



Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

March 2009

Editor Jim Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: March 14, 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 Compatriot Descendants of the American Revolution. Gentlemen, time for an Irish toast! *"May the roof above us never fall in, and may we friends gathered below never fall out."* I am happy to report a robust attendance for our February meeting. Many thanks to Jack Sholl for his superb presentation on Haym Salomon. Well, by the time you read this, our color guard will have marched in the George Washington Massing of the Colors and Salute to our Armed Forces at Forest Lawn Memorial Park and in the 43rd Annual Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade. Thank you to the Color Guard and to all those who were in attendance. *"May you always have a clean shirt, a clear conscience, and enough coins in your pocket to buy a pint"*.

The State Meeting is gradually approaching, and a reminder too mark it on your calendar for April 16-19. We would like to ask those of you would, to bring one or more bottles of your favorite alcohol or non alcoholic beverage to the March and April meetings. Since our chapter is hosting this event, we are responsible to stock the hospitality room with food and beverages. *"We drink to your coffin. May it be built from a hundred year old oak tree that I shall plant tomorrow."* A good percentage of the approximately 90 attendees will visit the hospitality room at least once, so please help us out and bring what you can to the next two meetings. There will also be a need for volunteers from our chapter to register the Compatriots and their guests when they arrive at the hotel and give them their Registration Packets. *"There are good ships and there are wood ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are friendships, and may they always be"*.

It is time once again for the annual National Society Elementary School Poster Contest. Our own Hugh Richards is the Americanism Chairman and is leading

vangbon@hotmail.com

this project. At the March meeting we will be voting for the best poster to be representing our chapter at the State Meeting in April. *"May your troubles be as few and far apart as my grandmother's teeth"*.

The SAR Foundation has a new website where you can find information about the Foundation, The Center for Advancing America's Heritage, and the Capital Campaign. The new web address is: www.sarfoundation.org.

Our speaker this month is Dan O'Connor, a helicopter pilot who flew missions in Vietnam in 1969. Please join us March 14th as we hear Dan tell us about his service in the Vietnam War. *"May you have all the happiness and luck life can hold--and at the end of your rainbows may you find a pot of gold"*.

David R. Siler

DAN O'CONNOR

Our speaker this month is Dan O'Connor. He will speak to us about his service in the Vietnam War. He graduated from San Marino High School in 1966. In July 1967 he enlisted in the U. S. Army for helicopter training. When his flight training was completed in 1969, he was assigned to gunnery IP school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He was then assigned to the 1st Battalion 9th Cavalry in the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

He arrived at An Khe, Republic of Vietnam on January 2, 1969. After performing Command and Control Flights, he was teamed up with an Aerial Artillery Battalion to form Hunter-Killer teams. He then flew low bird flights from August to December 1969. In September he was shot down and rescued. He was promoted to CW2 and awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, the Air Medal w/V device and 9 Oak Leaf Clusters,

and the Vietnam Service Medal.

His remaining active duty was completed at Fort Rucker as an Instrument Flight Instructor.

After the service he went on to work in the paint and packaging industry, becoming a branch manager for the Advance Group Corporation. 22 years later he changed gears and bought the Marlin Club, a bar on Catalina Island, which he owned for 17 years. Now retired, he is still involved as a partner in a family LLC that owns commercial properties in the Los Angeles area. Dan resides in Avalon, Catalina with his wife Cyndi. Please join us on March 14th to hear Dan O'Connor tell us about his adventurous life and service in the Vietnam War.

MASSING OF THE COLORS

For those of you who were unable to make it to the Annual Massing of the Colors, we had probably our greatest turnout ever. We had our largest Color Guard in years with Lee's Legion members Jim Blauer, Kent Gregory and Jim Fosdyck all in uniform. Also in attendance were; Jim Fosdyck's wife Un Yi, John & Karen Dodd, Richard Adams, Lou Carlson, Larry & Barbara Magerkurth, and Chapter President, Davis Siler. Larry Magerkurth performed duties as part of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Blauer was once again the singer of the National Anthem and Lou Carlson gave "A Prayer for All America's Fallen Military Heroes".

.This year we had the full contingent if the Mountain Fifes and Drums led by director Kevin Garland. We had special greetings brought to us by the Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Judy Swan. We have never had the Governor General of the Mayflower Society attend one of these Massings. So, this was a real treat.

There was also President General David Appleby of the SAR who was our Keynote speaker. Though we have had other members from National attend I do not recall a sitting President General having attended one of these Massings.

They had the Flag Folding Ceremony performed by the USAF Blue Eagles. There was a musket salute that was performed by the Morgan's Rangers, 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, BAR, 33rd Regiment of Foot, BAR, Harbor Chapter, Redlands Chapter, Riverside Chapter, Sons of Liberty Chapter and South Coast Chapter, SAR. There was also an Artillery Salute(cannon fire). What was interesting was that the combined Musket firing was louder than the cannon!!

At the end the wreath was placed at the base of the Statue of George Washington. Here the ranking officers of the various Armed Forces gathered as the Color Guard units proceeded up the steps and presented their colors before retiring. There were close to 50 different Color Guard units; SAR, BAR, Morgan's Rangers, Civil War and JROTC from around the southland area. An amazing display of pomp and pageantry to celebrate the birth of the Father of our country, George Washington and Honor our Armed Forces, who make it possible for us to live in this great country of ours and enjoy the freedoms we have.

If you were unable to attend this year, hopefully you will make plans to do so next February. This is the largest celebration of this sort West of the Mississippi River. President General Appleby was so moved by all the ceremony that he presented the event' organizer Don Moran of the Sons of Liberty Chapter with the Patriotism Award and the first President General's Medal. Check out the photo album with pictures from the Massing.

CHAPTER COLOR GUARD

Your Lee's Legion of Light Dragoons of Virginia has now expanded to three uniformed members. We are looking for more. It would be ideal to be able to get two more as then we would have enough for the three flags and two rifle carriers. If you think you might be interested, you may contact any of our uniformed color guardsmen; Jim Blauer Kent Gregory or Jim Fosdyck for information about the uniform and its cost. We do two parades plus the Massing each year and those who attend State Meetings and Congress can participate in their Color Guard at their meetings.

If you go to our website; www.orangecounty.sar.org, go to the photographs that show our members at the Massing of the Colors as well as the ones in this newsletter. We had several shutterbugs out that day capturing the events for our history books, the newsletter and website.

PATRIOT'S DAY PARADE

On Saturday March 7 we will once again participate in the Patriot's Day Parade in Laguna Beach. It is one of the easiest walking parades as it is all down hill. Wear something patriotic and we would love to have you join us. We have just learned we will not have our 1931 Model A. We are planning on having our fife and drum corps.

If you are interested in joining in the fun contact Parade Chairman Jim Blauer at 949-548-6871 or jblauer@pacbell.net, so he can send you a map and all the pertinent information on where and when we have to be there as well as the starting time of the parade.

POSTER CONTEST

At our March meeting we will be conducting the annual Poster Contest. If you have a school that has a poster contest entry bring it to the meeting on March 14th to be judged as we will select a chapter winner. The winning poster will then be taken to the

State Meeting in April where it will compete against other chapter winners and judging to find a State Winner. The winning poster at the state meeting will then go to National for a decision to be made and announced at Congress. So, bring your school's winning posters to the meeting on March 14th.

JROTC AWARDS

We are getting into that time of year when we make the JROTC/ROTC Award presentation to schools in Orange County. Chairman Jim Fosdyck has informed us that on March 26 Valley High School in Santa Ana will have their Awards ceremony and the SAR JROTC Award will be presented to Cadet Chief Petty Officer Luis Vargas. Chairman Fosdyck reported that all members of the chapter are invited to attend these ceremonies.

The ceremonies will begin at 10am at Valley High 1801 S. Greenville St., Santa Ana. Jeff Taylor is the Commanding Officer of this Naval JROTC unit.

134th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Your Orange County Chapter will be the host this Spring of the 134th Annual Membership Meeting. It will take place from April 16-19 at the Wyndham Hotel in Costa Mesa. It is located across from the Performing Arts Center, which is located across from South Coast Plaza.

To make your reservations call (866)747-2635. Room rates are \$99 plus tax per night, single or double. It is \$115 for an Executive Suite, or \$159 for a deluxe suite. Self parking is complimentary.

Registration is \$120 per person. That will cover Friday and Saturday Luncheons and the Saturday Banquet. After March 31, registration will be \$130.

For those who just want to attend a luncheon or banquet, the luncheons are \$37 and the banquet is \$46. The banquet choices are Beef Sirloin, Grilled Salmon or Vegetarian. The luncheons will be the Youth Awards Luncheon and the Public Service

Awards Luncheon.

We have placed a copy of the Registration form on our website at www.orangecountysar.org. You can also find it on the State website. It will also be appearing in the next issue of the California Compatriot.

Mail your registration to Rex B. Shannon, meeting Chairman, P.O. Box 19158, Irvine, CA 92623-9158. Make checks payable to Rex B. Shannon, Orange County Chapter SAR.

If you have any questions you can contact Rex at RexBShannon@gmail.com or (714) 669-3016.

It should be a fun meeting. The South Coast Plaza Mall with 280 shops, stores and restaurants is a place where the ladies can have fun spending their husbands money. We are in the process of selecting a women's event. The ladies will be able to sign up for this when they arrive.

JOHANN DE KALB

Johann von Robaii, Baron de Kalb, was born Johann Kalb on June 19, 1721 in Huttendorf near Erlangen, Germany. This is in present day Bavaria. He was the son of peasants Johann Leonhard Kalb and Margarethe Seitz.

Because he was able to learn both French and English and worked to polish his social skills, Johann Kalb was able to get a nice military commission in the Loewendal German Regiment of the French Army (serving as Jean de Kalb) in 1743. He showed skills in handling his men and proved on more than one occasion to be a competent strategist. He served in the War of the Austrian Succession in Flanders with distinguished honor. He moved through the ranks swiftly. It was during the French and Indian (American Title) / Seven Years War (European Title), that de Kalb was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was made Assistant Quartermaster general in the army of the Upper



DeKalb bust in Decatur, Georgia

Rhine, a division created from the disbanding of the Loewendal Regiment. He served under the Marechal de Saxe and became a protege of the militarily influential Broglie Family. In 1763 he was awarded the Order of Military Merit, which gave him his title of baron. One story about his title is that realizing a peasant would be passed over for promotion to Brigadier General and knowing that only aristocrats were the ones to receive these high military positions, he purchased false papers that made him Baron Jean de Kalb and a general officer of the French Army.

He resigned from the army in 1764 and married Anna Elizabeth Emilie van Robais. She was an heiress to a cloth manufacturing fortune.

In 1768 the French wanted to see how the colonials in America felt about the British. De Kalb was sent to America to check out their level of discontent and encourage them to take up arms. He returned to France having gained respect for the colonists and their "Spirit of Independence.

Having returned to Paris and donning his uniform once again, de Kalb introduced his protege the nineteen year old Marquis de Lafayette to the American agent Silas Deane. Papers of introduction were drawn up and in 1777 de Kalb and Lafayette sailed for America. They reached Philadelphia in July. The Marquis seemed to garner most of the

attention when they arrived. On September 5, the Marquis received his commission as a Major General in the Continental Army. Once the Americans learned that de Kalb was a veteran of European Wars and spoke good English he was also given a commission as Major General on September 15, 1777.

He was immediately placed under the command of General George Washington. He was at Valley Forge for most of the 1777-1778 Winter encampment. He commanded a division of Patterson's and Learned's Brigades. By March of 1778 he was sent to New Jersey and Maryland where he remained for the better part of two years. It was from his headquarters here that de Kalb led an abortive attempt to invade Canada.

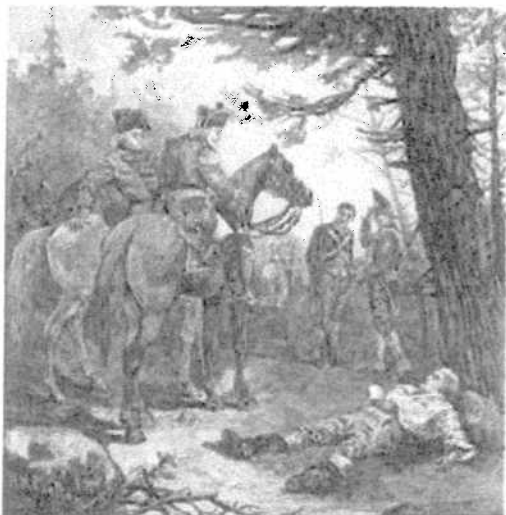
It was during the British southern campaign that he learned the disappointing news that Horatio Gates and not himself had been appointed to command this area of the fighting. In March of 1780 the situation in the south was not doing well. Benjamin Lincoln and his men had left Savannah and had become bottled up in Charleston. Washington sent de Kalb to assist, but the city fell before he could arrive. He had only made it to Lynchburg, Virginia when he heard the news and waited there for new orders.

It was here that General Horatio Gates arrived and de Kalb joined him as they headed to North Carolina. Here General Gates devised a plan to attack the British unexpectedly, "somewhere far from the coast" in an effort to achieve a victory like the one at Saratoga.

As the Battle of Camden began on August 16, 1780, it was immediately apparent that the colonials were overwhelmed by the British forces. One unit after another was overrun by the British. Soon only 600 colonials faced the British force three times

their size. De Kalb realizing the desperate situation shouted to his officers to "Retire from the field while you still can". Ignoring General Gates' orders (he had already been driven from the field), de Kalb, still bleeding from a saber cut to the head, moved into the front of his men and led a charge. One redcoat brandished his sword, but was cut down before he could strike de Kalb. De Kalb's horse was shot out from under him, sending him to the ground where he was shot three times and bayoneted repeatedly until his aide the Chevalier du Buysson blocked further blows with his own body. Though the British wanted to deliver more blows to the man they recognized as a general, du Buysson yelled, "Stop, your general must decide his fate!" He was dragged to a half-demolished wagon and propped up against one of the wheels. When Cornwallis arrived he immediately recognized him and ordered his men to "Get a litter" and "Take this man to town and send for surgeons".

During the three days he lay wounded, de Kalb was visited twice by General Cornwallis. It is reported that Cornwallis supervised while de Kalb's wounds were dressed by his surgeons. De Kalb replied to this kindness saying, "I thank you sir for your generous sympathy; but I die the death I



An engraving showing the wounded Baron de Kalb

always prayed for; the death of a soldier fighting for the rights of aliens." The surgeons knew there was no hope of de Kalb surviving and on the third day after receiving these mortal wounds (August 19, 1780) General Johann de Kalb died.

Cornwallis learned that de Kalb was a Freemason like himself and made the funeral arrangements. So, this freedom fighter was the only high-ranking Continental Army officer to be buried by his enemies with full military and masonic honors.

Besides the battles mentioned he also served under General Washington at the Battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth.

He has been greatly honored as a hero of the American Revolution. He has had numerous counties and towns named after him. Indiana, Illinois and Georgia are but a few.

In 1825 when the Marquis de Lafayette was making a final visit to the United States, he toured the country and it was he who laid the cornerstone of the monument to Johann de Kalb at Camden, South Carolina.

In 1886 on the grounds of the Maryland State House a monument to Baron de Kalb was erected.**



Baron
Johann de
Kalb
1721-1780

Photo Album

March 2009



At left Orange County Chapter members Jim Quinnelly, Jim Blauer, Dave Siler and Jim Fosdyck attend the January Court Luncheon of the California Society of Colonial Wars.

Below right, Dave Siler conducts his first meeting as our new Chapter President.

Below left, President Siler presents our speaker Jack Sholl with a Certificate of Appreciation. Jack spoke to us on Haym Salomon, the Financier of the American Revolution.



Bottom left President Siler inducts Compatriot Darrel Miller into our chapter as Jim Blauer awaits to pin on his rosette.

Below right are the prizes from the Ben Franklin drawing in February.

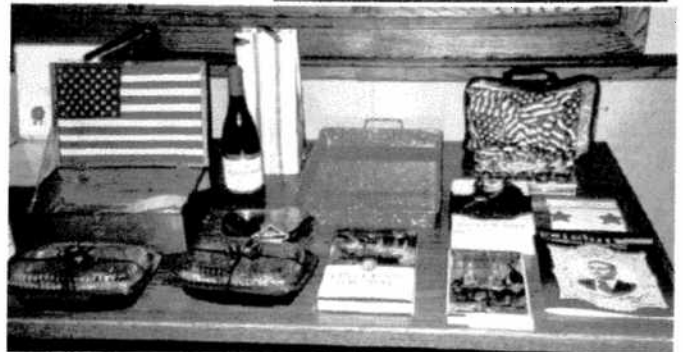
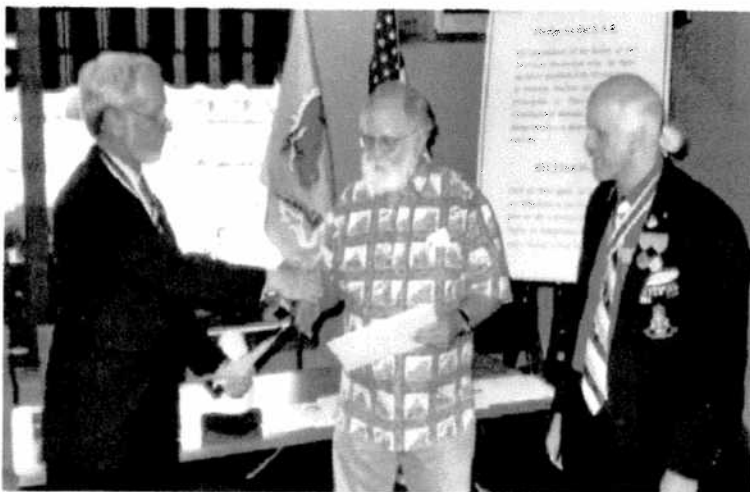
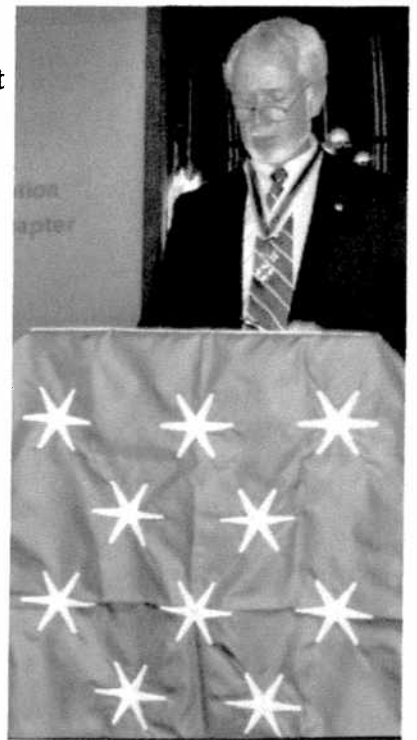
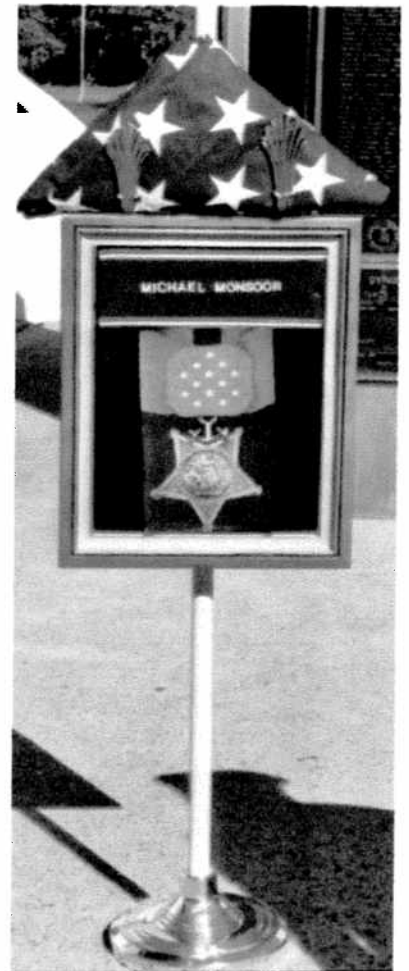


Photo Album

March 2009-2



On February 19th, Compatriot Jim Blauer made the trip to the Civic Center's *Walk of Honor* to attend the dedication of a memorial to local Medal of Honor Recipient Michael Monsoor. The plaque below cites Navy Seal Monsoor's actions. While in the heat of a firefight a grenade was thrown and bounced off Monsoor's chest. In an effort to protect his men from harm he dove on the grenade taking the full force of the explosion, thus saving his men by giving his life. Wreaths were laid by several Veterans posts from around the county.

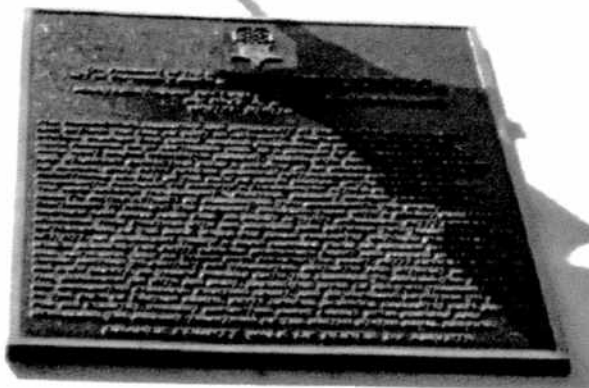
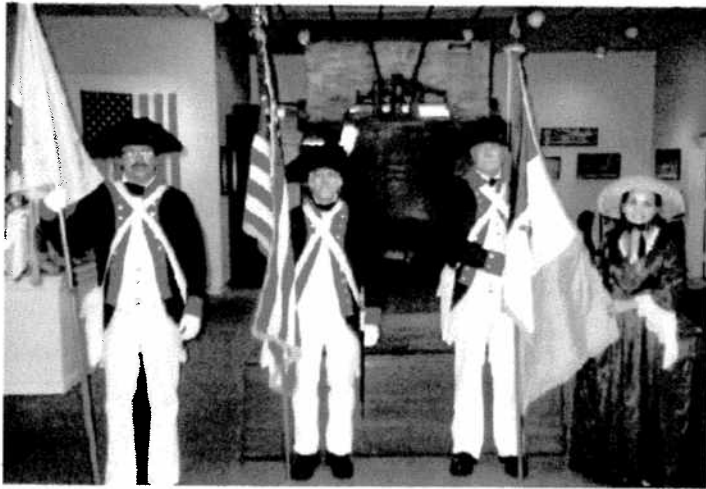


Photo Album

March 2009-3



The Massing of the Colors--Kent Gregory, Jim Blauer and Jim & Un Yi Fosdyck in Liberty Hall. President Siler and President Washington get together for a brief talk. Center--The line up in front of the Wall of Liberty.



Below left the March down to the statue of George Washington. Kent, Jim B. & Jim F.

Below, Jim Blauer sings the National Anthem as Larry Magerkurth behind him salutes.



The Orange County Chapter
invites you to the
134th Annual Meeting of the Membership
of the California Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
April 16-19, 2009

Hotel Information: Wyndham Hotel, Orange County Airport
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Hotel telephone: (714) 751-5100
Reservations: (866) 747-2635

The room cost per night, plus tax, is \$99 for a single or double room, \$115 for an Executive Suite, or \$159 for a Deluxe Suite. Self-parking is complimentary.

Room reservations must be made directly with the hotel. When you reserve your room, please specify that you are part of the SAR group. Reservations must be made no later than March 31, 2009; thereafter, reservations will be taken on a space and rate availability basis.

RESERVATION FORM

The registration fee is \$120 per person. It covers Friday and Saturday luncheons, and the Saturday banquet. After March 31, 2009, the registration fee is \$130.

Compatriot _____ Guest _____
Chapter _____ Title _____ Tel. or e-mail _____
Number of registrants @\$120: _____ @\$130 _____ Cost _____
Non-registered for Friday luncheon @\$37 Number _____ Cost _____
Non-registered for Saturday luncheon @\$37 Number _____ Cost _____
Non-registered for Saturday banquet @46 Number _____ Cost _____

Total enclosed _____

For the Saturday banquet, the number for: Beef Sirloin _____ Grilled Salmon _____
Vegetarian _____

Please mail your registration to: Rex B. Shannon, Meeting Chairman, P.O. Box 19158, Irvine, California, 92623-9158. E-mail: RexBShannon@gmail.com Tel: (714) 669-3016. Make check payable to Rex B. Shannon, Orange County Chapter SAR.

It will be a fun meeting, and we have many important items for discussion and vote. The site is walking distance from the outstanding South Coast Plaza Mall and its 280 shops, stores, and restaurants. We will be selecting a women's event from several options. Sign up for this ladies event upon arrival.