



Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

April 2009

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: April 11, 2009

Where: The Sizzler Restaurant
1401 North Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA

Time: Set up and Social begins at 11:00am

Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am

Website: www.orangecountysar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and salutations to all Compatriots of the Orange County Chapter. After starting out the month of March with a bang at the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade, we had our meeting a week later with Dan O'Connor as our guest speaker. A big Army salute to Dan for his slide presentation on his service in Vietnam. I would like to give a special thank you to Dan's good friend, Compatriot Jon Vreeland, who organized a surprise flyover of an Orange County Fire Authority helicopter during our meeting to salute Dan. The pilot was also a veteran of the war and served at the same time as Dan. Our hats go off to all involved. With the arrival of Spring(March 21), we are getting closer to the big 134th Annual Meeting of the Membership of the CASSAR, which will be held at the Wyndham Hotel April 16-19. I would like to make it clear to everyone that you do not have to be a delegate to attend the sessions, or the Friday and Saturday luncheons and Saturday evening banquet. The delegate designation is for voting. A few of us will be voting as delegates, but all of us can attend events you so choose. The highlight of the weekend will be the Saturday evening Inauguration Banquet where our very own Lou Carlson will be sworn in as the new State President. Our chapter is hosting this state-wide celebration, and your attendance to some or all of the events, especially the Inauguration banquet, is encouraged and would be most appreciated. If you need a schedule of events or any other information about this event, please contact our Meeting Chairman Rex Shannon at rexbshannon@gmail.com or telephone (714) 669-3016).

We will need donations of beverages to stock the Hospitality Suite. These would include, but not limited to; Jack Daniels, Scotch Whiskey, Vodka, beer, Shiraz and Merlot red wines, Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio, bitters, cranberry

juice, tonic, club soda, coke, diet coke 7 Up, and lemons & limes. From what I understand, "Bevmo" is a popular place to buy a wide variety of alcohol at a good price, and "Park City" is suppose to have reasonably priced quality plastic glasses. We will revisit this subject and iron out the details during our April meeting.

I am very pleased to announce that George Key will be our guest speaker on April 11th. You will not want to miss this descendant of Francis Scott Key discuss his life and his involvement with the original Star-Spangled Banner that is at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

In honor of the first American Victory fought at Concord's Old North Bridge, April 19, 1775, I leave you with "The Concord Hymn", by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
here once the embittered farmers stood,
and fired the shot heard 'round the world.

The foe long since slept;
alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
and time the ruined bridge has swept
down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by the soft stream,
we set to-day a votive stone,
that memory may their deed redeem,
when, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
to die, and leave their children free, \n
bid time and nature gently spare
the shaft we raise to them and thee.

David R. Siler

SPEAKER GEORGE KEY

Our guest speaker this month is George Key, a direct descendant of the lawyer and author of the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Francis Scott Key penned the poem on the back of an envelope while aboard a British ship lying in the bay near Fort McHenry on the early dawn of September 14, 1814.

During his presentation, George will run an 11 minute video on the British Attack of Fort Mc Henry, which will include the making of the Flag and some information regarding Francis Scott Key's life as a lawyer.

Not only does George have the distinction of having such a lineage, he has also distinguished himself in his own right, by serving his country and his community. Starting with WWII, he was a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stationed in the European Theater of Operations, which included Omaha Beach, and medaled for five European Campaigns. Continuing on into the Korean War, he served as a Special Weapons Officer in the U.S. Infantry. After the war, he returned home to work as a Commercial Services Director for the City of Glendale, and then as a Planning Commissioner for the City of San Clemente.

While a resident of San Clemente for 23 years, he has been the Commander of the San Clemente Unit of the Order of World Wars and is presently the commander of the Veteran of Foreign Wars, San Clemente Post 7142. George is also a member of the San Clemente Rotary Club, and has been a Rotarian for 37 years.

Please join us on April 11th as we relive the Battle of Fort McHenry and the role of destiny in the life of Francis Scott Key.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COMPATRIOTS

From February 2003 to May 2004 we did 14 of these bio-sketches of our members, so our fellow

Compatriots might get to know each other better. Since May 2004, we have done them periodically when new members have submitted their story. Below is an updated one on Compatriot Rex Shannon. We would like to invite any of our Compatriots who have not yet submitted a bio-sketch to do so for an upcoming issue of *Muskets & Broadsword*. Whether you are able to attend a meeting or not we would like to get to know you and a bio-sketch can do just that.

In the past when a member has passed away they may not have come and participated in our meetings, but remained a faithful chapter member for years. Yet we could not tell our members much about this member. This is a way that we can remember you and your accomplishments in life.

Here is Rex Shannon's story.

REX BYRON SHANNON

Rex was born in Los Angeles on August 26. He attended Los Angeles High School, and Columbia College in New York City for three years, where he was involved in student government and was a disc jockey on the campus radio station. He returned home for his senior year, because of an illness in the family, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern California. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School.

Rex met Mary Jo Milham, who attended UCLA, in 1955. They were married in Los Angeles on April 21, 1956. They have two sons, Matthew and Wade, both of whom are members of our chapter, as is Rex's uncle Ralph Shannon. Mary Jo and Rex have two grandsons, children of Wade and his wife Agnes. Mary Jo is a member of the Tustin

based Katuktu Chapter DAR.

Rex began his career in 1955 with the Aetna Life Insurance Company, where he was an agent for twelve years. The next six years he was in field management. In 1973 he joined the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company where he was the General Agent in Los Angeles, and later Senior Vice-President at the home office in Boston. In 1982 he joined Fidelity Union Life Insurance Company in Dallas, where he was its Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for the next eleven years.

He partially retired in 1993, returning to Orange County to be near family, where he specializes in working with individuals in areas of estate planning, using trusts, life insurance, and long-term care insurance in helping people solve estate transfer tax problems. He has qualified as a member of the Million Dollar Round Table. He is a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant(ChFC), and a Fellow in the Life Management Institute(FLMI).

As a Board member of the American Council of Life Insurers, for two years Rex was the Political Action Chair for the industry, working with members of Congress on matters of interest to the life insurance industry. Rex has also been heavily involved over the years in working as an officer and/or Board Member of many non-profit organizations. He is past Chairman of the Board of Directors, and past General Campaign Chairman of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. He also served for nine years on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Orange County United Way. He is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Dallas Symphony Association, and the Board of Directors of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra in Orange County. For ten years he has

been a member of the Board of Councilors of the School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California.

Twelve years of genealogy research generated 2800 carefully documented ancestors in his family and that of Mary Jo, put into three-ringed binders with narratives, old family pictures and old family recipes, and distributed to thirty-six family members. He is Past President of our chapter, and his Revolutionary War ancestor is William Davis, a private in the New Jersey Militia, who was wounded at the Battles of Monmouth and Sandy Hook and later buried in North Hampton, Clark County, Ohio in 1834.

Rex is the recipient of the Silver and Bronze Good Citizenship medals, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service medals from the CASSAR and Orange County Chapter.

PATRIOT'S DAY PARADE

On March 7th, your Orange County Lee's Legion of Light Dragoons fielded a color guard of three. Jim Fosdyck, Kent Gregory and Jim Blauer. They were joined by Un Hui Fosdyck and Lisa Gregory who were decked out in their finest colonial dress.

Jim Fosdyck carried the Lee's Legion Flag, Jim Blauer carried the American Flag and Kent Gregory carried the SAR Flag.

Due to a conflict with a family get together Dave Manning was unable to join us with his 1931 Model A this year. Not to worry as your Color Guard did your chapter proud by taking 2nd place in the Military Color Guard(over 21) Division. Check out the photos on the photo album page.

We had five people;e for this parade. Hopefully we will have more for the July 4th Parade in Huntington Beach.

AWARDS PRESENTED

President Siler handed out a couple of awards. Charles Beal was presented with the Military Service and the Law Enforcement Medals and Certificates for his service in the military and his work with the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Jim Fosdyck, Kent Gregory and Jim Blauer were recognized for their participation as the chapter Color Guard at the Annual Massing of the Colors. Compatriots Fosdyck and Gregory were presented their Massing of the Colors Medals. Compatriot Blauer already has his.

SPEAKER DAN O'CONNOR HONORED

During our March meeting Dan O'Connor spoke to us about his service in Vietnam. At shortly after 1pm we were asked to step outside into the parking lot where there was a flyover by the Orange County Fire Department in honor of Dan's service in Vietnam. It seems the pilot also served at the same time in Vietnam and was happy to honor Dan in this way. Following his talk Dan was presented with our Certificate of Appreciation by President Siler for speaking to us on his service in Vietnam.

POSTER CONTEST HELD

At our March meeting we voted on the posters for the National Poster Contest. This years top three, we had six finalists, were; First Place--Ryan Wristman, Second Place--Jazzarie Lo and Third Place--Melanie Tran. According to the rules we are able to sent two posters to the State Level of the competition. So, Ryan and Jazzarie's posters will go to the State Meeting for judging and the State winner's poster will head to national for judging at that level.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Born in Frederick County Maryland(Now Carroll County) in 1779, Key attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland and in 1801 began his law practice. He became a well known lawyer in the area



Francis Scott Key as a young man.

and on occasion was known to write a verse or two.

As the British retreated from Washington they took a friend of Key's, Dr. William Beanes with them. Key and John S. Skinner were given permission by President James Madison to intercede on Dr. Beanes behalf and work with the British to obtain his release. In September of 1814 Key and Skinner boarded the prisoner- exchange boat which was held in temporary custody of a British War ship. Due to the planned Bombardment of Fort McHenry from Baltimore Harbor, the British refused to let Key, Skinner and Dr. Beanes leave. The British feared that their plans might be leaked to the Americans on the attack. Instead they would witness the shelling of Fort McHenry throughout the night and early morning of September 13-14, 1814, while pacing the deck of the ship.

That night as the bombardment took place smoke filled the harbor which made for poor viewing, and not knowing whether the Americans had prevailed. As the smoke cleared around 7am of September 14, Key was overjoyed to see that the American Flag was still flying. He proceeded to place his feelings on the back of an unfinished letter he had in his pocket. This was his first draft of the Ballad of Fort McHenry, which would become known as the *Star-Spangles Banner*. After their release later that day Key finished and polished up the verses. A few days later it was printed in the *Baltimore American* and was seen on handbills all over town.

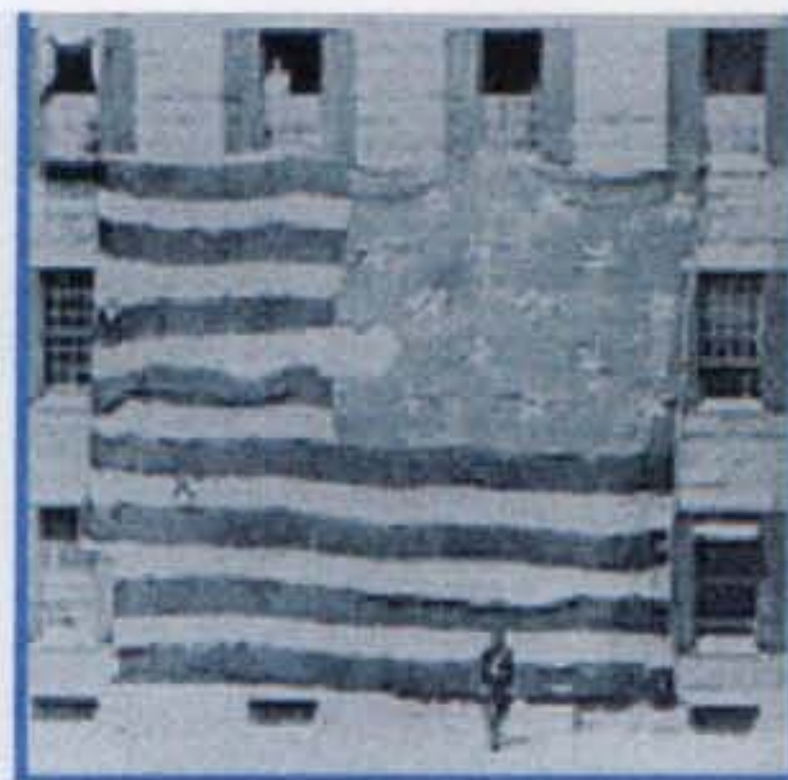
The words were placed with the tune of an English drinking song called "To Anacreon in Heaven". Americans knew the tune as a marching song of the 1700s and as a political song called "Adams and Liberty". Durang's performance was the first time it was performed in public and instantly became popular. It was played at the Battle of New Orleans three months later. In 1931 Congress made it our official National Anthem.

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER (The Flag)

In 1999 there was an article in the Orange County Register concerning the restoration of the Star-spangled Banner. Not the National Anthem, but the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words that became our National Anthem in 1931.

The Flag which has been on display at the Smithsonian and was going through a long and tedious restoration that is to cost \$18 million. The restoration which lasted until 2002 was open for viewing. It had been decided that the public would be interested in how the flag was being restored and did not want to take the flag off view for such a longtime. So, they created a lab on their exhibition floor, so that the public could watch while;e the workers did their job of restoring the flag.

First they had to remove the linen backing. This was done by snipping the threads that held it together. The Flag was then laid out on an inert



modern fabric called Tyvec. It was rolled up into a tube, much like a huge paper towel holder, then slowly unrolled as a dry cleaning fluid was dripped onto the fabric. Some of the soiled items found in the flag were clay particles, vegetable matter, synthetic fibers and lint.

Through the years before the flag was donated by the Armistead family to the Smithsonian in 1907, fragments were removed from time to time, like souvenirs. Many of these fragments have been sent to the Smithsonian and have their own special exhibit.

The flag is in a controlled environment, with steady temperature, relative humidity and the absence of pollution.

There is a "V" on the flag. This is believed that it was to have been an "A" that referred to the Armistead Family who owned the flag since the War of 1812. Louise Armistead for whatever reason did not finish it.

Thanks to the Armistead Family and the Smithsonian staff we still have the flag. Had it not been for their efforts to preserve it over the years, it would not have survived. Techniques of conservation have improved over time and they have been able to learn from past conservation efforts. The strong support of the linen backing has allowed the flag to remain on exhibition over the years. In 1914 some dyes were used that has caused some material to fade, changing the look of the flag.

The flag was at one time 42' X 30' but today is 33' X 30'.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER (Our National Anthem)

Few Americans realize that there are four verses to the Star-Spangled Banner. Here they are.

Oh! say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last

gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the
perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly
streaming?

and the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep,
where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
what is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals half discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream.

'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner. Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their footstep's pollution,
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation,
Blest with Vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-
rescued land

Praise the pow'r that hath made and preserved us a
nation.

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust."

And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.**

Photo Album

April 2008



Patriot's Day Parade Color Guard and ladies. Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck at left. Kent & Lisa Gregory at right. Above-Jim Blauer, Kent & Lisa and Jim & Un Hui. Won 2nd place in the Military Color Guard over 21 division.

At center left the helicopter flyover for Dan O'Connor. At right Dan receives his Certificate of Appreciation from President Dave Siler.



Below left Charles Beal receives his Military Service and Law Enforcement Medals & Certificates.

Below right President Siler presents the Massing Medals to Jim Fosdyck and Kent Gregory for their participation in the Color Guard at the Massing.



Photo Album

April 2009-2

Poster Contest Entries



Poster #1 by Melanie Tran took 3rd place,

This years Poster Theme was "Paul Revere's Ride".



Poster #2 by Ryan Wristman took First Place.



Poster # 3 was by Alyssa Abram(above)



Poster # 4 by Jazzarie Lo took Second Place(above)

Poster #5 was by Anh Tran(below)



Poster #6 was by Katrya Ly

