

President's Day Dinner Mecklenburg Chapter

On February 23, 2017, the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR held its annual President's Day Dinner at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park hotel. The speaker for this event was our 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

Each year the Mecklenburg Chapter sponsors a national historical figure to visit Charlotte as part of the chapter's President's Day community dinner and education series. "Our annual dinner and event is open to all individuals: families, organizations and groups of all ages", said Ken Luckey, president of the Mecklenburg SAR chapter. "In previous years we have hosted Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and The Marquis de Lafayette, all of whom were tremendous successes."

President Lincoln was presented by historical actor Dennis Boggs who gave an enlightening, informative and educational look at the life of the 16th President as Lincoln himself might have told it. The presentation began with Lincoln's ancestors in the American Revolution and covered the time from his birth in the wilderness of Kentucky to his early years in Indiana and Illinois---from storekeeper to self-taught lawyer and politician---through his years as president during the Civil War and his death at the hands of an assassin in Ford's Theater. Mr. Boggs at the conclusion of his presentation entertained questions from the audience, answering the questions fully in character to the delight of the audience.

As part of the chapter's education outreach, President Lincoln visited Billingsley Elementary, Cotswold Elementary and Carmel Christian Seminary where he made a presentation to the students about the life of the president as well as answering their questions. Tom Phlegar from the Mecklenburg Chapter was the President's escort at the schools. Charlotte TV station, WBT, featured President Lincoln on the evening news as he made his presentation at the elementary schools. Tom Phlegar noted, "The children really enjoyed hearing President Lincoln speak as it brought history to life for them. We always enjoy bringing these programs to the schools"

Two hundred thirty attended the dinner. Special guests included NSSAR President General J. Michel Tomme Sr. and his wife Cilla and Secretary General Larry T. Guzy. NC State President Gary Green was also present for the evening.

Written by Jay Joyce VP Foothills District, Mecklenburg Chapter, NCSSAR