

## Message from the President



Compatriots,

On November 8, 2017, I was honored to accept the gavel and be sworn in as your new chapter president. Thank you for your confidence in me.

Several of you have asked me why I am a member of the Halifax Resolves Chapter when I actually live in Morehead City. In short, it's because all my roots are in the Roanoke River Valley. I grew up on my parents' farm between Leggett and Whitakers in Edgecombe County. Three of my grandparents had most of their roots in Halifax County; the fourth was from Warren County.

My father G.R. Gammon was born and raised on his parent's farm in the tiny community of Draughan in northern Edgecombe County. His father Roland Gammon farmed his entire life in that community, and his mother Allean Quincy Gammon was a homemaker. My mother Rebecca Bryant was born and raised in Scotland Neck. Her father David Bryant worked for many years at the Columbia Peanut Company there, and her mother Nannie Shields Bryant taught piano and was organist at the Episcopal Church there for more than fifty years.

After college, I moved to Raleigh, where I taught school for a few years at the high school and college levels, and later served as a school administrator until my retirement in 2007. It was then that I moved to Morehead City, where I have been ever since. I

am often back and forth between the coast and Halifax County, where I frequently do research and visit relatives and friends.

As we progress through 2018, I want to encourage all of you to invite friends to attend our meetings with you. We are always in search of new members, and a friendly invitation may be all that is needed to motivate someone to join.

Fraternally,

*David*

David Gammon

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The January meeting will be Wed., January 10, at Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax at 6:30 pm.

On the agenda: "Revolutionary Halifax", by Frank McMahon, Historical Interpreter for Historic Halifax

The cost of the meal will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact David or Steve **by Friday, 1/5/18** by email or telephone if you're coming (contact info on back page).

The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NCSSAR met on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax, NC. President Ken Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30. An invocation was given by Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones, and then all present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag, followed by the SAR Pledge. He introduced those present at the head tables and honorees in the audience, including NCSSAR State President George Strunk, Halifax Resolves DAR Chapter Regent Roberta Josey, Halifax County Commissioner Suetta Scarborough, Roanoke Rapids City Manager Joe Scherer, Roanoke Rapids Police Chief Chuck Hasty and his wife Tonya, and Roanoke Rapids Fire Chief Stacy Coggins and his wife Angela. President Strunk brought greetings from the NCSSAR.

In the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Steve Avent, President Wilson briefly discussed the minutes from the previous meeting, which were approved. The Treasurer's report indicated a total balance of \$2,015.84, of which the subcategories include the Youth Fund with a balance of \$1070.00 and the General Fund with a balance of \$945.84. The Treasurer's report was approved. As part of his President's report, President Wilson explained changes in the allocation of streamers and medals for patriot and compatriot grave markings.

Under new business:

President Wilson and Compatriot David Gammon attended the Regional Vice Presidents' Meeting in Williamston on Saturday, November 4.

The Veterans Ceremony will be in the Veterans Park in Roanoke Rapids on November 11 at 11:30.

There will be a flag retirement at the Veterans Park in Roanoke Rapids on November 18 at 10:00.

The Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade will be December 3.

We will host compatriot grave markings for James Carlos Harris (near Inez) and Joseph Pippen (in Littleton) sometime in 2018, pending family approval and the coordination of our calendar with other state and national events.

President Wilson presented the following awards:

To the Ladies of the Halifax United Methodist Church – Certificate of Appreciation

To Geoff Pittard – Certificate of Appreciation

To J. Rives Manning – Bronze Good Citizenship Medal

To Ernest Bobbitt – Bronze Good Citizenship Medal

To David Gammon – Bronze Roger Sherman Medal (oak leaf cluster)

To Duncan Jones – Bronze Roger Sherman Medal (oak leaf cluster)

To Steve Avent -- Bronze Roger Sherman Medal (oak leaf cluster)

To Roanoke Rapids Fire Chief Stacy Coggins – Fire Safety Commendation Medal

To Roanoke Rapids Police Chief Chuck Hasty – Law Enforcement Commendation Medal

To Halifax County Sheriff Wes Tripp – Law Enforcement Commendation Medal

President Wilson then gave closing remarks about his most recent term of office, and announced the new slate of officers:

President – David Gammon

Vice-President – Geoff Pittard

Secretary/Treasurer – Steve Avent

Chaplain – Rev. Duncan Jones

The new officers were given the oath of office by President Strunk. President Gammon gave a few closing remarks and led the group in the SAR Recessional. Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones gave the benediction, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.



Top: 11/9/17: Veterans in the Macon Community honored during morning worship service at Macon UMC. Participants were: (l-r) Ken Wilson, AmVets Post 101 Commander Nina Hutchins, Jewel Fenwick, AmVets Post 101 Ladies Auxiliary President Marsha Fenwick, Department of NC AmVets Commander Keith Hutchins and American Legion Post 98 Adjutant J. Rives Manning. Not pictured – Minister Rev. Betty Willis, Warren Chapter DAR.

Middle: Joint flag retirement ceremony held 11/19/17 at Veterans Park in Roanoke Rapids, cohosted with BSA Troops 144 & 411 and American Legion Post 98 of Halifax. The program was written and conducted by Troop 144. Approximately 170 flags were retired with honor and the ashes buried by the burn master.

Bottom: (left) Knight Essay winner Morgan Davis (2nd from right, beside Ken) was presented with the check and medal; (right) Wreaths Across America participants at Evergreen Cemetery in Princeton, NC.




# *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 PRESIDENTS 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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