The Piedmont Piper
EXPRESS
The Monthly Newsletter for the Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society of the American Revolution

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



It is a great honor to be President of the Piedmont Chapter in 2026, particularly since this year we will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States. If you want to be involved in the celebration of our nation's history, this is the year to do it! The Piedmont Chapter has a lot of great events planned throughout the year, and we need your help and participation. The events you see in this edition of the Piedmont Piper are just a taste of what is to come. I hope that, after reading this edition of the Piper Express, you will be inspired to get more involved. Call me and let me know how you want to be included. Let's all have fun together! Thanks, Ron

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Induction Our Newest Member Jordan Procto

by Stacey McCarver



At the chapter meeting on May 16, Piedmont President Ron Redner had the honor to induct one of our newest members, Jordan Proctor. Jordan is the descendant of Edward Sharp, who served as a Private in Anderson's Regiment, Pickett's Brigade of the South Carolina Militia during the Revolutionary War. When we first met Jordan face-to-face a couple of months ago, he brought his new wife, Hannah, to the chapter meeting. After the meeting, they were headed to the airport for their honeymoon trip to Japan. Talk about dedication! Also with approved applications in 2026 are father and son team Mark and Wyatt Amick. We look forward to inducting them in the near future. The Piedmont Chapter started off the year with 109 members and currently have 111 members. As you can imagine, Registrar Jaime Ruff has his hands full this year. There is a lot of community interest in becoming a member of the SAR in this red, white and blue year of our nation's 250th anniversary. Do you like helping others? Do you like the challenge of putting together the missing pieces of a puzzle? Would you be willing to help Jaime with the workload this year to help him process applications faster? No prior Registrar experience required; Jaime is a great trainer. Let him know if you're willing to step up!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SAR Liberty Tree Program a Success; Goal Exceeded!

by Ron Redner



The Piedmont Chapter, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution located in Roswell, Georgia, created the Liberty Tree Project in 2018 to honor the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States locally. When the program was shared with leadership from the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, it was decided to make the program a nation-wide program under the leadership of Piedmont Chapter member Ron Redner. A fitting and challenging goal of planting 250 Liberty Trees across the nation by July 2026 was set. With the help of SAR members across the nation, the goal to reach 250 trees was just met and exceeded in May 2026! Piedmont Chapter member Tom Price helped get the program off the ground in 2018 by sponsoring the first Liberty Tree in the Roswell area. Tom was recently instrumental in providing key contacts needed to plant three Liberty Trees at Minute Man National Park in Lincoln, Massachusetts on May 2, 2026. The trees were dedicated to the three midnight riders Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Precott who, on the night of April 18-19, 1775, spread the word across the countryside about the impending arrival of British troops. The battle that occurred on April 19, 1775, in Lexington and Concord became the, "Shot heard 'round the world."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Showing Respect for the U.S. Flag: Everyone can do it!

by Stacey McCarver



The Piedmont Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, presented a Flag Respect Certificate to Fellowship Christian School in Roswell, Georgia, on March 9, 2026. SAR Flag Respect Certificates are presented to individuals and organizations that show proper flag respect by ensuring the flag is displayed properly, maintained, and properly lighted or brought indoors at night. Craig Benton, Flag Respect Committee Chairman; Past President Al Finley; and Ron Redner, Piedmont Chapter President, presented the certificate to Fellowship Christian School Director of Facilities Richard Elliott. If you see a home, school, or business that is properly displaying the U.S. Flag, let Flag Respect Chairman Craig Benton know. He will contact them to recognize their proper respect and care of our national flag.

EAGLE SCOUTS

Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

by Stacey McCarver



The Piedmont Chapter is proud year after year to recognize the young men and women of Scouting America, formerly known as the Boy Scouts of America, who achieve the pinnacle rank of Eagle Scout. So far, in 2026 the Piedmont Chapter has recognized thirteen (eleven in person) Eagle Scouts in troops sponsored by Johns Creek Presbyterian Church and John Creek United Methodist Church. Compatriot Bob Bogle has presented the recognition certificates to the deserving Eagle Scouts and has been able to witness firsthand the journeys taken by each of the Eagle Scouts to achieve their rank through service in the community. Bob, and we, are encouraged by the scouts' examples of leadership and expect to see them do great things as they go forward. Will you consider being a part of this recognition program in the future and receive your own encouragement by participating? We routinely serve troops meeting at Johns Creek Presbyterian Church, Johns Creek United Methodist Church, and St. Bridgid Catholic Church, all in Johns Creek. Are you aware of troops near where you live, work, or serve in the community that should be a part of this recognition program? YOU are our eyes, ears, and arms to the community around us.

JROTC

JROTC Outstanding Cadet Recognitions; It's a Wrap for the Year!

by Stacey McCarver





For many years the Piedmont Chapter has been a supporting partner for all five JROTC programs that are in the communities where we serve. The students who choose to participate in their JROTC program develop and demonstrate leadership skills, teamwork, and a variety of community service projects. Recognized this year as Outstanding Cadets were: Samuel McClesky and Casey Pritchett (Lassiter/Pope/Kell Navy JROTC program; Marietta); Elijah Payne (Centennial High School Army JROTC program; Roswell); Shivam Gilhotra (Wheeler/Walton Air Force JROTC Program; Marietta); Eduardo Rojas Escalona (Roswell High School Army JROTC Program; Rowell); and Joao Nesbesnik and Miguel Martinez (Sprayberry High School Navy JROTC Program; Marietta). Thanks to Piedmont Compatriots Craig Benton, Al Finley, Stacey McCarver, Ron Redner and Bob Saunders for making these recognitions a success. If you want to feel encouraged about the future of our country and the leaders of tomorrow, consider being a part of these recognitions next year!

COLOR GUARD

Your Color Guard in Action

by Stacey McCarver





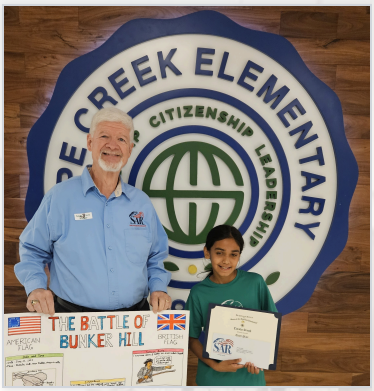
Whether it's taking part in regular community events, special celebrations for anniversaries of events during the Revolutionary War or helping to honor those who gave their lives to protect and preserve our freedoms, your Color Guard is out in the local community and around the state to represent you. You'll often find Craig Benton on the road on the weekends traveling around the state representing the chapter at events like The Heroes of the Hornet's Nest, Commemorations of the Battles of Kettle Creek, Brier Creek, and the Frederica Naval Action just to name a few. Craig has just renewed his black powder training so he can safely fire his musket and has just added cannon-firing to his repertoire. I guess you could say Craig has a blast when traveling around representing the chapter! Every month, the Piedmont Color Guard presents the colors at the Roswell Ramblers meeting at the Roswell Adult Recreation Center. Wearing the uniform provides many opportunities to share a little history and to talk about the benefits of joining the SAR. One of the most impactful things your Color Guard does is to present the colors at New Citizen Naturalization Ceremonies at the Richard B. Russell Federal Courthouse in Atlanta. The opportunity to bring a little history to an already special day for over one hundred new citizens is memorable.

A number of the color guard will be in full uniform on July 4, 2026, riding or marching in the Dunwoody Fourth of July parade, an event that we participate in with the Mount Vernon Chapter and a multitude of DAR and CAR chapters. Even if you don't have a uniform, wear your red, white and blue and be a part of this special 250th Anniversary celebration. We need folks walking alongside the float to help the kids along the parade route understand what and what we represent (no Johnny, we aren't pirates!). There are many ways to serve the missions of the SAR without a uniform, but if you want to take your participation to a new level, see Color Guard Commander John Wassell, Craig Benton, or Stacey McCarver and they can advise you on how to get started.

EDUCATION

Youth Education Contests a Success for 2025-2026

by Stacey McCarver



A busy and successful season has drawn to a close for Piedmont Chapter-sponsored Education contests for the 2025-2026 school year. Twenty-six fourth-grade students from Sope Creek Elementary and East Side Elementary Schools, both in Cobb County, participated in the poster contest this year. The winners from Sope Creek were Twisha Singh, Andy Xu, and Summer Gu. The winners from East Side were Swara Lodha, Leo Brouqueyre, and Hiroko Mitsui. Twisha Singh's poster, about the Battle of Bunker Hill, was selected as the Piedmont Chapter overall winner and was named the third-place winner in the Georgia Society poster contest and was recognized for her accomplishment at a presentation at Sope Creek on May 1 by Past President Stacey McCarver. Eighty-Three students from Fellowship Christian School in Fulton County participated in the Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest. In a presentation on May 5 by President Ron Redner and Past President Al Finley, the winners were recognized for their accomplishments. The winners were Katherine Eastman, Aubrey Nelson, and Karis Ray. The Piedmont first-place winner, Katherine Eastman, was also selected as the Georgia Society first-place winner at the Georgia Society Board of Managers meeting on April 25. The Piedmont Chapter appreciates the long-standing partnership with Fellowship Christian School to help encourage students to learn more about the Revolutionary War period of our nation's history. A total of sixty-eight students from four different area high schools participated in the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. First place was awarded to Charles Gerber, a 14-year-old Junior, from Cambridge High School in Fulton County for his essay titled, "The Financier of the Revolution." The scores for second place were so close that two second-place finishers were recognized. The Wesleyan School second-place winner, Rhiyan Fairman, was recognized in a presentation on February 23 at the school by President Ron Redner and Past President Stacey McCarver. Rhiyan's essay was titled, "Beyond the Battlefield: The Silent Strength of Black Women in Revolutionary America." The other second place winner was Luke Allen from Fellowship Christian School who wrote an essay titled, "The Father of the United States Navy." Luke was recognized in a presentation of May 12 by Past President Stacey McCarver. Luke was also the Piedmont Chapter winner in the eight-grade brochure contest last year. It takes a lot of effort to make the youth contests a success each year. Piedmont Chapter members who gave their time this year by serving as judges are deeply appreciated: Bob Bogle, Scott Chappell, Calvin Rhodes, Jeff Proctor, Jerry Breed, Steve Morrison, Tom Price, Ed Klaas, and Virgil Tillander.