



# MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

March 2014

Editor Jim Blauer

## Officers

### President

Daniel H. T. Shippey  
1636 Gymkhana Street  
Orange, CA 92869-1032  
[dan@breedshill.org](mailto:dan@breedshill.org)

### Vice-President

Louis V. Carlson, Jr.  
2628 Shadow Lane  
Santa Ana, CA 92705-6980

### Corresponding Secretary

James W. Klingler  
33 Bethany Drive  
Irvine, CA 92603-3519  
[klingler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:klingler@sbcglobal.net)

### Recording Secretary

James F. Blauer  
594 Hamilton St. #E  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
[jblauer@pacbell.net](mailto:jblauer@pacbell.net)

### Treasurer

Arthur A. Koehler  
17422 Ireland Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA  
[treasurer@orangecountysar.org](mailto:treasurer@orangecountysar.org)

### Registrar

M. Kent Gregory  
3822 Denwood Avenue  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720  
[drkentgregory@earthlink.net](mailto:drkentgregory@earthlink.net)

### Chaplain

Richard E. Adams  
2304 Chestnut Ave.  
Orange, CA 92867  
[yangbon@hotmail.com](mailto:yangbon@hotmail.com)

### Chancellor

John L. Dodd  
10072 Highcliff Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
[JohnLDodd@earthlink.net](mailto:JohnLDodd@earthlink.net)

## MEETING INFORMATION

When: March 8, 2014

Where: Sizzler Restaurant

1401 N. Harbor Blvd.

Fullerton, CA

Time: Social Begins at 11:00am

Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am

Website: [www.orangecountysar.org](http://www.orangecountysar.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Humanity has won its battle. Liberty now has a country.” - wrote Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette.

Those are pretty lofty words. If an American leader were to speak them today they would be mocked as nationalistic, jingoistic and egotistical. Maybe we are fortunate they were spoken by a French nobleman instead.

In today's world we are surrounded with lots of quotes and sound bites that fly past us without ever truly penetrating. In many ways words have become cheap and their meanings weakened. But if you will indulge me a moment I'd like to look at these two sentences, restore their context, their meaning and their weight.

Lafayette was a 19 year old volunteer who traveled thousands of miles at his own expense to risk his life in the American cause. His words, that were written in a letter to friends, demonstrate what he believed he had risked everything for. Does he say America had won its battle? No. As a child of the enlightenment he was a student of Locke and Voltaire, natural rights and equality. He viewed the American war for Independence as Humanity's struggle not just Americans. Does he say that Independence is won? No. To Lafayette, Independence for America meant that Liberty could flourish.

Liberty, the goal that the founders repeat over and over again as “The” American Cause would finally have a country of its own. A lantern illuminated for the whole world to see from which others would be lit and drive the darkness of tyranny away”.

I chose just this one quote for my first President's Message, but I could have chosen dozens of well known names like Washington, Adams, Franklin and Jefferson that all affirm the same thing. The American Revolution and the American War for Independence was about Liberty above and beyond any other causes. We are all blessed to be descendants of those who sacrificed of themselves in that great cause and recognize that inheritance whose value is beyond estimation.

Within the stated purpose of the SAR is the goal that we perpetuate the ideals of the war for independence. Today this means educating the great mass of Americans that they too have an inheritance that most are unaware of.

Whether they had ancestors who fought in the Revolution or not, whether they were born in America or immigrated, as American citizens they have an inheritance of Liberty. The greatest danger to that inheritance today is ignorance because people can't value or protect what they don't even know they have. That means that our work is crucial if our ancestors work is to survive.

Vive la liberté,

*Daniel Shippey*

## Dick Baylis

### P-51 Mustang: Mission in Europe

Our guest speaker this month will be Dick Baylis. Dick, among his many other interesting experiences, was a P-51 Mustang fighter pilot for the US Army Air Forces in Europe during the closing months of WW-II .

Dick Baylis' career and life has been associated with aviation from his early years in Burbank, California to his recent retirement from Northrup Grumman. Dick will talk about the mission and tactics of the P-51 during the air campaign over Europe. He will reveal the many challenges faced by these pilots including their opponents and their aircraft.

Dick's lengthy civilian career was multi faceted and he became involved in many projects as a supervising aerospace engineer. While employed at Northrop Grumman he played an instrumental role in the development of the B-2 Stealth Bomber. Time permitting, he may share some information and experiences with our group about this significant aircraft.

### WALTER EHLERS PASSES AWAY

WWII hero Walter Ehlers the last living D-Day veteran recipient of the Medal of Honor and an adopted friend of the Orange County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has died. That currently leaves only 7 remaining WWII Medal of Honor recipients. Mr. Ehlers was first invited as a speaker for the monthly luncheon meeting for the Orange County Chapter SAR back in 2007. That was when he first shared his amazing story of the heroism he shared with his fellow soldiers and his big brother Roland Ehlers. Roland and Walter served alongside each other in the same company all through the Sicily and North Africa campaigns. As they later prepared for the D-Day Invasion the Ehlers' brothers were separated into different rifle companies as the casualty expectations were grim and it was decided the odds were better for family members if they were spread out in other companies. Walter who was a Staff Sergeant by then led his squad through the bloody water and death littered on Omaha Beach at the tail end of the first wave and survived the first day of the invasion unscathed. Tragically Roland was killed in the

Walter Ehlers during WWII.



second wave. As Roland rushed out of the landing craft onto the ramp a German mortar round hit the ramp next to him killing him instantly. Walter would not find out for nearly a month when he ran into Roland's company commander. After hearing the news he walked out to a quiet spot and as he said "just let go." He said it was the only time he ever lost total control of such raw anguished emotions. Walter was recognized for his actions not on D-Day itself but for multiple actions over the next few days fighting in the hedge groves.

Walter remained a humble hero and never spoke of his exploits selfishly. He always acknowledged that he was not alone in the hedge groves and his brother Roland was his personal hero as he watched over Walter throughout the Sicily and North Africa campaigns. He said he never understood why he survived the war as so many all around him died. In reflecting he said "I guess God had other plans for me so here I am." Walter attended three meetings with the Orange County Chapter over the last few years, he was also our first Purple Heart veteran to be recognized with the SAR Wounded Warrior Coin when we kicked off the program.

Our chapter decided to adopt Walter Ehlers and regularly sent him birthday and Christmas cards over the last few years. Dan Henry the Veterans affairs Chairman visited Mr. Ehlers at the Long Beach VA Hospital just three Saturdays before his passing and presented Walter a get well card signed by many of our chapter members. "I had the opportunity to have a short prayer with him and give him the card. He was sitting in a wheelchair while one of his grandsons was reading to him. It was a privilege to have met with him a few times over the years. Walter was truly a humble hero, a gentleman and patriot. We put these titles on him but to his family he was just dad and grandpa a wonderful family man. The first time I invited Mr. Ehlers to come and speak at our luncheon meeting he showed up and quietly asked me if we wanted him to wear the



Walter Ehlers is presented the Medal of Honor for his actions in WWII.

Walter was a sought out speaker for civic, military and school groups .



medal as if he was embarrassed. Of course I said yes please and he dug it out of his pants pocket all crumpled up and put it on. When I did his introduction to speak I said I always felt a little special wearing the SAR membership medal on the neck ribbon but all of a sudden I knew I was not so important at all standing next to him. We will miss him and our association with him but as always we honor all of our veterans who serve or served with courage and honor. I think Walter Ehlers saw himself as an ordinary soldier thrust into extraordinary circumstances. No matter when his story is told and retold the word extraordinary deserves to be included. Finally reunited with his brother Roland, his parents and those he served with. Farewell to a good and faithful soldier and humble hero.

**Walter D. Ehlers' Medal of Honor Citation** Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Goville, France, 9-10 June 1944.

Entered service at: Manhattan, Kans. Birth: Junction City, Kans. G.O. No.: 91, 19 December 1944.

**Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 9-10 June 1944, near Goville, France. S/Sgt. Ehlers, always acting as the spearhead of the attack, repeatedly led his men against heavily defended enemy strong points exposing himself to deadly hostile fire whenever the situation required heroic and courageous leadership. Without waiting for an order, S/Sgt. Ehlers, far ahead of his men, led his squad against a strongly defended enemy strong point, personally killing 4 of an enemy patrol who attacked him en route. Then crawling forward under withering machinegun fire, he pounced upon the guncrew and put it out of action. Turning his attention to 2 mortars protected by the crossfire of 2 machineguns, S/Sgt. Ehlers led his men through this

hail of bullets to kill or put to flight the enemy of the mortar section, killing 3 men himself. After mopping up the mortar positions, he again advanced on a machinegun, his progress effectively covered by his squad. When he was almost on top of the gun he leaped to his feet and, although greatly outnumbered, he knocked out the position single-handed. The next day, having advanced deep into enemy territory, the platoon of which S/Sgt. Ehlers was a member, finding itself in an untenable position as the enemy brought increased mortar, machinegun, and small arms fire to bear on it, was ordered to withdraw. S/Sgt. Ehlers, after his squad had covered the withdrawal of the remainder of the platoon, stood up and by continuous fire at the semicircle of enemy placements, diverted the bulk of the heavy hostile fire on himself, thus permitting the members of his own squad to withdraw. At this point, though wounded himself, he carried his wounded automatic rifleman to safety and then returned fearlessly over the shell-swept field to retrieve the automatic rifle which he was unable to carry previously. After having his wound treated, he refused to be evacuated, and returned to lead his squad. The intrepid leadership, indomitable courage, and fearless aggressiveness displayed by S/Sgt. Ehlers in the face of overwhelming enemy forces serve as an inspiration to others.

(Source: Army Center of Military History.)

#### DUES DUE

The payment of dues has been completed and if not already you will soon be receiving your membership card from Corresponding Secretary Jim Klingler.

#### PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

If you are wanting to get involved, but do not want to be an officer, there are several positions



Bust of George Washington will be found in the Karen Buchwald Wright Reading Room in the new library.

that are appointed by the President after his installation at the January Meeting. If you see one you are interested in, you should contact President Dan Shippey, who will consider your request to fill the appointed positions.

These positions are; Historian/Archivist, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-At-Arms, Newsletter Editor, Medals & Awards Chairman, Eagle Scout Chairman, Information Technology Chairman, Activity Contest Chairman, Valley Forge Project Chairman, Orations Contest Chairman, Poster Contest Chairman, Essay Contest Chairman, Brochure Contest Chairman, Parade Chairman, JROTC/ROTC Chairman, Publicity Chairman, Flag Certificate Chairman, Veterans Affairs Chairman/Liaison, and Color Guard Commander of our Chapter's Lee's Legion Color Guard.

The President reserves the right to appoint a chairman to any other committee or position that may become available at any time during his tenure of office.

So, for those of you who would like to become more involved in the activities of your chapter, here is your opportunity to do so and make a contribution to both your chapter and the society in general.

#### VETERAN'S AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN

For the last couple years we have had a dry spell in filling this particular and very important post. As this is a volunteer organization. We rely on our members to help us achieve our goals as a chapter. Though some may be willing to serve, they are unable due to various reasons like family, health and work. These place certain restrictions on all of us in one way or another.

Such has been the case with this position. Due to work schedules our members who have taken on this position wholeheartedly have had to back down due to their work schedules. We appreciate what they

were able to do while in this position, we thank them and understand their situation, hoping that one day they may be able to do so again.

It has been learned recently that Compatriot Dan Henry has asked to return to this position to work with our veterans and to locate deserving members of our military who are Wounded Warriors and agree to be recognized for their service by our chapter.

Besides receiving our Wounded Warrior Coin and a Certificate recognizing their sacrifice, we also have members from the Quilts of Valor organization make a presentation to the Wounded Warrior of a quilt. If we have his or her information of their service ahead of time, they are able to place this information on one of the corners of the quilt to be presented to this Wounded Warrior.

We have only been able to do a couple last year. We would like to do at least one per monthly meeting and if we can get more, that would be great. If you know of a Wounded Warrior willing to let us honor him/her, let our Compatriot Henry know and he will proceed from there.

Thank you Dan. We appreciate your taking on this job with our chapter.

#### DAR TO ACCEPT DNA EVIDENCE FOR APPLICATIONS & SUPPLEMENTALS

Beginning January 1, 2014, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will accept Y-DNA evidence in support of new member applications and supplemental applications.

DNA evidence submitted along with other documentation will be considered along with all of the other source documentation provided to prove heritage.

Y-DNA will not be considered as stand-alone proof of lineage because while it can be used as a tool to point to a family, it cannot be used as absolute proof for an individual.

You can read more in an article by Lynn Young, President General of the DAR, at <http://youngblog.dar.org/dna-evidence-dar-applicationsand-supplementals>.

Posted by [Dick Eastman](#) on October 05, 2013.

#### ACTIVITY CONTEST

Compatriots as you know your Activity Contest Chairman sends out a list of activities we do each month for his report to the State on what our chapter



has been doing. In April at the State Meeting we will once again find out by the activities reported which chapters are the best in the state.

For the last several years your Orange County Chapter has taken the top award in the State for either Best Medium or Best Large Chapter. This is a credit to our members who participate in various patriotic events and report these activities to the Activity Contest Chairman.

So, how did we do in 2013? These results will be announced at the State Meeting in April up in Sacramento. Meanwhile last Fall at the Board of Managers Meeting in El Segundo the State Chairman, Phil Hinshaw reported that one of the chapters had amassed over 5000 points by that time.

This got your activity Contest Chairman thinking he had never totaled up our points at the end of the year to see how well we did for the year. He always waited for the State Meeting in April to find out if the efforts by the members of our chapter had been able to place in any of the categories in the contest. The categories are for 1) Meetings, 2) Newspaper and magazine articles and photos, 3) New Members, 4) Medals and Certificates awarded to non-SAR members, 5) Chapter Activities 6) Community Service, 7) CASSAR Programs (Youth Contests), and 8) Publications. In 2012 we took all but one or two categories. So how did we do in 2013? That we will find out in April. What we do have are the figures reported to the State on a monthly basis and here is what your Activity Contest Chairman found for our monthly and year end scores in 2013.

January—799.5 Points.

February—863.325

March—907.625

April—796.125

May—1606.31

June—1154.15

July—2362.15

August—1057.65

September—781

October—285.675

November—949

December—848

Total Points for 2013—12,410.51

As you can see Compatriots, you, the ladies and your families did our chapter proud in 2013. Come April we will find out if it was good enough to place

in any of the categories for which certificates are given out to the best in each.

## STATE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 139th Annual Meeting of the Membership of the California Society will be held in Sacramento from April 10-13, 2014. The Sacramento Chapter will be our hosts once again and we will be holding our meetings at the Embassy Suites Sacramento—Riverfront Promenade, 100 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Reservations for rooms can be made by calling 1-800-498-5237 or on line at [www.sacramento.embassysuites.com](http://www.sacramento.embassysuites.com) and using the group reservation code of “SCS”. Ask for the SAC-TO Sons of the American Revolution discount rate. Hotel reservations need to be made by March 21st. The rooms are priced at \$139 per night, single or double occupancy. Accommodations include a spacious two room suite, complimentary cooked to order breakfast, manager’s reception, and complimentary Airport Shuttle. Hotel Parking is \$20 per night. Room rates are good for 3 days prior and 3 days following the meeting.

Meeting reservations are \$145 if you were not able to make the February 28th deadline. Registration includes all meetings, Friday and Saturday Luncheons, Saturday Banquet tax and gratuity. Vegetarian Meals are available with prior notice. The Saturday Night Banquet has a choice of Herb Crusted Prime Rib, Seared Salmon, or Vegetarian.

Please get your reservations in if you have not yet done so and are planning on attending the meeting of the membership.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON LIBRARY

MOUNT VERNON, Va. — George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate has opened a \$47 million library dedicated to the study of America’s first president, with plans to host a series of scholars who will examine the lives of Washington and the other founding fathers.

Since 1853, the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Washington’s legacy. But with the opening on Friday, September 27, 2013 of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, Mount Vernon is committing itself to sponsoring a formal level of scholarship about Washington, and Mount Vernon officials say they have no intention of

insisting on a glossy interpretation.

“There is this vision of Washington as a man on a pedestal,” said Curt Viebranz, Mount Vernon’s president and chief executive. “I actually think if you take him down off the pedestal, it’s an even more compelling story. We’re not going to try to control the message.”

The library’s director, Douglas Bradburn, said there was a trend among historians now who might be more likely to look at the American Revolution through a more cynical lens, resurrecting arguments from a century ago that Washington and the other founding fathers were motivated more by their own economic interests than by any lofty notions of liberty and self-governance.

Mr. Bradburn said the beauty of a library like Mount Vernon’s was that historians and researchers from various schools of interpretation could come together, collaborate and commiserate.

Sandra Moats, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, who will be one of the first seven visiting scholars at the estate, will research Washington and the advent of American neutrality after the Revolution. She said she was looking forward to delving into “the nitty-gritty policy in the way a historian would with any president.”

She expects her work to be neither critical nor glowing, but a more straightforward examination.

“He’s not someone with a lot of scandals or problems,” she said. “He’s not someone where I’m expecting to find a lot of skeletons.”

The library also gives Mount Vernon an opportunity to hold seminars and retreats for political and military leaders and others who want to understand Washington’s values. Mount Vernon has often hosted small gatherings like these, but it never had the facilities to accommodate such larger meetings to the degree it would have liked.

*This was taken from an Associated Press Article on September 28, 2013 that appeared in the New York Times.*

Since Franklin Roosevelt, every modern U.S. president has opened his own presidential library.

On Friday, September 27, President George Washington, the nation’s first, finally got his turn, as a state-of-the-art presidential library is christened in his honor.

Washington’s beloved Mount Vernon steps into a bold new era with the formal opening of The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

Some 800 dignitaries, officials, and VIPs were on hand to witness the unveiling of a library purpose-

built to preserve the original books and papers from Gen. Washington’s personal collection. Noted historian and best-selling author David McCullough was the keynote speaker.

The 45,000-square-foot library includes a residence for visiting scholars. The collection includes approximately 450 handwritten letters and manuscripts, including Washington’s personal diary. They will be housed in a secure area dubbed “The Vault.”

The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association — the organization that owns and maintains Washington’s stately, colonial-era manse on the banks of the Potomac just southwest of the Nation’s Capital — anticipates that the new library will trigger renewed scholarly study of America’s first president. It will host conferences, seminars, and educational programs available to every student in America via the Internet.

“I’m absolutely thrilled,” says philanthropist Gay Hart Gaines, former chairman of the association’s board and a key planner and fundraiser who played an instrumental role in bringing the library to fruition. “It’s so wonderful. The grand opening of the library is now a dream come true.”

The library represents the fulfillment of one of Washington’s personal dreams as well.

After enduring humiliating setbacks early in the war, Washington pummeled British Lt. Gen. Edward Cornwallis into submission at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781.

Washington was so popular after that battle, most historians believe, he could have made himself America’s king. Washington, said fellow Virginian “Light-Horse Harry” Lee, was “first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

But Washington grew weary of the trappings of office after eight years as commander-in-chief, and in deference to the need to establish democratic traditions, he resigned his office and returned to his beloved Mount Vernon.

Washington harbored one last ambition when he left public life, however. He confided to a friend that he wanted to build a place “for the accommodation and security of my military, civil, and private papers, which are voluminous and may be interesting.” Not long after he wrote those words, however, Washington contracted a severe chill while inspecting his plantation in a cold downpour, fell sick, and died.

On Friday, some 214 years later, thanks to the generous support of donors, and the Ladies’ Association’s staunch commitment to vouchsafing the legacy of the nation’s first president, Washington’s dream of establishing a library has been fulfilled.

As a matter of both tradition and principle, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association accepts no government funding. To build and operate the library, it raised more than \$106 million from some 7,000 donors.

Many of them were among the 400 VIP guests who gathered Thursday evening at the mansion's white-columned piazza for a once-in-a-lifetime reception. A gala dinner was followed by dancing and a memorable fireworks display — revelry that would have delighted Washington, say those who have studied his life.

The ceremony commemorating the grand opening of the museum took place early Friday. In addition to McCullough, speakers at Friday morning's grand-opening ceremony included Curtis G. Viebranz, president and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon, who took office about a year ago; Regent Ann Bookout, representing the state of Texas; and Clare Edwards, the vice regent representing Connecticut, who also chaired the Library Task Force.

Grammy-winning artists Amy Grant and Vince Gill also took part in the ceremonies.

The grand opening represents the culmination of more than five years of nonstop planning and fund-raising. The work of the Library Task Force that orchestrated the project was painstaking to the finest detail: The library's decorative stones were selected to be reminiscent of the buff color that Washington favored in his vest and uniform.

Now that the library is a reality, Gay Hart Gaines, the regent who represents Florida, recalls its dubious beginnings.

She and former Mount Vernon President and CEO James C. Rees IV — who oversaw the preservation of the historic home for 29 years before his retirement in June 2012 — began talking about building a presidential library for the nation's first president right after Mount Vernon opened its popular, 66,700-square-foot Ford Orientation and Donald W. Reynolds Museum & Education Center.

"We no sooner opened those in 2006 than Jim Rees and I said, 'You know, George Washington wanted a library,'" she recalls.

Rees was concerned the association might not be up to another major fund-raising campaign, so close on the heels of its \$60 million expansion.

Gaines and Rees kicked around the idea for a year, and one day Rees said, "I'm going to try to get the seed money. Maybe if I can get that, we can talk everybody into it."

"The long and the short of it," said Gaines, "was

we were able to get a large grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to provide the seed money."

Gaines then persuaded her fellow leaders in the Ladies' Association to embark on a massive capital campaign.

"It was daunting," Gaines recalls, "because we'd just come off of a capital campaign one year before. But I said this is the time to do it because the education center is so exciting and everybody's so thrilled with it. And while everybody is so proud of what they did, let's ask them again."

Friday's festivities represented the fulfillment of those ambitions.

Other major contributors to the library include Amway co-founder Rich and Helen DeVos; John and Adrienne Mars of the global confection and food-product company that bears their name; and David M. Rubenstein, co-founder of the Carlyle Group.

Gaines says the grand opening "marks a wonderful new beginning for George Washington's home at Mount Vernon."

The library is designed to reflect Washington's love of farming and the outdoors, with tall bay windows that allow sunlight and vistas of Northern Virginia landscaping to splash in from every direction. Its state-of-the-art conference and seminar rooms can stream live video presentations across the globe via the Internet.

The library's priceless artifacts include a diary written in Washington's own hand; a 1775 letter to wife Martha written just before his departure to lead the American troops at Cambridge; and the first Acts of Congress, including the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The latter volume was acquired from Christie's at a price of nearly \$10 million.

The estate also recently acquired eight more volumes from Washington's original collection at an auction administered by Sotheby's. The two primary aims of Washington's new library are to make Mount Vernon the global center of scholarship on America's indispensable man and to expand the study of Washington's life and times to schools across the nation around the world.

"We need to grab those kids who aren't learning American history in school," Gaines explains, "and get them excited about our founding so they understand it really was unique and fabu-

lous."

Gaines sometimes wonders how Washington might react if he were able once again to stride through the doorway of his beloved home in Mount Vernon and gaze around.

Says Gaines: "I think he would say, 'I married Martha Washington because she was a strong, intelligent woman. And I am delighted that you ladies have preserved our Mount Vernon home with such loving care. Today, thanks to your work, Mount Vernon is better than ever.'"

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## LAGUNA BEACH PATRIOT'S DAY PARADE

Once again your Lee's Legion and members of your Orange County Chapter were entered in the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade scheduled for Saturday March 1, 2014. Your chapter has been doing this parade for over 20 years. It is fun, short and a downhill walk. Unfortunately due to the rain and its planned appearance that day, the organizers of the parade made the decision to cancel the parade for this year and hopes to see all the entrants on March 7, 2015. This is the first time in over 20 years of appearing in this parade that it has been cancelled.

Make a note on your calendars for next year's parade. We will have our 1931 Model A Deluxe Coupe driven by Dave Manning which can fit three people ( One in the front seat and two in the rumble seat). In case you would rather ride than walk.

## WOUNDED WARRIORS

Compatriots, Here are the men we will be honoring at our meeting on Saturday.

### Robert Wayne Griffith

- Served US Navy from 1968 to 1972.
- Trained at Hunters Point, San Francisco Bay for submarine duty. He was assigned to USS Bonefish, (SS-582), the last diesel submarine, which had the appearance of a nuclear sub.
- Submarine was based out of Pearl Harbor. Spent much of his duty on the Bonefish, where initially it was going through an overhaul, so Robert was stuck in Hawaii. Tough duty.
- Robert's duty assignment was an Electrical Tech-

nician, Petty Officer Third Class, E4.

- Notable; The Bonefish was the primary boat for developing the Mark 48 torpedo which is still in use today.
- Today Robert is retired, and assisting dad. He enjoys trains and auto racing.

### Father, Joseph Roscoe Griffith

- Today, Roscoe, (preferred) is 98 years old and will be 99 in July. He served in United States Navy from 1936 to 1956. Roscoe went into the Navy because the dress uniform impressed him and he was hungry. First meal was beans and corn bread, he recalls at that moment, "*Oh Roscoe what in the world did you get yourself into.*"
- He was assigned to various ships including the battleship USS Idaho (BB-42) and USS Tortuga (LSD-26), but most time on the USS Honolulu, (LC-48).
- Home port for the Honolulu was Pearl Harbor and he is a Pearl Harbor survivor, where he observed the first torpedo's drop from Japanese planes towards battleship row.
- Roscoe worked in the engine room as a Chief Machinist Mate, (E7) and his last ship was the Tortuga, stationed out of Japan.

### Norman Keith Griffith

- Served in US Army from 1969 to 1971.
- Norm had his basic and advanced infantry training at Fort Ord, California and then he was assigned to 25th Infantry Division, stationed in Vietnam, Tai Nan Province.
  - While serving in Vietnam Norm received two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts
- First Purple Heart received was from driving over a land mine. Norm was trying to protect ground soldiers from sniper fire so he got into an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) and drove it in-between them and the snipers, when the land mine exploded. Norm injured his face, breaking out three teeth, crushing another, and two more were protruding through his lip. He required numerous stitches and dental surgery.
- Second purple heart was from a booby trap tripped by the point-man just in front of him. Norm received many fragments in stomach, groin, and upper thigh areas. \*\*\*



# Photo Album

March 2014



DAR Member Linda Knock receives the Medal of Appreciation from the Orange County and Silicon Valley Chapters.



Color Guard Commander Jim Fosdyck presents new Color Guardsmen with the lapel color guard pin



At left, Marcus Deemer receives the War Service Medal and Certificate for his service in Korea by General George Washington.

At right, the CASSAR Color Guard at the Massing of the Colors.



Your Orange County Members who were in attendance at the Massing of the Colors were; Jim & Un Hui Yi Fosdyck, Dan & Karen McKelvie, Larry & Sharon Wood, Dan Henry, Jim Blauer and Bill & Jackie Gaumer. Lou Carlson (not pictured) gave the invocation and benediction and Jim Blauer sang the national Anthem.



# George Washington Library



Dedication ceremonies with David McCullough as the guest speaker.



Rare books and manuscripts are on display at the library.



The exterior of the library.



One of the reading rooms.



As you can see there are a lot of books in this collection.



This repository will be a place where researchers can come to do their work.