

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—October/November 2007



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

8 October 2007
Regular Meeting

12 November 2007
Regular Meeting



Our speaker for the September meeting was Compatriot Jody Creekmore. Jody gave a very interesting presentation on his year with the Iraqi Army.

Photo by Jim Maples

New members Chip Manning (center) and Bob Adams (right) received their membership certificates from State President Jim Alexander at the August meeting



Photo by Jim Maples



Our speaker for the August meeting was Charles Edmonds, Jr., Executive Director of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School at Grant

Photo by Jim Maples

Secretary's Report

August

President Brian Alexander opened the meeting. Compatriot Jody Creekmore led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Mark Alexander led the pledge to the SAR. Father Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Alexander recognized the guests in attendance. They were: Mr. and Mrs. James Conner, Raneé Pruitt, Rhonda Larkin, Jan Rice, Mark Stinnet, Linda Maples, Susan Crabtree, Tim McCormick, and Kimberly Alexander.

Alabama SAR State President Jim Alexander installed two new members, Bob Adams and Chip Manning, and presented them membership certificates. Compatriot Jim Maples presented the new members their rosettes and explained the historical significance of them. Compatriot Ernie Ritch quizzed chapter members on the colonial period.

Vice President Richard Smallwood introduced the guest speaker Charles H. Edmonds, Jr, who is the executive director of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School. Mr. Edmonds gave an overview of the school including its history as well as its future challenges.

Members were told that Compatriot Hoyt Smith was absent due to his daughter's stroke. She will be leaving rehab soon and will be returning home.

Vice-President Richard Smallwood announced topics for future meetings. Compatriot Jody Creekmore will be our guest speaker at the September meeting. Secretary Larry Crabtree announced that the minutes of the previous meeting were in the chapter newsletter. Treasurer David Billings gave the treasurer's report stating that the chapter had a current balance of \$6093.16. He also announced that he was accepting membership dues for 2008.

State President Jim Alexander reported that 627 attended the National Congress, which was held at Williamsburg. Bruce Wilcox of the Virginia SAR was installed as the new president. The State President made a motion that was seconded that the chapter endorse two individuals for national offices:

Charles Bragg for National Society Treasurer

David Simpson for National Society Registrar

The motion was voted on and approved. Secretary Larry Crabtree will send letters of endorsement from our chapter. At the recommendation of State President Jim Alexander, a motion was made and seconded that our chapter provide lunch for the first meeting of the members of the planning committee for the 2008 state convention which will be held in Huntsville. The motion was voted on and approved.

State President Jim Alexander announced that information would soon be going to the schools concerning the essay and oration contests. Compatriot Jody Creekmore announced that the deadline for the Eagle Scout scholarship was October 1st and he would soon be meeting with scout officials. Compatriot Harold Wright reported on the Veteran's Coalition.

There will be activities in observance of September 11th and Veteran's Day. Compatriot Skeet Vaughn announced that there would be a grave marking in October. State President Jim Alexander announced that there would be a BOM meeting at the First Christian Church in Montgomery on October 20th.

Compatriot Jim Maples stated that a ceremony was held Saturday, July 28th at Locust Fork, Alabama in honor of Army pfc Johnathon Millican who was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for sacrificing his life to save his fellow soldiers. A memorial was established at the local high school in his honor. State President Jim Alexander was present, along with two other chapter members, Jim Maples and Skeet Vaughn who served in the color guard.

Secretary Larry Crabtree led the recessional, and Father Les McAbee gave the benediction. President Alexander adjourned the meeting.

September

President Brian Alexander opened the meeting. Compatriot Bill Hastings led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Jim Alexander led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave the invocation. President Alexander recognized the guests in attendance. They were: Daniel Wrenn, Susan Crabtree, Abby Alexander, Kimberly Alexander and Linda Maples.

Vice President Richard Smallwood introduced this month's speaker, LTC Joseph, "Jody" Creekmore, Jr., a member of our Chapter, and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He has recently completed a one year tour of duty in Iraq, where he was a Team Chief for Military Transition Team (MiTT) 3-5 with the primary mission of training the Iraqi Army. LTC Creekmore gave a presentation which included a description of his experiences and challenges while working with the Iraqi Soldiers to mold them into an effective fighting force.

State President Jim Alexander presented the SAR rosette to Compatriot Lawrence Moore, who first became a SAR member in 1964 in Illinois and has recently joined our Chapter. Treasurer Dave Billings announced that anyone who had not received their dues notice/membership card for the coming year could obtain them from him. He also stated that the Chapter has a present balance of \$6,555.68. Registrar Derald Morgan stated that three applications or supplementals from the Chapter are presently being reviewed. Vice President Richard Smallwood noted that a father and his sons were submitting applications for membership.

State President Jim Alexander stated that he had mailed 30 letters to schools informing them about the Chapter Oration contest which will be held at the Chapter's November meeting. The state Oration contest will be held in Huntsville at the Alabama State Convention in February. State President Jim Alexander reminded the Chapter of the BOM to be held October 20th at the First Christian Church in Montgomery. Registration forms may be obtained from the Alabama Society website on the NSSAR web page. (continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

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

20 October - Fall Board of Managers Meeting - Montgomery

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

(September Minutes continued from page 2)

Compatriot Jody Creekmore stated that he has visited all Boy Scout troops in Madison to promote the Eagle Scout scholarship. Compatriot Chip Manning added that he had contacted the Huntsville Boy Scouts making them aware of the Eagle Scout scholarship. The scholarship applications are due at the state by December 16th.

State President Jim Alexander reminded the Chapter members of a new contest, recognizing outstanding American History teachers. Compatriot Derald Morgan is the state chairman for this contest. All high schools in Madison County have been notified. At present Randolph and Bob Jones High School have responded. Compatriot Ken Carpenter announced that a DAR sponsored grave dedication will be held at the Harris Hill Farm on Oct. 14th. State President Jim Alexander stated that Compatriot Skeet Vaughn will participate as a member of the Alabama Society Color Guard in the Constitution Day ceremony which will be held at Charles R. Drew Middle School in Lincoln, Alabama on September 17th. State President Jim Alexander announced that there will be a celebration of the last battle of the Revolutionary War, which will be held on Lookout Mountain on September 22nd.

President Brian Alexander reminded everyone that the next meeting will be October 8th. He also led the chapter in the recessional. Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave the benediction. President Alexander adjourned the meeting.



State President Jim Alexander presents the SAR rosette to Compatriot Lawrence Moore. Mr. Moore first became a SAR member in 1964 in Illinois and has recently joined our Chapter.

Sign Here (from the July 2006 Reader's Digest)

John Hancock's signature is probably the most famous on the Declaration of Independence. Do you know the names of some other signers?

___ m ___ l A ___ m ___ (MA)

B ___ j ___ n ___ r ___ k ___ (PA)

S ___ u ___ C ___ s e (MD)

E ___ w ___ ___ u t ___ e ___ g ___ (SC)

___ h ___ m ___ J ___ e r ___ (VA)

J ___ n ___ t h ___ s p ___ (NJ)

___ o g ___ S ___ m ___ (CT)

Death of Compatriot

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Tennessee Valley member Miles J. Carter, Jr. Mr. Carter lived in Florence and transferred to the Tennessee Valley Chapter after the Pride Chapter was disbanded. I talked to him on the phone but never had the pleasure of meeting him in person. His wife returned a copy of his obituary and an editorial written about him by Birmingham Attorney Jim Noles, Jr. for the Florence newspaper. I have taken the liberty of using the information from Mr. Noles editorial below.

Miles was drafted in 1943 into the Army where he volunteered for the paratroopers. He became part of the 101st Airborne Division known as the "Screaming Eagles." He and his unit were dropped behind the German lines on D-Day (June 6, 1944) where they battled for eight days behind Utah Beach. He was in action at Christmas of that same year at Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. The Screaming Eagles fought the Germans to a standstill, suffering some 1600 casualties in the process. The casualties included Miles, who was shot through the shoulder on Christmas Day. Miles would not see combat again. He was demobilized and returned to Alabama where he finished high school and raised a family.

Miles was part of the "Band of Brothers" that made up and still make up the 101st Airborne. When he knew his days were numbered, he had a simple request. That request was to have an honor guard of those brothers at his funeral. The 101st sent eight soldiers from Fort Campbell, KY, to take part in Miles' funeral service.

Rest in peace Miles; America has lost another of "The Greatest Generation."

The Last Battle of the Revolutionary War

Jim Maples and Skeet Vaughan participated in a ceremony at Ruby Falls, Tennessee to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the "Last Battle of the Revolutionary War". This battle was against the Indians at Moccasin Bend of the Tennessee River and was led by John Sevier.

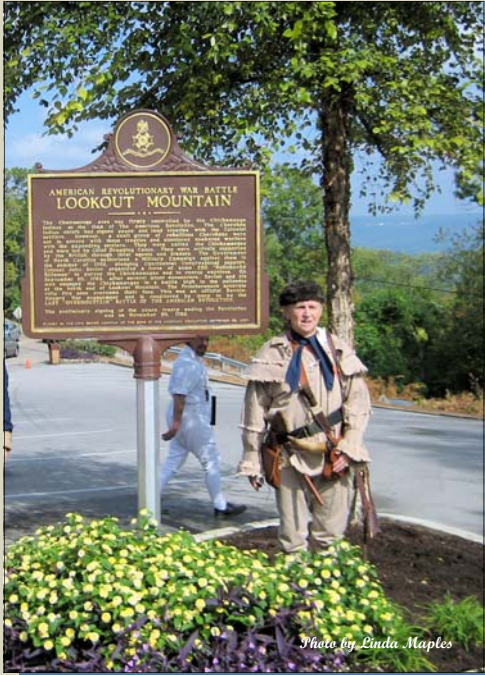


Photo by Linda Maples



Photos by Linda Maples

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TO: