



# The Piedmont Piper

bi-monthly newsletter for the Piedmont Chapter of the  
Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

Edition CL (150th Issue)

[www.PiedmontChapter.org](http://www.PiedmontChapter.org)

DEC 2020

## Message From Piedmont Chapter President Al Finley

### GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS



Allen Finley

Like many of you, I am glad that 2020 is in our rear-view mirror. As we look back, our chapter's motto soon

came into focus: Adapt and Overcome". We heard several of our members comment about bringing them into the modern age via our Zoom meetings. I heard that it will never work but surprise surprisingly it did.

I heard that we would not be able to grow our membership rolls, but surprisingly we did. We started out with 105 and ended up with 118

*Continued on page 2*

## Leading the Way

He may be out of uniform, but **George Thurman** is leading the way by getting his first Covid-19 vaccine shot. As the vaccine distribution begins to roll out around the country and the world, the path to resuming our normal activities has begun. While it will take a while, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We have all adjusted to the conditions the virus has presented us with innovation and patience, but I am sure we all are excited to get back to normal. **Compatriot Thurman** is pictured here receiving his 1st dose the Covid-19 vaccine. We encourage all members to receive their shots when they become available to you. It is has been reported that getting an appointment has been difficult at times, but be patient and persistent and you will get your shot.



## Piedmont Chapter Officers 2021

**Al Finley** will remain Piedmont Chapter President for 2021.

Here are the results of the recent election of chapter officers.

Vice President

**Jaime Ruff**

Treasure

**Joe Nichols, Jr,**

Secretary

**Eric Thorstenberg**

Registrar

**Glenn Kirk**

Chancellor

**Eric Thorstenberg**

Chaplain

**Steve Morrison**

Sgt. At Arms

**Bill Armstrong**

Webmaster

**Rick Reese III**

Piper Editor

**Rick Reese III**

Historian

**Bill Lusk**

Communications

**Rick Reese, Jr.**

Genealogist

**James Thompson**

## In This Issue

- 2020 Meeting Speaker Recap
- New Member Bios
- Brochure and Poster Contest National Winners
- Liberty Tree
- Traveling Trunk
- David Jimenez
- Piedmont By The Numbers
- 2021 Chapter Officers
- In Memoriam



## Message From Piedmont Chapter President Al Finnley (continued)

total members that had paid their 2021 dues by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to all of you that was an astonishingly 98% retention accomplishment.

I heard that we would not be able to have our educational poster and brochure contest with school shut-downs and yet we surprisingly we achieve something that many chapters wished for. We end up with a FIRST PLACE National and a SECOND-PLACE National winners in the Poster and in the brochure contest. WOW! I heard concerns over what will happen to our "Traveling Trunk" program. Well thanks to our members, we developed an outstanding video (with a corresponding Q/A follow up) which teachers responded to with enthusiasm. And yet, we presented a TRUNK session live to a group of 4<sup>th</sup> graders-- whose teacher responded back to us about all the comments that parents had made to her about what they learned. Awesome! We even planted a "Liberty Tree" with 9 Compatriots in attendance only to be accompanied with some 20 plus students.

**So, the motto for 2021?** The rear-view window is always smaller so as we look forward, our view needs to be increased so that we will Continue to Adapt, Continue to Grow, Continue to Expand and Continue to be the most active chapter in the state.

Hopefully, we will be able to resume our Saturday morning meetings FACE to FACE. But we will continue to use Zoom so that our members from South Carolina, from Alabama, from Texas, from Michigan, from Texas, from Utah and from Oregon and hopefully other states as well will be able to be in attendance. Praise the Lord for technology!

We are blessed to have several new applicants in the pipeline waiting to become a SAR member thru the Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society. We can have even more if we all reach out and try to find men whose families served with honor and distinction in the Revolutionary War.

We need your involvement in reaching out to teachers and schools to continue our educational outreach with our Poster and Brochure contest,

We need more to step up and become a member of the Color Guard, join me in continuing this distinguishing activity

We have monies for 20 more Liberty Trees to be planted before 2026 (the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our great American experiment that our forefathers gave us). We need you to find schools or parks or community centers or city halls, or churches, or????? We can find at least 5 or 6 places in 2021 to plant a tree in Honor of our Great Country

We all love to talk about our history, so please sign up with our Speaker's bureau and give talks about our or your history to church groups, senior citizens groups, school groups, (wherever we can spread the word via live or Zoom). or whomever.

It has been an honor to be a member of the Piedmont Chapter and to be surrounded and supported by such capable and dedicated members

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,  
Al Finley  
President, Piedmont Chapter



# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020 IN HINDSIGHT

2020 has certainly been a year like no other for the Piedmont Chapter. The suspension of in person activities has been a challenge for us as we pride ourselves in our community engagement through our educational programs, Eagle Scout courts of honor, Grave Markings, and our work with veterans. The Piedmont Chapter is proudly represented in major community events like Roswell Remembers, 4th of July Parades, and Wreaths Across America to name a few, all have had to be cancelled this year.

The pages of the Piedmont Piper are normally filled with wonderful pictures of members out in the community participating in these and many other events throughout the year, not to mention it will be almost a year since we met in person.

Through out it all we have improvised and innovated, kept charging forward. By now we all are very familiar with our Zoom meetings and presentations. Our Zoom Czar Compatriot **Rick Reese, Jr** has done an excellent job facilitating these events and has even franchised his services to other chapters and state wide events.

We have done our best to continue our activities virtually and on some occasions we have had the ability to conduct in person events such as our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony, which had a limited in person audience and was streamed live online by compatriot **Reese**.

This issue will be a review of 2020 for the Piedmont Chapter.



# PIEDMONT'S' OWN HONORED IN ROSWELL

Congratulations are in order for our fellow Piedmont Chapter member; The **Honorable Tom Price, M.D.**, who was honored in Roswell in a dedication ceremony for the new **Tom Price Intersection**.

**We thank you Tom for your years of dedicated service to our community, nation, and to the SAR.**

Dr. Tom Price honorably served our community for decades. Many of us first knew Dr. Price as a physician and leader at Resurgens Orthopaedics. During his tenure as president of Roswell Rotary, he started one of the largest Memorial Day events in the southeast. He then took his talents to the GA State Senate, US Congress and Presidential cabinet. I hope you will join us for this most deserving recognition and event. We will be outdoors and following all public health guidelines.

*Please Join Senator Albers, dignitaries and friends to honor:*

**The Honorable Tom Price, M.D.**

For the dedication of the new Tom Price Intersection

Saturday, October 24  
10:30 AM

Intersection of Holcomb Bridge / Highway 9 604  
Holcomb Bridge Rd (Chick-fil-A Parking Lot)



*The **Tom Price Intersection** is located at the intersection of Route 140 (Holcomb Bridge Road and Route 9 Alpharetta Highway in Roswell, GA.*



## 2020 Piedmont Chapter Meetings Highlights

The Regular Chapter Meetings of the Piedmont Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution have been held via Zoom (due to the COVID-19 crisis) since our April, 2020 meeting. We have gotten very proficient and very comfortable with the medium. The meetings have been getting great attendance and participation, in fact the virtual meeting provides the opportunity for the members and guests to join from all over the country, something we can continue when we resume in person meetings via our new Piedmont Chapter streaming meetings. We have been able to induct new members virtually and our monthly speakers have adapted to the platform and all have given engaging presentations. Here is a look back over the 2020 Speakers. All of our Zoom Meetings are archived online. In case you missed any of these presentations and the topic interests you, you can view online. These links are sent out after each meeting.

### APRIL

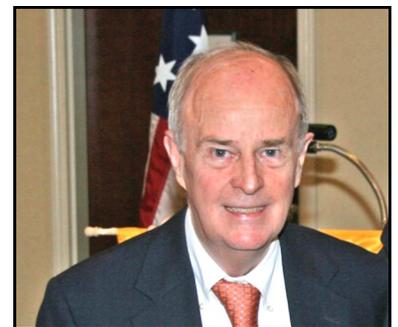


**Historical Video: The Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge:** President **Al Finley** introduced the video presentation, noting that the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge occurred early in the Revolutionary War, on February 27, 1776, just north of what is now present day Fayetteville, NC. The Patriot forces, numbering about 1,050 men and comprised mostly of Scottish immigrants, removed planks from the bridge and greased the remaining girders. When the Loyalist forces, numbering approximately 3,500 men demanded that the Patriots surrender, they refused, held their ground and broke the Loyalist charge against them. The Patriots then replaced the planks on the bridge, pursued the Loyalists and captured 850 of them. Surprisingly, only one Patriot soldier was

killed and one wounded. This destroyed the incentive of the North Carolina Loyalists to fight any additional battles in the state. After the presentation, President **Finley**, joined by **George Thurmond** and **Bob Sapp**, led a discussion of the historical significance of the battle.

### MAY

Piedmont Compatriot **Gerald (“Jerry”) Breed**, whose patriot ancestor, Joseph Breed, served in the South Carolina militia. Jerry gave a very informative presentation about the Battle of Alamance, NC, which occurred on May 16, 1771. At this battle, Royal Governor Tryon’s forces defeated the Regulators, an organization of farmers and frontiersmen, at Alamance, which is located nine miles south of Burlington, NC. This defeat,



Gerald (“Jerry”) Breed

which was a precursor to the outbreak of the Revolution, helped to dampen support for the Tories in the Carolinas. Governor Tryon was ultimately sent to New York as its royal governor by the Crown.



### JUNE

Compatriot **Mark Anthony** who gave a very interesting presentation on Colonial America and Flag history. The story of the American Revolution as told by it’s flags. Compatriot **Anthony** gave an engaging and enlightening program focusing on the variety of revolutionary flags and the evolution of the American flag. Anthony began with story of the earliest “Union” flag, and

how it was a composite of England (*Cross of St George c1277*), Scotland (*Cross of St. Andrew c800*), and Ireland (*Cross of St. Patrick c1601*), and how they to create the “Union” early militia and battle flags, to the birth and evolution of the American Flag.



## Piedmont Chapter Meeting Highlights

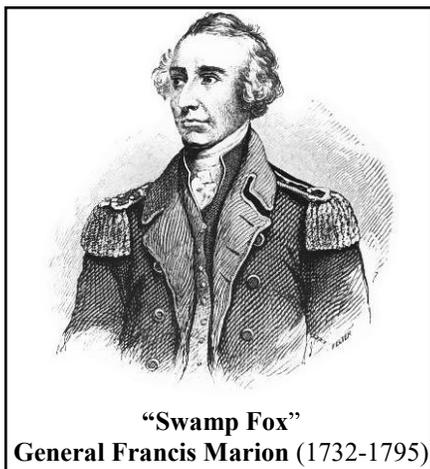
### JULY

Compatriot **Peter Stoddard**, a member of the Robert Forsyth Chapter, S.A.R. and also a dual member of the Piedmont Chapter. Peter spoke about his fourth great grandfather, Captain Nathan Stoddard and the Battle of Fort Mifflin, PA. Capt. Stoddard was from Woodbury, CT and enlisted, in 1775, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment Connecticut Line and served under Col. John Chandler. He helped capture Ft. Ticonderoga from the British and, on New Year's Eve, 1775, invaded Canada and was taken in by a French landlady. After a year, he escaped, swam the St. Lawrence River, and made his way 460 miles back to Woodbury. He then went on to participate in the Battle of



Germantown, PA, on October 4, 1777. From there he proceeded on to the Battle of Ft. Mifflin, PA, where, standing tall on the field of battle, he was struck by a cannonball and beheaded. It was said that he stood erect, as in life, without a head, before falling. The Patriot victory at Ft. Mifflin helped keep the British from advancing into Philadelphia.

### AUGUST



Compatriot **William (“Bill”) Goodman**, a member of the Atlanta Chapter, S.A.R. Bill’s topic, “The Revolutionary War in South Carolina; the Second Revolution” focused on the battles and guerilla actions that took place in South Carolina in 1780 and 1781. During that period, approximately 66% of all Revolutionary War deaths occurred in South Carolina. Key British military figures included Major General Henry Clinton, Lord Cornwallis, and Col. Banastre Tarleton. Key Patriot military leaders included General Thomas Sumter, General Francis Marion (a/k/a the Swamp Fox) and General Andrew Pickens, a frontier fighter from western Carolina. The British misjudged the resolve of the Patriots, and, in the process of attempting to find and capture the Swamp Fox, committed numerous atrocities against the colonists. This only strengthened their resolve, turning the back country into a true Hornet’s Nest. The British suffered significant losses at: (a) the Battle of Williamson’s Plantation (July, 1780); (b) the Battle of Kings Mountain (October, 1780); (c) the Battle of Cowpens (January, 1781) and (d) the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in March, 1781, where their casualty rate stood at

26%. Cornwallis then went on to Wilmington, NC and, in April, 1781, lost over 1,500 of his soldiers. In August, 1781, he went to Yorktown, where he ultimately surrendered on October 19, 1781.

### SEPTEMBER

Vice President **Joe Zimmerman** introduced the guest speaker, **Denise Holmes**, who is a Volunteer Services Specialist at the V.A. Hospital in Decatur, where she has worked since 1990. She was accompanied by **Dr. Anthony Cooper**, who has worked at the Hospital for over six years, where he presently serves as the Chief, Voluntary Services. **Ms. Holmes**, in speaking about the Atlanta Veterans Hospital, noted that it is a level 1A tertiary care facility, which is the largest in the nation. It serves over 130,000 enrolled veterans residing in the North Georgia area. In response to the Covid-19 crisis, the V.A. Hospital has now reopened to over 60% capacity, and is projected to be at 90% capacity by the end of October, 2020. Although visits by



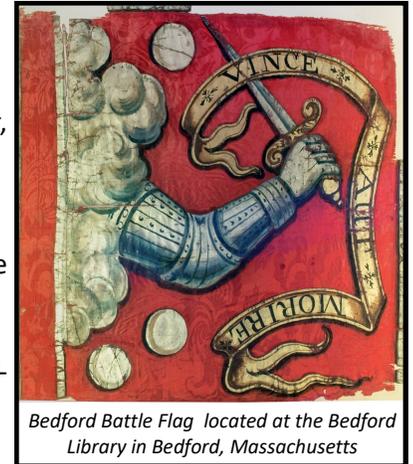


## 2020 Piedmont Chapter Meeting Highlights

outside volunteers have been curtailed under CDC guidelines, **Ms. Holmes** stressed the importance of the Veterans Transportation Network (in which volunteers assist veterans in getting to the hospital and other medical appointments), which will be reinstated when things fully reopen. She is also looking forward to working with the Piedmont Chapter in its **Operation Ancestor Search**, in which Chapter volunteers will assist veterans in performing computerized genealogical research while they are in the hospital.

### OCTOBER

**President Finley** introduced the guest speaker, **Gary Page**, a member of the Robert Forsyth Chapter, SAR. His topic was "The Bedford Flag," which is the oldest known flag in the United States. Measuring 27 inches by 29 inches and made of crimson silk damask with the emblem of an armored arm holding a short straight sword pointed towards the heavens, it was the first flag to fly over an organized fighting force against British rule at the Battle of Concord in April, 1775. It was carried into battle by Nathaniel Page, a Bedford, MA Minuteman, and maintained by the Page family at their Bedford, MA homestead after the Revolutionary War. In 1885, Nathaniel Page's grandson, Cyrus Page, donated the original flag to the town of Bedford, where it is maintained in a protective case by the Bedford Free Public Library.



*Bedford Battle Flag located at the Bedford Library in Bedford, Massachusetts*

### JUNE



**President Finley** introduced the guest speaker, his eldest daughter, **Dr. Sonya Finley**, Col. (Ret.) U.S. Army, whose topic was "Honoring Those That Serve." Dr. Finley presently serves as a professor at the National War College at Fort McNair, in Washington, DC. She trains high ranking members of the military and their civilian counterparts in strategic logic, the goal of which is to train those leaders in national security strategy, which ensures that the United States' interests are served both at home and abroad. This assists each Administration in developing its national security strategy.

**Graduates of the National War College include numerous current and former flag officers, general officers, and U.S. ambassadors. Notable graduates include:**

- Colin Powell**, former U.S. Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- James Mattis**, former Secretary of Defense
- John McCain**, former U.S. Senator
- Wesley Clark**, former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe
- Peter Pace**, former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Hugh Shelton**, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Martin Dempsey**, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- James L. Jones**, former National Security Advisor and NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe
- Eric Shinseki**, former U.S Army Chief of Staff and Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Elmo Zumwalt**, former U.S. Chief of Naval Operations
- Robert H. Barrow**, Commandant of the Marine Corps
- Merrill A. McPeak**, former U.S.A.F Chief of Staff
- Arnold W. Braswell**, retired Air Force General
- John Beyrle**, U.S. Ambassador to Russia
- Edward L. Beach Jr.**, World War II submarine officer and best-selling novelist
- Godfrey McHugh**, former military aide to President John F. Kennedy
- J. Christopher Stevens**, the late U.S. Ambassador to Libya
- John Ray Budner**, Brigadier General, formerly in command of the North American Air Defense Command Combat operations Center
- Norton A. Schwartz**, former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff





## 2020 Piedmont Chapter Meeting Highlights

### DECEMBER

Compatriot and Past President, **Rick Reese, Jr.**, whose topic was “The Brockett Cabin.” This was the ancestral home of Rick’s patriot ancestor and fourth great grandfather, William Ebenezer Brockett, who fought numerous Revolutionary War battles in North Carolina.



After the War, he and his wife moved to Tennessee, where they raised eleven children in a one room log cabin. The cabin eventually fell into disrepair and was purchased by Beverly Elliott, who wanted to restore it and move it to her property in the community of Mt. Juliette, in Wilson County, Tennessee. She



hired a contractor, Jeff Page, who along, with his crew of skilled craftsmen, was able to restore the cabin and move it to its present site in Wilson County from its original location in Smith County, TN.. Once the move and renovation were complete, Ms. Elliott invited Rick and his family to a Thanksgiving style celebration at the cabin.



## Operation Ancestor Search

As mentioned in the September Chapter meeting highlights, the Piedmont Chapter will be partnering with the Atlanta Veterans Hospital to assist veterans in performing computerized genealogical research while they are in the hospital. Due to the CDC guidelines during the COVID-19 crisis we will not be able to volunteer at this time. When the restrictions are lifted, members of the Piedmont Chapter will be able to volunteer at the hospital to assist the veterans.



Operation Ancestor Search is a free genealogy program offered to injured, ill or wounded service members in military hospitals, veterans hospitals and armed forces and veteran retirement homes across the country. A program of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, it is operated by local affiliate chapters and our program partners. Operation Ancestor Search helps service members, veterans, their families and their caregivers discover their roots and better understand themselves through family history.

OAS began in 2009 at the original Walter Reed Army Medical Center as a program of the District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to support the injured service members returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The program became a tremendous success and popularity among the wounded warriors and caregivers became quickly apparent. Soon thereafter, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution adopted the program and with the support of Ancestry.com, OAS began expanding to other locations across the country. Today, OAS operates at 15 locations across the country. Since 2009, OAS volunteers have proudly assisted thousands of armed service members and veterans discover their family history.



## Meet our New Members

Please welcome these newly inducted members of our chapter. The Corona Virus prevents us from meeting in person, we still encourage the membership to reach out and welcome our new members, thru email, and or phone until we can meet again in person.

### **AL Benton** - Patriot Ancestor is **Abner Seeley**, Captain, VT, "Green Mountain Boys"



**Al Benton** was born in Monticello, NY. He graduated from Syracuse University with a BS degree. He attended courses and seminars on a continuing basis, sponsored by the Appraisal Institute Counselors of Real Estate, and the Institute of Professional in Taxation.

**Licenses and Certifications:**

Licensed Real Estate Broker State of GA (1978-present)

GA State Certified General Real Property Appraiser.

**Professional Experience:**

**The Counselors of Real Estate**

Member (CRE) certificate No. 886

Present and Past Member of numerous national Committees, Vice-President—1996, Board of Directors, Vice-Chairman of the Board (2005), Chairman of the Board (2006).

### **DAN CAMPBELL** - Patriot Ancestor is **Daniel Evans**, Ensign, PA Militia

**Dan Campbell** is a Senior Advisor with ACA Compliance Group and provides compliance consulting services to investment advisers, including hedge fund, private equity, real estate, and other registered advisers. Prior to joining ACA in 2011, Dan served as an Assistant Regional Director at the SEC's Atlanta Regional Office, and previously earned his BBA from James Madison University and his MBA from Emory University's Goizueta Business School. Dan currently lives in Roswell with his wife Carey and two teenage sons, Wyatt and Beckett.



### **RON WINDSOR** - Patriot Ancestor is **Arthur Davis**, soldier, SC militia

**Ron Windsor** was Born in 1948 in Douglas, GA, Graduated from UGA 1969.

Married Meg Greenway in Atlanta and has 2 children, and 4 grandchildren. Ron enjoyed a career in real estate, initially finance/lending then developed numerous shopping centers throughout the southeast US

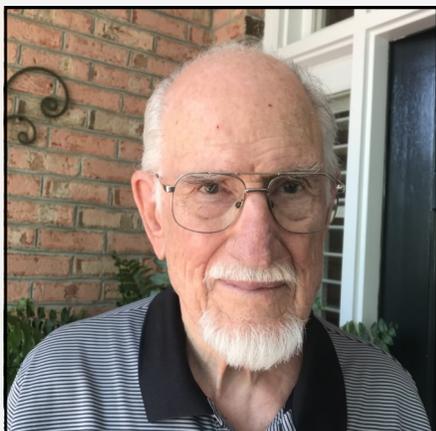
Ron is currently retired and enjoys golf, and fishing. Compatriot

Windsor is a member of Alpharetta Methodist.



## Meet our New Members

**GLEN KIRK** - Patriot Ancestor is **William Edmondson**, Sgt., VA and NC militia.



**Glenn F. Kirk, Jr**, born in Atlanta on 24 Jan 1931, the only child of Glenn F. Kirk and Frantie Mae Morris. He attended elementary schools in East Point, New Orleans and Atlanta. Graduated from Brown Junior High, attended Tech High School and graduated from Brown High. Graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Attended the NYU Graduate School of Business.

Worked for Western Electric for 41 years as an engineer, supervisor and manager, retiring in 1995 as Installation Staff Manager.

Married Alberta Mass in 1960, had five children, four daughters and a son, and eight grandchildren. My wife died in 2012. My oldest daughter lives with me in the house in Roswell that I bought in 1966. Worked on a sea-

sonal basis for H & R Block for eleven years preparing tax returns.

Raised as a Baptist, changed to Presbyterian in 1968, and have been a member of the Roswell Presbyterian Church for 52 years, serving variously as Sunday School teacher, deacon and elder. Enjoy golf, but knees have kept me away from it, lately. Have been pursuing my family's genealogy for several years, primarily on-line with ancestry.com and familysearch.com.



**NIKOLAS COLE** - Patriot Ancestor is **George Fry**, Captain, PA Militia and also continental line.

**Nikolas Cole** was born in Atlanta Georgia. I graduated from Rivers Academy. My accomplishments are Grand Champion Angler is Islamorada, Florida. Trained bird dogs and achieved Master Hunter certification in AKC trials. I work for PHTC managing a clinic.

**Jeremiah Olney** - Patriot ancestor is **Stephen Olney**, Continental Army soldier, and later a Rhode Island legislator.

Jeremiah Olney is a lifelong Georgian and political consultant with a passion for history. He grew up in Decatur, Georgia and went on to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology where he studied international affairs, during which time he interned with the US State Department and Congressman John Lewis. Since graduating, he has worked on policy and communications for a number of candidates, elected officials, municipalities, and counties. In the rare moments he's not working, he enjoys going to concerts, hiking, and playing Dungeons and Dragons





## Meet our New Members

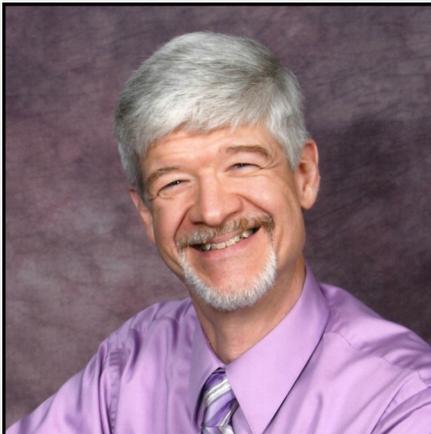
### James Thompson- Patriot Ancestor is James Thompson



Thompson Family summary: Migrated from Connecticut through New York, Michigan and lived in southern Wood County Ohio for 5 generations. 2nd great grandfather, Reverend Jacob Charles Thompson service in the 116th and 89th NY Infantry, 1862/64. great uncle Richard Elwood Thompson enlisted in the Navy in 1937, Chief Electrician's mate on USS Bagley at Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec 1941. I served in the Army 8 years, 3 years active including a 14 month tour in South Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division.

**My father**, James Barger Thompson lives in Bloomdale, OH. Public school teacher for 36 years, woodworker and antique restorer. James Eric Thompson, lives in Marietta, GA. Electrical Engineer, Veteran US Army Signal Corps. Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

### Stacey McCarver



Stacey McCarver was born in Gadsden, Alabama on February 22, 1960. While young, he moved with his family from Alabama to Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and then returned to Georgia at the age of nine.

Stacey and his wife, Sherry Blackmon, met in their adopted hometown of Calhoun, Georgia and married there in 1983. They have lived in Marietta since 1987. Stacey and Sherry have two children, Katie (34) and her husband, Luis Miranda; and Christopher (32) and his wife Katrina Hinton. They have four grandchildren ages 4, 3, 2, and 1.

Stacey graduated from Georgia Tech in 1982 with a degree in Textile Engineering and began his career working in Research and Development for the Kimberly-Clark Corporation in 1982. Stacey spent most of his Research and Development years developing medical devices and in the final years working in business strategy development for medical devices. Stacey retired in December 2019.

Stacey and Sherry are active members of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. In retirement, Stacey particularly enjoys his hobbies of genealogy, wood working, and traveling with Sherry in support of her wildlife photography hobby.



## Meet our New Members

### 3 Baker Brothers – Ryan (21), Devyn (18) and Tyler (almost 23)

Patriot Ancestor is **Jacob Snyder**, Lieutenant, (West) VA, 15 May 1781 McAllister's VA Militia, and personally provisioned the Army of VA at Berkeley Co. VA on 02 Oct 1780.

The Baker brothers have been active members of the Martha Stewart Bulloch Society of the Children of the American Revolution since joining in 2012. All three have served as MSBCAR Officers, including Tyler being President in 2014-2015 when the society was named 1<sup>st</sup> place Best Society in the Nation and Devyn being President in 2017-2018 when the society was named 3<sup>rd</sup> place Best Society in the Nation. In July 2015, at the GASSCAR BOM quarterly meeting, Devyn received the NSSAR's Eleanor Smallwood Niebell Award for his work as Editor of the MSBCAR Newsletter. All 3 Baker brothers have enjoyed working with MSBCAR Senior Leader Rick Reese, and participating with the Piedmont Chapter at Roswell Remembers, Alpharetta Old Soldiers Day Parade, SAR Flag Retirement Ceremonies, Wreath Laying events and other local community activities.



Tyler graduated from Alpharetta High School in 2015, and from Kennesaw State University in 2019 with an Accounting degree. He works as the head of Financial Planning & Analysis for Digital.ai in Alpharetta. In his free time, Tyler is one of the Co-Founders/Admins of the A.R.E. Exotic/Luxury Car Club, and enjoys weekend mountain drives in north Georgia and the Carolinas with his C7 Corvette Grand Sport.

Ryan graduated from Alpharetta High School in 2018, and he will graduate with a Mechanical Engineering degree from Georgia Tech next Spring in 2021. He hopes to pursue a career in Human Augmentation or Robotics. Ryan has been a World Champion cheerleader on the Stingray Steel Coed Team in 2017 (1<sup>st</sup> place) and 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and he enjoys being a Georgia Tech cheerleader. Ryan is also a very accomplished violinist, participating in the GT Symphony Orchestra when it can be worked into his course and cheer practice schedule. He enjoys driving in his 2005 Corvette as a daily driver, however his heart belongs with his first project car, a 1989 Corvette, that has been put into storage.

Devyn is a Senior at Alpharetta High School, where he plays the cello in their top orchestra. Devyn is a Stingray cheerleader, whose team won NCA Nationals in Dallas back in March, before Covid-19 shut the season down. He and his father have been working on restoring a 1981 Z28 Camaro, that they hope will be roadworthy soon.

### Rob Ufford

Rob Ufford was commissioned in the Army in 1978 where he was an early pioneer in developing and teaching computerized war gaming at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

After twelve years active duty, Rob departed the Army to join the early stages of Apple Computer in Cupertino, California. Rob later left Apple to become a serial entrepreneur, having co-founded four wireless sensor companies, two of which he actively participates in today. Rob's family originally settled in the Connecticut and Massachusetts areas in 1632 before eventually consolidating in Vermont. He moved to the Piedmont region of Georgia in 1998 where he currently resides with his wife, Rhonda, two children, and four grandchildren. A 1978 graduate of the United State Military Academy at West Point, Rob holds advanced degrees in Computer Science, Systems Management, and Artificial Intelligence.





## Meet our New Members

### Robert Cairns

Robert was born in Marietta, Georgia 1959. Grew up in Marietta/Smyrna area near Concord Covered Bridge.

Formal Education: Bachelor's Degree Electrical Engineering Technology, MBA Management.

Professional Work Experience: Georgia Tech Engineering Experiment Station, Healthdyne, Lockheed Aeronautical Systems, Medex, Healthdyne Technologies, Respironics, Community Specialists, LLC (Owner- Member/Manager), various community and real estate management companies, Impact WA – Resource Partner.

Work and engagements: Lead Auditor Aerospace and Medical Device standards (AS 9100, and ISO 13485, 9001); Real Estate Broker (WA) and Sales Agent (GA) (inactive); Community Management – PCAM, AMS, and CMCA; various certificate programs in Master Gardening, Pavement Management, Risk Management, Urban Trees, Covey Management, etc.

Personal: Father of two adult sons, Robert, Jr. and Peter. Robert, Jr. is a practicing attorney in Atlanta, and Peter is a professional consulting engineer in Texas. Single (divorced since 2009), former Boy Scout Adult Leader, Methodist youth coach, Master Gardener youth instructor.

Hobbies: Fixing anything, exercise and hiking, healthy cooking and eating, High Museum, Jazz, Gardening, and learning new things!



### Michael Lee Critchet

Michael L Critchet was born and raised in rural northwest Ohio. He is descended from multiple Patriots, and his family lineage can be traced to the early 1600s in Boston, MA. His ancestors have served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War, along with more recent conflicts. Following the Revolutionary War, his ancestors made their way to Ohio, then known as the Northwest Territory. Along with other pioneers, they helped turn the Great Black Swamp into some of the most productive farmland in in the country. An anecdote often told by his beloved grandfather was that two ancestors settled in the small town of Leipsic, OH, after having served on different sides of the Civil War. The family has remained mostly in northwest Ohio, living simply but always remembering the debt and duty owed the United States. Michael moved to Florida as a young man. After college, he began his career with the Federal government in the DC Capitol Region, before relocating to Georgia permanently. He is active in his church and the community, and lives in the greater Atlanta area with his wife and children.





## PIEDMONT BY NUMBERS 2020

2020 was a strong year despite the adjustments we all have had to make it successful. Here is a snapshot of some of the numerical highlights!



### The Americanism Score Sheet (NSSAR)

Piedmont Chapter total Americanism points for

2020 = **10,592**

### Flag Retirement Program

This year we collected and respectfully disposed of over **2100 flags**

The Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters held their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 27, 2020 at the Ingram Funeral Home in Cumming, GA. This was 6th ceremony since the flag retirement program began. Worn and unserviceable flags have been collected by both Chapters throughout the year from 5 Flag retirement receptacles placed at Home Depot locations in Cumming, Dawsonville, Johns Creek, Alpharetta, and Roswell. These flags will be properly and respectfully retired during this annual ceremony.

### The USS Stark Memorial Award

Piedmont Chapter Stark Award points for 2020 = **6274**

The USS Stark Memorial Award, authorized in 1988 (revised 2003), was established to memorialize those brave men and women who continue to stand at the forefront to preserve the freedoms our patriotic ancestors fought so long and hard to achieve. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding chapters and the most outstanding state society within the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for their participation with the Veteran community and supporting activities of the NSSAR Veteran's Committee.

## Piedmont Poster Contest Winner Goes on to Win 1st Place

4th grader **Ayame Masuda**, Piedmont Chapter's 1st Place winner, GASSR 1st place winner, has gone on to win 1st place in the NSSAR Poster Contest. Due to COVID-19 **Ayame** was presented her award via Zoom.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invites all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students interested in the American Revolution to participate in the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest. The contest is open to public school, parochial, home schooled, Scouting, or Children of the American Revolution member students in that same grade range. Young artists with an enthusiasm toward art, a love of American history, or a passion in creative expression can submit their posters to their local SAR chapter for competition.





## LIBERTY TREE

There was a hint of rain in the air and it was a bit of a hike to get there, but Piedmont Chapter Members, **Al Finley, George Thurman, Bob Sapp, Paul Prescott, Ron Redner, Rick Reese, Jr., Rick Reese III, Stacey McCarver, Rob Ufford,** and **Glenn Kirk** joined the students and staff of Fellowship Christian High School to dedicate the newly planted **Liberty Tree** on December 4th, 2020.



The Liberty Tree is a Lace Bark Elm tree and pays tribute to the original Liberty Tree (1646–1775) which was a famous elm tree that stood in Boston near Boston Common, in the years before the American Revolution. In 1765, colonists in Boston staged the first act of defiance against the British government at the tree. The tree became a rallying point for the growing resistance to the rule of Britain over the American colonies.

The Piedmont Chapter sponsors a young Liberty Tree to be planted at schools and other community venues to create awareness of and sustain the history of our founding and the sacrifices of the patriots that won our independence.

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## Traveling Trunk

### • Traveling Trunk – Local Home School presentation



Compatriot Bob Sapp – Piedmont Chapter – 12/17/2020

The Covid pandemic has created the need for innovation on the part of many teachers. One such example is the development of home schooling classes held by **Sylvia Cortis**. She started teaching American History to a group of eight 4th grade students in her spacious home in Atlanta, GA .

Sylvia contacted chapter president **Al Finley** to see if Piedmont could present a Traveling Trunk program to one of her classes. Compatriot **Bob Sapp** agreed to do just that.

After the presentation Sylvia said **“We loved the visit so much. The parents said their kids came home telling them interesting facts! Please share our thanks to Bob Sapp”**



## Paul Prescott Award

At the recent Georgia Society SAR Fall October 2020 BOM meeting, the Board of Managers created a new GASSAR award called the "Paul Prescott Award". This new GASSAR Award was created to honor Paul Prescott for his service as a member of the Georgia Fellows Fund Board for two terms (2015-2017, 2018-2020).

In recognition of Paul's contributions, financial and otherwise, the SAR Georgia Society proposed the creation of the "Paul I. Prescott Award." This would be similar to the "Walter Buchanan 'Buck' Meek Award" presented by National to the State Society who has recruited the most new George Washington Fellows; in this case, it would be to the Chapter that recruits the most new Georgia Fellows during the calendar year. The recipient would be based on the total number of Georgia Fellows recruited and presented annually at the GASSAR Annual State Meeting

Georgia Fellows are persons who choose to distinguish themselves or who are recognized or memorialized by others by a special purpose contribution of \$250 to the general fund of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution (GASSAR). Designation as a Georgia Fellow is not limited to members of GASSAR. Georgia Fellows may also be other members of SAR, friends, relatives, spouses, or other individuals, living or deceased, having an interest in furthering the goals of the Georgia Society or that are being recognized or memorialized. The Piedmont Chapter is honored that Paul Prescott is one our members and glad our GASSAR Society has honored him too, with this new award with his name



## Junior SAR and MSBCAR Member Spotlight



Travelers Rest August 15, 2020

David Jimenez, MSBCAR past President and current National Librarian for the N.S.C.A.R. has not let the events of 2020 slow him down. David has consistently lead by example, this impressive young man was installed as National Librarian for the N.S.C.A.R. in July and has had a busy year. On February 8, 2020 David brought greetings and presented a wreath at the annual **Battle of Kettle Creek Commemoration** in Kettle Creek, Georgia. On June 20, 2020 he presented a wreath at the **Battle of Ramsours Mill Ceremony**. On June 27th he joined the **Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters** for their annual **Flag Retirement Ceremony** at the Ingram Funeral Home in Cumming, GA. On August 15, 2020 he attended **Toccoa Chapter's First Woman to vote in Georgia event**. David presented a wreath at the commemoration of **the Battle of Augusta** on September 12, 2020. and on November 21, 2020 he presented a wreath at the Fort Morris Commemoration. The Piedmont Chapter congratulations David for a great year, and we look forward to seeing what 2021 has in store.



(Top left David and Catherine Jimenez. Top right David presenting a wreath at Bottom left David at the 2020 Flag Retirement Ceremony)



### Eagle Scout Recognition



On August 22nd, **Ron Redner** presented **Max, Ron and Jackson Pelot** of Troop 143, with a certificate of achievement in recognition at their Eagle Scout ceremony. Every year one of the highlights for our Chapter is to recognize members of the Boy Scouts from around our community on the achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Every new Eagle Scout is also eligible to participate in the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest. Three awards are given: National First Place Winner receives \$10,000; Runner-up receives \$6,000; and 2nd Runner-up receives \$4,000. The First Place Winner will be asked to appear at the SAR Annual Congress, held in June or July, to be recognized and receive the award. The awards may be taken as either a cash award, or as a scholarship to an educational institution. Prizes and recognition may also be awarded at the SAR Chapter and State Society level. Each Eagle Scout if you would like to participate as a presenter at a future Eagle Scout Court of Honor please contact **Jamie Ruff**.

### Fellowship Christian School Student wins NSSAR Award



We are extremely proud to announce that the second place winner nationwide of the Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest is **Stephanie Griffin**, a student at Fellowship Christian School in Roswell, GA. Stephanie's brochure was our chapter's

first place winner, her submission went on to win first place in the GSSAR state wide contest, and ultimately went on to win second place in the NSSAR National completion. Members of the Piedmont Chapter, **Al Finely, Bob Sapp, George Thurman, Ron Redner, Rick Reese, JR., Stacey McCarver, Rob Ufford, and Glenn Kirk** recently presented **Stephanie** with her award on November 4th, 2020.

**The Constitutional Computer**  
There are three main sections of the Constitution: the Preamble (along with the layout of three branches of government), the seven Articles, and the twenty-seven Amendments. The Preamble states the six main reasons for the Constitution, the Articles establish the purposes of the branches of government and how to amend the Constitution, and the Amendments protect the rights of the citizens and further explain the structure of the government. These three sections show how the Constitution defines the government, how it operates, and how to keep it relevant in a changing world. They work in a similar fashion to a processor, with the Preamble being the design, the Articles as the program itself, and the Amendments as the program enhancements.

**Back to the Drawing Board**  
The Constitution was originally written to replace the Articles of Confederation. These Articles were a "firm league of friendship", loosely uniting the colonies under a central power. However, this "power" had no way of taxation, no central monetary unit, no foreign policy, and no way to settle debts from the Revolution. Delegates from almost every state gathered at the Constitutional Convention to revise the Articles, only to find themselves in need of a completely new form of government. As a result, they came up with the Great Compromise, a plan to remodel the federal government. The Great Compromise consisted of a two-house legislature, one deciding representation based on population, and the other giving two representatives to each state. This layout is the modern-day legislative branch.

**Standing the Test of Time**  
From the time it was written to present day, the Constitution has guided America's prosperity. It has changed our republic from a mere union of states to the United States of America. The Constitution brought the states together under a respectable government that would repeatedly impress the world for years to come. It stands as the oldest written charter of government in the world. This collection of ideas has molded the America we know today; the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

**We the People**  
These famous three words are the first words of the American Constitution. The flag behind them is the first flag of the United States, designed by Betsy Ross. The thirteen stars signify the original thirteen colonies before the other thirty-seven states were added.

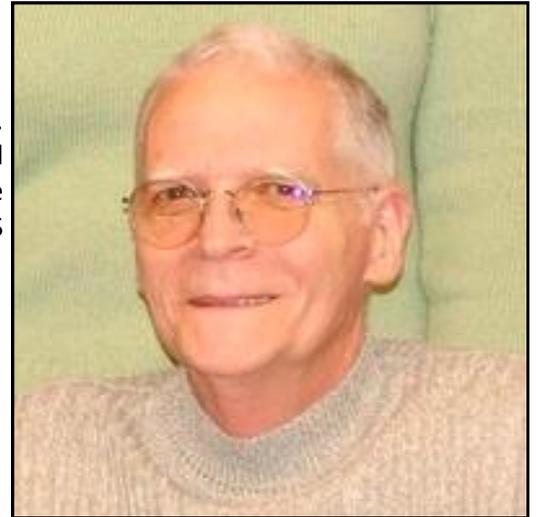


## In Memoriam

**James Francis "Frank" White**, a proud member of the GSSAR and the Piedmont Chapter, passed away on July 30th, 2020

Born on October 1, 1937 in Atlanta, the second child of Homer S. White Sr. of Atlanta and Martha Darthula Kelly of Haleyville Alabama, Frank attended Sylvan Hills Elementary and Sylvan High School in Atlanta, then joined the Navy in 1955, where he learned the trade of welding. He joined the LDS Church about 1958.

After an honorable discharge from the Navy, and while still in San Diego where he had been stationed, Frank served a two-year mission in the North Central States Mission (Minnesota and South Dakota), returning to San Diego about 1961. Soon he met his future bride, the former Ruth B. Rumble, and immediately began a courtship. He knew by the second date that Ruth was the one for him. Ruth took somewhat more convincing.



After marriage in the LDS Los Angeles Temple on April 25, 1962, and finding employment scarce at that time, he moved his new wife and infant son back to Atlanta, where he found employment at Low Temp Industries, and where he lived the remainder of his life.

He was the best and most skilled welder I ever saw. He turned welding into a fine art, and literally danced rhythmically while welding, and with an unbelievable speed and accuracy. Other professional welders there trusted him to do delicate aluminum welds on cracked engine heads, rather than themselves, and for many years he was the only non-salaried employee at Low Temp entrusted with a key to the plant, so that he could let himself in to work whenever and as much as he wanted. When he finally retired for good, the company had to hire three new men to replace his prodigious daily output. America was built by the tough breed of man like him.

He served his church and Heavenly Father faithfully over many years as Sunday School teacher, Bishop, Stake High Councilor, and finally, Temple Ordinance Worker at the LDS Atlanta Temple -- all of them unpaid, volunteer jobs. He had a phenomenal memory, and could recite entire chapters of scripture, verbatim. He used to regularly stun audiences at church with this ability. No surprise, really, to those who knew him best, since he routinely arose each morning at 4 am, and spent an hour each day peacefully reading his scriptures, before heading off to work. For many years (until traffic grew too bad), he used to bicycle the 14-mile round trip to and from work. Although his beloved wife Ruth eventually went back to a job after raising their seven kids, Frank for many years single handedly provided for his growing family, and I never once heard him complain or say he was tired. He was a patient and loving father, and a doting and faithful husband, who was still madly in love with his "Ruthie" even into his final illness. The delight of his old age were his 3 grandchildren. His succession of faithful doggies and kitties filled in for grandkids who lived far away.

Frank is survived by his devoted wife Ruth (Forest Park), son Terry (McCaysville Ga), daughter Kim (Jay) Kalke (St. Augustine Fla), son Derek (Kon) (Forest Park), son Alan (Jackie) (Statham Ga), son Arlen (Michelle) (Houston, Tx), son Nathaniel (Buford Ga), and daughter Karmelle (Sandy Springs Ga), sisters Dr. Ellen W. (Dr. Stuart O.) Nelson (Athens Ga) and Dr. Dianne Byrd (Opelika Ala), several adoring nieces, nephews, and cousins, and of course, his three grandchildren, the darlings of his life, Kara Kalke, Alex White, and Samantha White. An older brother, the late Homer S. White Jr (Durham, NC), and sister in law Glennle Myrick White (Hillsborough NC), predeceased him, as did a brother in law, Dr. Keith Byrd (Opelika Ala). His father died in 1943. His mother Martha in 2008, and his faithful stepfather who raised him and his siblings, Ralph Clinton Bunn, died in 2009.

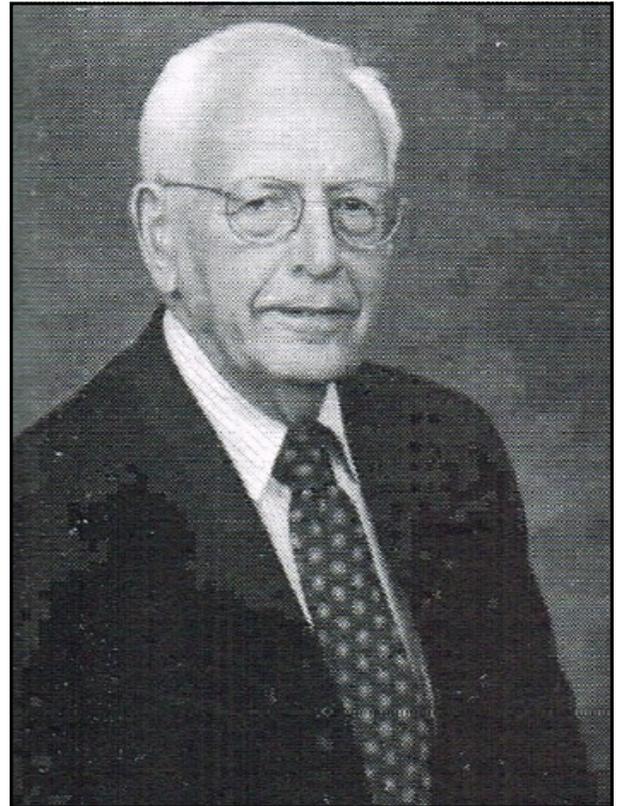


## In Memoriam (continued)

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**DR. Harold Lawrence McPheeters** 10, 1923. He died Thursday, January 14, 2021 in Snellville, GA. Harold was married to Phyllis Merrill for 58 years. She died in October 2010. Harold is survived by his sister Shirley Peckham. He is also survived by his son David McPheeters (Ginger), daughter Doris Guidry (Kevin) and son Tom McPheeters (Cindy). His youngest daughter Amy Allen (David) died in 2011. Grandchildren include Beth Anne McPheeters (Kyle Parrish), Mark McPheeters, Emily Thompson (Chris), David Allen III. and great-grandson Alexander Thompson. Harold attended Lafayette College, was drafted during World War Two into the Army Specialized Training Program for medicine and in 1948 he received his MD from the University of Louisville Medical School. During the Korean War he served as a psychiatrist at the Naval hospitals in Annapolis and San Diego. From 1955 until 1964 the family lived in Louisville while Harold was Commissioner of Mental Health for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In 1965 Harold and Phyllis moved their family to Sandy Springs, GA, where they lived for over fifty years and were members of the St. James Methodist Church in Atlanta. From 1965 until his retirement in 1988 he had a distinguished career as the Head of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program at the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), based in Atlanta, GA, developing guidelines and standards for college training for a variety of Human Services workers. 1996 he was honored to be the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association Psychiatrist of the Year.

After they retired, Harold and Phyllis enjoyed researching their family histories. Their research included numerous car trips that took them all over the U.S. and Canada to visit family and friends. Harold published genealogy books on three branches of his family tree. Harold was an athletic swimmer and talented piano player. He loved walking around his neighborhood and visiting his neighbors. He was a prolific gardener with roses in the front yard and vegetable gardens in the back yard. For several years he also maintained rose gardens at the St. James Methodist Church and the Dorothy Benson Senior Center in Sandy Springs, Georgia. In 2016, Harold moved to the Sunrise assisted living center in Snellville, GA.



**Awards earned by Dr. Harold McPheeters as a member of the Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution:**

**Harold L. McPheeters (member since 11/12/1996)**  
**Certificate of Appreciation 2001**  
**Distinguished Service Certificates 2002**  
**Distinguished Service Certificates 2003**  
**Meritorious Service Medal 2004**  
**Bronze Good Citizenship Medal 2006**  
**Distinguished Service Certificates 2006**  
**War Service Medal 2012**



## In Memoriam (continued)

**Richard (Rick) Lee Redner** born March 2, 1949 in Elmira, New York, was a loving man who never met



a stranger. He answered God's calling on March 24, 2020 to find peace and a cancer free home. He will be missed by all that knew him. He is survived by his son Chase Winston Redner, Linda Stancil-Redner, brothers, Bob Redner, Ron Redner & Randy Redner & sisters, Sherry Boop and Sue Palm. While he is physically not with us, his stories and memories will live on in each of us.

Rick served our country for 5 years during the Vietnam Era, a time that many did not respect, a time marches and protest occurred. During his service he had a Top Secret position and was proud that he met General Patton IV

during his time in the Army and of course there were stories. On his return to the States, he became active in the Big Brother Program and was always prideful of his time with the program. He was also a member of the Sons of American Revolution and a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville. He worked in the family business Render Ad Service and serviced many large accounts and was well respected by his clients. Rick retired from the advertisement business and enjoyed his carefree life doing whatever he wished. He enjoyed hunting & fishing, these pleasure past times began at the age of 16.

He left this earth with 2 regrets, one being that he didn't have enough time with his Son and that he would be missing so many adventures with him & that he did not finish the book his Sweet Sister, Sherry Boop mailed to him. He



was very appreciative of the cards, letters and photos he received during his illness as they helped to take his mind off the pain and discomfort. Even during this "social distance crisis" family still found ways to communicate and let him know he was loved. He leaves us with this thought: "please take the time to spend with family & friends for you never know when there will be no more tomorrows."

A memorial service was held 11:00 AM Monday August 24, 2020 Darby Funeral Home Chapel followed by a private family Interment in Georgia National Cemetery with Military Honors.



# 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 **March 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](mailto:rick@rickreese.com).

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