



# The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society  
Sons of the American Revolution—August/September 2008

**President**

Richard Smallwood  
256-536-0491  
smally@knology.net

**Vice-President**

Dave Billings  
256-883-6229  
billind@uah.edu

**Secretary**

Ken Carpenter  
256-851-9243  
KDandMBama@aol.com

**Treasurer**

Jim Alexander  
256-837-7418  
jgalexander@knology.net

**Registrar**

Derald Morgan  
256-464-7860  
deraldm@knology.net

**Chaplain**

Fr. Les McAbee  
256-426-2799  
padreles@yahoo.com

**Historian**

Bob Adams  
256-539-4049  
edarea@bellsouth.net

**Newsletter Editor**

Jim Maples  
256-534-2315  
SAR1776@knology.net

**Meeting Schedule**

All meetings are held at 11:00 am  
at the downtown Holiday Inn  
unless otherwise noted.

11 August 2008  
Regular Meeting

8 September 2008  
Regular Meeting

12 October 2008  
2:00pm 50th Anniversary  
Celebration of the Tennessee  
Valley Chapter

***President's Message***

The "Big" News is that the location and time for the Tennessee Valley Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebration has been decided. It will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Main Branch of the Huntsville Library (915 Monroe Street).

Further details will be determined by a Committee consisting of Past Chapter and ALSSAR Presidents Jim Maples and Jim Alexander, Chapter Historian Robert "Bob" Adams and myself. We are backed by an advisory committee of Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mrs. Rane'e' Pruitt and my wife, Glenda. Wives and other family members are invited. This celebration will serve as our regular October meeting. Suggestions and volunteers are welcomed.

A part of the celebration will be the acknowledgment of long time SAR members as well as veterans of World War II and Korean War. We have received contact update from Compatriot Lt. Col. Royal Lewis who served in both wars. If you haven't made sure that your contact or combat information is up-to-date or you haven't received acknowledgment that we have received your updated information, you need to do so.

I apologize for there being no advance announcement of the July Chapter Meeting. Mr. James L. Flinn III discussed the impact of BRAC on Redstone Arsenal and Madison County.

The 11 August Chapter Meeting will take place at the Downtown Holiday Inn at 11:00 am. The speaker will be Col. R. E. Johnson, who will discuss and show videos of Huntsville's Grissom High School's JROTC program and its outstanding history of distinction. We all appreciate the hard work that our Vice President, Dr. Dave Billings, has put forth in arranging speakers for our meetings.



Above, Jim Flinn gave our July program on the impact of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) on our local community.

I hope to see you all at our Chapter meetings .



Compatriot Derald Morgan gave our June program on the Boy Scouts and the various SAR programs that support the Scouts.

## Secretary's Report

### June Meeting

**Opening:** President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. Comp. Mark Strickland lead the Pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Ms. Kim Alexander, Mr. Brad Cardwell, and Past Tennessee Valley SAR President, Col. Jim Nixon.

**Motions and Resolutions: None.**

**Announcements:** Attending members reviewed the Chapter's 2008-2009 Membership Handbook for additions and corrections. Comp. Harold Wright noted the Flag Day program to be held at the Veteran's Park on Sat., 14 June. Chaplain Rev. McAbee noted the passing of Compatriot Henry Bragg. Comp. Bragg was a veteran of World War Two, and a founding member of our chapter. Comp. Jim Alexander announced the National Congress to be held in California in July. He and Comp. Jim Maples reported on the ALSSAR's May 2008 BOM meeting.

**Presentations:** Pres. Smallwood presented chapter member, Comp. Harold Wright, the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his leadership in representing the Chapter in the Madison County Veteran's Coalition.

### Officer and Committee Reports:

**Treasurer:** Past Pres. Comp. Jim Alexander noted that the Chapter's Treasurer's Report is posted as part of the Chapter's newsletter. The checking account balance is approximately \$6,300. The savings account balance is approximately \$1,900.

**Registrar:** Chapter Registrar Comp. Morgan reported that Mr. David Byers's application has been submitted to the National Society. Applications for Mr. Covan and Mr. Blanton have been approved by the State Registrar.

**Historian:** No report

**Eagle Scout Committee:** No report. Subject of meeting program.

**Veteran's Committee:** Comp. Harold Wright announced the Flag Day program to be held at the Veteran's Park on Sat., 14 June.

### Unfinished Business:

The chapter is in need of committee members for the following committees:

Chapter Fiftieth Anniversary Committee

Essay Contest Committee

Orations Contest Committee

The chapter is in further need of a member to take charge of the Chapter's flags (bringing them to Chapter meetings).

**Events:** No announcements.

**Program:** Comp. and Past Chapter Pres. Morgan presented an informative program explaining the State and National Society SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship program. Comp. Morgan has been a dedicated scout leader for the past forty-six years. He recognized

Comp. Dick Richardson as a chapter representative.

This program was created by Arthur and Berdena King for Eagle Scouts, ages 14 to 19. The NSSAR scholarships are \$8,000, \$4,000 and \$2,000 for first, second, and third place awards respectively. The Alabama Society awards \$200, a trophy, certificate, and patch, as well as expenses to the Alabama representative Eagle Scout at the National Society convention.

Comp. Morgan created and published, at the national level, a list of tips for applicants. He also explained the SAR Robert E. Burt BSA Volunteer Award Medal, of which he is a recipient.

The July program will be presented by Mr. Jim Flinn concerning the impact of the BRAC relocation on Redstone Arsenal and Madison County.

**Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment:** Comp. Dr. John Rison Jones led the recessional. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. Pres. Smallwood adjourned the meeting. There were 23 persons in attendance.

## Secretary's Report

### July Meeting

**Opening:** President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Comp. Bob Adams led the membership in the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Lavonne Conner, Dr. Deborah Carpenter, Mrs. Abby Alexander, and Mr. Waymon Krugh. Eight members were in attendance.

**Motions and Resolutions: None**

**Announcements:** The October chapter meeting will be held on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. This meeting will be a commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. The meeting will be held in the Huntsville Madison Co. Library.

Pres. Smallwood received a letter of 7 June from Comp. Lt. Col. Royal Lewis. This was in response to the inquiry posted in the Valley Patriot requesting identification of World War II and Korean War compatriot veterans. Col. Lewis reported having served with the Sixth Armored Div. in WWI, and with the 20<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. in Korea (1951-1952). He retired from the U.S. Army on 1 July, 1966 (Vietnam era). He was a member of the First Honor Flight to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. on 4 Apr. 2007.

### Officer and Committee Reports

**Treasurer:** Past Pres. Comp. J. Alexander reported that the checking account has a balance of \$5,465 and the savings account balance is \$1,960.

**Registrar:** Registrar Comp. Morgan reported the possible application of Mr. Waymon Krugh, present at today's meeting.

**Historian:** Historian Comp. Bob Adams: "The report of Spring BOM will be delivered at the August Chapter meeting."

**Eagle Scout Committee:** Comp. Col. Jody Creekmore: No report

Past President Jim Alexander has graciously accepted the

Secretary's Report continued on page 3

*Upcoming Events*

11 August 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

8 September 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

25 - 27 September 2008 - Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY

12 October 2008 (Sunday) - 2:00pm, 50th Anniversary Celebration, Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, Meeting Room on First Floor

10 November 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

*Treasurer's Report*  
As of July 18

Savings Account:.....\$1,967.28

Checking Account: .....\$5,133.68

*Passing of a Compatriot*

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Compatriot Howard Wilson Drake. Howard was a World War II veteran and was retired from NASA. Howard's two sons Mickey and Gary are both members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Please keep the Drake family in your prayers.

*50th Anniversary Celebration*

The Tennessee Valley Chapter was chartered on March 16, 1958. On a list given to Bill Pittman in 1983 by the Alabama Society President there were 17 charter members of the chapter. On Sunday, October 12, of this year we will hold a "50th Anniversary Celebration". The celebration will be at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library auditorium at 2:00pm.

As part of our 50th anniversary we have begun collecting the historical records of our chapter. Rane'e' Pruitt, Archivist for the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, has graciously agreed to organize and store the historical documents of the Tennessee Valley Chapter in the Archives located in the Heritage Room on the third floor of the library. If you have any records of the chapter that should go into our collection, please contact our Chapter Historian, Bob Adams, or Rane'e' Pruitt. Examples are minutes of meetings, newsletters, pictures, programs of events, President's notes, and anything else dealing with the activities of our chapter. There are many gaps in the records that we have, but with your help we hope to fill in some of those gaps.

Minutes of July Meeting Continued from page 2

chairmanship of the following committees: ROTC Awards, Oration, Essay.

Tenn. Valley Ch. Anniversary Steering Committee: Jim Alexander, Bob Adams, Richard Smallwood, Jim Maples, Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mrs. Glenda Smallwood, and Mrs. Rane'e' Pruitt.

**Events:** Preparation for the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter are underway for the October meeting.

**Program:** Mr. James Flinn III, former deputy to the Commanding General U.S. Army Missile Command, addressed the impact of the Base Realignment and Closure program on Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, and Madison County. He reported the present and future personnel demographics, and army commands regarding Redstone Arsenal. Currently, 25,000 to 26,000 personnel are on the Arsenal each work day. The number of commanding generals at RSA will increase from five to thirteen. Future personnel numbers for RSA are estimated at: 400 military, 2,300 engineers, 1,600 business, and 400 administrators. Concerns for an adequate work force were addressed. RSA was selected for base consolidations as a result of an independent study.

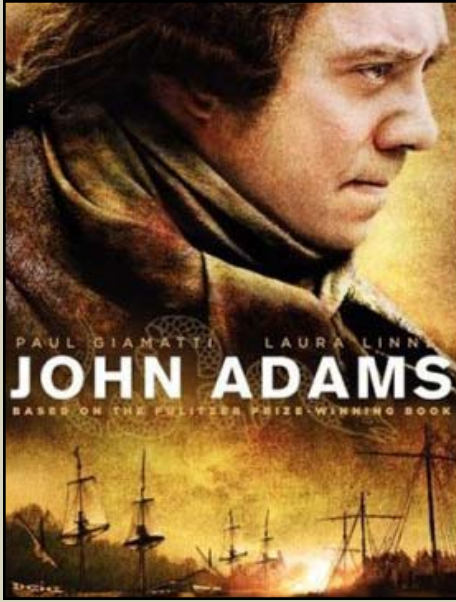
**Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment:** Past Pres. Dr. Morgan led the recessional. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. Pres. Smallwood adjourned the meeting.



Treasurer General Chuck Bragg receives the "Color Guardsman of the Year" award at the 2008 National Congress in Sacramento. Chuck is a dual member with the Tennessee Valley Chapter.

"The deliberate union of so great and various a people in such a place, is without all partiality or prejudice, if not the greatest exertion of human understanding, the greatest single effort of national deliberation that the world has ever seen."

*John Adams*



### *John Adams*

Earlier this year HBO showed a seven-part series entitled *John Adams* based on David McCullough's book by the same name. The series has been recently released on DVD. I encourage you to either buy a set, borrow one, or find one to rent. For me it is by far the best historical movie that I have watched.

It begins in 1770 with the "Boston Massacre" and takes us through the life of John Adams until his death in 1826. Historical purists will probably find minor details to quibble with. However I think that viewed in total, HBO did justice to John and Abigail Adams and the other characters in the movie. This movie gives us a glimpse into the hardships of 18th century life and the struggles that this country went through to become the greatest nation in the history of mankind.

For a future meeting, we could discuss the movie and give our opinions on how historically accurate we feel the movie is as well as discuss parts of the movie where revisionist history may have crept in.



Jim Maples  
1501 Elmwood Dr.  
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: