



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—August/September 2007



Report from the National Congress

The Alabama Society was well represented at the recent National Congress in Williamsburg, VA. Those in attendance were: Jim and Abby Alexander, Charles and Karin Bragg, Larry and Leanne Cornwell, Rod Hildreth, Price Legg, Jim and Linda Maples, Henry and Mary McCarl, Al and Pat Nettles, Bill and Shirley Scanlan, Lee Swart, Bob and Jo Thomas, John and Mary Ann Wallace, Jim Wardlaw, Mike and Elizabeth Wells, and Nathan and Wanda White. Al Nettles and Bill Scanlan were first time attendees.

The Alabama Society received several well-deserved awards at the Congress. These included: The Children of the American Revolution Award, the Benjamin H. Morris Award, and the Officers Attendance Award. The Wiregrass Chapter received the Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award. Several individuals received awards: The Robert E. Burst Award, the Boy Scout Volunteer Award, was given to Derald Morgan. First-time winners of the Liberty Award were Jim Alexander, Bob Cheney, and Bob Melton. Those who earned an oak leaf cluster to their Liberty Medal were Ron Bearden, Larry Cornwell, Walter Dorsey, Ken Jaggears, Richard Smallwood, and John Wallace.

Timothy Fortenberry, who won the Birmingham Chapter and Alabama Society essay contests, received second place honors in the national contest. For his essay, he was presented a certificate, a medal, and a monetary award. Rachel Lillebo, of the Birmingham Chapter, and winner of the Alabama Society oration contest, participated in the national oration contest. Rachel did a good job in presenting her speech, and she represented the state society in an outstanding manner.

Jim Alexander



Rachel Lillebo with State President, Jim Alexander



The John Hunt Society of the Children of the American Revolution gave our program at the June meeting. The children talked about their Patriot ancestors and are shown singing the C.A.R song with the group joining in

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Meeting Schedule

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

13 August 2007

Regular Meeting

Guest Speaker,

Charles Edmonds, Executive Director of the Kate Duncan DAR School

10 September 2007

Regular Meeting

Guest Speaker,

Compatriot Jody Creekmore

Secretary's Report

President Brian Alexander opened the meeting. President Alexander led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Mark Alexander led the pledge to the SAR. Chaplain Father Les McAbee gave the invocation.

Visitors: President Alexander recognized the guests in attendance. They were: Mr. Spike Fields, Mr. Charles Dietrich, Mr. Joe Steigmeyer, Mrs. Carol Strickland, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Mary Lou Wheatley, Mr. Doug Wheatley, Stephen Wheatley, Miss Sarah Beth Redman, Miss Maggie Smallwood, Dr. Bill Leonard, Mrs. Jim Knapp, Mrs. Laurie Twibell, Mrs. Frances Kirby, and Mrs. Betty Vaughan.

Announcements: Compatriot Ray Van Orden's daughter passed away recently. Compatriot Hoyt Smith has deacon activities at his church today. Compatriot Larry Crabtree is sick, so Compatriot Jim Alexander will be acting secretary for today.

Quiz: Compatriot Ernie Ritch quizzed the compatriots on the colonial period. The quiz brought in a total of \$70 for our youth programs.

Program: Mrs. Carol Strickland introduced the Children of the American Revolution who gave an excellent program on their patriot ancestors, including the reading of a love letter written by one patriot to his wife. Mrs. Strickland also mentioned that Compatriots Henry Tuttle, Hoyt Smith and George Harris were instrumental in starting the local CAR chapter, and she thanked the Tennessee Valley Chapter for their continued support.

Presentation: ALSSAR President Jim Alexander presented Compatriot Rusty Troth a certificate, lapel pin and medal for his Ruby Level contribution to the Center for Advancing American's Heritage.

Officers Report: Treasurer David Billings gave a detailed treasurer's report, which included an adjusted checking account balance of \$6,186.00, and a savings account balance of \$1928.00. ALSSAR President Jim Alexander mentioned the national congress to be held at Williamsburg, Virginia from July 6-11. He also stated that there is a record-breaking member registration at this congress. National Trustee Jim Maples reminded everyone about Flag Day and to proudly display their flags.

Compatriot Fred Holland led the recessional and Chaplain Father Les McAbee gave the benediction.



Linda Maples with some of the raffle items donated by the Alabama Ladies Auxiliary to raise money at the National Congress. This is an annual event for the Ladies Auxiliary that raises several thousand dollars. This money is donated back to the SAR for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage

Revolutionary Answers

Who am I?

1. I played a major role in two countries' revolutions; military officer at 17; and a general at 20. Shared the hardships of Valley Forge with General George Washington; was seriously wounded at the battle of Brandywine Creek. Served the American cause first as an enlisted man and offered to serve without pay. In my native country, I was named head of the National Guard at which time I created a cockade of red, white and blue to be worn by supporters of that country's Revolution.

Marquis de Lafayette

2. In 1781 I was living near Camden, South Carolina. My plantation or "Fort" became the British officers' headquarters during the fighting in that area. I begged "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox," to burn my home, if necessary, to drive the British out. I supplied the Americans with fire arrows to do the job. As the attack began, the 150 British officers surrendered, the fire was doused, and I cordially invited both the patriots and their British captives to dine that night at my table. (Hint: I am a woman.)

Rebecca Motte

Happy Birthday Marquis de Lafayette

The year 2007 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de Lafayette. Born in Auvergne, France, in 1757, Lafayette's ambition was to follow in his father's footsteps and become an officer. He joined the French army at the age of 16. Like many of his countrymen, he developed an abiding enthusiasm for the ideals put forth in America's Declaration of Independence.

"On April 20, 1777, 19-year-old Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, set sail from a Spanish port near the French border, leaving behind his doting wife, pregnant with their second child, and abandoning the privileged aristocratic life he led in France. On a ship he purchased himself, he was on his way to America to help defend the Patriot cause."

Quoted from the July/August 2007 edition of *American Spirit*.

Upcoming Events

13 August - 11:00am, Regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

10 September - 11:00am, Regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

17 - 23 September - Constitution Week

20 October - Fall Board of Managers Meeting - Montgomery



Constitution Week

This year “Constitution Week” begins on Monday, September 17th and goes through Sunday, September 23rd. In 1956 a joint resolution of Congress requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17th and ending September 23rd of each year as “Constitution Week.”

The purpose of “Constitution Week” is to emphasize the responsibility of protecting, defending, and preserving the Constitution for posterity and to understand that the Constitution is our great heritage and the foundation of our very lives.

The First Twelve Articles of Amendment

On September 25, 1789, Congress submitted to the States what would become the first ten amendments to the Constitution. These ten amendments were part of a compromise bill passed by the Congress and were known as the Bill of Rights. A little known fact is that there were actually twelve articles in this bill. The first and second articles were not ratified by the states. The third through the twelfth articles were ratified and these became the first ten amendments to the Constitution. These are our Bill of Rights and are probably the best known part of the Constitution.

What about the first two articles that the states rejected? The first had to do with how the number of Representatives that

would be allotted to each state would be calculated. The second read, “No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.” If you look at the Constitution today, you will see that these exact words are the 27th Amendment to the Constitution which is the last Amendment ratified by the states. This Amendment was ratified on May 7, 1992 by the vote of Michigan almost 203 years after it was sent to the states.

One of the most important aspects of our great Constitution is how hard the founders made it to amend. More than 11,000 amendments have been introduced in Congress with only thirty-three actually having gone to the states for ratification and only twenty-seven of these receiving the necessary approval from the states.

Members of the Alabama Society Color Guard participated in a Memorial Service for PFC Johnathon Millican



Memorial for PFC Johnathon Millican to be placed at Locust Fork High School in Locust Fork, Alabama. PFC Millican shielded his comrades from a grenade and gave his own life to save them.



Members of the Alabama Society in attendance at the National Congress in Williamsburg

*National Congress - 2007
Williamsburg, VA*



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TO:

