



## Message from the President



To my Compatriots and friends,

This month we celebrate our nation's independence from Britain. We eat our hot dogs and watch fireworks. We enjoy family time and watch a new generation grow to appreciate America. These moments when as a child we are talking to our friends, while the summer heat and the heat from the grills mix, and we wait in anticipation of the explosions in the sky.. these moments are

special.

This is what we fight for. This country and camaraderie is what our soldiers defend and serve. This spiritual aspect is what each of us values in our country. At least it should be. There will always be those who do not appreciate nor see the beauty in this simple time each year. But I do.

Our nation is the greatest on earth. The pundits can sit around and point to this study or that study and say we are umpteenth in education, economic freedom, or healthcare. They can speak negatively of our human rights or our military. They can bash our political process or our judicial system. However, there is an important point here.

THEY CAN. Our country is based on this freedom. The pundits would be too afraid to speak thus in other countries. But here, they can.

It is disappointing that many do not realize just how valuable that freedom is. They do not have to struggle each day to acquire it. They do not know of the sacrifices that were made over 200 hundred years ago nor those made daily to retain those freedoms. And one day.. we may not know nor have them again. We must teach our children and our people to take pride in their nation once again.

Where was the first cry for freedom placed in documentation? Why right here in Halifax NC. Amazing isn't it? On April 12th 1776, the 83 delegates of North Carolina formed by committee a document which was the foundation of our Declaration of Independence. Everyone in our nation (or nearly everyone) has heard of the Declaration. But they are largely ignorant of those documents and colonial congresses which preceded and pushed our formal declaration into completion. The Halifax Resolves was the first documented push for freedom, followed shortly after by a resolution in Virginia which gave its delegates even more power to pursue freedom for our nation.

I recently had a British fellow write me and say "You never know what you have till its gone. And then you realize it was too needy and took too much of your money and time and your better off without it." He was speaking in a sarcastic manner of our colonies but what he failed to realize was he might as well have been speaking of the reverse. We as a nation were much better off seeing to our own destiny.

Be proud Gentlemen. Our small town and area was a vital spot in the war for independence. Now we just need to be sure others in our community know and learn to appreciate America in all her beauty.

Hope to see each and every one of you soon,

Geoff

The July meeting will be held on **Wed., July 9**, at the Halifax Baptist Church on **131 Prussia Street in Halifax at 6:30 pm.**

On the agenda: former NCSSAR State President Steve Pittard will be giving a presentation on NC Revolutionary War leader Cornelius Harnett

The cost of the meal will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Geoff Pittard or Steve Avent if you're coming.

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The Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR met at the Halifax United Methodist Church on Wednesday, July 14th at 6:30 pm.

President Geoff Pittard called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Chapter VP RJ Myrick. The Sec/Treas read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved. He then gave the Treasurer's report, reporting that the Chapter had \$1085.84 in the checking account.

Guests Ed Porter and Jonathan Martin, local firefighters from Conway VFD who are being honored by the chapter tonight, were recognized at their seats. Former Chapter President Ken Wilson, who is now the NCSSAR State President was also recognized, and gave a few remarks:

- discussed the recent "Forgotten Patriots" grave marking, in which the graves of 14 Black Patriots were marked near Havelock, NC
- updated the chapter on the status of the NSSAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage
- discussed the NCSSAR's USO Challenge, and stated that they hope to receive at least \$250 in contributions from NC chapters
- there is a Memorial Day ceremony taking place at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids at 9:30 am
- there is a Flag Retirement ceremony tentatively scheduled for Enfield, NC on 6/7
- the NC Board of Managers meeting is scheduled for 8/23 in Raleigh

President Pittard then discussed new business:

- the need for increased participation by chapter members
- S. Granville HS has its JROTC awards ceremony scheduled for 5/16
- "Patriot's Day" will be held at the Alamance Battleground on May 17
- there is a dual SAR grave marking being held in Franklin, NC on 5/18
- there will be a ceremony commemorating Buford's Massacre held in Waxhaws, SC on 5/24

He then called forward local firefighters Ed Porter and Jonathan Martin and presented them with the SAR Heroism medal for rescuing an unconscious victim from a burning house.

President Pittard then gave a most interesting and informative talk on French and Spanish involvement in the American Revolution, showing how crucial their support was in the winning of American independence.

*Highlights of Recent Chapter Activities*



Above (l-r): President Pittard and NCSSAR President Ken Wilson present the Heroism Medal to local firefighters Ed Porter and Jonathan Martin; Ken Wilson presenting the NCSSAR state wreath at the Memorial Day ceremony at Cedarwood Cemetery. Chaplain Duncan Jones was also present and presented the Halifax Chapter wreath; Ken with Eli Beal, winner of the Chapter's Americanism Poster Contest. Eli's poster on Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, also won the State contest and will go on to compete at the national level.



Above (l-r, top-bottom): Chapter Color Guard Commander Allen Brahin participated in the 5/31 Thomas Tudor Tucker grave marking ceremony held in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC. Here he is pictured with NSSAR President General Joe Dooley; Geoff Pittard and Ken Wilson at the 6/7 Flag Retirement ceremony held in Enfield; VP RJ Myrick presented the SAR Flag Certificate to Lynn Little on June 24; VP Myrick also presented the certificate to Outdoor World of Lake Gaston on June 24. Here Ms. Peggy Light accepts the award.

*Upcoming SAR Activities*

July 2014

**July 12** - The Colson's Mill chapter invites you to attend the 234th Anniversary of the Battle of Colson's Mill beginning at 11:00am at the Norwood Community Center, Norwood, NC

**July 13**, - The Colonel William Bratton Chapter, SCSSAR, invites you to attend the annual commemoration of The Battle of Huck's Defeat beginning at 12:30pm at Historic Brattonsville, McConnells, SC

**July 18-23** - The 124th Annual SAR National Congress in Greenville, SC.

July 26, 2014 - The Silas McDowell chapter invites you to attend a re-dedication ceremony to mark the grave of Patriot Lt. Addington beginning at 10:00am at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Avenue, Franklin, NC 28734.

July 26, 2014 - The Salisbury chapter NCSSAR and the Puc Puggy chapter, Florida DAR, are co-sponsoring a grave marking ceremony for Patriot Conrad Schlupp beginning at 12:30pm at Savitz Cemetery behind the Mt. Zion Church of Christ Cemetery, 1415 South Main Street, China Grove, NC 28023.



# The Halifax Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR,  
Steve Avent, Editor



## The Halifax Dispatch

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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**

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Go to: [www.ncssar.org](http://www.ncssar.org), "NC Chapters"

Click on our chapter name on the NC map.