

# The Piedmont Piper



OUR INSPIRATION IS IN THE PAST  
OUR DUTY IS IN THE PRESENT  
OUR HOPE IS IN THE FUTURE

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[www.piedmontsar.com](http://www.piedmontsar.com)

January 2007

## From the President's Desk



Von Starkey

This season of remembrance is one that may have many meanings for those of us that are blessed to live our lives in this great country, The

United States of America. I would like to share this passage from a good friend of our society, Author Camelia Sims. I believe that Ms. Sims helps us to focus on the price paid for that freedom and how truly blessed we are.

### Christmas 1776 By Camelia Sims

At this time of year when Christmas shopping is in full swing, we brave crowded malls and complain about jam-packed parking lots, long lines at cash registers, and many other perceived inconveniences. Too often we forget how blessed we are to live in this nation at a time when we have

so many advantages, including warm cars that carry us in comfort wherever we go. The hardships and deprivations suffered by the soldiers in George Washington's army in December 1776 might help place things in proper perspective.

The exuberance felt at the time of the Declaration of Independence was followed by one military loss after another. As the British brought more troops to America, the situation grew worse for the revolutionaries. For months Washington's army had to retreat, leading the frightened men of Congress to flee Philadelphia and move south, to a safer city—Baltimore.

In December 1776, Washington's army was on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River. The sol-

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007  
**January Chapter Meeting**

Integrity Bank Building  
8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Meeting

**Speaker:**

To be Announced

**Color Guard Highlights  
Commemoration Services**

**13 Jan —Battle at Cowpens**  
Chesnee, S.C.

**10 Feb—Kettle Creek**  
Near Washington, GA

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007  
Integrity Bank Building

Founders Hall  
1076 Canton St., Roswell, GA

6:00 p.m. Social Hour  
7:00 p.m. Dinner

diers were on short-term enlistments and the Continental Army was about to disintegrate. The men usually signed up for about a year or less, and for most their terms of service would expire at the end of the year. Discouraged by the way the war was going most soldiers were unlikely to reenlist. Fully aware of the gravity of the situation, Washington looked for a victory to encourage his soldiers, and those who favored independence. To that end, Washington and the other generals planned a surprise attack on the town of Trenton in New Jersey.

In the eighteenth century when the weather became harsh in the winter, the opposing armies in a war usually moved to winter quarters and waited until spring to continue fighting. A Christmas attack was hoped to surprise the British and their German mercenaries, known as Hessians, stationed at Trenton.

On Christmas Day 1776, Washington led about 2,400 men on a march to the spot where they would cross the Delaware River. The now-famous crossing of the Delaware took eight hours, starting at seven in the evening and lasting until three o'clock in the morning of the next day when all were safely on the east bank of the river. It was a bold yet perilous, move. The river was full of blocks of ice that were carried along quickly by powerful currents, making passage of boats extremely hazardous. At about four in the morning of December 26, the men began their long march of nine miles toward Trenton. Tired and weary, they managed to walk nine miles in terrible weather. Many of them had old worn-out shoes to protect them from the cold snow and ice, and some had no shoes at all. A storm of snow and sleet accompanied them on their hurried march to Trenton. The weather was so severe that

two of the soldiers froze to death on that march.

Having arrived at their destination after sunrise, they fought the surprised Hessians and won. After the victory at Trenton, and a few days later at Princeton, Washington's army regained control of most of New Jersey, which brought new hope to the American cause. The victory at Trenton saved Washington's military reputation, boosted the spirits of the troops, and brought new recruits, making it possible for the American army to continue fighting for independence.

Today as we go about our Christmas preparations, it would benefit us to remember those dedicated soldiers of December 1776, and all the dedicated soldiers since then. They are the crucial elements to keeping us free—free to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, and free to “shop till we drop” for Christmas presents. Whether on that freezing road to Trenton long ago or on the present roads of Afghanistan and Iraq they suffered and continue to suffer hardships and deprivations so that we can live normal lives.

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Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.



## ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

At our December Meeting Jim McIntyre, Chairman of our Nominating Committee, presented a slate of nominees to serve as Officers and Committee Chairmen for the term beginning in 2007. No additional nominations from the floor were submitted. The final election will be held at our January meeting, and installation will take place at the Annual Meeting at Founders Hall in Roswell on the evening of February 17.

The nominees are:

### Officers

**President—Carl Tanner**  
**Vice President—Jim McIntyre**  
**Secretary—Carl Bahme**  
**Treasurer—Bobby Shaw**  
**Chaplain—William Walker**  
**Registrar—Bob Sapp**  
**Chancellor—Eric Thorstenberg**  
**Sergeants-at-Arms—Tom Davis/  
 Wally Boyce**  
**Historian—Robert Allgood**  
**Editor—Scott Ray**

### Chairmen

**Americanism—Bob Sapp**  
**Color Guard—Paul Prescott**  
**JROTC—William Walker**  
**Knight Essay/Oration/Membership/  
 Genealogy—Bob Sapp**  
**Old Soldiers Day—Jim McIntyre**  
**Public Safety—Jim McIntyre**  
**Publicity—George Thurmond**  
**Graves—George Thurmond**  
**SAR/DAR/CAR Jim McIntyre**  
**Schools/Poster Contest—G. Acree**  
**Scouting—Larry Genn**  
**Speakers Bureau—Jack Ferguson**  
**Veterans—Charles Moran**  
**Webmaster—Paul Simpson**

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A family altar can alter a family.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.



## MEET BILLY GENE HOLCOMBE

Billy Gene Holcombe was born November 26, 1931 in Milton County, Alpharetta, GA. Five weeks later Milton became a part of Fulton County.

Billy's father farmed land with his own father. This farm adjoined the farms of two of his great grandfathers. Altogether this area comprised over 500 acres. Farming was the way of life in this area, and Billy helped his father frequently.

Billy is distantly related to Piedmont compatriot Tom Holcombe, who is also a resident of North Fulton County. Billy believes their common ancestor goes back probably 13 or 14 generations to Wales in the year 1187.

Billy went to work in downtown Atlanta dealing in produce until he was drafted into the Marine Corps in December 1951, completing boot camp at Parris Island, S.C. He was sent to heavy equipment school where he became a bulldozer operator in an artillery unit. In January 1953 his unit was assigned to the Navy, Sixth Fleet for a Mediterranean cruise lasting five months. After two years active duty he was placed in inactive reserve.

Returning home, Billy went to work at

General Motors in Doraville. After 2 1/2 years he was laid off as part of a reduction in force, and in 1958 he purchased a thirty-six acre farm. He farmed until 1963 when he decided that farming was no longer feasible in North Fulton County. He then sold his farm and built his present home, still remaining in North Fulton County.

For four years he did aluminum fabrication and then went to Lockheed, Marietta, working assembly on the C5 airplane for five years. He then went to work at Piedmont Hospital, where he was an HVAC mechanic. He retired in February 1997 after twenty-five years service.

At this time Billy continues limited farming, working about four acres. This summer his 725 tomato plants attracted a lot of attention along Cox Road. Sale days are very busy.

Billy has three children, Rebecca, 50, Cumming, Wanda 47, Atlanta, and Jerry, 40, Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada. Billy has nine grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, and 6 step grandchildren. Billy and his present wife, Barbara, have been married twenty-four years.

Billy became interested in genealogy, ordered the Holcombe book, and very soon located the graves of his great x2, great x3, and great x4 grandfathers just twenty-five miles away at Conn's Creek Baptist Church in northeastern Cherokee County. This discovery documents six generations of his ancestors in this area. He was accepted into the SAR in March 2004.



## In Memorium



## COLONEL ROBERT W. BAUCHSPIES 1932-2006

Our Past President, Col. Bob Bauchspies, died peacefully on December 22, 2006 following a long illness. A Memorial Service was held on December 28 at the Roswell Funeral Home. He will be buried later in Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.. C. with full military honors. The date of burial is not yet known but will be announced later.

Bob's biography appeared in the November 2005 issue of *The Piper*, and a reduced version is reprinted here:

## MEET BOB BAUCHSPIES

Compatriot Bob Bauchspies is a retired Army Officer who comes from a large military family. While in the Washington, DC area he was received into the SAR in August 1991. He was a geographic member of the Jacksonville, FLSSAR Chapter when his brother was the FLSSAR Senior Vice President and later President. Relocating to Georgia and becoming a GASSAR member with the Piedmont Chapter, Bob has indeed been very active within the Chapter and at the GASSAR level. He returns this year as a Regular Member to our Chapter from the Pulaski Chapter which he recently co-founded.

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Bob was born on an Army Post at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania on 17 May 1932, the third son of five boys and a girl to a Regular Army doctor as "Army Brats." He recounts attending eleven different schools throughout the United States until graduation from high school. "The longest we were ever in one place was during WW II, when in 1942 Dad left for England to take command of the first US hospital to enter the European Theater during Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa, returning home in mid-1945 after VE Day.

Later, in 1948, while Bob's dad was Surgeon, Third Army, at Ft. McPherson, the family began to go their separate ways to college. Bob graduated from College Park High School in 1949, and that summer enlisted in the Naval Reserve V-6 Program. He underwent "boot camp" at the NAS, Atlanta and was assigned to a squadron as a "weekend warrior." Many things were in motion. The Korean Conflict broke out. Bob's two older brothers were at GA Tech as midshipmen under the Holloway scholarship. Bob left for Penn State, and the rest of the family relocated to the Presidio, San Francisco as his Dad left for Korea with an 18 month tour as Surgeon.

Being a family of a doctor and a mother who was a registered nurse, it may seem strange that none of the "Bauchspies Boys" entered into medicine; however they all entered into the armed forces gaining Regular Commissions, and went to Korea. Bob received a commission from Penn State ROTC in the Corps of Engineers and in 1954 was assigned to Japan. His two younger brothers, Jim and Dick, both graduated from the US Military Academy in '56 and '58, and, to top that off, his sister, Kathie, the youngest in the family, married a Regular Army Officer. Two of Bob's nephews are currently on active duty as Regular Army Majors, one recently returned from 13 months in Iraq as a Stryker Company Commander and the other, Rollie Miller (a member of the William Few SAR Chapter) is on orders from the Pentagon to go to Europe. All totaled,

The Bauchspies family has contributed close to 175 years of continuous active commissioned service to the nation. All have served at least one tour in-country during combat. Now that's another story.

During Bob's 30 years of active service, he has served normal command and staff assignments within the US and seven overseas assignments. He was a Combat Engineer and during his tour in Vietnam, '67-'68, he served as the Assistant Division Engineer with the 4th Infantry Division located in the Central Highlands tri-border area of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. It was also the time of the "Tet" Offensive. Having not been together for 16 years, Bob was able to meet with Jim and Dick as Dick entered Vietnam for his second tour. Although all four were in-country at the same time, they were not in the same units. Dick's arrival at the Replacement Center in 1968 was the only time they were all together.

Bob retired from the service in 1984 with the rank of Colonel after having served as Chief, Systems Analysis and Evaluation Directorate, Ballistic Missile Defense Program Office with the Army General Staff, the Pentagon. His last overseas assignment, '78-'79, was as Commander, Joint Task Force, Defense Nuclear Agency, Enewetak Atoll, in the Marshall Islands. The atoll had been used as an experimental site for the expenditure of 43 atomic weapons and the first H-Bomb in the 1950's. Bob's 13 month assignment was to clean up the residual radiation in the atoll's 47 islands, restore the atoll, and return it to the Marshallese people. This was done. A few years ago Bob was asked, what was the most significant thing about his military career. He replied, "That we all came back o.k."



Bob transferred to the Piedmont Chapter upon his relocation to Georgia in 1995. He has served first as Chairman, ROTC and Knight Essay Committees and was elected as Chapter Secretary, VP and President.

While serving as VP Bob wrote the Chapter's Bylaws and Constitution and the Committee Descriptions as they appear in our Membership Directory. While he served as Chapter President the Chapter won the coveted President General's Cup, the President General's Activities Award, USS Stark Award, Liberty Bell, etc. He restored the Chapter's "Piedmont Piper" newsletter and appointed the Editor as an officer of the chapter. That Editor, Compatriot Paul Simpson, won the Carl F. Bessant Award for having the best multi-sheet newsletter in the National Society for that year. Bob was the first Commander of the Chapter Color Guard and initiated such activities as leading the Old Soldiers Day Parade and the Presentation of the Colors at the Patriotic Concert held annually by the Roswell Methodist Church.

On the GASSAR level, Bob was appointed Chairman of the Knight Essay Committee and gained increased recognition of our State winners. He also was appointed Chairman of the JROTC and ROTC programs, which he combined into one program. While serving as a GASSAR VP, Bob co-founded the Casimir Pulaski SAR Chapter in Carrollton along with Compatriot "Dutch" Dreyer and served as the founding secretary. During this time he remained a Dual Member with Piedmont.

Bob says his most precious award was in finding his wife, the former Karin Wiel Jorgensen of Stabekk, Norway, while Bob and Karen were serving their respective governments in Turkey. Their marriage of 46 years has been blessed with three children: Karin Ann, Bob, Jr. and Donna as well as six grandchildren Bob and Karin find the Atlanta area much to their liking and enjoy their home in the Windward Community of Alpharetta.

Quite a trip, Colonel Bob!

## SAMPLING HISTORY SOME MEMORIES OF ATLANTA

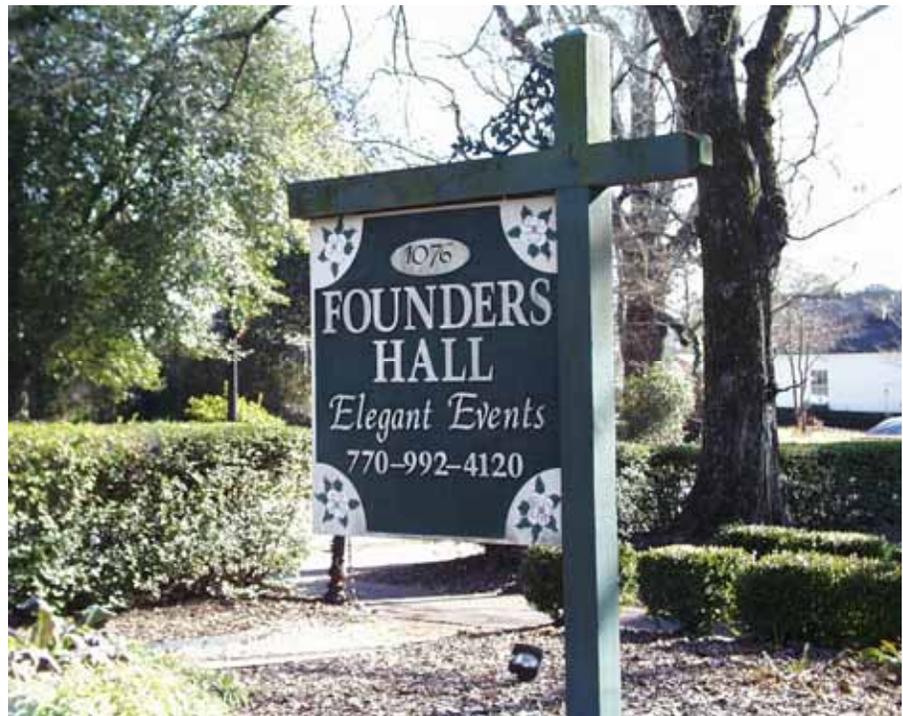
By: Scott Ray

According to an article in the AJC of December 2006 a group of Georgia Tech students in a urban design class have a unique vision for the downtown connector, where I-75 and I-85 merge into a superhighway going through and around the central city. The students recommended doing away with the existing limited access expressway and adopting one of two proposals: (1) turning the 16-lane freeway into a tree-lined 6-lane boulevard with at-grade crossings, or (2) reconfiguring the area into new blocks with a grid network for streets.

The students' fundamental philosophy is that a city should serve its residents and destination visitors rather than drive-by motorists. The traffic now passing around the downtown area would be redirected around the perimeter highway on I-285. In my own case, this would involve using about half again as much gas as I now use to get to the airport or to visit my cousin in Jonesboro. When I left for military service in 1951 the "North Expressway" and the "South Expressway" were in place so that downtown could be reached from the north or the south, but the downtown connector, or "Grady Curve," as it was sometimes referred to, was not yet in place. When I returned from the service in 1954 the connector was in place and Atlanta was booming as never before. This was before the building of the interstate highways which had just been approved during the Eisenhower administration in the 1950's, and construction was just getting underway.

I recall that a few years later an architect acquaintance from Tennessee remarked to me that Atlanta had "got the jump" on other major cities in the South such as Birmingham, Charlotte, and Nashville because of our building of

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### Founders Hall Site of Piedmont Chapter's Annual Banquet

Our Annual Banquet is to be held at Founders Hall in Roswell, GA on February 20. Our ladies are especially invited. The meeting will open with a social hour beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00m p.m. with our February Business Meeting to follow to include installation of our new officers and committee chairmen for the ensuing term. Founders Hall is located at 1076 Canton Street not far from the center



From:

**Bill Walker**

Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



Very Useful

My children like for me to read them stories. They usually like different types of stories, but one they both always enjoy is a Winnie-the-Pooh story about Eeyore's birthday. In the story, Pooh plans to give Eeyore a pot of honey. However, while taking it to Eeyore, Pooh absentmindedly eats all the honey. He then meets Owl, who asks what Pooh is giving Eeyore. Embarrassed at eating the gift, Pooh says, "This useful pot for keeping things in." Owl notices, "Evidently someone has been keeping honey in it," to which Pooh replies, "Yes, it's very useful like that."

Being useful is an important quality to have, not just for honey pots but for people as well. God created us to be useful by giving each of us various abilities, or gifts, as the Apostle Paul calls them. He compares them to parts of the body: "*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [...] We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.*" (Romans 12:4,6 NIV) Simply having a gift doesn't make a person useful, though; the gift must be used. But some people choose not to use their gifts, often because they perceive them as less important. "*On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.*" (I Corinthians 12:22) Whatever your gift, wherever you are, you should use your gift for service.

Service is important and strongly encouraged at our church. One of our pastor's recent sermons emphasized this. In it, he gave a simple demonstration using a folding chair. He compared the folded chair to church members who were not serving and the unfolded chair to those who were. While the chair was folded, he showed that not only was it *not* useful to sit on, it could not stand on its own but had to lean on something else. In this way, members who weren't serving in some way were "leaning" on the church without returning something to it, thereby hindering its growth. The unfolded chair, though, stands on its own and is useful to sit on, just as the serving member contributes to the growth of the church.

The same could be said of any organization, not just the church. Even in our chapter, there are ample opportunities to serve, both big and small. Elected positions, committee chairs, and committee memberships all need able bodies to fill them. However, as was pointed out during a previous meeting, it seems that only a subset of the membership serve in these positions, with many members filling multiple positions. Every member has a gift that is valuable and useful to the chapter, but only if he chooses to use that gift to serve in some capacity. Each one should find a way to actively contribute to the chapter. Otherwise, he is just "leaning" on the other members who are serving.

Don't be surprised if you find that your gift or ability is different from what you expect. People are often surprised when they discover what their gifts are. Plus, you may have multiple gifts. God is generous with His gifts, often giving two and even three or more gifts to people. Many times a person's secondary gifts are very different from their primary gifts, but they are just as useful. Or your gifts may be put to other uses than the obvious ones. Even in the Pooh story, Eeyore found that his new "useful pot" was useful for storing things other than honey.

*"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.*

*There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."* (I Corinthians 12:4-6) No one's gifts are indispensable, but none are useful if they're not put to use. So don't be afraid to serve, even if it is by doing something you've never done before.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." – I Corinthians 12:27

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(con't from page 5)

the expressways and our major airport. I have no doubt that this is why Metro Atlanta now boasts a population of more than 4,000,000 while our southern rivals are nowhere near that figure. I was born in 1929. Some of my earlier memories are from the 1930's when my father would take me downtown on the streetcar on Saturday morning. Neither my father nor mother ever learned to drive, but with the streetcar line only half a block away from our home, who needed a car? While my father was at work in his law office in the old "Flat Iron Building," I would watch a movie in the old Cameo Theater just across the street. What a thrill! In those days we didn't have a movie theater in our neighborhood.

In the 1930s and 1940's Atlanta's population was in the range of 300,000-400,000. Metro Atlanta consisted of Fulton and DeKalb Counties. Cobb and Clayton Counties were in the "country." If you wanted to describe a real yokel, you would say he looks like he just got off the bus from Sandy Springs.

It seems to me that the Tech students would like to restore the Atlanta of my early youth, although obviously they had no first hand experience with that sort of life. The problem is, how are the 4,000,000 people in our area going to get around if we block off their major route of travel? Doubling the traffic on I-285 doesn't appear to be a good solution. Outlying areas would become isolated from the rest of the City. Perhaps some other city would find a way to replace Atlanta as the metropolis of the South.

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### RICHARD TITUS GRAVE MARKING

On 2 December 2006 the Piedmont Chapter Color Guard conducted a Grave Marking Ceremony at the Ft. Mitchell Cemetery in Ft. Mitchell, AL honoring the memory of compatriot Dick Titus. Above at left is Dick's tomb stone. Above At right Dick's son, Compatriot Dan Titus, holds a certificate and flag honoring the occasion. Below, the Piedmont Color Guard presents colors commemorating the occasion.



The Piedmont Piper  
2154 Greensward Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30345

**First Class Mail**

**The Piedmont Piper**

Von Starkey, Publisher  
Scott A. Ray, Editor

Skip Gray, Von Starkey and Paul Prescott, Photographers

This publication is the newsletter for the **Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**. It is printed at least six times per year, January, March, May, July, September and November, and is distributed to current and prospective members of the chapter and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and officials of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Piedmont Chapter serves communities of the northern suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia including Cobb, Forsyth, Cherokee and Northern Fulton County. Meetings are held monthly throughout the year on the third Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the Integrity Bank, 11140 State Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia. Most members choose to arrive by 8:00 a.m. to enjoy breakfast together.

Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings. Men and boys who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interests are urged to contact the **Chapter Registrar, Paul Prescott at 770-360-5766** or any other chapter officer.

(Youth Memberships are available for applicants under 18).

Please send all inquires and suggestions to the editor at the address shown below.

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT MONTH EDITION:**

The last Monday of the month preceding the date of issue. Please send all articles and photos as early as possible because the space available in the newsletter is often filled prior to the deadline date. Pictures will be scanned and returned to the sender.

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