

The Piedmont Piper



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

Edition CIX (109th Issue)

www.piedmontsar.com

January 2013

From the President's Desk



In This Issue

Chapter Meetings, New Member and Upcoming Events

Milton Officers Recognized for Service to the Community

Chaplain's Column

Wreaths Across America

"Come and Take It"

Piedmont Chapter Veterans Recognized

Color Guard Schedule

THE YEAR – 2012

The year 2012 saw significant effort by many of our members. This year we reached a membership level of 113 members, the highest The Piedmont Chapter has ever attained. Congratulations go to our Piedmont Registrar, Tom Chrisman, and Georgia State Registrar, Bob Sapp, who sent accurate and complete applications to National. However, they could not have done their job without the help of our members who were first-line signers and recruiters. Furthermore, I have been told by our Treasurer, Shep Hammack, that the Piedmont chapter will remain above 100 members for 2013.

The Veterans Committee got energized with Bill Kabel and Bill Lusk as co-chairs. Bill Kabel was appointed as the GASSAR Representative to the Atlanta VA Voluntary Service Council, and he represents the SAR on the Veterans Advisory Board. Bill Kabel and Paul Prescott are both serving on the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee. This committee is in the process of identifying all Korean War Veterans who are also SAR members and will present them with a Certificate of Patriotism.

Bill Lusk has made over 250 white crosses to honor deceased military veterans of Milton, GA. He places them, along with a flag along Deerfield Parkway on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Mike Jones, a veteran, has attended over 200 veterans' funerals, SAR and non-SAR members. The Piedmont Color Guard has also attended SAR funerals and memorials.

Contributions to the VA hospital in Atlanta have been nothing short of impressive. The "Socks for Vets" program generated over 700 pairs of socks. Also, the donation of books, magazines, personal items, etc. has been fantastic. In all, the Veterans activity has accumulated over 14,000 Stark Award points. This is the highest total in recent times.

September 17, 2012 was the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. The Piedmont Chapter recognized this significant

(Continued on page 7)

Piedmont Chapter Welcomes New Members

Robert M. Starr, Preston Bonner Poore and William Thomas Brannen were recently inducted as new members. President Prescott, Tom Chrisman, sponsor, inducted Preston and William and presented each the Society's rosette pin. All of the chapter members welcomed Preston and William as our newest members.



William Thomas Brannen, Jr. (Bill) was born in Marietta, Georgia May 14, 1946. He is the son of William T. Brannen, Sr. and Nelle Whelchel Brannen and his father was a Navy pilot in WWII. Bill graduated from Marietta High School in 1964, was on their golf team as a ranked state junior golfer and received a golf scholarship to East Tennessee State University. He entered the Air Force Reserves in 1966 stationed at Dobbins Air Force Base. In 1967, he married Marian Elizabeth Quicksall (Maribeth) and in 1968 was activated during the Pueblo Crisis remaining stationed at Dobbins in Marietta. He was on the Air Force Golf team and served 18 months on active duty. Bill graduated from Kennesaw Jr. College and Georgia State University with a BBA in business and a major in Marketing. He is a member of Ansley Golf Club and served on their Board of Directors. He also served as a Committeeman with the Georgia State Golf Association Course Ratings. He had a career as a salesman and sales manager for various companies selling appli-

ances and services across the Southeast US. He had to retire and is unable to play golf due to health reasons. He has one son, William Braden "Brady" Brannen. Bill's patriot ancestor is Henry Downs Jr. who was born in 1728 in Spotsylvania County Virginia and moved with his wife to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He was Captain of Colonial Militia and fought against the Cherokee Indians in 1763. He also helped Lord Selwin of England survey a layout of the city of Charlotte. He later served as Justice of the Peace in his district and was one of the 27 signers of the famous Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775. The original grant in 1763 to Henry Downs has become Raintree property and the Cedarwood golf course. In 1795, Henry Downs was granted 500 additional acres in the state of North Carolina.



Robert M. Starr shown in the photo on the right was introduced to the chapter as a new member in November. President Prescott, Russ Deutschman, sponsor, inducted Robert and presented him with the Society's rosette pin. Preston Bonner Poore shown in the photo on the left takes the oath from President Prescott as Tom Chrisman, Chapter Registrar looks on.



Upcoming Events

Saturday January 19, 2013

Chapter Meeting

Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell,
Georgia

8:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am Meeting

Speaker

**Mr. Frank Clark, founder and curator of the
Bell Research Center in Cumming, GA**

Saturday February 16, 2013

Annual Dinner Meeting

Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell,
Georgia

6:00 pm Social Hour

7:00 pm Dinner

**Awards Banquet and Celebration of
George Washington's birthday**



Piedmont Chapter Meeting Highlights and Community Service Awards

Piedmont Chapter Meeting for December 2012

Vice-President Walt Woliver introduced Bill Kabel, chairman of the Piedmont Chapter's Veterans Committee. Compatriot Kabel presented "A Revolutionary Christmas," a twenty-five minute power point pres-



entation, with narrative, that described what Christmas was like in the Colonial period. Among the topics covered were: the History of Christmas; the "Twelve Days of Christmas;" and the development of Christmas traditions, including the Christmas tree, Santa Claus, mistletoe, decorating, gift giving, and Christmas day activities. The presentation ended with a discussion of the Christmas of 1776 when General Washington and his army crossed the Delaware to rout German mercenaries at Trenton, New Jersey.

The presentation was capped off with the entire group joining together to sing two Christmas carols of the Colonial era. Bill and other members of the Piedmont Color Guard also presented "A Revolutionary Christmas," at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Community Living Center on December 20, 2012.

The program was well attended and appreciated by the veterans at the Decatur, Georgia facility. See story and photo on page 4.

Piedmont Chapter names Roth Hutcheson 'Firefighter of the Year' and names Police Officer Keenan Grey 'Officer of the Year' at Milton

In a ceremony held December 17, 2012 at Milton's City Council meeting, the Piedmont Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, named Milton Battalion Chief Roth Hutcheson Firefighter of the Year. The reason is simple and profound: This year, Hutcheson and his wife, Michelle, invited into their lives twin infant boys and an 18-month-old girl, saving them from separation in foster care. The children join Hutcheson's two biological sons. "I think Battalion Chief Roth Hutcheson is an outstanding representative of the type of person we like to honor, not only in the fire department, but in our community," said Alan Greenly, chairman of the Police, Fire and EMS Committee for the Piedmont Chapter. "You simply can't ask for anybody better than that." Hutcheson said his family never fostered before, but knew they had to do something when Michelle, a counselor with Coweta County Schools, learned the children were being placed in state-funded care. Milton Fire Chief Robert Edgar said while firefighters are dedicated, compassionate men and women who put the needs of others before their own, "Roth Hutcheson and his family have taken this dedication to a new level." Hutcheson has been with the City of Milton since the Fire Department launched in May 2007.



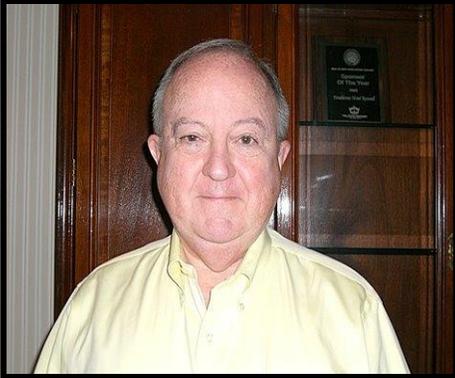
Also honored in a ceremony during the Nov. 19 City Council meeting, the City of Milton Police Department named Keenan Grey Officer of the Year. Grey, a Milton resident and native, was nominated by his peers and selected by the department's command staff. He was also honored by the Sons of the American Revolution, Piedmont Chapter, at the Nov. 19 meeting as Officer of the Year.

"Officer Grey always goes beyond our expectations," said Police Chief Deborah Harrell. "He routinely puts in more hours

than are required and comes in on his days off to ensure Milton's residents are safe and well-served." Grey, 26, has been a police officer for three years, all of them in Milton. He graduated from St. Francis High School after moving to what was then unincorporated Fulton County, now Milton, in 1996. He graduated from Kennesaw State University with a degree in Criminal Justice and began as a patrol officer in Milton in December 2009. As a patrol officer, Grey is known as a team player and consummate professional with a kind demeanor to both citizens and victims of crime, said Capt. Shawn McCarty, who leads the department's Uniform Patrol Division. In particular, Grey is a proactive officer who seeks out situations where he can be most effective in preventing crime. Grey said he was honored and shocked to be named Officer of the Year just three years into his career. He said the accolade gives him more motivation to provide the best police service he can.

Photos and articles provided by Jason Wright, Communications Manager City of Milton.

From

Allen Finley
Piedmont Chapter Chaplain

Did I Grow Up Differently?

It is now January 2013, and we have just avoided the fiscal cliff at the eleventh hour and the 59th minute. I am sure that these legislators are now beating their chest proclaiming how great they are to have accomplished this feat.

As I work with my clients throughout these 50 states, there is a uniform view that the people we elect to represent us change when they get to Congress. This reminds me of a certain client who loved to be the person who rode in at the last minute so he could be the “knight in shining armor” who saved the day—over and over and over. What a waste of time and money and frustration for those involved. All caused by lack of leadership and lack of common sense.

I grew up in rural Appalachian Mountains on a small dairy farm where we solved problems when they occurred. You made hay when the sun was shining and you mended the fence when the cows got out. I never realized that this learned behavior on my part is not what these individuals want to do.

To them, the only word is procrastination and let someone else fix the problem tomorrow.

We should begin to think differently about the problems facing our nation. This is not a matter of political party but a call to think clearly and practically about solutions to the nation’s challenges. How do we fix this?

In my opinion it is time to consider term limits. 1) The House of Representative Members would be limited to two four-year terms. 2) Senators would serve no more than two six-year terms. 3) The President would be elected to one six year term.

Also, every elected official should participate in the same health care and retirement plans that we are forced to use.

When your sewer backs up, you do not hire a contractor to remodel the house to make it bigger, you simply clear the blockage and clean up the mess. Maybe it is time to do just that since 43 cents of every dollar the government spends is now borrowed. In my way of thinking, the problem is that they never have had to be an independent small business owner who has to make sure that the payroll checks that are issued every Friday can be cashed by the people who work in the company.

Oh yes we did build these business so that those checks do not bounce!

Piedmont Chapter Color Guard Visits the VA Community Living Center

On December 20, 2012, members of the Piedmont Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented a special Christmas program to the patients of the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Community Living Center. Patients at the VA facility are veterans who for many different reasons are housed and cared for in a nursing home environment. There were approximately twenty-three patients who attended the presentation.

Four members of the Chapter’s Color Guard, dressed in their Revolutionary War officer uniforms, each presented a portion of, “A Revolutionary Christmas.” The presentation was capped off with the entire group joining together to sing two Christmas carols of the Colonial era.

The Piedmont Members participating in the presentation are shown in the photo below from L-R: Jared Ogden, George Thurmond, Piedmont Chapter President Prescott, and Bill Kabel.





National Cemeteries across the United States participated Wreaths Across America

Members of the Piedmont Chapter Color Guard, along with Mrs. Sarah Meyer and Mrs. Maribeth Brannen, wife of Compatriot Bill Brannen participated in a very moving ceremony for Wreaths Across America at Marietta National Cemetery. American flags lined the driveway as a parade led by a single horseman followed by the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard of Gwinnett County, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Civil Air Patrol members, Coast Guard members and a Bag Piper playing Amazing Grace as they marched up the hill to the rostrum where a ceremony was held. A bugler played the National Anthem with the flag at half-staff mourning the recent loss of the school children and teachers in Connecticut. Ceremonial Wreaths were placed for all branches of the military as well as POWs and



MIA's. Echo Taps were played and names of service members were spoken in remembrance of their service and sacrifice. Mrs. Brannen read the name of General John Clarke for the War of 1812. Mrs. Meyer placed a wreath on General John Clarke's grave. National Cemeteries across the United States participated Wreaths Across America at the same time on Saturday December 15th, 2012. If you have a chance to see Georgia National Cemetery in Canton or Marietta National during Christmas you will be moved by the beauty of the Christmas wreaths adorning the graves of our veterans. The General John Clarke Chapter USD 1812 purchased four wreaths which were placed at the Marietta National Cemetery.

“Come and Take It”



When the Continental Congress convened in 1776, the delegates recognized the need for forts to protect their growing seaports from the British. Soon afterwards, Fort Morris was constructed on a low bluff on the Medway River at Sunbury, Georgia. The fort



was fortified and garrisoned by two hundred patriots. When the British demanded the fort's surrender on November 25, 1778, the defiant Colonel John McIntosh replied, "Come and take it!" The British refused and withdrew back to Florida. Forty-five days later, they returned with a superior force, and on January 9, 1779, Fort Morris fell after a short but heavy bombardment. Under the name of Fort Defiance, this bulwark was once again used against the British during the War of 1812, and Sunbury's harbor was guarded by armed barges. Today, visitors can stand within the earthwork remains and view scenic Saint Catherines Sound. The port of Sunbury is no more. A museum and film describe the former colonial port and the site's history.

The fort is located on the Georgia coast about forty miles south of Savannah near Midway. The motto at Fort Morris continues to be "Come and Take It" the response given to the British for the fort to surrender. Piedmont Color guardsman George Thurmond donated the "Come and Take It" flag used for the first time at this annual event. With thanks to Bill Ramsaur and Hugh Rodgers for the photos and to gastateparks.org for the historical notes about Fort Morris.

Piedmont Chapter Veterans Recognized

The Piedmont Chapter capped off its "Tribute to Veterans" month by awarding thirty of its members the War Service Medal, or the Military Service Medal at its November chapter meeting. Twenty-three Piedmont members had previously been awarded these medals. Three additional awards were made to chapter members for the Service to Veterans Medal, and three Oak Leaf Clusters were



also awarded for that medal. American flag lapel pins were given out at the meeting to help celebrate the day. Bill Kabel, Piedmont's Veterans Committee Co-Chairman, and a retiree of the VA, presented an overview of the VA, its organization, and some of the benefits it provides our nation's veterans. Bill Kabel, President Paul Prescott, Vice-President Walt Woliver and Bill Lusk conducted the award ceremony by recognizing each medal recipient. The Military Service Medal and certificate were awarded to: Doug Allen, Dick Anthony, Jerry Breed, Tom Davis, Charles Hendry, Ken Howell, Mike Jones, Jerry Maddox, Bob McCleskey, Don McClanahan, Jim McDonald, John Mortison, Billy Padgett, Cecil Palmer, Robert Reardon, Bob Sapp, Bobby Shaw, George Thurmond, Bob Walker, and Butch Wills. Members receiving the War Service Medal were:



Glynn Acree, Bob Allgood, Donald Breed, Bill Kabel, Bryce

Kammeyer, Bill Lusk, Harold McPheeters, Jared Ogden, Jared Ogden II, and Lee Warren. A Purple Heart Pin was awarded and affixed to the War Service Medal of member Jared Ogden. Members who actively provide services to recognize and honor veterans were awarded the Service to Veterans Medals. These members were:



Bill Lusk for his personal contribution of creating and displaying over two hundred fifty crosses to honor deceased veterans. Mike Jones for his personal attendance at over two hundred funerals of veterans during the past five years; Bill Kabel for his continued involvement and support of veterans after his retirement from the Veterans Administration by serving on committees and boards designed to assist those veterans and families in need of support. Oak Leaf Clusters to the Service to Veterans Medal



were awarded for participation in numerous patriotic and historic Color Guard events to honor Veterans during the past five years. They were awarded to: Jack Ferguson, his third Oak Leaf Cluster; George Thurmond, his second Oak Leaf Cluster; and Paul Prescott, his second Oak Leaf Cluster. Each of these members has exceeded the minimum number of Stark Award points as the criteria for receiving this recognition.

There were more than three hundred pairs of socks displayed at the front of the room during the November Chapter Meeting. They were the most recent contributions to the chapter's "SAR Socks for Vets" campaign. When the chapter learned of the Atlanta VA Medical Center's need for socks to give to newly admitted patients and homeless veterans, the chapter's Veteran's Committee stepped forward and initiated the "SAR Socks for Vets" campaign. Since June, chapter members have donated more than seven hundred pairs of socks along with other useful items to the VA.





Piedmont Chapter Color Guard at 100th anniversary luncheon of the Baron DeKalb Chapter, NSDAR at the Druid Hills Country Club.

Thanks to Cheryl Manley for the photos, taken during the 100th anniversary luncheon of the Baron DeKalb Chapter, NSDAR at the Druid Hills Country Club. President Prescott presented Diane Guest, Regent, with a Certificate of Achievement from Georgia Society President Ed Rigel, Sr. on the occasion of the chapter's remarkable 100 years of activity. Piedmont members were assisted by Bobby Towns, past President of the Georgia Society SAR.



Piedmont Chapter Color Guard 2013 Schedule

- 5 Jan – Color Guard Luncheon, Holiday Inn, Roswell, GA:
- 18 Jan – Daniel Morgan Statue, Spartanburg, SC, 1000 Hrs:
- 19 Jan – Chapter Meeting, Roswell, GA, 0830 Hrs:
- 19 Jan – Battle at the Cowpens, Chesnee, SC, 1000 Hrs:
- 25-26 Jan – GASSAR Annual Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Duluth, GA:
- 8 Feb – INS, Atlanta, GA, 1100 hrs:
- 9 Feb – Kettle Creek, Parade, Washington, GA:
- 9 Feb – Kettle Creek, Wreath Presentation, War Hill, Washington, GA:
- 10 Feb – Colonial Church Service, Washington, GA, 0900 Hrs,
- 10 Feb – Elijah Clarke Wreath Presentation, Lincolnton, GA, 1100 Hrs:
- 11 Feb – Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter Meeting, East Roswell Recreation Center, Roswell, GA, 1000 hrs:
- 14 Feb – Kettle Creek Proclamation, Georgia State Capitol:
- 16 Feb – Chapter Meeting, Roswell, GA, 0830 Hrs:

Congratulations to Newest Members of the Piedmont Color Guard

At the November Chapter Meeting, President Prescott announced that four members, Jared Ogden, Bob McCleskey, Bill Kabel and Shep Hammack, had joined the Color Guard and had received their uniforms. He asked each new member to briefly state their reason for joining. Their comments centered around the amount of activity the color guard engages in each month, especially in education where an appearance in uniform adds to the presentation.

(Continued from page 1)

event by giving framed copies of the Constitution to schools and city halls. Twenty (20) were presented and, two more will be presented to schools in 2013. The Piedmont Color Guard added four new guardsmen in 2012. These new guardsmen are Shep Hammack, Bill Kabel, Bob McCleskey, and Jared Ogden. The Piedmont Color Guard participated in 129 events in 2012 with 458 Color Guard member participations or 3.55 guardsmen per event. This does not count the 92 events of the Speakers Bureau.

Michael Smith's Eagle Scout Committee awarded 16 certificates to new Eagle Scouts. Barry Herrin's JROTC Committee awarded several medals and certificates to outstanding JROTC Cadets. Allen Greenly's Public Service Committee awarded one medal for heroism, one for Law Enforcement, and one for Fire Safety. George Thurmond did his usual excellent job as Publicity Chairman and Graves Chairman. What can be said about Carl Bham! He has had his hands full with the record keeping for the Americanism Committee and keeping the Chapter advised of all of the goings on in State and National environs as Communications Chair. The Piedmont Chapter Picnic has become an annual affair under the direction of Jim McIntire. Jerry Breed, who does a great job of publishing The Piedmont Piper, has a tough job of getting articles, especially from me.

On a somber note, three of our members passed away this year. They were Sion Bass, Murray McAfee, and Robert Parker.

**The Piedmont Piper**

Paul I. Prescott, Publisher
 Gerald B. Breed, Editor
 Allen Greenly, Photographer

This publication is the newsletter for the **Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**. It is printed six times per year, January, March, May, July, September and November. It is distributed to current and prospective members of the chapter and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and to certain 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. at the Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell, 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, eighteen years of age and older, 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, Tom Chrisman** 404.310.3338 or any other chapter officer.

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT EDITION:

The deadline for material for the next issue is March, 2013. In addition to the material, please include a copy of any photos to be included. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding the Piedmont Piper to the editor at the following address: 3344 Thomashire Court Marietta, Georgia 30066 Phone: 770-579.1869 jcbreed77@hotmail.com

2012 Officers of the Piedmont Chapter

President, Paul I. Prescott 111 Timber Ridge Court Woodstock, GA 30040 Phone 770.360.5766 prescotp@bellsouth.net
 Vice President, Walter H. Woliver 3115 Fenwood Trail Roswell, GA 30075 Phone 770.642.0352 walt@alphaofficega.com
 Secretary, Bob D. Shaw 2900 Barbara Lane Marietta, GA 30062 Phone: 770.971.3416 bdseds@bellsouth.net
 Treasurer, E. Sheppard Hammack 1586 Dunwoody Club Crossing Dunwoody, GA 30338 Phone 770.396.5453 Shep7h@aol.com
 Chaplain, Allen R. Finley 4303 Revere Circle Marietta, GA 30062 Phone 770.992.9395 arfinley@aol.com
 Registrar, Thomas A. Chrisman 1738 Wilder Court Dunwoody, GA 30338 Phone 404.310.3338 tomchrisman1@aol.com
 Editor, Gerald B. Breed 3344 Thomashire Court Marietta, GA 30066 Phone 770.579.1869 jcbreed77@hotmail.com
 Chancellor, Eric E. Thorstenberg 220 Enclave Court Roswell, GA 30076 Phone: 770.740.9321 eet@bellsouth.net
 Historian/ Librarian, Robert L. Walker 650 Leather Hinge Trail Roswell, GA 30075 Phone 678.585.9106 synercom@earthlink.net
 Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas R. Davis 7215 Wyngate Way Cumming, GA 30040 Phone 770.442.8147 davtomnln@att.net

The Piedmont Piper
3344 Thomashire Court
Marietta, Georgia 30066

First Class Mail