



MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

June 2016

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MEETING INFORMATION

When June 11, 2016
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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow compatriots,

Summer time. Vacation time! Yes, it's that time again when we in Southern California get to enjoy some of the best weather in the world. With the great Pacific Ocean only a half hour away for most of us and backyard barbecues going nonstop till September, this is the time to enjoy family and friends and thank God for the wonderful blessings he has bestowed on us.

Remember, there are no chapter meetings the months of July and August. This is a good time to enjoy family and maybe even see some historic sites; either near or far. While I love reading history, nothing beats being there in person; touching the same ground, seeing the same sights...if I close my eyes I can believe for a moment I am there way back then. If you get a chance to do something like that, tell me. I would love to hear about it.

July 4th is just around the corner. If there was ever a holiday for SAR this is it! Some of my favorite memories for the Fourth have been over at Irvine Amphitheater listening to the Pacific Symphony, saluting the various armed forces and watching a great and very close firework display. This year I will be in uniform with our Color Guard at the City of Cerritos celebration: LET FREEDOM RING! I can't imagine a better way to celebrate this very special day than being with fellow compatriots. I hope to see you there!

Finally, I just wanted to say what a pleasure it has been serving you these past months. It has been very busy, but our chapter is so full of good people I have



had a wonderful time. Because of everyone's support, I am happy to say we have a very busy Fall program schedule.

If I don't get a chance to see you this month have a very happy and safe summer. See you in September.

John R Ferris, MBA, CEM, CFP, LEED AP
Director,

SAR CRUISE

There were 28 members and their families who on the SARs Journey to Alaska cruise and 14 of them who stayed on for the extension to Denali.

From the Orange County Chapter we had John Dodd, his wife Karen and their daughter Lacy, Jim Blauer, Joseph Dooley, and Mike and Cilla Tomme.

From the State we also had besides our chapter members; Delmar and Reynalda Henry, John Patten, and Stephen & Joy Renouf.

From the National Society we had FPG Joe Dooley, FPG Lindsey Brock and his wife Billie, Secretary General J. Michael Tomme and his wife Cilla, Treasurer General Larry Guzy and his wife Karin, Inspector General Warren Alter and his wife Nancy, Registrar General Russell De Venny and his wife Laura and Lanny & Ann Patten from Gladwyne, PA. Lanny is on the Foundation Board and is the Trustee for France.. Also along were James & Teri Lindley from Kirkland, Washington. James is the Trustee for the Montana Society. Eugene and Rebecca Moyer from Frederick, Maryland, and Ernest and Janet Sutton from Export, Pennsylvania. John Berik from Magic Travel accompanied us on the entire trip from Seattle to Anchorage.

All but a couple flew in to Seattle on Friday May 13. A couple would meet us at the ship when we got to Vancouver. A few of us were there early and were able to book a tour of the Boeing Plant at 2pm. No photos or filming was permitted. What was seen was an assembly line of putting the planes together one section at a time and then it was moved on the next spot where something else would be added. Very interesting to see how it is done. That evening a reception was held in the Fairmont Hotel Lobby where we were staying the night. We were joined by members from the Washington State Society.

Stefan Kovalenko, Oliver Davis, CDR Robert Doughty, Gregory and Cindy Lucas joined us at our reception. John Dodd as Vice-President of the Western Region presided and welcomed all. He had the gentlemen from the Washington State Society say a few words and a toast was made. Following this brief meeting we commiserated with one another and had refreshments that had been arranged for us by John Berik. It was announced that at 9am in the morning (Saturday May 14th) the Washington Society was having a breakfast and members were invited to attend. Joe Dooley, Mike and Cilla Tomme, Larry Guzy and John Dodd opted to go to the breakfast where they were introduced, but had to return to the hotel to get ready to get on the bus. A very short visit.

On Saturday May 14, while members here in Orange County were attending our chapter meeting, we on the cruise departed from Seattle via a coach bus enjoying a scenic ride through Washington State and Canada that led to our arrival in Vancouver. We stayed over night at the Fairmont in that city before heading out to the ship at noon on May 15th, Sunday. Since we could not get into our cabins until after 1pm many of us waited in the lobby until 12 noon then walked over to board the ship.

This is where we had to get into one line after another before we could board the ship. This included a walk through customs.

Once on board, your editor decided to take some time and become familiar with the ship and where things were located. We set sail about 5pm and we were off. The next day, May 16, we cruised the inside passage and on the 17th we arrived at Ketchikan where many of us took advantage of the various tours and packages they had. Some took a tour of the city, others went zip lining, just to name a few. We departed at 3pm and by 10am on the 18th we were in Juneau. Like Ketchikan there were things to go and do and we did.

We left Ketchikan at 10pm and on May 19th





The members and their family who participated in the SAR Western Conference trip to Alaska.

arrived in Skagway at 7am. Many different experiences were offered and this would be our last port until we arrived at Seward on May 22nd. We left Skagway at 9pm and headed for Glacier Bay. We went up the bay and saw pods of whales gliding along just beneath the water. Once in awhile we would see one that spouted off. We saw several glaciers and even some calving took place at one of them. By 4pm we had exited Glacier Bay and would be at sea all day on the 21st.

It was arranged that between 6-8pm we would meet in the Crow's Nest on deck ten for a private reception and meeting. Again as Vice-President General of the Western District, John Dodd conducted the meeting. Here James Lindley gave a power point presentation on having the Congress in Washington State in 2020 or 2021. Our group was very impressed with his presentation.

We arrived in Seward at 6am on May 22. Here is where we lost half of those on the trip. Those returning home were bussed to the airport while those of us going on had their own bus to take them to Denali. Our guide for this part of our trip would be Anna. Our first driver was Brian. Along the way Brian had to leave us and Gary became our new driver.

On land there were sightings of moose and eagles. These were Bald Eagles, our nation's symbol. We would see both adults and young ones. The young ones did not have the white feathers so they looked more like Golden Eagles than Bald Eagles.

On Monday the 23rd we were allowed to take tours and the like. Some took helicopter rides or plane rides over the glaciers. Some landed on the glacier so they could walk on it.

Others took to the Puppy Farms. This is where they raise Alaskan Huskies for the Iditarod Race from Anchorage to Nome. Those who went to the puppy farms were allowed to hold the puppies that would later become adult Iditarod dogs. The vigorous training was explained and what was needed by the sled master during the trip/ race.

There were those who went to the Visitors Center and got to see some displays on the wildlife of the area.

That evening a final dinner/reception was held at the diner by our cabins.

Tuesday May 24th saw us check out of our cabins and head to the Visitors Center where we caught the train back to Anchorage. Most of us decided to take an upgrade when it was offered to us. We had a wonderful view of the wildlife and once again saw some moose and some Trumpeter Swans. From a distance Mount Denali (McKinley) was pointed out. We stayed at the Hilton In Anchorage.

Once we were settled in it was back down stairs to where another meeting was to be held. John Dodd presided. Besides, John, Jim Blauer, Russ DeVenney, Eugene Moyer, Jim Lindley, Steve Renouf, and Ernie Sutton attended. We were joined by Walter John, President of the Alaska Society, Alaska Trustee Tim Doughty and State Registrar John Rogers. We learned that Alaska has 43 members, but they are spread out all over the state so it is difficult to have state meetings. There are about 20 in Anchorage, some in Fairbanks and about 5-6 in the lower part of the state.

Some of the problems Alaska Society encounters were discussed. Mainly due to the small membership, it is difficult to have meetings and there are no committees.

We flew home on Wednesday May 25th. Bah Humbug our trip was over.

MAY MEETING

At our chapter meeting we were honored to have the Mayor of the city of Fullerton be our speaker. She was likewise pleased to come. She was just a few years ago a winner in the SAR Essay contest. You will find her essay at the end of this newsletter.

Also this was our month to honor those who do Community or Public Service. OC Fire Authority Engineer David Newell received the Fire Safety Commendation and Anaheim Police officer David Garcia received the Law Enforcement Commendation.

It was reported by Jim Fosdyck that several High School Outstanding Citizenship Awards were presented at Santiago, Buena Park and Sonora High Schools.

Our own Dan Shippey walk away with three awards. The is the Bronze Roger Sherman Award The SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal and the CASSAR Silver Von Steuben Color Guard Medal. Congrats Dan!

COLOR GUARD EVENTS

It has been a very busy month for your Color Guard. On the weekend of May 20th, Armed Forces Weekend, your Color Guardsman were out in force at the Field of Honor at Castaways Park in Newport Beach. They acted as an Honor Guard for the those units who presented the Colors and had a firing squad who shot off their muskets during the event. Once again the Newport Harbor Exchange Club set aside a booth for our members to be able to talk with the public about SAR and answer any questions some of the school children might want to ask.

Memorial Weekend was a busy one. Though not in uniform for logistical reasons, Compatriot Jim Blauer once again sang the National Anthem for his Alma Mater, Newport Harbor High School's 26th annual Memorial Day service, remembering the alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.

On Saturday May 28th Compatriots and members of the Ladies Auxiliary marched in the Strawberry Festival Parade. Here we welcomed our newest Color Guardsman, John Blake. We also welcomed the Merrell family from the Harbor Chapter. This was the first time the Merrell's had joined us.

On Sunday Commander Fosdyck was joined by drummer Kent Gregory, riflemen Larry wood and Brian Merrell and flag men John Ferris and Jim Klingler for the annual taping of the Hour of Power. It will be telecast on July third on TBN. So mark your calendars. Thanks go out to Danny Cox for arranging this event for the color guard to participate in. This is done by the Shepherd's

Grove Church which use to be the Crystal Cathedral.

On a side note many years ago your editor was watching TV and began flipping channels until he came to a site with boy scouts carrying all these American Flags and then at the end of the presentation a large wall flag was unfurled. After the presentation the Rev. Robert Schuler came on and I knew it was the Crystal Cathedral monthly Hour of Power show. I spoke to then President Walter Davis of our chapter and explained what I had witnessed and he arranged and made an in person presentation of a Flag Certificate to the Church for their display of the American Flag.

On Monday we participated in the Tri-City Memorial Day ceremonies at the Civil War Monument in the Old Santa Ana cemetery. There were speeches as usual. Your Color Guard presented the colors from the chapter and laid a wreath as well. We had three flyovers. One by a helicopter and two by four air force planes. The first of these two passes was in formation. The second pass had the lone flyer veer off from the formation noting the passing of a comrade in arms.

So, as you can see it was not only a busy month but the last weekend was a very busy one for the chapter.

SUMMER HIATUS

June 11th will be our last meeting until September. For those who are relatively new to the chapter we do take July and August off as many members are on the road traveling on their Summer vacation. So, our next meeting will be September 10.

Meanwhile you chapter will still be busy. Compatriot Jim Blauer has once again sent in the application to participate in the Huntington Beach July 4th parade. Last year due to several injuries, we were for the first time in 26 years unable to participate. Jim is just waiting to receive the confirmation and placement of our entry. The parade starts at 10am and has 300-350 entries. This takes several hours to get through and it takes about an hour to walk which depends on how fast the parade proceeds. There is always stopping along the way, so an exact time is difficult to pin down. We have a 1931 Model A Deluxe Coupe that is

driven by Dave Manning. There is one front seat and a rumble seat for two other riders.

The parade is usually televised and can be watched on TV as it is happening. If you should witness the TV showing of this event or any other it is requested that you notify Activity Contest Chairman Jim Blauer as the chapter gets points in the state contest for being on TV.

Later that evening at 6:30 they have the Let Freedom Ring ceremonies in front of the Cerritos City Hall. We will once again have the Lee's Legion members there and we will be joined by other chapters to participate in this National Color Guard event. The Ladies Auxiliary members are always welcome and do feel free to wear colonial dress at these sorts of events. We need to be there by 5:30pm for color Guardsmen.

So, as you can see we still have a couple events for July even though we do not meet.

SUPPORT THE C.A.R.

Letter of Request

Dear Compatriots and C.A.R. Supporters,

The nearly 9,500 worldwide members of the Children of the American Revolution are the future leaders of SAR and of our great country. The SAR is proud to be a long standing supporter of the C.A.R., and President General Lawrence has continued this effort by focusing on all of the SAR youth programs. **As we approach Congress, it is time to rally our financial support of the C.A.R. and reaffirm our commitment to this SAR youth program.**

Our annual donation will be presented to National President Connor Jackson at the National Congress Youth Luncheon in Boston. We are proud that Connor is a Compatriot of New Hampshire Society SAR.

C.A.R. is the nation's oldest, largest, patriotic youth organization that offers membership to anyone under the age of 22, lineally descended from someone who rendered material aid to the cause of the American Independence as a soldier, sailor, civil officer, or recognized patriot in one of the several Colonies or States, or of the United States. C.A.R. activities focus on patriotism, service, and education about our American heritage. The NSSAR/C.A.R. Committee has a video where you can learn more about SAR involvement in C.A.R. Activities. View the video

at <https://youtu.be/NIZSlqFmDNg>

Each year, the National President creates a National Project and Theme in support of educational programs. The National Board, including State Presidents and National Chairmen, promotes the project and theme throughout the country at nine regional meetings. State and Local Societies support these initiatives during the year and raise awareness for National programs.

This year's theme is *Freedom's Thunder!* Members are rallying behind this theme as they raise funds for an artillery and firing station at the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown (ARMY). This National Project will educate members on the siege of Yorktown and help fund an enhanced outdoor interpretive program – where firing demonstrations can support cannon firing. Members want to preserve and educate the public about this important piece of history, so that future generations can authentically learn about the American Revolution.

The goal for this year's N.S.C.A.R. project is \$25,000. Compatriots – Will you help them achieve this goal? Achieving this goal will only be possible with the sustained support of their "Parent Organizations" - SAR, DAR, and S.R. I urge you to consider a personally significant donation in support of their 2016-2017 National Project.

How to Contribute:

By Check: Mail donation to NSSAR Headquarters, 809 West Main Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2619. Please make check payable to NSSAR and add "C.A.R. Support" in the memo field.

By Credit Card: Call Mary Butts at Headquarters and indicate your donation is for the C.A.R. Committee donation to the C.A.R. You can always learn more about N.S.C.A.R., Local Society opportunities and ways you can involve your family in C.A.R. at www.nscar.org/join.

Thank you so much for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions!
Encouraging Freedom's Thunder,
Darrin M. Schmidt
NSSAR C.A.R. Committee Chairman
703-955-7333

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Normally your editor would have picked a subject for the month of June for his historical article. Since we do not meet during the Summer he has decided to include June, July and August which is the time period encompassed by the Declaration of Independence.

With the American Revolution already in full swing for a good year, it is on June 7, 1776 that Richard Henry Lee offers up a resolution that "These United Colonies are & of right ought to be free & independent states". For the next three days this resolution was discussed and finally agreed upon that some form of Declaration should be written. On June 11, 1776 Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingstone and Roger Sherman were selected to be on the committee to draft this declaration.

Discussion ensued among the committee about who should write it. Having noted Jefferson's writing abilities, he was the choice of the committee to write this new declaration of independence.

From June 12-27 at the request of the committee, Jefferson creates a draft of which only a fragments exist today. Jefferson's clean or "fair" copy, the original "Rough draught" is reviewed by the committee. Both of these documents are currently housed in the Library of Congress.

On June 28th a fair copy of the Declaration of Independence was read to those assembled in Congress.

Debate on the wording and various sections of the draught were brought up. Though Jefferson did not argue any points, John Adams was very adamant in his defense of the document as it was written and revised by the committee.

On July 2nd the British Fleet and army arrived in New York. It was on this day that Congress approved the resolution by Richard Henry Lee and declared the independence of the United States.

Finally after some 86 changes to Jefferson's original draught and having shortened the document by 25%, Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. At this time only two signatures are attached to the copy. John Hancock, the President of Congress and Charles Thompson, the secretary.

John Dunlap at the request of President John Hancock had prints made. These are called Dun-

lap Broadside. 26 copies are known to exist, two are in the Library of Congress.

On July 5th John Hancock sends the first Broadside of the Declaration of Independence to the legislatures of New Jersey and Delaware.

On July 6th the first newspaper edition appears in the Philadelphia Evening Post.

July 8th we have the first public reading of the Declaration in Philadelphia by John Nixon.

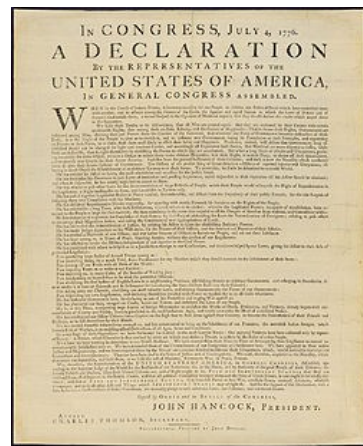
On July 9th George Washington orders the Declaration of Independence be read to the American Army in New York.

On July 19th Congress orders the Declaration of Independence be engrossed (officially inscribed) and signed by members.

Finally on August 2nd, 1776 delegates to Congress gather to sign the engrossed copy. Not all the delegates are present and it takes several months before all the signatures are applied to the document.

It is interesting to note that though Secretary Charles Thompson's name is on the Dunlap Broadside, his name is not one of the signatures on the final engrossed copy that was signed on August 2nd.

The Dunlap Broadside (at right) was printed right after the Declaration was approved by Congress and before the signing of August 2, 1776. Notice it only shows the names of John Hancock, President of the Congress and Charles Thompson the Secretary of the Congress.



The Broadside printed by Mary Katherine Goddard (at right) in January 1777 was the one listing the signers names and was sent to all the states.





In the Brochure Contest Elizabeth Douma received an Honorable Mention for her brochure. She was presented her medal at the Chapter meeting of May 14th.

Mayor Fitzgerald, right, receives our SAR Certificate of Appreciation for speaking to our chapter as we honored those who give public service to the community. See SAR winning essay at the end of this newsletter.



OC Fire Authority Engineer David Newell receives the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Award from President John Ferris.



Anaheim Police Officer David Garcia receives the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation from President John Ferris. APD Lt. Richard LaRochelle, and APD Sgt. Han look



At Left, V.P. South Bob Taylor pays a visit to our chapter.



Above, President Ferris presents Compatriot Dan Shippey with the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal, the SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal, and the CASSAR Silver Von Steuben Medal.



JROTC Awards are presented to deserving cadets at local high schools

JROTC Chairman Gus Fischer presents the SAR JROTC Bronze Medal to Cadet Kory Hicks of Sonora High on April 13. Col Hans Hunt is in the background and Cadet Battalion Commander LTC Spencer Nobbs is at left of Kory.



Chairman Gus Fischer presents Troy High School Cadet Richard Park with the Bronze JROTC Medal.



At left, Chairman Gus Fischer presents the SAR Bronze JROTC Medal to Brandon Orozco of Buena Park High School.

At right, Cadet Kyle Bausman-Baiz received the SAR JROTC Bronze medal. Kyle is from Kennedy High School.



Cadet Bobby Mago of La Habra High School is presented the JROTC Bronze Medal by Chairman Gus Fischer.

SAR Alaskan Cruise



John and daughter Lacy Dodd on board the ship, the Noordam, in Ketchikan, Alaska.



Joy Javellana, wife of Stephen Renouf in Juneau, Alaska.



John & Lacy Dodd & Steve Renouf fly out to stand on a glacier near Juneau.



Spain Trustee Steve Renouf, JV. P. General Western District John Dodd and FPG Joe Dooley.



Front Row; Cilla Tomme, Billie Brock, Janet Sutton, Rebecca Moyer, Joy Javellana, and Karen Dodd.

Second Row: Teri Lindley, Jim Blauer, Ann Patten, Laura & Russell De Venney, and Reynalda Henry

Third Row; Lindsey Brock, Lanny Patten, Ernest Sutton, Lacy Dodd, Steve Renouf, and Delmar Henry

Fourth (Back Row): James Lindley, John Patten, Mike Tomme, Warren & Nancy Alter, John Dodd, Gene

Moyer, Joe Dooley. And Karin & Larry Guzy.

Jim Blauer, Steve Renouf, John Rogers (AK Society), Gene Moyer, Walter John, (AK), Ernie Sutton and Lanny Patten.

John Dodd was present, but not in this picture.

John Conducted a meeting at the hotel with these members in attendance.

Sites in Alaska



The sites of Alaska are many and varied as seen from these photos taken by Steve Renouf.

At left we have a glacier that has been receding for several hundred years. At right a visit to a glacier one finds cracks in the ice.



Where the glaciers have receded you can find waterfalls.

We saw several Bald Eagles in our travels. Some, the young ones had not yet developed their signature crown of white.



In Skagway we visited parts of the town. At left is one of the stores.



At right the Red On ion Saloon was a brothel and the only original building in the city. It was moved from its original location to its present one.



Lots of different wildlife was seen. At left you have a mother moose with her young one.

At right one of the bears one might see when in Alaska. Why did the bear cross the road? Because he could.





The Field of Honor was on the weekend of May 20,21, &22nd at the castaways Park in Newport Beach. There were 1776 flags placed around the park.

The CASSAR Color Guard led by Commander Mark Kramer prepared to march into position.



The CASSAR Color Guard poses in front of a Wells Fargo stage coach. Jim Fosdyck, Mark Kramer, Charlie Gentis, Dan McKelvie, Jim Klingler, Bob Taylor, Karl Jacobs, John Blake, Kent Gregory and Christopher Keene.

Below members participate in the Strawberry Festival Parade on May 28th.



On Memorial Day Lt. Col. Hans Hunt was the guest speaker at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Memory Garden Memorial Park and Mortuary in Brea and had the opportunity to present a flag certificate to Erick Sword the Director of Memory Garden which I thought to be most appropriate on Memorial Day since numerous American flags were respectfully flown throughout the Cemetery in respect of our fallen.





Jim Fosdyck, Larry Wood, Dan Henry, Jim Blauer, John Ferris, Jim Klingler, John Blake, Brian Merrell, Kent Gregory, Karl Jacobs and Dan Shippey. They presented the Colors and a wreath.



California Society Color Guard Jim Fosdyck, Larry Wood, Dan Henry, Jim Blauer, John Ferris, Jim Klingler, John Blake, Brian Merrell, Kent Gregory, Karl Jacobs and Dan Shippey/ with Ladies Auxiliary members Un Hui Yi, Sharon Wood, Liz Ferris, Lisa Gregory and Kelli Shippey.



The past and the present come together as the Lee's Legion Color Guard is joined by the Honor Rifle Salute firing party—Soldiers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Blackhorse Troopers, Fort Irwin, CA



General & Mrs. Washington and his guidon Karl Jacobs lead the California Society Color Guard during the Presentation of Colors.



Cooper's Battery prepare for the firing of their Richmond Howitzers.



The Civil War artillery fire their cannons a couple times during the ceremonies.



Charles Beal along with local Girl Scouts worked on the Saturday before Memorial Day placing Flags on the Graves of Veterans at the Old Santa Ana Cemetery.



The General & Mrs. Washington join the procession in the presentation of Colors by the various groups at the ceremonies.

At right a tribute to the fallen.



Below left, Compatriot Jim Blauer along with Lisa Gregory of the Ladies Auxiliary place the wreath on behalf of the SAR.

Below right, the General and Mrs. Washington (Dan and Kelli Shippey) pause as the placement of the SAR wreath is made to show their respect for those who died in the American Revolution. The General is followed by his Flag Bearer (guidon) Karl Jacobs of the Harbor Chapter.





The Honor Guard Firing Party stands vigil as they await the time for the 21 gun salute.



The Honor Guard Firing Party fires off one of three volleys of a 21 gun salute.



Flyovers by both helicopter and planes were witnessed at the ceremonies.



Musket man Larry Wood, U. S. Flag bearer John Ferris, SAR Flag bearer John Blake, Musket man Brian Merrell and drummer Kent Gregory at the taping of the Hour of Power taping for the July 3rd telecast on TBN.



Kent Gregory, Brian Merrell, John Ferris, John Blake, Larry Wood and Jim Fosdyck.



On Memorial Day Quilts of Valor Director Barbara Winkler and Q of V volunteer Un Hui Yi presented quilts to sixteen veterans at Katella Assisted Living in Los Alamitos.

There were veterans from WW II, Korea and Vietnam representing the Army, Navy, USMC and Air Force.

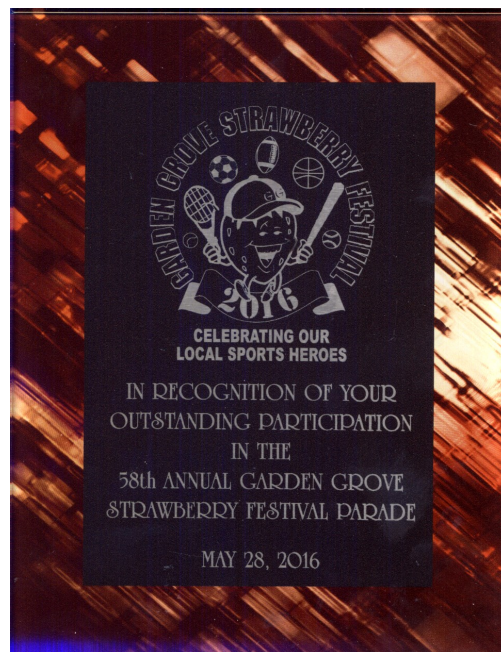


Sharon Wang, right, is presented the Outstanding Good Citizenship Award by Compatriot Jim Fosdyck at the annual Awards dinner at Buena Park High School.



Jim Fosdyck presented the SAR Good Citizenship award to Santiago High School senior Joselyn Beauchamp.

At right, plaque presented to the chapter from the Strawberry Festival Parade organizers.



★ ★ ★ REMEMBERING OUR PRINCIPLE OF PATRIOTISM ★ ★ ★

WHERE DO WE HIDE OUR PATRIOTISM?

by Jennifer Cowen, Redlands High School
Another of Four CASSAR State Oration Finalist

Word went out to a wife on the Western Frontier that she had become a widow, to a mother in Virginia that she had lost her son, to children in Georgia that they no longer had a father. The War for Independence included suffering for most of the people involved in it, civilian and compatriot alike; and as Alden said, "While the war of the dead mourned for thousands rather than millions, the quality of their cries was not thereby diminished." In the midst of this suffering, during one of the lowest points in the Revolutionary War, George Washington gave new hope to America. By crossing the Delaware and giving the British a smashing blow, he stimulated a wave of patriotism that carried the tired but valiant colonists through the war and led them to action.

Why would this tiny colonial establishment risk its life to become independent? These newcomers to this continent found a country that they could be proud of. Already, their patriotism was growing, and the Revolutionary War did not dampen their patriotism; instead it lit their smoldering fire.

The sacrifices made were not only made by the soldiers who fought, but also by the families who stayed behind. Such as the sacrifice made by Catherine Campbell, wife of Colonel and soldier Arthur Campbell, and mother of three sons. Catherine saw her new husband and three sons off to war. Like most women, Catherine's greatest joys came from her family, and the biggest part of her life was with them also. The sacrifice she made equalled all others.

These sacrifices of the Revolutionary War instilled a pride in the hearts of Americans, a determination that the lives lost would not be in vain. Our ancestors saw the dirt road they had laid out. They looked at the ruts that the British were creating and decided in their hearts that they would pave their dirt road. They would cover the ruts of the British and lay the foundations of a new, improved, paved byway.

What does it take for a nation to feel pride in and for it-

self? To what lengths must people go in order to have patriotism? For our forefathers it took a domineering, oppressive government that suppressed freedom to push them too far! The founders of our nation wisely stepped into action to guard the innate freedoms they felt they had. Britain was afraid of the colonists' freedoms and independent tendencies.

It didn't want these valuable citizens and priceless land to slip out of its grasp. The brave colonists knew that they would face great losses. The extent of the heartache that would accompany them on their path to independence was not fully realized until the winter before Washington crossed the Delaware. Losses were incredible, the freezing temperatures were killing soldiers, and the hope of victory was dimming. The Revolutionary War was a period of much pain and, at the same time, an exciting place of change and improvement.

Washington's victory proved that the democracy our ancestors fought so bravely for is the strongest, most patriotic nations alive. We proved that their patriotism of long ago wasn't hot air, but a correct analysis of the greatness of the country that would follow them.

Yes, in this war with Iraq, women in San Diego were told that they were now widows, mothers in Virginia were told that they had had a father. This war included less suffering than that incurred by the early colonists, but even though we mourned hundreds instead of thousands, the quality of our grief was not diminished. And thanks to the memories of the undying perseverance exemplified by men like

George Washington, we were able to stand together with faith clad in dedication and patriotism, ready to fight until justice had been served and freedom reigned once again.

We must not lose this patriotism. It is time to send word to the widows, mothers, and children that the sacrifices made and the dedication shown by their loved ones helped sustain freedom for all, and that they will not be forgotten. Thank you, to the unselfish, patriotic citizens and soldiers, the crossers of many Delawares... those of the past and the present.



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