color Guard was requested for the Wreaths Across America ceremony to be held December 11 at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids.
- Plans are in the works for participation in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony to be held at the Veteran's Center on December 7.
- The Chapter has retired over 528 US Flags during 2010. Currently we have collected approximately 90 US Flags to be retired.
- The Chapter will be submitting the Chapter Achievement Report to the State Society for consideration at the Annual Convention. The Chapter was the statewide winner of the contest last year for chapters with less than 50 members.
- The following will be submitted to the National SAR for consideration at the next National Congress:
  - \* the Chapter newsletter
  - \* the Chapter website
  - \* the Chapter will be entered in the President's Cup competition
- We have had excellent participation in the Knight Essay contest and the JROTC competition:
  - \* the JROTC winner was AFJROTC Cadet Command Sgt. Major Ter-Jo Lumsden of J. S. Webb HS in Oxford.
  - \* the winner of the Chapter's Knight Essay competition was James E. Elliott

Ken presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Assistant US Attorney Joshua B. Royster, who accepted it with thanks and recognized the members of his task force and local law enforcement who were crucial to the success of the project.

The Chapter was honored with a visit by Dr. Sam Powell, Past NCSSAR President, and Past VP-General of the South Atlantic District. Sam spoke briefly on SAR activities at the national level. He reported that SAR membership is up nationally, with about 29,000 current members (an increase of 1500 over last year) and added that membership is trending steadily upward. He reported on some of the activities taking place at the Chapter level, including the Knight Essay contest, the Rumbaugh Oration contest, the Eagle Scout recognition program, the Americanism poster contest, member visits to schools and others.

He then reported on the status of the major project the SAR is engaged in at the national level—the Center for Advancing America's Heritage (Sam is the National Chairman of the Capital Campaign for the CAAH). To date, 6.5 million dollars have been raised for the project, but another 5 million are still needed.

The Center will house our new interactive Galleries, the Drinkard Education Center, Genealogical Research Library, Merchandise Operations, and our National Headquarters. From the National SAR website ([www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)): "The need for The Center for Advancing America's Heritage, with its focus on the founding values of this great nation, is clear. National surveys indicate that historical illiteracy grips the nation. Pulitzer-prize winning historian David McCullough notes that in many schools, "American History is being put on the back burner or taken off the stove altogether." The Center ensures that the stories of our patriot ancestors' struggles against tyranny and the principles upon which our country was founded are preserved so succeeding generations will enjoy the inestimable blessings of being an American. "

He then reported on planning for the upcoming SAR National Congress, to be hosted by the NCSSAR and held in Winston-Salem July 9-13. We can expect about 600 attendees from all across the country, and he encouraged all NCSSAR members to attend the event and help out. Volunteers will not be required to pay the registration fee of \$250, and we will begin signing up volunteers in March.



At the November meeting the SAR Good Citizenship Medal was presented to Chapter member Allen Brahin for his services as Chapter Registrar and his active participation in the Chapter and State Color Guards. He also presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Assistant US Attorney Joshua Royster.

On December 15, Ken presented the SAR Outstanding Cadet award to Cadet Teri-Jo Lumsden, a junior at J. F. Webb High School in Oxford. The award included an Olympic style medal with ribbon, a certificate and a check for \$50. Teri-Jo, the daughter of Denise Walther of Oxford, is the JROTC Battalion Supply Officer and is a member of the National Honor Society. He also awarded the Knight Essay contest medal and certificate, and a check for \$50, to James Dylan Elliott, for his winning essay on the Saratoga Campaign. Dylan, a junior at J. F. Webb High School, is the son of Michael and Alice Elliott of Oxford. He is also the JROTC Battalion Operations officer and a member of the Webb High School jazz band.

Also on December 15th, Ken presented the SAR Certificate of Appreciation to Lt. Col. Joe Gibbs, USA (Ret.) senior military science instructor at J.F. Webb High School for his unit's participation in programs sponsored by the Chapter. The Webb JROTC cadets participated in in both the Knight Essay and Outstanding JROTC Cadet contests, and they had winners in each.

*top l—r: Allen Brahin receiving the SAR Good Citizenship Medal, Joshua Royster receiving the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, Outstanding JROTC Cadet award winner Teri-Jo Lumsden,*

*bottom l—r: Knight Essay winner James Dylan Elliott, LTC Joe Gibbs*



*Upcoming NCSAR Events*

- ◆ **Through 1/21/2011:** The NC Museum of History Hosts "Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon".
- ◆ **1/15/2011:** 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens, Chesnee, SC
- ◆ **1/22/2011:** U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony, 10:00am, at Cornerstone Christian School, Roanoke Rapids, NC
- ◆ **1/29/2011:** 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford, Huntersville, NC, hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter.
- ◆ **2/12/2011:** Kettle Creek Anniversary Celebration, Washington, GA
- ◆ **2/19/2011:** Crossing of the Dan Ceremony, South Boston, VA
- ◆ **2/26/2011:** Moore's Creek Bridge Ceremony, Curie, NC
- ◆ **3/12/2011:** Guilford Courthouse Ceremony, Greensboro, NC
- ◆ **4/9/2011:** Halifax Day Ceremony, Halifax, NC
- ◆ **4/15-17/2011:** NCSSAR Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC, at the Raleigh Clarion Hotel State Capital





# The Halifax Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR

Steve Avent, Editor

P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868



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*The Sons of the American Revolution* is a **PATRIOTIC** organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1906, with more than 25,000 living members from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. Throughout its 120-year history, the SAR has admitted more than 155,000 members. Among them are 16 **PRESDENTS** of the **UNITED STATES**, including George W. Bush and his father George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry Truman and Theodore Roosevelt. The SAR also has had among its members Sir Winston Churchill and King Juan Carlos I of Spain, both of whom trace their ancestry to **REVOLUTIONARY WAR** patriots. Membership requires proof of descent from a person who aided in the **PATRIOT** cause. Some of the activities in which we engage are:

- \* commemoration of Patriot graves and monuments
- \* educational programs in the schools and elsewhere on the ideals of our Patriot ancestors and the American Revolution
- \* recognition of outstanding law enforcement officers and JROTC cadets
- \* sponsorship of Boy Scout troops

## Chapter Officers

**President:** Ken Wilson

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**Vice President:** office vacant

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Steve Avent

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**Registrar:** R. Allen Brahin, Waynesboro, VA  
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**Chaplain:** Rev. Duncan Jones

our website:

Go to: [www.ncssar.com](http://www.ncssar.com), "NC Chapters"  
Click on our chapter name on the NC map.