



Piedmont Chapter  
Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

# The Piedmont Piper

Edition CXXVII(127th Issue)

PiedmontChapter.org

January 2016

## Message From Piedmont Chapter President Bill Kabel



I hope everybody has had a joyous and happy holiday season. It is always so wonderful to be able to share such times with family and loved ones. We are, indeed, fortunate to live in a country where we can enjoy such opportunities, with thanks to those before us who gave so much for us to be able to do that.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## In This Issue

Chapter Meeting Highlights

Upcoming Events

Piedmont Fellows Charter Members

Welcome New Members

My Patriot Ancestor by George Thurmond

Color Guard Schedule

## Wreaths Across America



This year was the twenty-fourth year that the Wreaths Across America program placed thousands of wreaths on veterans' graves throughout the United States, and internationally. The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), as descendants of our nation's very first veterans, proudly sponsors and supports the program. Members of the Piedmont Chapter Color Guard attended two local ceremonies on Saturday, December 12, Rick Reese and Shep Hammack participated at the Marietta National Cemetery, and Bill Kabel and Bob McCleskey presented the colors at the Roswell Presbyterian Church ceremony. A Proclamation from SAR President General Thomas Lawrence was read at each of the ceremonies.

The mission of the Wreaths Across America's Program is to "Remember, Honor, and Teach" and the ceremonies are carried out with coordinated wreath laying ceremonies at 12:00 noon on "National Wreaths Across America Day" at national, veterans, confederate, regional, private, and local cemeteries, and at military bases throughout the country.

Many other groups including the DAR, Civil Air Patrol, ROTC, fraternities, sororities, the American Legion, the VFW, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and others have joined in the effort to spread the message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.



### Message From Piedmont Chapter President Bill Kabel

My year as your President is fast coming to a close, and I thank each of you for the outstanding support you have given me. I've been spending some time writing the year-end operational report that I will share with you later, and I am amazed at what Piedmont Chapter has accomplished this year. When I asked for your help at the beginning of the year I had no idea of the tremendous response there would be. However, I should have realized that the Piedmont Compatriots always respond in outstanding fashion. Thank you!

I have just one more request of you before I join the honorable ranks of "Past President." That request is – I want you to come to the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 20, at the Roswell Recreation Center. The Piedmont Banquet is always a wonderful time to enjoy the company of fellow compatriots and their families, and to share in the good times of recognizing a "Job Well Done." If you've been to previous banquets, I promise this will be the best yet. We will again have an outstanding caterer and the beer and wine are included in the cost of your registration. You will not want to miss watching the slide presentation of many of the chapter's activities that will be playing during the social hour. If you like what you see, a DVD of the presentation will be available for those who are at the Banquet. Come and enjoy.

Thank you.

Bill

### Piedmont Chapter November Meeting Highlights

Vice President Reese introduced Carter J. Wood, Regional Vice President, Northeast Region, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Compatriot Wood gave a presentation on the origination and importance of Armistice Day. Armistice Day began after WW1 to commemorate the surrender of the German force at the end of WW1. His talk also incorporated a slide presentation of various locations in and around France and their importance in this celebration. A capsule history of the various military and political figures of this era was included as part of his presentation.



### Piedmont Fellows Fund

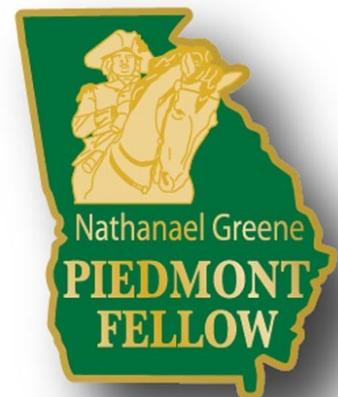
The Piedmont Fellows Fund is established for the purpose of funding, supplementing, or reimbursing worthy activities, events, or chapter needs that enhance Piedmont Chapter's attainment of SAR objectives which may, or may not, be included in the chapter's annual budget. The Piedmont Chapter Board of Managers (Chapter BOM) maintains oversight and authorization of the Piedmont Fellows Fund.

Any member of the SAR, friends, relatives, spouses, or other individuals, living or deceased, having an interest in furthering the goals of the Piedmont Chapter, or who are being recognized or memorialized, may become a member the Fund with a contribution being made in their name for the required minimum amount. Those who are so named shall be designated a "Piedmont Fellow" and be awarded the distinctive "Piedmont Fellows Fund" pin which identifies them as a "Piedmont Fellow." The pin is green in color and is in the shape of the state of Georgia, with the gold wording "Nathanael Greene" and "Piedmont Fellow" prominently displayed. The Fund is in honor of General Nathanael Greene, who was instrumental in recapturing the South from the British in the Revolutionary War, and who lived in Georgia after the war and is buried near Savannah. A minimum contribution of \$100 is required.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Piedmont Fellows Charter Members

- Carl Bhame
- Jerry Breed
- Shep Hammack
- Bill Kabel
- Robert Kabel
- John Mortison
- Cecil Palmer
- Rick Reese, Jr.
- Rick Reese, III
- Bob Sapp
- Von Starkey, Sr.
- Von Starkey, Jr.
- George Thurmond





## Piedmont Chapter December Meeting Highlights

Our Piedmont SAR Chapter held the final monthly meeting of 2015 on Saturday 12 December. The chapter's SAR Socks program received a big surprise as compatriot Bob Sapp arrived at the meeting with a very large red Christmas stocking filled with 302 new pairs of socks donated by the Powers Ferry United Methodist Church in Marietta for the veterans at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Compatriot Bill Floyd also brought a significant donation of new socks from the members of his church, Shiloh United Methodist Church.

President Bill Kabel called the meeting to order, as color guard members Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Bob McCleskey, and Bob Sapp presented the colors. Sergeant-at-Arms Tim Dunn led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to SAR.

Our guest speaker was Terry Manning, President of the Atlanta SAR chapter, who entertained and enlightened our members and guests with "The History of Santa Claus." Terry was in a period costume appropriate for his subject.

George Thurmond then spoke to the meeting about his patriot ancestor Reuben McLeroy, a Revolutionary war private from North Carolina who fought in the battle of Gilford Courthouse, and after the war migrated to Wilkes County GA where he became a Baptist preacher.



Piedmont President Bill Kabel informed everybody that the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet will be Saturday, February 20, at the Roswell Recreation Center. The cost for the banquet will remain at \$40, the same as last year, and beer and wine will be provided at no charge. Invitations will be sent in mid-January.

Finally, President Kabel called Shep Hammack forward for a special recognition, awarding him a certificate for The Order of the Purple Thumb. It seems that Compatriot Hammack sustained an injury while on Color Guard duty during the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at the Marietta National Cemetery on 12 January 2015.



The pictures were taken by Rick Reese, III.

## Upcoming Events

Chapter meeting Saturday January 16, 2016  
Roswell Recreation Center 830 Grimes Bridge Road  
Roswell, Georgia  
8:00 am Breakfast  
8:30 am Meeting

**Guest Speaker:** Compatriot Tom Chrisman will speak about genealogy

Chapter meeting Saturday February 20, 2016  
Roswell Recreation Center 830 Grimes Bridge Road  
Roswell, Georgia  
6 pm  
Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

A slide presentation of many of the chapter's activities will be playing during the social hour.



### Reverend Bill Floyd Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



#### Defined by what?

We begin at an early age wondering, "Who am I, where do I belong, with what am I defined by?" These are questions that haunt us through out our lives. These are some of the same questions our ancestors must have asked

themselves as they landed on these foreign shores over two hundred years ago. They had left their home of origin to journey to a new land filled with promise and hope. Who they had been was going to be changed and where they belonged was still an unknown and only time would tell what would define who they were. Our ancestors had a drive and a thirst for freedom that is lacking in many today. They also had a growing bond of something called patriotism that was beginning to form this group of people into a nation. These hard working people soon had an identity. They were Americans. They no longer wondered, "Who am I?" They knew who they were. They also knew where they belonged and that was side by side with their neighbors when it came time to fight for their freedom. Our patriot ancestors were defined by the way they acquitted themselves during the War of Independence. We can and do look up to these patriots as examples of what should define us as Americans.

Today we use a different standard to define who we are as Americans. Today the, "Who am I?" question is answered not by a person's love of country and freedom but by the kind of work they are engaged in or the accomplishment they have achieved. They are defined by their wealth or material possessions they have accumulated. And to the question as to "Where do I belong?", it would be answered by, only to the best Country Club. We have a different outlook and set of values than our forefathers. I am not sure that they would recognize this country that they fought so hard to begin and sustain.

One branch of my family were the Huguenots. They came here from France seeking religious freedom. They came so that they could worship God without being afraid of persecution. We enjoyed that freedom for a long time, but that time is passing away and soon might be gone with the wind. Christians are the only group that can be safely ridiculed in our politically correct society. The freedoms that our ancestors fought for are slipping away right under our noses. Freedom of speech is under fire from the place it should be championed- and that is on our college campuses. Our second amendment right are also under fire from those who would like to weaken our country. If we don't begin to stand up and be counted, all that our patriot ancestors fought and died for will have been in vain. If we, the Sons of the American Revolution, can't be counted on to carry on the fight for freedom, then to whom can we look?

### New Members Welcomed at December Meeting

President Bill Kabel inducted our newest chapter members, Christopher Galenek and his son Jack Galenek, into the Piedmont Chapter with their sponsor Shep Hammack presenting them with the SAR rosette at the December chapter meeting. Additional details about our new members will be published when received by the Editor.



#### Note from the Editor

It has been a pleasure to serve the Piedmont Chapter SAR as Editor of the Piedmont Piper for almost seven years. I want to express my appreciation to all of you who have contributed to the last forty issues of our award winning chapter newsletter. I am certain that the new editor will continue providing our members with a newsletter worthy of the Piedmont name.

#### Piedmont Fellows Charter Membership

*(Continued from page 2)*

To promote early acceptance and enthusiasm for the "Piedmont Fellows Fund" there shall be a period in which those who make the mandatory contribution to the Fund shall be identified as "Charter Members." The listings on the chapter website and in the *Piedmont Piper* of "Piedmont Fellows" will list "Charter Members" (alphabetically) before listing all other members. The "Charter Member" period shall end at the conclusion of the 2016 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on February 20, 2016, so that "Charter Members" can be recognized at the banquet.



### My Patriot Ancestor by George Thurmond



At the December chapter meeting, Compatriot George Thurmond told about his Patriot Ancestor, Reuben McLeroy of North Carolina (1759-1820).

Reuben married Christina Johnson in April 1776 and lived in Johnson County, North Carolina during the Revolution. Reuben participated in the skirmishes following the battle of Guilford Courthouse and several other area conflicts. His unit is also credited with rescuing Reuben's older brother, John McLeroy, from the Tories (John owned 1,000 acres in Guilford County). Both became Baptist preachers.

By the end of the Revolutionary War, all of the William McLeroy family migrated to Wilkes County, Georgia. When the county was later subdivided into several counties, it was in Oconee County that Reuben was ordained as a Baptist preacher in 1806 at the Mars Hill Baptist Church.

Reuben next moved his family to Jones County, Georgia (north of Macon) in 1810 and served the Walnut Creek Baptist Church until his death on February 12, 1820.

Sometime later Christina moved to Harris County near Callaway Gardens to live with some of her children and in 1852 at age 92 filed for a Widow's Pension! Patriot McLeroy's grave was marked on April 24, 2004.

One interesting sidelight- Henry McLeroy, a descendant of brother John (Reuben's uncle) married Martha Hartsfield and lived in Fayette County (near Griffin). Henry owned Tara Plantation, made famous in *Gone with the Wind*, before selling it to Phillip Fitzgerald, the great grandfather of Margaret Mitchell, the author. Descendant Henry McLeroy and at least one member of his family are buried in a half acre plot of land reserved by Henry when he sold the plantation to Fitzgerald.

### Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

On Sunday, December 20, 2015, Boy Scout Troop 7153 held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in the cafeteria of the Holy Redeemer School of St. Brigid Catholic Church in Johns Creek to celebrate the Presentation of the Eagle Award to Scout John Michael Bertrand.

Piedmont Chapter President Bill Kabel was on hand during the ceremony to present the Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition to John Michael Bertrand, and invite him to apply for the SAR Eagle Scout scholarship award. The pictures below were taken by Javier Jimenez, whose son is in that troop and also a member of the Martha Stewart Bullock Society C.A.R.



On Sunday, December 27, 2015, Boy Scout Troop 7153 held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in the Community Center of the Woodlands residential community in Woodstock, GA to celebrate the Presentation of the Eagle Award to Scout Christopher Bethea.



Piedmont Chapter Vice-President Rick Reese was on hand during the ceremony to present the Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition to Christopher Bethea, and invite him to apply for the SAR Eagle Scout scholarship award. The photo shows Vice President Reese congratulating Eagle Scout Bethea who is seated on the right. Photo taken by Rick Reese, III.

## Welcome New Member William Dale Miller



William Dale Miller became a member of the Piedmont Chapter and was inducted at the October chapter meeting. He graduated from the University of Dayton, in 1975, with a BA in Business.

1965 - 1983 - Class A PGA golf professional and Head Golf Coach, University of Dayton 1971 - 1976. Awarded Atlanta Junior Golf Association's Golf Professional of the year, 1979.

1965 -1969 - Sgt. USAF Sentry Dog Handler, served with the 8th Security Police Squadron, Ubon Royal Thai AFB, Ubon, Thailand, 1968 - 69. Unit awarded Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award w/ V for valor, and Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm.

1983 - 2014 - Group and Meeting coordinator for Travel Connections, Inc. and Sun International Travel. Dale retired in 2014 and he is currently volunteering as a dog handler for Canine Assistants, a non-profit organization that provides assistant and therapy dogs to persons and organizations of need. In the photo, Piedmont President Bill Kabel presents Dale with his membership certificate as his wife Veronica stands by his side. Dale and Veronica have been married for forty eight years and reside in Cumming, Georgia. Dale's Patriot Ancestor is John Gorsuch, his 9th great grandfather, who signed an oath of allegiance in Baltimore County, MD in 1778 (per Hodges Unpublished Revolutionary Records of Maryland, vol. 6, pg. 60)

## Awards presented at the November Chapter meeting

A Bronze Good Citizenship Award was presented to Savannah Bailey from Milton High School to recognize her effort in erecting a display of 2,996 American flags, each with the name of a person who died tragically on September 11, 2001. This was the third consecutive year she has performed this tribute.



An Outstanding Citizenship Award was presented to Marine Staff Sergeant Brandon Turner for his display of high ideals of character and citizenship. Staff Sergeant Turner has served in Iraq and in Afghanistan. He is presently in charge of recruiting in the Alpharetta-North Atlanta area.



Shown in the photo on the right, Piedmont President Kabel presented SAR War Service Medals to (L-R): John Wassell, Jr., Douglas C. McNeil and William Dale Miller. These recipients also received a Certificate of Patriotism. The War Service Medal is awarded to Compatriots who served against a common enemy in a war or action recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and received a campaign medal, combat ribbon or badge as shown on the DD-214 form. Also, SAR Military Service Medals were presented to William T. Brannen, Jr., Charles C. Olsen and Warren R. Pollard III. All Piedmont veterans in attendance at the November chapter meeting were recognized for their service.





## Easton Flag presented to Piedmont Chapter

At the November chapter meeting, Compatriot Bob Sapp presented an Easton Flag and staff to the chapter to be used by the Chapter Color Guard. The Easton Flag is probably the first standard used after becoming a new nation, The United States of America. On 8 July 1776 the newly printed Declaration of Independence was publicly read in three cities, Philadelphia, Trenton, and Easton, Pennsylvania. At the reading in Easton by County Clerk Robert Levers on the City Square, the ladies of the city presented to the city a standard consisting of a field of blue with thirteen, eight pointed stars. The canton is thirteen stripes of alternating red and white. After the reading, the flag was stored until presented to Capt. Abraham Horn's Company on September 6, 1814, to be used in the War of 1812. Stored afterward in the Easton Library Company until 1926 when the flag was displayed at the Sesquicentennial in Philadelphia. The standard for the War of 1812 was "Old Glory" with fifteen stars and fifteen stripes.



## Color Guard at Georgia Tech



Members of the Georgia Society Color Guard presented the colors at the Georgia Tech vs. University of Virginia basketball game on Saturday, January 9, 2016 in Atlanta. Color Guard members shown in the photo are L-R: Shep Hammack, Treasurer Piedmont Chapter SAR, Allen Greenly, Sr. Vice President Georgia Society SAR, Bob Sapp, Registrar Georgia Society SAR, Wayne Brown Treasurer Georgia Society SAR and Bill Kabel, President Piedmont Chapter SAR. Shep said, "The color guard must be a good luck charm since Georgia Tech won 68 to 64."

## Piedmont Color Guard Schedule

- 3 Jan Eagle Scout Webster, Troop 143, Johns Creek UMC, 11180 Medlock Bridge Rd., 3:00pm : Kabel
- 5 Jan Speakers Bureau: Athens SAR; "The Army's Worst Defeat by the American Indians," ; Kabel
- 8 Jan Little Mill Middle Sch. 6800 Little Mill Rd., Cumming, Traveling Trunk, 9:00am
- 9 Jan Georgia Tech basketball game, present colors: Hammack
- 13 Jan Roswell Ramblers, 11:30am
- 13 Jan VAVS meeting, Atlanta VAMC, 1:30pm: Kabel
- 15 Jan Battle of Cowpens, Spartanburg, SC, also 1/16, 2:30pm and 10:00am
- 16 Jan Chapter Meeting, 8:30am
- 22 Jan GASSAR Annual banquet, Duluth
- 23 Jan GASSAR Annual luncheon, Duluth
- 4 Feb N. Forsyth M.S. "Georgia Day," lunch 12:00, show time 1:00, Trunk, 6 sessions Tamara Holzer: Reese, Kabel
- 5 Feb Barnwell Elem School, Traveling Trunk, 9425 Barnwell Rd., Alpharetta, 8:30am: Reese, Kabel, Thurmond
- 8 Feb MSB DAR Chapter meeting; 9:00am present colors: Kabel, Thurmond
- 10 Feb Roswell Ramblers, 11:30am
- 12 Feb "Heroes of the Hornets' Nest," Elijah Clarke State Park, 1:30pm, Wreath Layer Reese
- 12 Feb Kettle Creek Banquet: Thurmond
- 13 Feb Kettle Creek Parade & Battlefield Memorial Service: Wreath Layer Reese; Thurmond
- 14 Feb Colonial Worship Service, Washington, GA, 9:00am
- 19 Feb INS, 11:00am
- 20 Feb Piedmont Annual Banquet, 6:00pm



### The Piedmont Piper

M. William Kabel, Publisher  
Gerald B. Breed, Editor  
Rick Reese, 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, Cherokee and Northern Fulton County. Meetings are held monthly throughout the year on the third Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Roswell Adult Education Center 830 Grimes 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, Carl Bham** 770.394.1282 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 1, 2016. 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.

---

### **2015 Officers of the Piedmont Chapter**

President, M. William Kabel 4305 Sprucebough Drive Marietta, GA 30062 Phone 770.565.1902 flytier44@comcast.net  
Vice President, Frederic M. Reese, Jr. 9141 Branch Valley Way Roswell, GA 30076 Phone 847.778.9235 RickReese68@att.net  
Secretary, W. Ross Glover, Jr. 5284 Wyntercreek Drive Dunwoody, GA 30338 Phone 770.396.5034 rossgloverjr@comcast.net  
Treasurer, E. Sheppard Hammack 1586 Dunwoody Club Crossing Dunwoody, GA 30338 Phone 770.396.5453 Shep7h@aol.com  
Chaplain, Rev. William N. Floyd, Jr. 692 Lakeview Trail Marietta, GA 30068 Phone 770.971.9651 wnfloydjr@att.net  
Registrar, Carl D. Bham 7240 Wynhill Drive Atlanta, Georgia 30328 Phone 770.394.1282 cbham@bellsouth.net  
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 eetesq@gmail.com  
Historian/ Librarian, Robert L. Walker 650 Leather Hinge Trail Roswell, GA 30075 Phone 678.585.9106 synercom@earthlink.net  
Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, Timothy K. Dunn 2090 Silversmith Lane Stone Mountain, GA 30087 Phone 678.428.2123  
Webmaster, Charles R. Rann 9757 Hightower Road, Roswell, GA 30075 Phone 678.773.4721 chuckrann@gmail.com

---

**The Piedmont Piper  
3344 Thomashire Court  
Marietta, Georgia 30066**

**First Class Mail**