

Message from the President



To my Compatriots and friends,

Well the seasons are changing and the weather is warming up. I hope everyone is enjoying the change from the frigid winter we have had.

Within our own society there have been many changes as well. Recently, there was held the annual conference in Fayetteville for our state society. The food was great! For those of you know me, I am sure it is no surprise that my stomach was my primary focus while the informative meetings and pleasurable company came up a distant second. All jesting aside, this years conference was a great success and all found something to participate in.

The new officers at the state level were nominated and voted in. There was quite the competition over the President position. While all three candidates had the necessary qualifications to be a State President and each was nominated by stalwart supporters, it was our very own Ken Wilson who received the most votes once the tally was counted. Congratulations are certainly in order. As we all know, Ken has been a very active member of the Society. Many of the awards I went forward, at the final banquet of the conference, to collect were due in large part to his efforts on a chapter level. Specifically at our chapter level. Nominated by Dr. Sam Powel and Mr. Steve Pittard, Ken accepted the position and made his first speech as State President at the inauguration ceremony.

We as a chapter received many streamers as acknowledgment of our chapter's accomplishments. Unfortunately, with Ken's elevation, this leaves us with more duties which he will no longer be able to fulfill. This is something which is on my mind and which should concern each of us, especially if we wish to have our chapter remain competitive at the national level for honors. For those of you who this concerns, please contact me and please consider being plugged in to help at events or the routine running of our chapter. Every little thing we do as a team.. as a chapter.. makes all the difference in the world by the end of the year.

While at conference, I picked up a new outfit which I hope to share with each of you at an event soon. I need a new waistcoat and I'm just not sure on the fabric. Initially I wanted to have a polka dot one made. However, since I don't believe I want to be know for my poor fashion, I am considering other options.

With all that is going on in our lives and all the demands placed upon us daily, please lets each of us consider what the history of this nation and of our families means to us. Let us think on becoming

more than what we are, on pledging our support to the ideals of the society, and of those ways we can find joy in participating no matter how small.

Our May meeting is coming up soon. It is my intention to introduce the topic of Spanish and French involvement in the Revolutionary War. It is a fact that we were facing the greatest army in the world during that time in history. If other nations and supporters had not been involved with us against the British we would most probably have failed to secure our independence. One of our guest speakers at the conference was Christopher Ruff. He gave us a living historical representation of a British soldier and though his explanations I came to realize that our own current ideals in society have tainted our understanding of the British War Machine. We have denigrated the British to the point that we are belittling our own achievements as well as the efforts of other nations who were beside us during the conflict.

Hope to see each and every one of you soon,

Geoff

The March meeting will be held on **Wed., May 14**, at the Halifax Baptist Church on **131 Prussia Street in Halifax at 6:30 pm**.

On the agenda: a presentation on Spanish and French involvement in the Revolutionary War.

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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238th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves

The Halifax Resolves Chapter hosted two ceremonies in Halifax on the 238th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves on April 12, 1776. The day began at 10:00 with a Joint SAR/DAR Flag Retirement ceremony at which 40 unserviceable U.S. flags and several state flags were retired with honor and the ashes buried in a local cemetery by the Burn Master. Halifax Resolves Chapter President Mr. Geoff Pittard and Warren Chapter NCSDAR Registrar Mrs. Betty Willis presided over the ceremony.

The 2:00 ceremony commemorating the 238th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves opened with Halifax Resolves Chapter President Mr. Geoff Pittard as Master of Ceremonies. Following the Invocation given by chapter chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones the colors were posted by the Combined NCSSAR Color Guard. President Pittard led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge was led by Chapter Sec.-Treas. Steve Avent. Dr. Samuel C. Powell, SAR Foundation President, presented the Halifax Resolves to the gathering and emphasized the impact of the document on the American Revolution. Following greetings from NCSSAR President Mr. James H. Wood, President Pittard introduced the keynote, Dr. Troy Kickler. Dr. Kickler is a noted author, commentator, and professor of North Carolina history. At the conclusion of his presentation entitled “The King’s Trouble Makers”, a wreath laying ceremony was held honoring those who helped this nation become independent. Dr. Kickler was then awarded an SAR Certificate of Appreciation for his excellent presentation by Chapter President Pittard. Mr. Steve Avent led the gathering in the SAR Recessional after which the colors were retired by the NCSSAR Color Guard. The ceremony was closed with the Benediction given by Rev. Jones.

Right: participants in the April 12th celebration



Highlights of NCSSAR Annual Convention

The NCSSAR Annual Convention was held in Fayetteville on 4/25-26, and it was an eventful one for the Halifax Resolves Chapter. Chapter President Geoff Pittard accepted, on behalf of the chapter, streamers for SAR Flag Certificates awarded, 1st place Small Chapter Achievement, 1st place Small Chapter Americanism and sponsorship of the Forgotten Patriots project.

Ken Wilson was awarded the Patriot medal. This medal is presented only to individuals and may be received only once. It represents long, faithful and outstanding service at state and/or chapter level. Ken and Steve Avent were awarded the Silver Roger Sherman medal. This medal is awarded to SAR members who have rendered faithful service to the chapter, state society or national society over multiple years.

Last but certainly not least, Ken was also elected the President of the North Carolina Society and Steve Avent was elected State Registrar, and they are the first members of the Halifax Resolves Chapter to serve at this level in the North Carolina Society.



Ken receiving the NCSSAR President’s Medal from outgoing President Jim Wood.



Ken being sworn in, and “the passing of the flag”



Geoff Pittard receiving one of several streamers won by the Chapter at the Convention.



Above (l-r, top-bottom): RJ Myrick presents a flag certificate to the Littleton VFD (13 Mar), Jan Wilson receives the Lydia Darragh medal for her support of Ken and the Chapter (19 Mar), 5th grader Eli Beal wins the Chapter poster contest (23 Mar), Ken presenting the Eagle Scout certificate to Eagle Scout Ryan Daughtry (24 Mar), VP RJ Myrick presented the Flag Certificate to Lake Gaston resident Tom Powers (30 Mar), the Chapter co-sponsored a Flag Retirement ceremony in Littleton (4 Apr), Ken gave a presentation to a 5th grade class at Halifax Academy (pictured with teacher Ms. Tracey Lynch) (10 Apr), Dominion Power was presented with a Flag Certificate, pictured is Mr. Bobby Johnson accepting the certificate (4 May).

Upcoming SAR Activities

May 2014

May 10, 2014 - The Mecklenburg chapter, NCSSAR, and the Mecklenburg chapter, NCS DAR, are co-sponsoring a grave marking ceremony for Patriot Lewis John Jetton (1749-1826) beginning at 10:00am at Centre Presbyterian Church, 129 Centre Church Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. For more information, and to participate in the Color Guard, please contact Ken Luckey at kluckey83@bellsouth.net.

May 17, 2014 - The Alamance Battleground Chapter invites you to attend the annual Patriots' Day ceremony beginning at 2:00pm. This year will be the 18th annual event. A wreath laying ceremony will be held at 2:00pm at the Alamance Battleground State Military Park on NC Highway 62, about 6 miles south of Interstate 40/85 in Burlington. The event is free. To participate in the Color Guard, please contact Sam Powell at spowell@clearwire.net or call 336-227-3557. Download the complete Event Flyer [here](#).

May 18, 2014 - The Silas McDowell chapter is sponsoring a dual grave marking for two brothers, Patriot David Fulton and Patriot Jesse Fulton, beginning at 2:00pm at Sugar Fork Baptist Church in Franklin, NC. To participate in the Color Guard or present a wreath, please contact John Ruble at jruble1940@frontier.com or Tom Long at tomeaglenc@aol.com. For those who are coming in from out of town and need to stay overnight, we recommend these hotels: Microtel Inn (828) 349-9000 (closest to the event), Comfort Inn (828) 369-9200, Carolina Motel (828) 524-3380, and Franklin Motel (828) 524-4431.

May 20, 2014 - The Mecklenburg chapter invites you to participate in the annual commemoration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence beginning at 11:30am on the corner of Trade & Tryon Streets in Uptown Charlotte. If you would like to participate in the Color Guard, please email David Alls, chapter Color Guard Commander, at David.A.Alls@gmail.com.

May 31, 2014 - The 234th annual commemoration of the Battle of Buford's Massacre (Battle of Waxhaws) will begin at 10:00am near Buford, SC, about 9 miles east of Lancaster on SC Highway 522, a quarter of a mile south of Highway 9.



The Halifax Dispatch

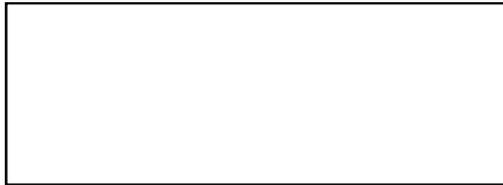
The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR,
Steve Avent, Editor





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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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our website:
Go to: www.ncssar.org, "NC Chapters"
Click on our chapter name on the NC map.