

Message From Piedmont Chapter President Al Finley

GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS



Allen Finley

As we finally get back to being able to meet again in person (and in conjunction with our hybrid Zoom for those who cannot be physically with us), let us remember all our compatriots and their spouses from across our state, and our great country, that we have lost due to this pandemic. Our love and prayers are extended to their loved ones and families.

We are blessed to be able to gather in fellowship and patriotism as we need to recall the hardships that our ancestral grandparents endured that

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WE ARE BACK!



The Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held their annual picnic on July 17, 2021 at the Roswell Area Park. Everyone was happy to get so many people together in-person again after many months of virtual meetings. After the picnic meal a number of award presentations and the recognition of many individuals for the significant contributions to our chapter were conducted.

THE NSSAR GETS A NEW LOGO

As you may have noticed the masthead of the Piper has a new Logo. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution ran a contest to create a new logo. The winner, **Compatriot Stephen Harrington** of the Rev. Ebenezer Baldwin Chap-



ter based in Connecticut, received a \$5000.00 check from the NSSAR. This new logo is available on many fine merchandise items



available from the NSSAR website, as well as our own Piedmont Chapter Polo Shirts. If you are interested in a Piedmont Shirt. please contact **President Al Finley** or **Rick Reese, Jr.** Shirts are \$25.00 each.

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Message From Piedmont Chapter President Al Finley (continued)

allows us to be here today. And especially let us remember that our hardship is pale compared to what they had to face and endure!

As we look at 2021, we have had a very productive year. Our membership has grown, we had a national winner from our educational outreach, we had our SECOND annual Veterans activity at the VA Hospital, we had a great annual picnic, have had a record number of Eagle Scout Court of Honors ceremonies and are planning to honor a "Public Service" Police Officer for his service. We also plan to participate in some Grave Making ceremonies and INS activities to finish out our year.

It is my sincere wish that more of you would participate in these activities. We hear so much negative news from the media today about our country, but it really is uplifting to see what has made our country what it is today. The work ethics of our Scouts (and yet they are very humble but proud to be recognized); the excitement of our student recipients in our educational activities, in both the elementary and middle schools, and their amazement to the honor of winning at their school plus then winning prize monies; and the enthusiasm and the joy from the Veteran's affair staff when we presented them with something that helps them to solve some of their immediate problems.

I can tell you this from my experience of being involved, but you need to have your eyes and ears not only see and hear the excitement of these people to fully comprehend what our award-winning chapter is doing. *Please make a commitment to your self* to get involved in just one of these outreach activities that our Piedmont Chapter is involved in. Several of us are working full time and yet find time to be involved—so don't use that as an excuse.

Will you join us to share our commitment to honor our ancestral grandparent's determination to establish the only country in the world that was founded on Judea-Christian Principles?

On July 4th 2021 the Sons of the American Revolution were asked by the Atlanta Braves to take a major role in the pre-game opening ceremony to celebrate Independence Day. Under the direction of Georgia Society SAR Color Guard Commander **Bill Palmer**, a 13 musket volley was the highlight of the opening ceremony. Participants included 11 Sons of the American Revolution members from the state of Georgia and 1 each from the states of Kentucky and Mississippi.



Piedmont Chapter Color Guard members **Bob Sapp, George Thurmond, John Wassell, and Rick Reese Jr.** participated in the 19th Annual "Honor Our Heroes" celebration at the World Harvest Church in Roswell on July 4, 2021. This is a very special day to pay tribute to those who have put the lives on the line to keep us safe and protect the freedom we so greatly enjoy. Military veterans, Police, and Firefighters were honored at each of the two ceremonies held at the church that morning. The Piedmont Chapter Color Guard has been a part of this celebration for over 10 years.



(Left to Right) Rick Reese, Jr., George Thurmond, Bob Sapp, John Wassell



In recognition of their support for our Piedmont Chapter's outreach education programs and contest, Fellowship Christian School 8th Grade History Teacher **Joan Ergle** and Fellowship Christian Middle School Principal **Tony Tacquard** were awarded the Martha Washington

Medal and the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal respectively by Piedmont Chapter President Al Finley. The presentation was made during the middle school assembly on May 12, 2021.



1st in Person Chapter Meeting since March 2020

After fifteen ZOOM meetings, we have finally reunited for our first “In Person” The regular monthly meeting of the Piedmont Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was held on Saturday Aug 21, 2021, Bill Johnson Community Activity Building Roswell Area Park Drive, Building A Roswell Area Park 10495 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA. This was also the first meeting we integrated the ZOOM and the In Person meeting into a hybrid meeting. Members who choose not to attend the In Person Meeting or were unable too, could participate via Zoom. **Compatriot Rick Reese, Jr**, our ZOOM Czar, facilitated the live stream portion, simulcasting the meeting to the member and guests on the Internet. It was a success and made the meeting accessible to all. In all we had had 27 in attendance and 8 compatriots participating on line.



Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by **President Al Finley** which was followed the presentation of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Pledge to the SAR.

Vice President Jamie Ruff gave a very interesting talk on the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He had recently taken his step son **John Jenness**, to his induction of the class of 2025. A very impres-



sive achievement considering John is one of the 1,186 plebes out of a total of 16,265 applicants for the class of 2025. Congratulations John! **Compatriot Jamie** gave an informative and entertaining presentation incorporating his narrative of his families experience, the process of induction, as well as brief historical review of the U.S. Naval Academy.



The Institution was founded as the Naval School on October 10, 1845 by Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft. The campus was established at Annapolis on the grounds of the former U.S. Army post Fort Severn. The school opened with 50 midshipman students and seven professors. The decision to establish an academy on land may have been

in part a result of the *Somers* Affair, an alleged mutiny involving the Secretary of War's son that resulted in his execution at sea.

Compatriot Ruff also described the story of the journey of the body of John Paul Jones, the founder of the U.S. Navy. Jones was brought to the United States aboard the *USS Brooklyn*, escorted by three other cruisers. On approaching the American coastline, seven U.S. Navy battleships joined the procession escorting **Jones's** body back to America. On April 24, 1906, Jones's coffin was installed in Bancroft Hall at the United States Naval Academy

President Finley presented **Vice president Ruff** with a Certificate of Appreciation and the first non virtual \$2 bill in last 16 chapter meetings.



(Left to Right) Vice President Jamie Ruff, Chip Muse, President Al Finley



Harry Rogers “Chip” Muse, III was inducted by **President Al Finley**, compatriot Muse’s patriot ancestor is **Robert Coddington**, from Woodbridge, NJ. At various times during 1777, 1781, and 1782, served as a Private and Fifer and drummer under Captains Randolph and Freeman, Colonel Freeman, Colonel Ogden’s New Jersey Line, Continental Army (Revolutionary War). Robert was both a sailor and soldier on various war vessels harassing British shipping in New York harbor and NJ coast. In 1781 he was wounded in the head in an engagement at Perth Amboy, in February, 1782 he was wounded in a skirmish at Staten Island. Following the induction ceremony the group welcomed the newest members by congratulating them all one by one.



Piedmont Chapter Meeting Highlights

Saturday May 15, 2021

The Regular Chapter Meeting of the Piedmont Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was held via Zoom (due to the COVID-19 crisis) at 9:10 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, 2021. This was the Chapter's fourteenth meeting using Zoom technology.



President Allen Finley called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The GASSAR Color Guard presented the colors virtually.

The Invocation was led by **President Finley**, **Sgt-at-Arms Bill Armstrong** led the Chapter members in their Pledge of Allegiance, and in the pledge to the SAR. **President Finley** recognized **Patrick Wesolosky** of Kentucky, who was attending as a guest of Compatriot **Mark Anthony**.

Vice President Jaime Ruff introduced the virtual guest speaker, Compatriot **Jay Henn**, Immediate Past President of the George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, SAR.

His topic was "George Washington, Mt. Vernon, and the 4th of July." He noted that the July 4th celebration at Mt. Vernon could also be described as the annual march to the tomb of George and Martha Washington. This event was first started in 1962 by Don Baldwin, who was then Vice President of the George Washington Chapter, down



Guest Speaker
 Our Speaker is Compatriot **Jay Henn**
 of the **George Washington Chapter, VASSAR**
 Topic: George Washington, Mount Vernon, and 4th of July



the expansive lawn at Mt. Vernon to the tomb of George and Martha Washington, which was then adjacent to the Potomac River. Their final resting place has since been moved away from the riverbank for security reasons.

After the observance, the George Washington Chapter then hosts a naturalization ceremony at the mansion. In his remarks about George Washington, **Compatriot Henn** noted that President Washington spent approximately half of his life away from Mt. Vernon on Independence Day. In 1775, he was in attendance at the Continental Congress and spent nine subsequent Independence Days away from Mt. Vernon during the American Revolution. On July 4, 1787, he was in attendance at the Constitutional Convention and worked diligently for its ratification. His ideals and selfless service to the country changed mankind's views of political greatness. Many of his later Independence Day celebrations actually occurred in nearby Alexandria, Virginia.



George Washington's final resting place

Speaker Appreciation: **Vice President Jaime Ruff** and **President Al Finley** thanked **Compatriot Henn** for his presentation and presented him virtually with a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$2 bill.



Piedmont Chapter Meeting Highlights

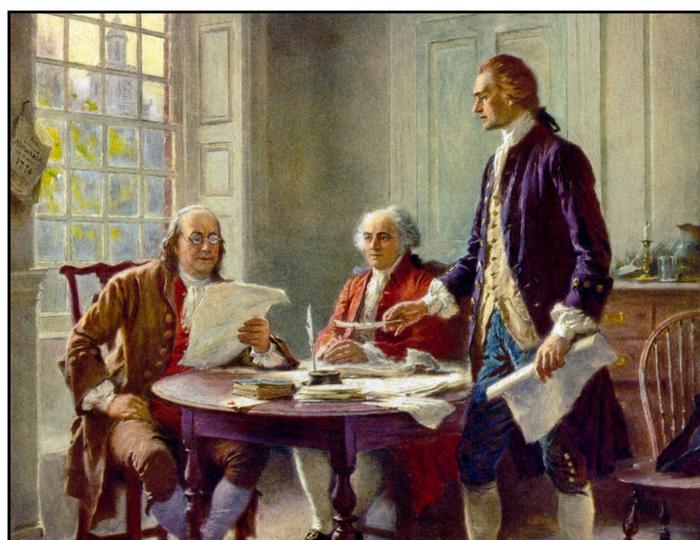
Saturday June 19, 2021



The Regular Chapter Meeting of the Piedmont Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was held via Zoom (due to the COVID-19 crisis) at 9:10 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2021. This was the Chapter's fifteenth meeting using Zoom technology.

President Allen Finley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The GASSAR Color Guard presented the colors virtually. The Invocation was led by President Finley. **Past President Rick Reese, Jr.** led the Chapter members in their Pledge of Allegiance. and in their pledge to the SAR.

Vice President Jaime Ruff introduced the virtual guest speaker, dual member and **Compatriot Larry Guzy**. Larry was an early member of the Piedmont Chapter and has also served as President General, NASSAR, for 2017 – 2018.



In introducing his topic, "Thomas Jefferson", Larry noted the conundrum that numerous commentators face in reviewing the many accomplishments he achieved and balancing that against a few of the human frailties that he displayed. Jefferson was the son of Peter Jefferson and Jane Randolph, a Virginia family that had acquired a fair amount of land as well as some slaves. Of their eight children, he was the oldest son, although he did have an older sister. As a young man, he was classically trained and attended William and Mary College, where he studied law and mathematics. He was introduced to politics at the Royal Governor's palace in Williamsburg and passed the bar in 1767. He married Martha Wayles Skelton on New Year's Day, 1772. He also served as a delegate from Albemarle County to the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1769 to 1775. In June, 1775, he served at the second Continental Congress and also at the third Continental Congress in 1776, where he, along with John Adams, were selected to draft the Declaration of Independence.

Adams basically deferred to Jefferson on this task and it was he (Jefferson) who authored the document. In May, 1779, Jefferson was elected Governor of Virginia and, in 1780, he was instrumental in getting the capital relocated from Williamsburg to Richmond, which was more centrally located. He also served as our third President from 1801 – 1809, after a very highly contested Electoral College vote. He indeed served both his nation and state.

Vice President **Jaime Ruff** thanked **Compatriot Guzy** for his presentation and presented him virtually with a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$2 bill.



Stoddard's Stockade

By Compatriot Peter Stoddard

My 7th great-grand pappy Solomon Stoddard was a 1600s - 1700s honcho Puritan pastor in the western wilderness of Northampton MA.

Solomon championed the Half Way Covenant movement, a measure vital to church survival and expansion of membership in his western New England domain.

One of his nonconformist acts was to offer communion to well behaved church members who could not necessarily claim a salvation experience. Those taking communion were entered into record books and such. Solomon himself was saved while taking communion a year or more into his 59+ year gig as Northampton pastor.

That is pretty astonishing for an early Harvard divinity graduate, the college's first librarian and 2 year chaplain in Barbados to have not been saved. That would surprise no one about modern day Harvard graduates, 98.37% of whom are pinko communists.

Did Solomon bluff his way through all that higher education kinda like I did centuries later as a Marketing major at UGA? But I digress.

Solomon later tried to fly under the radar with the even bolder step to stop recording names of those who took communion. He believed only God knew who was saved and deserving, so why report it to church hierarchy? I once saw that identified as, to paraphrase, "the first revolutionary act in colonial America".

This all drove traditional priggish pastors like Increase and Cotton Mather in Boston frigg'n nuts! THEY wanted to say who was saved and who was not. They whined that Solomon had no business leaving such matters to God.

But they worded it a little differently.

And of course, it threatened both Mathers' authority. Solomon's movement away from strict Puritan doctrine came to be known as Stoddardism and Stoddardeanism. Solomon's grip on western Mass was so firm some derisively referred to him as the Pope of the Connecticut River Valley. The pomp and circumstance of Popes, Catholicism and the Anglican church are what compelled Puritans to leave Europe in the first place.

Thus, Stoddard's Way made it on to Jeopardy. Of all my ancestors' accomplishments, nothing beats 7 seconds of recognition on Jeopardy.

Stoddard in the Stockade image are courtesy of Emil Decker.
If interested please do an internet search for him or go here for a whole lot more:
<http://www.americanrealities.com/stoddard-solomon.html>
<https://shareok.org/handle/11244/6778>

Piedmont Member and Chapter Awards Presented at Congress



July 7, 2021, through July 15, 2021 The Washington State Society hosted the 131st annual SAR Congress. The following awards were received by our Chapter.

- Distinguished Chapter Award
- President General's Award
- President General's Award Chapter of Excellence
- Billy Thompson Americanism Award Chapter of Excellence
- Membership Streamer Award

Thomas Jefferson Bond, Jr., Memorial Photographic Award



Compatriot Frederic Miller Reese, Jr. was the awarded the Thomas Jefferson Bond, Jr., Memorial Photographic award for this photograph (above). The photograph depicts US Flags in front of Bulloch Hall placed by members of the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution in November for Veterans Day. Each flag staff was dedicated to family members who served in the various branches of the US Armed Forces.



Project Fever a Piedmont SAR Initiative

In celebration of military appreciation month (May), we kicked off Project Fever (Female Veterans Recognition)



Project Fever was a 60 day fund raiser to support our Atlanta (and greater Georgia) **woman veterans**. Atlanta VA Medical requested pre-paid cards that can assist women veterans in their daily lives. For example an Uber Card that can help them with transportation to a medical appointment. All money raised was used to purchase the requested pre-paid cards.

Did you know?

- Atlanta has the largest population of women veterans of any major US city.
- Nearly 93,000 women veterans call Georgia home.
- Many are working through such conditions as PTSD or military sexual trauma.
- Many struggle with raising children in the midst of health issues.

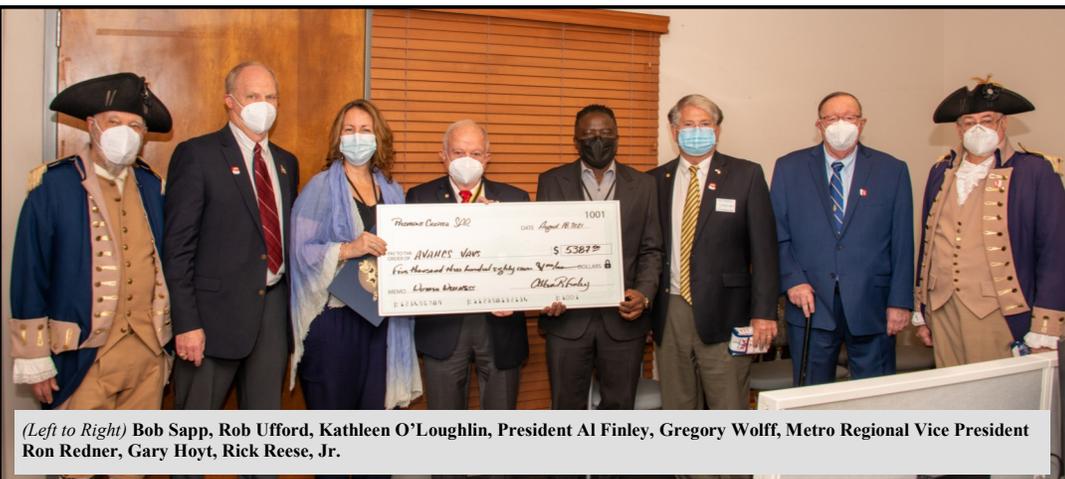
Here is how the fund raiser worked (this fund was a team competition!). Our roster was divided in half according to the May 12, 2021 Piedmont Chapter roster). **President Finley** was the captain of the Odd Team. **Compatriot Rob Ufford** was the captain for the Even Team.

Scoring: Quite simply a team's score was total dollars raised during the 60 day period multiplied by the total number of team members that donated. *Example:* The Odd team raised \$1000 dollars with 25 members contributing. Total points for Team Odd would be 25,000. The Even team raised \$900 dollars with 30 members contributing. The Even team points would be 27,000.

Captain of the losing team must kick in an extra \$100!

The Results first announced at our Annual Picnic. The Winning team Captained by **Compatriot Ufford** scored a total of 11375 points. A close second, **President Finley's** Odd Team scored a total of 6500 points.

President Finley happily kicked in the extra \$100.00 because there are no losers, just winners, especially the Woman Veterans of Georgia. The total team contributions of **\$3025.00** combined with non team member donations gave Project Fever a grand total of **\$5387.00**.



(Left to Right) Bob Sapp, Rob Ufford, Kathleen O'Loughlin, President Al Finley, Gregory Wolff, Metro Regional Vice President Ron Redner, Gary Hoyt, Rick Reese, Jr.

The staff at the Atlanta VA Medical Center were very excited to receive the support. On August 18, 2021 members of the Piedmont Chapter **President AL Finley, Rob Ufford, Bob Sapp,**

Metro Regional Vice President Ron Redner, Rick Reese, Jr., presented the "Big" Check to the AVAHCS.



Georgia Brigade – Descendants of Washington’s Army at Valley Forge [Georgia Brigade – DVF]

Members of both Georgia Societies, Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, along with other societies, who have Patriots that were at Valley Forge [Dec 1777-June 1778] gathered on 22 May 2021 to receive their charter for the newly organized Georgia Brigade. Fifteen ladies and gentlemen met at the Indian Hills Country Club for lunch and the induction of the Brigade Officers. Commander-in-Chief [DVF] **Susan Gillette Meer** in-

stalled the officers via Zoom media after remarks on the Brigade organization.



The Descendants of Valley Forge is open to adult members who can show a direct lineage to a Patriot who served at Valley Forge Encampment [December 1777-June 1778]. SAR and DAR members that have as Patriot ancestors with service during this time frame are generally eligible depending on their unit of service.

The Georgia Brigade includes **Compatriot Robert Sapp** and Piedmont and Mt. Vernon dual members **Shep Hammack, and Bill Floyd, Gary Page and John Flikeid** of Robert Forsyth, **Sid Turner** of Blue Ridge Mountains, and **Rick Hollis** of the SAR in Tennessee.





Flag Retirement Ceremony

Saturday June, 19, 2021



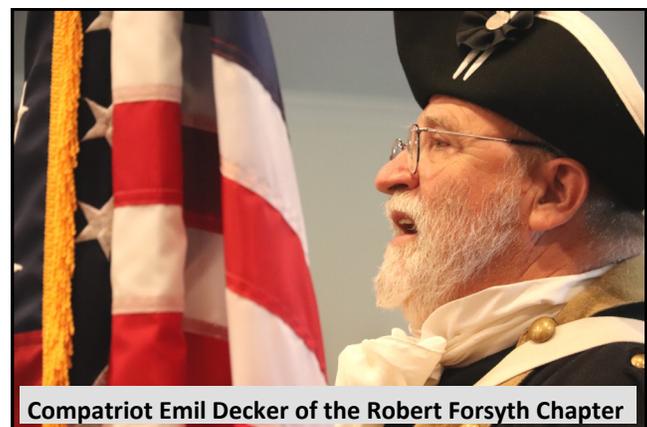
On June 19, 2021 in Cumming, Georgia there was a US Flag Retirement Ceremony by two SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) Chapters, the Piedmont Chapter of Roswell and the Robert Forsyth Chapter of Cumming along the DAR and the CAR . Over two thousand US Flags collected and given to the Ingram Funeral Home for proper retirement and for use at US Military Veterans Funerals.

History of the US Flag Retirement Ceremony: In 2013, **Allen Greenly** (President of the Robert Forsyth Chapter in GA) and **John Flikeid** developed a project for the construction of a Flag Receptacle to be placed in partnering Home Depot store locations. Home Depot customers would be able to deposit their worn and unserviceable flags in the Flag Receptacle. Those flags would be collected by members of the sponsoring SAR chapter, and properly disposed of in an annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at a local funeral home and crematory to be held on a weekend close to Flag Day. The sponsorship of these Flag Receptacles was also shared by local DAR, C.A.R. societies, and local Boy Scout Troops. The initial Flag Receptacle was sponsored by the Robert Forsyth Chapter, SAR, the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter, DAR and Boy Scout Troop 1099. This flag receptacle was placed in the Cumming Home Depot on Flag Day 2013. The first year, the Robert Forsyth Chapter collected approximately 500 flags from this receptacle. Based on the success of this first receptacle, the Robert Forsyth Chapter installed a second Flag Receptacle in the Dawsonville Home Depot. This receptacle was also sponsored by the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter, DAR and the local Dawsonville Boy Scouts.



(Left to Right) Ron Redner, David Jimenez, Rick Reese III, Gary Page, Scott Collins

The first combined Flag Retirement Ceremony by the Robert Forsyth and Piedmont chapters occurred in June of 2016, in which approximately 1,200 worn flags were properly disposed of. The Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters held a joint Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 10, 2017 where approximately 2000 worn flags were given a proper and respectful disposition. The program was an overwhelming success and both chapters are planning on adding additional Flag Receptacles.



Compatriot Emil Decker of the Robert Forsyth Chapter

This program has become a huge success based on the limited receptacles in place today. What we have found is that there is a great need by the public to properly dispose of their used and worn flags. The problem is that most do not know where to take their flags for proper disposal. These receptacles provide a place for them to deposit their used and worn flags in a place that is open seven days a week.



100th Anniversary of GASSAR

On March 14, 2021 the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution celebrated their 100th anniversary. Here are a few events throughout our community where we were recognized.



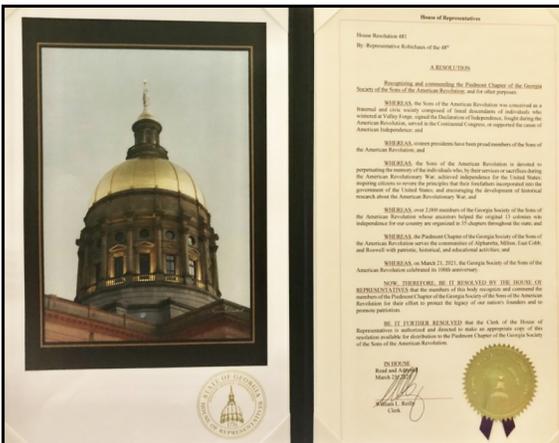
Roswell Rotary

On June 10th 2021 the 100th Anniversary of the Georgia Society National Society Sons of the American Revolution (1921-2021) was recognized by Georgia House of Representative, **Mary Robichaux, Georgia Senator John Albers and Roswell Rotary President Lynne Lindsey** at the Roswell Rotary Club with a proclamation. Accepting the proclamation was members of the SAR Piedmont Chapter, **George Thurmond, Rick Reese III, Metro Regional SAR Vice-President Ron Redner and Shep Ham-**



mack of the SAR Mount Vernon Chapter. With over 2,000 members of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution are organized in 35 chapters throughout the

state, **The Piedmont Chapter**, Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution serves the communities of Alpharetta, Milton, East Cobb and Roswell with Patriotic, Historical and Educational activities.



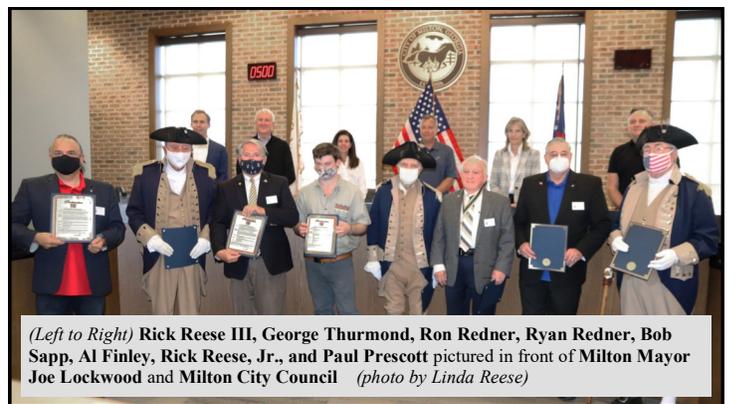
City of Milton

100th Anniversary of the Georgia Society National Society Sons of the American Revolution (1921-2021) was recognized by the City of Milton, Georgia with **Mayor Joe Lockwood** and City Council members on April 12, 2021 with a proclamation.

Accepting the proclamation was members of the SAR Piedmont Chapter, **President Al Finley, George Thurmond, Bob Sapp, Paul Prescott, Rick Reese Jr., Rick Reese III, Ron Redner and Ryan Redner.**



In addition the Piedmont Chapter presented a proclamation about John Milton at the Milton City Hall meeting on April 12, 2021. **President Al Finley** of the SAR Piedmont Chapter made the presentation to **Mayor Joe Lockwood** and Milton City Council members.



(Left to Right) Rick Reese III, George Thurmond, Ron Redner, Ryan Redner, Bob Sapp, Al Finley, Rick Reese, Jr., and Paul Prescott pictured in front of Milton Mayor Joe Lockwood and Milton City Council (photo by Linda Reese)



Piedmont President Al Finley and Milton Mayor Joe Lockwood (photo by Linda Reese)



Don't Forget to Pay Dues by Oct 31, 2021

Compatriots,

Now is the time for all of our Chapter members to pay the annual dues for 2022. The Piedmont Chapter has been selected as one of 21 chapters in the Georgia SAR to participate again in the program for the online payment of our dues through the Georgia Society website. Many of our Piedmont Board of Managers have already paid our dues in this way, and it has proven to be safe and easy to do.

Chapter President Al Finley has challenged us to ALL have paid our dues by Georgia Society deadline of **October 31, 2021**.

Detailed instructions for paying your dues online were sent to our membership in the document titled "2022 Online Dues Collection". It also includes screen shots of the applicable pages on the GA SAR website. If you have already registered on the GA Society Website with your email address and a password, you may click on the following link to go directly to pay your dues online www.gasocietysar.org/login

If you want to pay your dues by CHECK instead of online by credit/debit card or PayPal, please fill out the previously sent dues form ("How to pay SAR dues by check and mail FORM") and mail it to the address below.

Allen Finley
4303 Revere Circle
Marietta, GA 30062-5771

If you have any question or concerns please feel free to contact Rick Reese, Jr. (847-778-9235) or email using RickReese68@att.net.

Piedmont Color Guard Schedule

- 01-23-21 Film GASSAR Color Guard for virtual meetings
- 01-30-21 Virtual GASSAR Annual Meeting
- 01-30-21 Virtual GASSAR Winter BOM meeting
- 01-31-21 Film GASSAR Color Guard for virtual Elijah Clark
- 01-31-21 Film GASSAR Color Guard for virtual Kettle Creek
- 02-12-21 Virtual Heroes of the Hornets Nest celebration
- 02-13-21 Virtual Kettle Creek celebration
- 02-20-21 Piedmont Chapter virtual Annual Meeting
- 03-17-21 Fellowship Christian School awards presentation
- 04-12-21 Milton City Hall Proclamation
- 04-24-21 GASSAR Spring BOM meeting

- 05-12-21 Fellowship Christian awards presentation
- 06-10-21 Roswell Rotary present colors
- 06-25-21 Funeral service for Compatriot Dale Miller
- 07-04-21 World Harvest Church present colors
- 07-04-21 Musket Salute at Atlanta Braves stadium
- 07-24-21 GASSAR Summer BOM meeting in person
- 07-27-21 Honor Guard at funeral for Linda Bhame
- 08-11-21 Roswell Ramblers present colors
- 08-18-21 Atlanta VA Medical Center support check presentation
- 08-08-21 Roswell Ramblers present colors
- 09-08-21 City of Milton Law Enforcement award





A Deeper Dive - John Paul Jones, the Father of the American Navy

During Vice President Ruff's presentation at our August Chapter Meeting described the return of the body of **John Paul Jones** to the United States and final internment at the U.S. Naval Academy. Here is a closer look at the story.

(Cited from an article in the July 1955 issue of Proceedings by Dorothy Tooker)



The breeze blew cold through the tunnel, and the smell of damp from its earthen walls permeated the men's nostrils. At the bend in the passageway the grave gentlemen in derby hats halted while workmen dragged an old leaden coffin into the passageway. It was outmoded, tapered at the foot with a widened, rounded projection at the head, and encrusted with dirt and mold from long burial. Awkwardly, but with reverence, one of the laborers lighted a half dozen candles and placed them at the head of the coffin, and the workmen quickly pried up the lid. The flickering light of the candles touched fitfully the sealed box, the shored-up walls, and the handsome, anxious face of the leader of the group. As the coffin lid was lifted off he eagerly stepped forward, and with the help of another man removed the linen winding sheet from the head and chest of the corpse within. There was a moment of suspense before the well-preserved face was exposed. Instinctively, every man leaned close. In the flare of the wavering candle light they silently compared the dead face to that inscribed in a medal held near the coffin. Then, to a man, they suddenly straightened up and exclaimed in awe and satisfaction, "Paul Jones!"

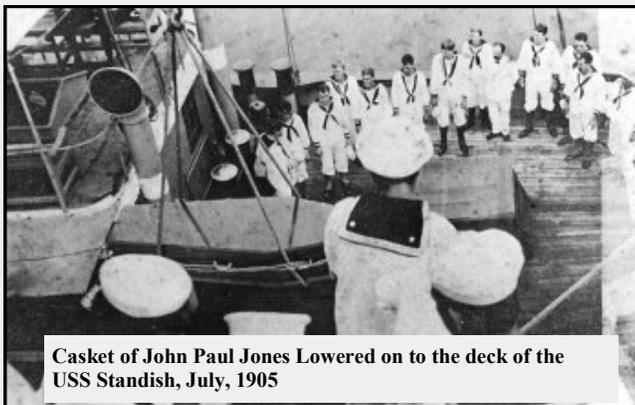
And all those who had gathered about the coffin removed their hats, feeling that they were standing in the presence of the illustrious dead—the object of the long search." So wrote General Horace Porter, United States Ambassador to France, who had devoted six years to locating and returning to America her first naval hero. The quest started quietly enough in June, 1899, when Horace Porter began pouring over old records. It was common knowledge that John Paul Jones had died in Paris on July 18, 1792, but his death and burial certificates were burned during revolutionary disturbances. An incorrect transcript caused Porter a great deal of useless investigation, but eventually a correct copy was found in the Bibliothèque Nationale. Made in 1859 by one Charles Read, it was included in an article he had published in the magazine Correspondence Litteraire. Through this it was determined that Jones was buried in the old cemetery for foreign Protestants. Read expressed the opinion that this was the then-abandoned cemetery of St. Louis located on a street called L'Hôpital St. Louis, later changed to Grange-aux-Belles. St. Martin's cemetery had also been used for foreign Protestants, but was closed in 1762, after which no burials were made there, a fact laboriously ascertained by Porter because of the suspicious adjective "anciens" in the description of Jones's resting place. In 1762 St. Louis was opened, and became the established graveyard until closed in 1793. Some interments, however, were made after that date. Some months and several hundred publications later, Porter verified the fact that at the time of Jones's death, St. Louis was the only place of burial for foreign Protestants in the city of Paris. Somewhere in this mountain of records and documents General Porter discovered a letter stating that Jones's funeral expenses, 462 francs, had been paid by M. Simonneau, commissary of the section. "This," wrote Porter, "brought to light the mortifying fact that the hero who had once been the idol of the American people had been buried by charity, and that the payment



Members of the excavation crew (Horace Porter, at far right) pose with Jones' lead coffin before raising it to the surface.

of his funeral expenses was the timely and generous act of a foreign admirer." That the interment was deemed important and of only a temporary nature was suggested in a letter from Jones's friend Colonel Blackenden: "His body was put in a leaden coffin on the 20th, that, in case the United States, which he had so essentially served and with so much honor, should claim his remains, they might more easily be removed."

M. Paul Henri Marron, pastor of the Church of St. Louis, had delivered Jones's funeral oration, but when his church record book was located, four pages covering the time in question were missing. They were traced to the collection of M. Coquerel, a deceased gentleman whose heirs had disposed of his collection. These pages had been purchased by the Society of the History of Protestantism in whose archives they were finally located. Through them General Porter was assured that



Casket of John Paul Jones Lowered on to the deck of the USS Standish, July, 1905

M. Marron buried his parishioners in the St. Louis cemetery, and because Jones's burial was not especially noted it seemed safe to assume that there had been no irregularities, and that he was probably buried in St. Louis.

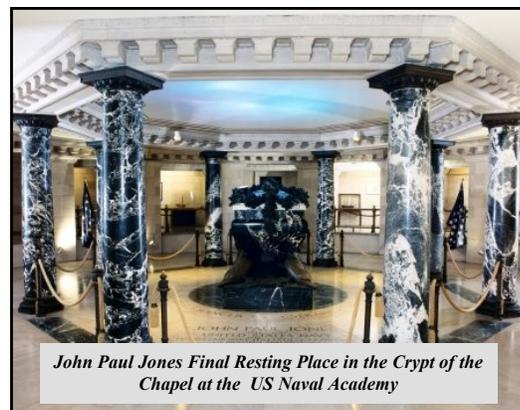


JOHN PAUL JONES Continued from page 12

Although this cemetery was legally closed in January 1793, it was next necessary to determine whether any disinterments had occurred. Records registered no removals of bodies before 1803 or after 1830, data for the intervening years having been destroyed. A search through voluminous city records revealed that during those three decades no bodies had been received from that cemetery. General Porter then concluded that, barring grave robbery, the remains of John Paul Jones lay in the cemetery of St. Louis.

Remarkably, his corpse, which had been wrapped in a winding cloth and placed in straw and alcohol in a tightly sealed lead casket, was nearly perfectly preserved. He was taken to the University of Paris where a complete autopsy was performed. There the head of the corpse was compared to the sculptured portrait bust of Jones executed in 1780 by Jean Antoine Houdon, who had taken a plaster impression directly for his subject's head. The autopsy and forensic study proved conclusively that the body was John Paul Jones. He had died of the kidney ailment nephritis, complicated by pneumonia.

Following an impressive parade, a religious service in Paris and a special train arranged by the French government to the port of Cherbourg, the remains of John Paul Jones were transferred to the **USS Brooklyn**, flagship of a special naval squadron sent by President Theodore Roosevelt to bring Jones home to his "country of fond election" and to the nation for which he immeasurably helped gain independence.



John Paul Jones Final Resting Place in the Crypt of the Chapel at the US Naval Academy

On July 24, 1905, the naval tug Standish carried the casket ashore at Annapolis, Md., for placement in a temporary vault across the street from the new U.S. Naval Academy Chapel, which was under construction. On April 24, 1906, elaborate and impressive ceremonies in commemoration of John Paul Jones were held in Dahlgren Hall, the new Naval Academy armory. Incidentally, this day was the anniversary of the battle between the Jones's Ranger and HMS Drake, fought in the Irish Sea in 1778. It had been the first major naval battle fought under the newly adopted "starred and striped" flag and had resulted in Jones' capture of an important warship in Great Britain's home waters. **President Roosevelt, Ambassador Porter, Admiral George Dewey** and many other dignitaries attended the ceremonies. France sent an entire naval fleet up the Chesapeake Bay to mark the occasion. Afterwards the casket of John Paul Jones was placed in the Academy's Bancroft Hall to await completion of his permanent tomb, in the new Naval Academy Chapel. Jones was bid to rest in the crypt of the Naval Academy Chapel on Jan. 26, 1913.

Riffle Raffle



In support the 2022 Congress in Savannah our next raffle is now LIVE. Tickets are \$20 each, and only 400 tickets will be sold, drawing will occur after all tickets sold. The easi-

est path to buy tickets is to visit the **GASSAR Website's online shop : www.gasocietysar.org/shop/**

A handcrafted replica Early Virginia Rifle easily identified by its wide flat butt plate. This style rifle might have been carried by east coast militia members. The rifled barrel is 42" 50 Caliber. The lock is Siler made with single set trigger. Both barrel and lock are browned. The stock is made of beautiful Grade 3+ Curled/Curley/Tiger Maple. All the hardware is cast and polished brass including a nice looking Patch Box. Throw-ins include a handcrafted Patch Knife with Antler Handle and 4 spare flints.





In Memoriam



Dale Miller

Our compatriot and friend **Dale Miller** died Thursday, June 3, 2021 one day shy of his 75th birthday, after an extended illness. Dale has been a member of our Piedmont Chapter since August of 2015. Dale was an Air Force veteran, with service in 1965 to 1969. Our Color Guard participated in a service at the Georgia National Cemetery in



Canton on June 25, 2021. He was a Vietnam Veteran and served the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1969. He earned a BS in 1975 from the University of Dayton in Dayton, OH. Dale worked for many years as a PGA Golf Club Professional and served the members of the Moraine Country Club in Dayton, OH, Horseshoe Bend Country Club in Roswell, GA and Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, GA. Prior to his retirement, he worked as a Travel Agent at Sun International Travel in Norcross, GA and enjoyed traveling throughout the world and playing golf. After his retirement, he became an active member of the Piedmont Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and later served as its Chapter's Secretary. He continued to enrich the lives of others as a volunteer at Canine Assistants in Milton, GA. He will be remembered for his love, laughter and fierce loyalty



Linda Bham

Linda Bham, wife of the late **Carl Bham** (our friend, as well as Past Piedmont Chapter President and Registrar) passed away on July 20, 2021. Linda was a fine educator, dedicated DAR member, a strong supporter of the SAR and the Piedmont Chapter, and has graced our Piedmont Chapter meetings with her interesting and insightful presentations. Funeral services were held at Roswell Presbyterian Church on Tuesday July



27 at 1:30pm followed by a reception at the church.



Joyce Chrisman

Joyce Chrisman wife of **Tom Chrisman**, a Mt. Vernon and Piedmont dual member. Joyce had battled Covid-19 and accompanying issues since the middle of November 2020. Though she fought it valiantly, she lost her life on Thursday July 29th. Tom has been her faithful and optimistic caregiver through this heartbreaking ordeal and needs our prayers and support. The funeral service for Joyce was held at the Dunwoody United Methodist Church (1548 Mount Vernon Road) on Saturday August 21st.

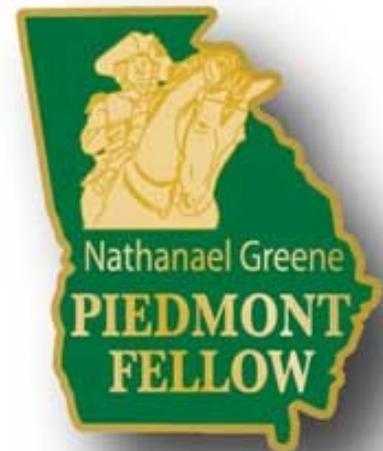


Help Support our Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution by becoming a Piedmont Fellow

The Piedmont Fellow Fund is established for the purpose of funding, supplementing or reimbursing worthy activities, events, or needs of the chapter that are not included in the annual budget.

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.

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 that 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 Fellow Fund" pin which identifies them as a "Piedmont Fellow."



Wearing of the pin which identifies one as a "Piedmont Fellow" connotes support of the ideals of the Piedmont Chapter and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and provides a tangible source of identity and pride to the wearer.

Contributions

A minimum contribution of \$100 is required. Contributions will be acknowledged by a letter from the Chapter President. A contributor may designate themselves or designate another person a "Piedmont Fellow," but just one pin will be awarded for each \$100 contribution.

**Are YOU interested in becoming a Piedmont Fellow?
Contact our Chapter President, Allen Finley for details.**





The Piedmont Piper

Rick Reese, Jr • Publisher | Rick Reese III • Editor/Photographer

This publication is the newsletter for the **Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**. It is published 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 **Bill Johnson Community Activity Building Roswell Area Park Drive, Building A Roswell Area Park 10495 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA**. 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, Jamie Ruff 404.428.8040** or any other chapter officer.

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT EDITION:

The deadline for material for the next issue is **Sep 1st 2021** 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 Rick Reese III rick@rickreese.com.

Upcoming Events

Piedmont Chapter Meeting Saturday, September 18, 2021

**Breakfast will begin at 8 AM.
The meeting will be begin at 8:30 AM**

Location: Roswell Area Park at the Bill Johnson Community Activities Building; 10475 Woodstock Rd., Roswell, GA

**Guest Speaker: To be announced
Topic: To be announced**

Piedmont Chapter Meeting Saturday, October 16, 2021

**Breakfast will begin at 8 AM.
The meeting will be begin at 8:30 AM**

Location: Roswell Area Park at the Bill Johnson Community Activities Building; 10475 Woodstock Rd., Roswell, GA

**Guest Speaker: Compatriot James Walters
Topic: The New Bell Tower at the GA National Cemetery**

2021 Officers of the Piedmont Chapter

President, Al Finley, 4303 Revere Cir, Marietta, GA 30062 Phone 770.992.9395, arfinleysar@gmail.com
Vice President, Jamie Ruff, 1205 Compass Pointe Crossing, Alpharetta, GA 30005 Phone 404.428.8040 RuffJam@gmail.com
Secretary, Eric E. Thorstenberg 220 Enclave Court, Roswell, GA 30076 Phone: 770.740.9321 eetesq@gmail.com
Treasurer, Joe Nichols, Jr, 8915 Ridgemont Dr., Sandy Springs, GA 30350, Phone 404-556-0364, AlpineRR@mindspring.com
Chaplain, Steve Morrison, Jr, 3535 Roswell Rd, Suite 34, Marietta, GA 30062, Phone 770-235-5846 , steve@morrisonLawFirmLLC.com
Registrar, Glenn Kirk, 1125 Crest Brook Lane, Roswell, GA 30075, Phone 770-993-4933, gkirk4@bellsouth.net
Editor, Frederic M. Reese, III. 250 Lakeview Ridge W., Roswell, GA 30076 Phone 678.404.7886 Rick@rickreese.com
Chancellor, Eric E. Thorstenberg 220 Enclave Court, Roswell, GA 30076 Phone: 770.740.9321 eetesq@gmail.com
Historian/ Librarian, Bill Lusk, 1355 Summit Rd. Milton, GA 30004 Phone 770-754-4428 bill@luskco.com
Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Armstrong, 4238 Rogers Creek Ct., Duluth, GA 30096 Phone 423-718-0187 dusty-kitty@msn.com
Webmaster, Frederic M. Reese, III 250 Lakeview Ridge W., Roswell, GA 30076 Phone 678.404.7886 Rick@rickreese.com
