

Newsletter of The Georgia Society

Special Edition

Sons of the American Revolution

# The Horner's Nest



Special Annual Conference Edition

*The center of the fight for Independence in Wilkes County, Georgia, became known as "the horner's nest" because of the stinging attacks made from there by the Georgia Patriots against the British and Tories.*

## The President's Dispatch

A great trust has been bestowed upon me this day. I am honored to be the Georgia State President for 2025. I would like to thank the nominating committee for considering and recommending me for this position. I also thank them for nominating Bill Tankersley to be our Senior Vice President. Bill is a committed and hard working member of the Georgia Society. I am thankful to you for the excellent staff you have provided for me to work with this year.

*I would like to thank the following compatriots:*

I appreciate Past President Ed Rigel for passing on to me a notebook filled with information I will need as president. He gave me several opportunities to represent him and the Georgia Society when he was unable to be at an event. He is also giving me some big shoes to fill. I already wear a size 12, now I think I may need to order a 14! I have a question.

How does any organization work without the support of our Ladies auxiliary? The answer is it can't. I would like to thank Lynn Jacques for taking on the responsibility as President of the Ladies' Auxiliary. They are an integral part of the SAR. I cannot imagine how we would do that.

I am grateful to Bill Dobbs for continuing to chair the historic sites and celebrations committee. This year and have promised between the "Bill and Bill" duo to find him a replacement for next year. The members I called were willing to continue to serve as chairmen of their committees, and those I called to take on a new challenge chairing a committee readily agreed.

I have several things I would like to accomplish this year. I intend to make recruiting new members and retaining old ones on the top on my list of priorities. As my friend Shep Hammack likes to remind us, the best place to seek new members is through the DAR. Most have husbands and sons who can be members.

We have a rich heritage to share, along with the many service projects we are involved in. I have been an SAR member for over 13 years and in the Color Guard for around ten years. There is nothing more exciting than going into a fifth grade class with a traveling trunk to educate these young people on what life was like during those early times of our young Republic. Presenting colors is a special privilege for those in the Color Guard. Just wearing your uniform gives us an opportunity to tell someone about the SAR and invite them to a chapter meeting.

We can do a better job of welcoming our new members and guests. I am asking each chapter member to make a concerted effort to welcome new members and visitors to their chapter by sitting with them at meetings and getting to know them. It is only human to want to sit with our friends and those we know, so it does take an effort on our part to sit with visitors and new members and make them feel welcome.

We have an endowment fund which earns several thousand dollars in interest each year that can be given to a worthy cause. The problem is that it is not well known how to receive donations from this fund. First, it had to be requested and the request sent to the executive committee for their approval and then presented to the BOM for theirs. Both of these only meet four times a year. We had a request last year which the executive committee approved but it had to be approved by the BOM, which just met, during the annual meeting. I will work with the executive committee and encourage the chapter presidents to seek out worthy causes that have no connection with the SAR so this money can be put to good use. I will like to seek council from our GASSAR Chancellor Chuck Olson to see if there is a way to simplify this process. I don't think those who set up this fund intended it to just sit unused and grow.

It occurred to me that a lot of you don't know me, so I would like to take a moment to tell you a little about who I am. I am married to the beautiful Carey Jones Floyd, a member of the DAR. I have been told on many occasions that I married way out of my league. We have 4 grown children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grands with 1 more coming in June. Before I went into the Ministry, I worked in the business world as the comptroller and secretary treasurer for 6 of Atlanta's largest automobile dealers. I was an accountant by profession, and then owned my own dealership for about 20 years.

During this time I learned to be a good leader. Like a good General, he surrounds himself with the best people for the job that needs to be accomplished and does two things. He takes good care of his people and trusts them do their jobs. I work on this Premise, "If you are early; you are on time; If you are on time you are late; if you are late; don't come at all." So when invited to an event I will be there early.

Just like you, I am human and will probably make unintentional mistakes, but I assure you I have Ed, Jr., Bill, Chuck, Wayne, and of course Scott, on speed dial. Working with people, you must have patience and have a good sense of humor. I enjoy making people feel at ease and I do this by telling a story on myself. I have no problem making fun of myself but will never make fun of or be disparaging of others.

I have had the pleasure and a lot of fun going to several chapters to induct their officers already, and I look forward to visiting as many chapters as I can this coming year. On my first installation I confessed that they were going to be my guinea pigs. After the meeting, a member came up to me and said, "We have a skunk brigade, now I guess we can be the "lab rats brigade." It will take more than 3 pelts to make those hats!





I am known for short sermons and short speeches, so I will end with this, I pray God's blessing on this great society, the Sons of the American Revolution, that we will continue to live up to the sacrifices made by our patriots to establish this great nation and ensure that we will never forget our obligation to uphold the liberties and our Constitutional Republic that they fought for.

Thank you again for putting your trust in me to be your president. God bless each of you and may God continue to bless our great country.

*William Floyd*

*President, Georgia Society*

## Registration & Friday Afternoon Classes



### Liberty Tree, 250th Anniversary, & Bench Programs

Ron Redner, John Trussell, President Ed Rigel Jr. and Emil Decker joined together to bring the audience of over 40 individuals a look at the 250th Anniversary through several of its programs and components.

Ron talked about the National Liberty Tree Program, and how we are off to a good start, but we need to get more trees dedicated in various states.

Ron turned it over to Emil, who discussed the various options for stone markers for the trees, as well as Patriot and Compatriot Grave markings.







President Ed Rigel Jr., who also chairs the State 250 Committee spoke about how easy it was for a compatriot to collect the bronze 250 medal, the first step towards the State Silver, and the National Gold medals.







The floor was then turned over to Compatriot Lee Herron, who spoke about the GA 250 License Plate Project. The deadline was recently extended to allow more kids to submit their designs.



At the end, Compatriot John Trussell gave some information concerning the 250th Anniversary Bench Program and how we can all participate.

The Liberty Tree compilation video is about 9 minutes in length and provides an overview of Liberty Tree project:

<https://youtu.be/9KGwmn6NLL4>





# South Atlantic District Meeting













# South Atlantic District Meeting









## Past Presidents

Each year the Past Presidents of the Georgia Society gather for a photo. At right is the 2023 photo. Each year some are present at the event but engaged elsewhere, and missing from the photo. A few are perhaps absent from the event.

Seated left to right:  
Wayne Brown, Allen Greenly,  
PG Larry Guzy, David Jessel,  
and Bob Sapp.

Standing left to right:  
Scott Collins, Roger Coursey, and  
Bill Dobbs.



## Friday Night Reception





















# Member Awards Banquet































**Daughters of Liberty Medal** - Helen Robertson Powell, Regent GA State Society, NSDAR

Brenda King



**Martha Washington Medal**- Janet Edelen



**Lydia Darragh Medal** - Brandy Leigh Rigel





### Ladies' Medal of Appreciation

SAR Medal of Appreciation OLC - Ladies Auxiliary, President Brandy Leigh Rigel

SAR Medal of Appreciation Ladies Auxiliary 1st Vice President Debbie Bush

SAR Medal of Appreciation OLC - Ladies Auxiliary, 2nd Vice President Ginger Deraney

SAR Medal of Appreciation Ladies Auxiliary, Secretary Lynn Jaques

SAR Medal of Appreciation OLC - Ladies Auxiliary, Treasurer Mary Turner

SAR Medal of Appreciation Ladies Auxiliary, Chaplain Maryland McCarty



### State Meritorious Service Medal -

Emil Decker,  
William N. Floyd, Jr.  
Sidney D. Turner



**PG Robert B. Vance, Sr. Membership Plaque** - Harold Ford of the Button Gwinnett Chapter (16 New Members during 2023)



#### Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal -

Medal - Barry Miller

3 Bronze OLC  
J. Steven Honson

1 Bronze OLC  
Sanders Mercer



#### Service to Veterans Medal -

OLC 1 Earl Cagle, Sr.

Silver OLC 1, 2, 3 + OLC 16,  
17, 18 Kenneth Scott Collins

OLC 1, 2 James Christopher  
Thompson



**Silver Good Citizenship Medal - Accepting for Jack A. Herriott III, Curtis Scott Johnson**



**Silver Roger Sherman Medal - William S. Edelen, Jr., Charles Olson, Edward M. Anderson, Sr., Gregory Smith & Charles Garnett (not present)**





**Patriot Grave Marking -**

OLC #10, 11 - K. Scott Collins,

Medal - William Edelen, Jr.,

OLC #2, 3 - Eldon Evens

OLC #2, 3, 4 - Ralph Galpin

OLC #1 - Gary Hoyt,

Medal - Leland Hulsey,

Medal - Sid Hughes,

OLC #1- Joel Hustis,

Medal - Thomas Jaques.

OLC #1, 2 - Ramond Kyle, Sr.

OLC #5, 6 - Edward P. Rigel, Jr.,

OLC #5 - Sidney D. Turner,

OLC #1 - Stephen Weaver,

Medal - Gordon Woodard,

Medal - Jack Martin



**Commander's Award - Edward P. Rigel Jr.**





**Gold Henry Knox - Carter Wood**

**Silver Henry Knox - M. Bruce Maney,  
Richard Lee Herron**



**Distinguished Service Medal - Allen Greenly**

### **Patriot Medal**



The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a State Society and may be presented only to an individual and may be received **ONLY** once. Service at the national level is not considered in making the award. It is desirable that it be presented at the annual meeting of the state society. A representative cannot accept the Patriot Medal. A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. State Societies are authorized 1 medal per 500 members, but are not required to issue all medals authorized. Medals not awarded may not be carried over to the next year.





**William Richard “Bill” Coffeen** has been a member of the Sons of the American Revolution since January 24, 2007, when joining the Captain John Collins Chapter.

Compatriot Coffeen has served as the President and Vice President of the Captain John Collins Chapter. He has also served the Georgia Society well.

One of Bill's favorite volunteer jobs is working with the Boy Scouts; he is an Eagle Scout and has been involved with the Scouts long before he became an SAR member. Shortly after his induction into the Captain John Collins Chapter, Bill became Chairman of the Chapter Eagle Scout Committee. Afterwards, the Georgia Society needed someone to chair the State Eagle Scout Committee and again, Compatriot Coffeen stepped up to the plate and was appointed to that position. Bill has served in that position over ten years. Compatriot Coffeen has been awarded the “Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award” which is a National SAR award. This award is based on dedication and significant contributions to the SAR and Scouting.

**James Steven Hinson, Sr.** has been a member of the SAR since February 6, 2014, joining the Marshes of Glynn Chapter, where he has served as chapter registrar, genealogist, secretary and president. He also serves as the chapter registrar for the Altamaha Chapter.

Compatriot Hinson also serves as the Registrar South for the Georgia Society. At the National level, he is a volunteer for the Patriot Research System, spending many hours inputting approved applications into the system.

He was first line signer for over 70 new member applications. He has been actively supporting grave markings by restoring graves and installing new SAR grave markers at multiple grave marking ceremonies at Oak Grove Cemetery in St Mary's, GA and Sinclair Plantation on St Simons Island, GA. He has been the coordinator for four years for two National Society events – Ft Frederica Naval Action-Patriot's Day commemoration and the Ft Morris-Come and Take It commemoration. He initiated the awarding of 24 SAR awards including the Heroism, Lifesaving, Good Citizenship and Certificate of Appreciation for the individuals responsible for the Lifesaving efforts for the crew of the Cargo Ship Golden Ray that rolled over in the St. Simons Sound Intercoastal Way. He is the Co-coordinator of Wreaths Across America with Oak Grove Cemetery Society.

Compatriot Hinson served in U.S. Air National Guard for 8 years and Active Guard Reserve for 9 years receiving the Joint Commendation Medal.

He has been involved with Boy Scouts of America for 47 years – earned Arrow of Light, Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor, Silver Beaver, and OA Centurion Medal. As a member of the American Legion, he has served as Post Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Historian, Color Guard/Honor Guard and Chairman of Flag Committee – putting out 1300 U.S. Flags in 3 cemeteries twice a year

**Paul Howard Lester** has been a member of the SAR since February 11, 2011, joining the Edward Telfair Chapter. He has served as the Edward Telfair Chapter President and served as the chapter Eagle Scout Recognitions Committee Chairman for many years. He is currently serving as the Georgia Society Regional Vice-President for the Southeast Region and has previously served as the Georgia Society Genealogist.

Compatriot Lester has served with Wreaths Across America at GA Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glenville GA since 2010. He served in the US Army in Vietnam as a Sergeant. After that he was a Senior Transmission Engineer for Georgia Power. He is a member of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, American Congress of Surveying and Mapping, and Surveying and Mapping Society of GA. He is a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans, Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Life Member of the American Legion.

Compatriot Lester has served in Boy Scouts of America since 1978 (46 years). He has served on my boards and councils, he has been the Council Training Chair, District Committee Member, Assistant Council Commissioner, Council Commissioner, Executive Board Member, National Council Member, and Atlantic District Committee Chairman. During his many years serving in scouting, he has received numerous awards: District Award of Merit, Wood Badge Training Award, Silver Beaver Award, Scoutmaster Wood Badge Course Director, Scoutmaster Award





of Merit which was presented by the President of the Boy Scouts of America, and the National Eagle Scout Association, James E. West Fellow Award, as well as the Founders Award – presented by the National Order of the Arrow Committee.

Compatriot Lester has been awarded the “Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award” which is a National SAR award. This award is based on dedication and significant contributions to the SAR and Scouting.

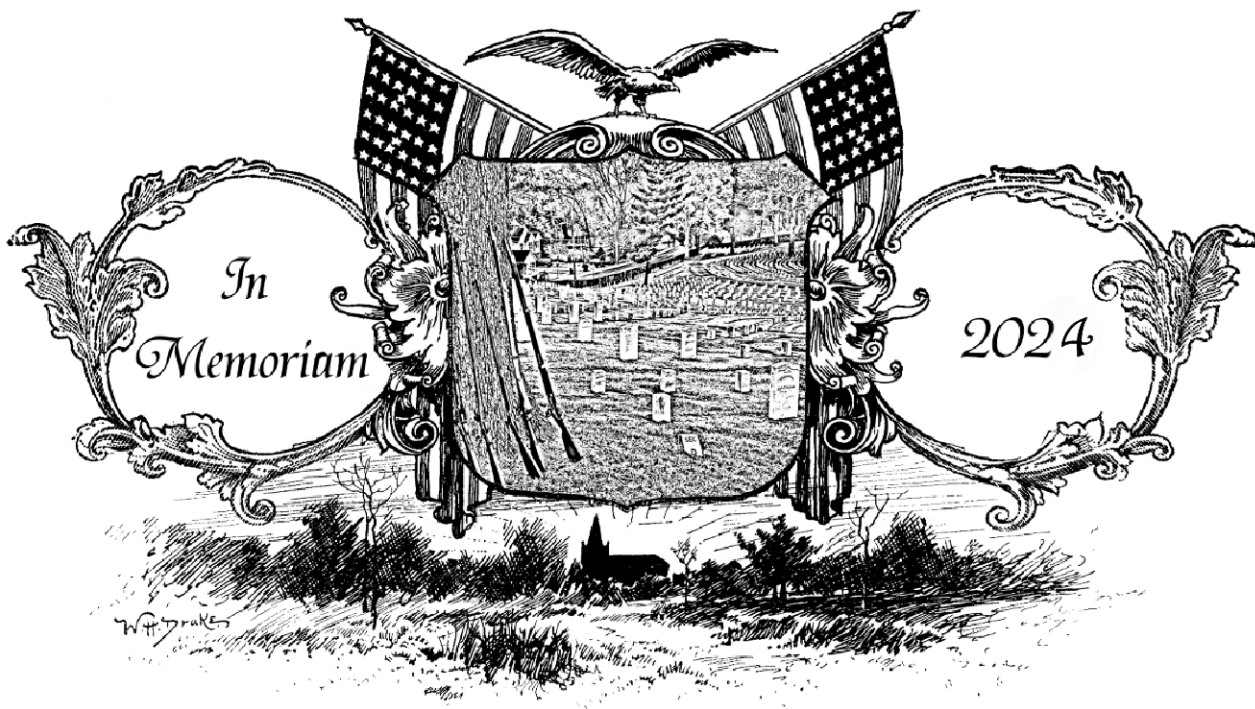
**Congratulations to Compatriots Bill Coffeen, Steven Hinson, and Paul Lester.**



## Memorial Service

**Georgia Society Deceased Members**

**January 01, - December 31, 2024**



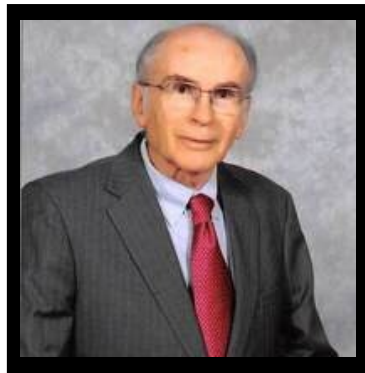




Walter Byron REED Sr.

Marquis de Lafayette

16 Jan 2024



Robert Warren WEATHERSBY, II

Dalton

19 Jan 2024



Robert Donald HILLIARD

Casimir Pulaski

29 Jan 2024



James Ansley GRENADE, Jr.

Washington-Wilkes

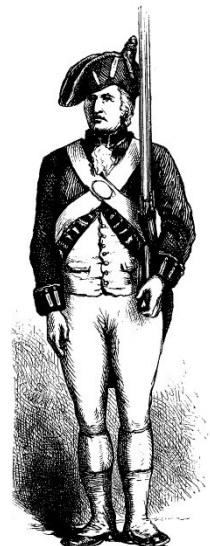
29 Jan 2024



William Hughes RAPER

Joseph Habersham

30 Jan 2024







Richard Herbert SMITH

Coweta Falls

30 Jan 2024



Steven Meers HUDGINS

Joseph Habersham

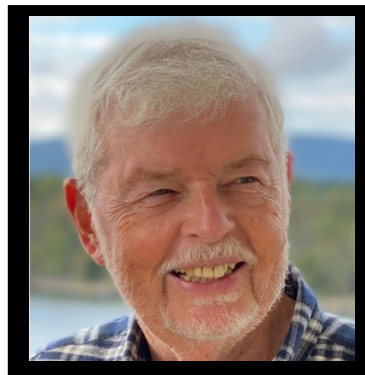
02 Feb 2024



John Donald MORGAN, Jr.

Marshes of Glynn

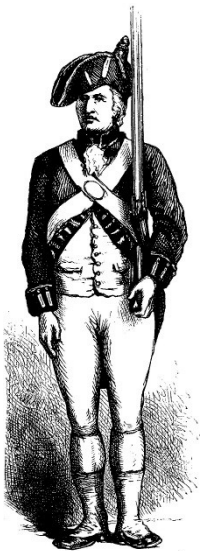
08 Feb 2024



David Donaldson HARVEY, Jr.

Rome

09 Feb 2024



Chase Winston REDNER

Piedmont

20 Feb 2024





Charles Findlay COX

Robert Forsyth

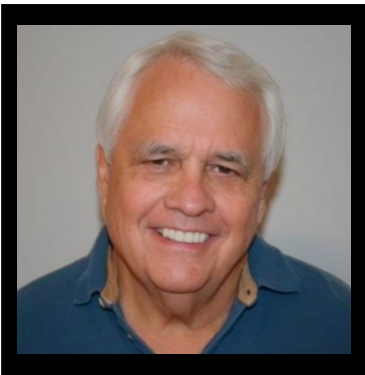
26 Feb 2024



Eugene Albert GRASSER, Jr.

Atlanta

05 Mar 2024



Cary Leer BROCK

Marshes of Glynn

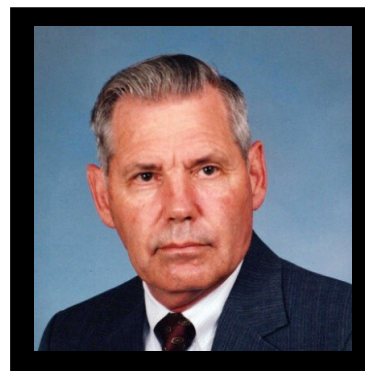
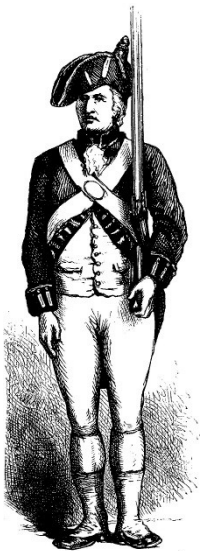
10 Mar 2024



William David LANDRUM

Marquis de Lafayette

19 Mar 2024



Charles William FOLEY

Athens

19 Mar 2024

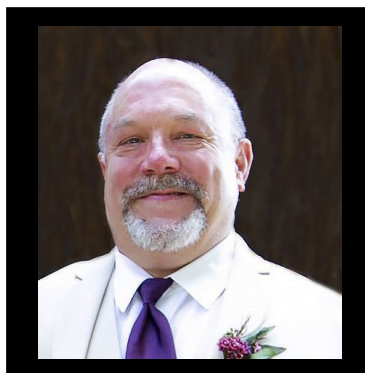




Ralph PUCKETT, Jr.

GASSAR

08 Apr 2024



William Eugene GRIMES

Button Gwinnett

17 Apr 2024



Marion Francis CLARK, II

Ocmulgee

23 Apr 2024



William Dewitt PAUL, Jr.

Athens

03 May 2024



Randolph Mills VALZ, III

Marshes of Glynn

09 May 2024







Peter White STODDARD

Robert Forsyth

10 May 2024



Jimmy Lynn BRANTLEY

Fall Line

22 May 2024



Jesse Strickland NEWSOM, Jr

Fall Line

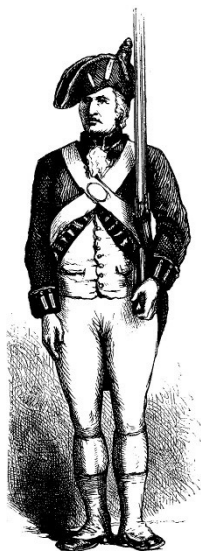
10 Jun 2024



Harry Colson LEWIS

Marshes of Glynn

15 Jun 2024



Leward Leon DUNN

Marquis de Lafayette

29 Jun 2024

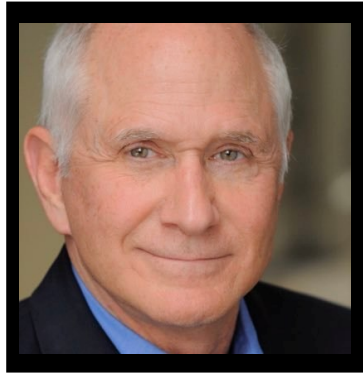




Terry Lee Edward STAIR

John Milledge

06 Jul 2024



John Everett TURRENTINE

Marshes of Glynn

08 Jul 2024



Fred Jack RIDGEWAY, Jr.

Piedmont

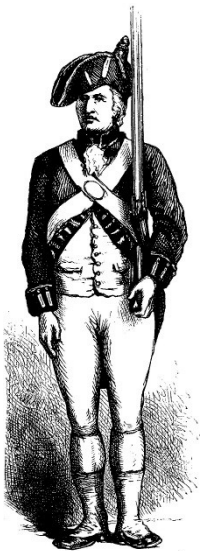
07 Sep 2024



Baxter Keith BEDELL

Atlanta

17 Sep 2024

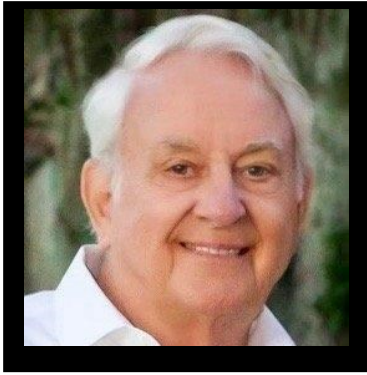


Glenn Franklin KIRK, Jr.

Piedmont

07 Sep 2024

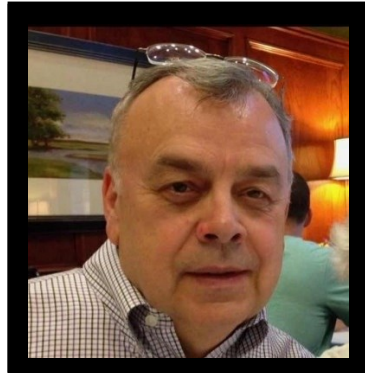




Brent Wrenn TAYLOR

Marshes of Glynn

03 Oct 2024



Steven Francis BASS

Piedmont

22 Oct 2024



Patrick G. Blanchard

William Few

04 Nov 2024



Hugh Irmon RODGERS

Coweta Falls

07 Nov 2024



William Wiley JOHNSON

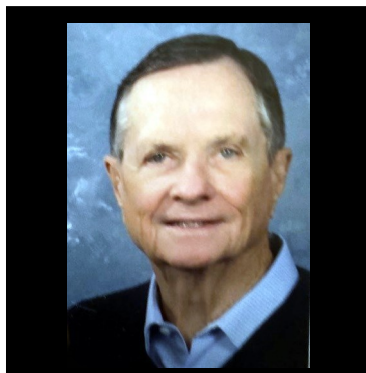
Little River

14 Nov 2024





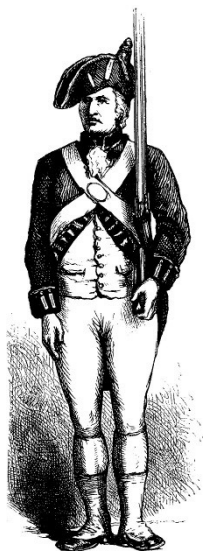
James Attaway KENNEDY, Jr.  
Cherokee  
19 Nov 2024



Joe Lewis ANDERSON, Sr.  
Atlanta  
04 Dec 2024

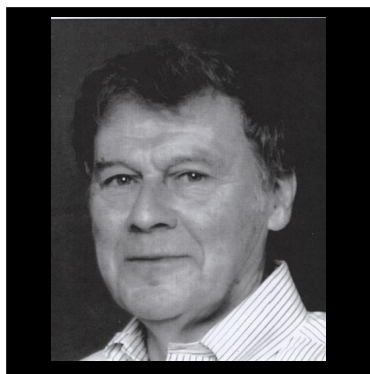


Thomas Milton SLAUGHTER  
Robert Forsyth  
20 Dec 2024



Robert Lamar BUSH  
Edward Telfair  
21 Dec 2024





Lon Duncan HODGE

William Few

25 Dec 2024

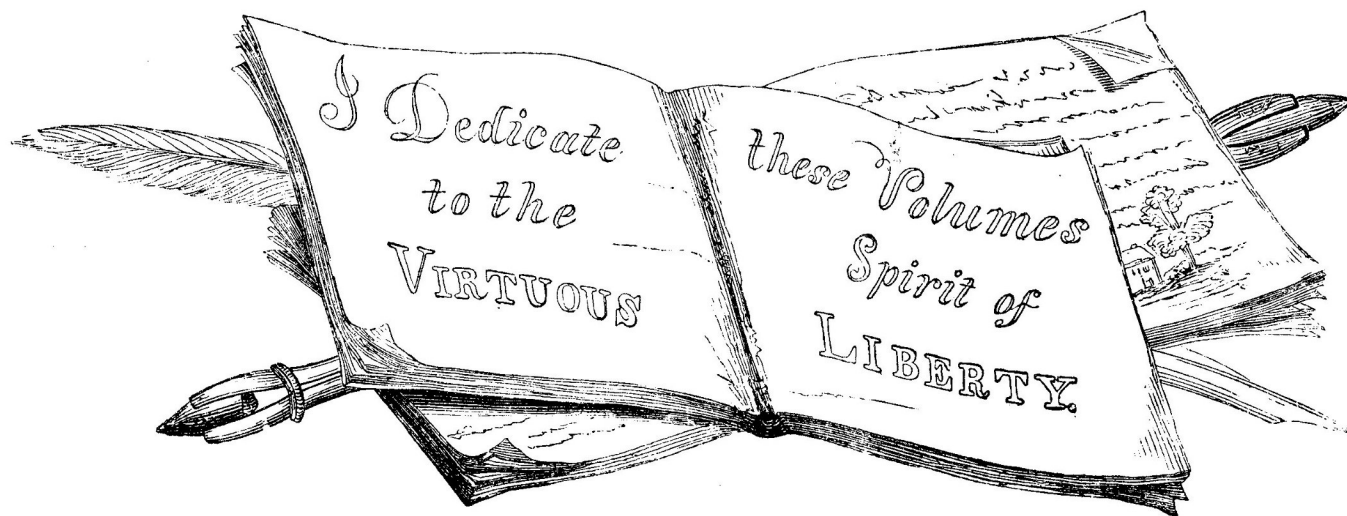


James Earl CARTER, Jr.

Button Gwinnett

29 Dec 2024

\* 39th President of the United States





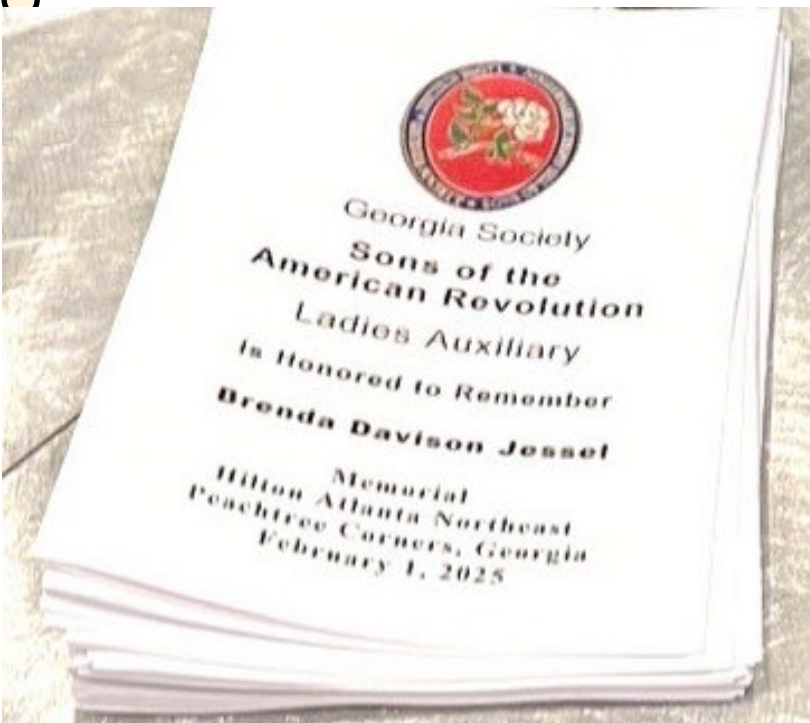
# Annual Meeting







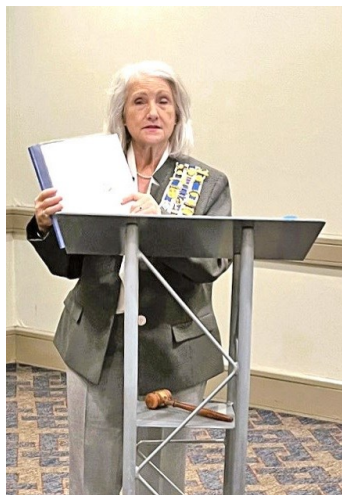
## Ladies Auxiliary











## Chapter & Youth Awards Banquet



**C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation - Lily Wright, State C.A.R. President**

**250th GOLD Medal - Noah Tindall (Button Gwinnett Chapter)**

**Eagle Scout Award - WINNER:** Noah Boynton, Sponsored by the Captain John Collins Chapter (Trophy & \$550 Check)

**2nd Place WINNER:** Jacob S. Wang, Sponsored by the Athens Chapter (\$400 Check)

**Knight Essay Contest - Miss Claire Kim, Sponsored by the Robert Forsyth Chapter, Medal & \$550 check**

**Runner-up:** Mr. Jacob Steven Wang, Sponsored by the Athens Chapter, Certificate & \$200 check





**JROTC Award -**

Cadet/Capt. Julia Watkiss, Sponsored by the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter (ROTC Medal & \$550 Check)

**Americanism Chapter of Excellence (5,000 points +)**

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter - (21,945 points)

**State Americanism Chapters of Excellence are:**

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter  
 Button Gwinnett Chapter  
 Little River Chapter  
 Lyman Hall Chapter  
 Marquis de Lafayette Chapter  
 Piedmont Chapter  
 Robert Forsyth Chapter  
 Wiregrass Chapter

**State Americanism Chapters of Distinction:**

Edward Telfair Chapter  
 Little River Chapter  
 Marshes of Glynn Chapter  
 Ocmulgee Chapter  
 Robert Forsyth Chapter  
 William Few Chapter



**President General Chapter of Excellence (4,000 points +) -**  
 Button Gwinnett Chapter - (6,601 points)

**State President General Chapter of Excellence (4,000 points +):**

Button Gwinnett Chapter

**State President General Chapter of Distinction:**

Four Rivers Chapter  
 Little River Chapter  
 Patrick Carr Rangers Chapter  
 Wiregrass Chapter

**Distinguished Chapter Award**

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter  
 Button Gwinnett Chapter  
 Captain John Collins Chapter  
 Coweta Falls Chapter  
 Edward Telfair Chapter  
 Four Rivers Patriots Chapter  
 Little River Chapter  
 Lyman Hall Chapter  
 Mill Creek Chapter  
 Marshes of Glynn Chapter  
 Piedmont Chapter  
 Robert Forsyth Chapter  
 Wiregrass Chapter





**Flag Certificate Award -**

Coweta Falls Chapter

Fall Line Chapter

(Each presented 25 Flag Certificates)

**C.A.R. Distinguished Liaison Award:**

Button Gwinnett Chapter

**Public Service & Heroism Streamers:**Casimir Pulaski Chapter - Bronze Streamer  
(Chapter of Distinction)Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter - Silver Streamer  
(Chapter of Distinction)Little River Chapter - Silver Streamer -  
(Honorable Mention)**Membership Streamer for 90%+ Renewals -**

Altamaha Chapter

Athens Chapter

Button Gwinnett Chapter

Cherokee Chapter

Gen. Nathanael Greene Chapter (Dalton)

Edward Telfair Chapter

Four Rivers Patriots Chapter

John Milledge Chapter

Little River Chapter

Lyman Hall Chapter

Mill Creek Chapter

Mount Vernon Chapter

Ocmulgee Chapter

Patrick Carr Rangers Chapter

Piedmont Chapter

Washington-Wilkes Chapter

William Few Chapter





**Youth Education Medal -**

Danny Ginter of the Coweta Falls Chapter.  
Medal + Bronze OLC

Joel Hustis of the Robert Forsyth Chapter.  
Bronze OLC

Jared Ogden of the Blue Ridge Mountains  
Chapter. Medal

Sidney Turne of the Blue Ridge Mountains  
Chapter. Medal

Stephen Weaver of the Blue Ridge Mountains  
Chapter. Medal

Carter Wood of the Lyman Hall Chapter.  
Medal + Silver OLC 1, 2 + Bronze OLC 11,  
12, 13

**Education Outreach Streamer (1,000 or more students, teachers and/or citizens)**

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter

Brier Creek Chapter

Lyman Hall Chapter

Coweta Falls Chapter

Little River Chapter

Wiregrass Chapter

**Best Education Outreach Program Award (Streamer and a check for \$200) -**

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter

**John Dooly Education Outreach Award -**

Carter Wood - Lyman Hall Chapter

**Revolutionary War Patriot Graves Committee Awards -**

Athens Chapter – 1 Gold Star for 5 Rev. War Patriot Graves Marked

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter – 1 Gold Star +2 White Stars for 7  
Rev. War Patriot Graves Marked

Button Gwinnett Chapter – 2 Gold Stars + 2 White Stars for 12 Rev.  
War Patriot Graves Marked

Captain John Collins Chapter – 1 Gold Star for 5 Rev. War Patriot  
Graves Marked

Casimir Pulaski Chapter – 1 White Star for 1 Rev. War Patriot Grave  
Marked

Edward Telfair Chapter – 4 White Stars for 4 Rev. War Patriot Graves  
Marked

Little River Chapter – 1 White Star for 1 Rev. War Patriot Grave  
Marked

Lyman Hall Chapter – 1 White Star for 1 Rev. War Patriot Grave  
Marked

Marshes of Glynn Chapter – 1 Gold Star + 4 White Stars for 9 Rev.  
War Patriot Graves Marked

Mount Vernon Chapter – 1 Gold Star for 5 Rev. War Patriot Graves  
Marked

Ocmulgee Chapter – 1 White Star for 1 Rev. War Patriot Grave  
Marked

Robert Forsyth Chapter – 2 Gold Stars + 3 White Stars for 13 Rev.  
War Patriot Graves Marked

Washington-Wilkes Chapter – 1 White Star for 1 Rev. War Patriot  
Grave Marked





**James R. Westlake Communications Awards -**

Best Chapter Website Streamer - Piedmont Chapter  
(*PiedmontChapter.org*)

Best Chapter Newsletter Streamer -Piedmont  
Chapter (*The Piedmont Piper*)

**BG Robert L. Scott, Jr. Veterans Awards -**

Chapter with 1-24 Members: Patrick Carr Rangers Chapter

Chapter with 25-49 Members: Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter

Chapter with 50-99 Members: Athens Chapter

Chapter with 100+ Members: Piedmont Chapter





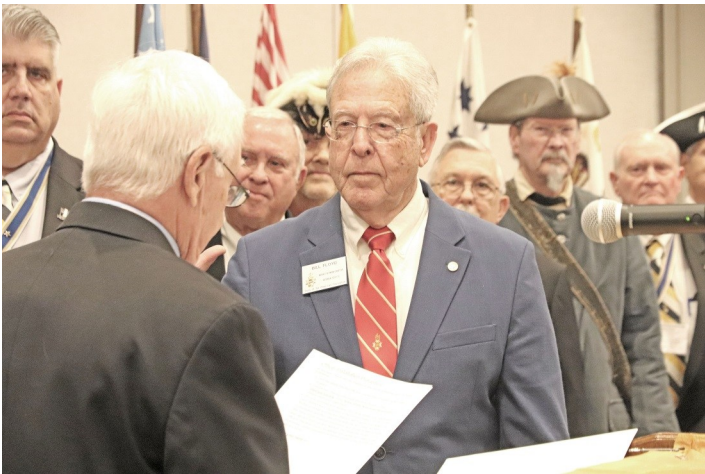
# Installation & Closing

























# Bloopers and Parting Shots





