



MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

April 2014

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: April 19, 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

SPEAKER FOR APRIL

Colonel Gregory G. Rath USMC (RET)

Nine Lives of a Fighter Pilot'

Col. Gregory Rath retired from the Marine Corps in 2004. During his 30 years as a Marine officer and fighter pilot, he became a decorated combat veteran of Desert Storm and went on to command several aircraft units post war. His military experiences include serving three years in Washington, D.C. for the President of the United States as the Assistant Chief of Staff for The White House Military Office.

The life of fighter pilot is full of challenge and proud moments. It's also full of danger. Col. Rath used eight of his nine lives in near-death experiences as a fighter pilot in RF-4B Phantom II and F/A-18 Hornet aircraft. He was deployed on both the USS Midway and the USS Abraham Lincoln Aircraft carriers. Accordingly, Greg has authored a very interesting book *'9 Lives of a Fighter Pilot: One Pilot's Personal Story as an American Patriot'* which he will relate to us at our April meeting.



NSSAR Approved 1 March 2014

The SAR Membership Ring is now available to Compatriot members after a \$30.00 donation to the SAR Foundation.

Description: Raised hand carved profile of Cameo of General George Washington, on Black Onyx or Red Agate stone.

SHOULDERS: SAR Logo on one and American eagle with 13 stars on the other.

Around the CROWN: Motto: LIBERTAS ET PATRIA (Liberty and Patriotism) Dates: Revolutionary War 1775-1783, and Founding of the SAR 1889.

All orders require a new donation to the SAR Foundation of \$30.00. An e-mail notice will be sent to the Compatriot member for ordering verification and manufacturing. Please go to the NSSAR Main page and click on Donation Tab or to the SAR Foundation page for mailing instructions. Please note in remarks section SAR Membership Ring.

Price: Sterling Silver: \$355.00 Gold plated Sterling Silver: \$395.00 Gold 9K \$1750.00

View SAR Membership Ring Pictures: <http://www.regnasjewelry.com>

STATE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 139th Annual Meeting of the Membership of the California Society was held in Sacramento from April 10-13, 2014. The Sacramento Chapter hosted once again and our meetings were held at the Embassy Suites Sacramento.

This year's meeting went very smoothly as we only needed the morning sessions on Friday and Saturday to conduct all the business at hand.

Your Orange County Chapter took first place in the Large Chapter Category for 2013, taking place in all the categories of the contest.

In the Poster contest your chapter took 3rd place.

The Color Guard was presented a streamer for their participation in the Massing of the Colors and participation in Wreaths Across America. Certificates of appreciation were received by our ladies. They included; Sharon Wood, Karen Carlson, Barbara Magerkurth and Un Hui Yi Fosdyck. Lisa Gregory received the Daughters of Liberty Medal.

Dan McKelvie was awarded the Silver SAR and Von Steuben medals for his participation in the Color Guard events. Karen McKelvie was presented the Molly Pitcher Award (a National Award) and the Silver Von Steuben Award (A California Award) for her participation in the Color Guard activities. The following received Certificates of Appreciation from President Hurst. They were; Kent Gregory, Jim Blauer and Lou Carlson. The SAR 125th Anniversary Medal went to Lou Carlson. Kent Gregory received the Silver Good Citizenship Medal. The Meritorious Service Award went to Larry Wood.

Members who were elected to serve in office this coming year included; Kent Gregory as Executive Vice-President, Jim Fosdyck Vice-President South, Jim Blauer as State Historian and Lou Carlson as State Chaplain.

In the Ladies Auxiliary we have Karen Carlson as President, Lisa Gregory as Treasurer, Karen Dodd as Registrar, Un Hui Fosdyck as Historian and Karen McKelvie as Chaplain.

POSTER WINNER SELECTED

At our March 8th meeting the membership voted on the four finalists for our chapter winner in the poster Contest. First Place went to Taryn Ogasawara. Second place went to Eileen Lee. Third place went to Elizabeth King and Honorable mention went to Christian

Kim. Others who participated in the contest were Joe Sung, Isabella Reveles, Janice Ji, Ellen Ahn, Morgan Greenwood, Yusuf Karan, Jeffrey Bok, Judith Uyanne, Summer Lee, John Saleeb and Sage Gonzalez-Lambert.

On April 3rd Karen Richards attended Whittmann Elementary to make the presentation of awards and certificates to all the participants.

DAN HENRY HONORED BY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

Former Chapter President and current Veteran's Affairs Chairman Dan Henry was honored as **Los Angeles County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs** Volunteer of the year. He along with former compatriot Joe Hart from our SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War) shared the honor as 2014 Volunteers of the year for L.A. County DMVA. The event was held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Music Center April 7, 2014. The photo includes LA County Chief Executive Officer William Fujioka, Dan Henry, Joe Hart & Brig. General Ruth Wong USAF (Ret). Gen. Wong Heads the County Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs. This was for their efforts in sorting through and compiling thousands of military artifacts from the Civil War through the current conflicts. They carefully separated hundreds of items for future display at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles. We devoted around 400 hours in this process and had the privilege of handling diaries, equipment and nearly anything military from Civil War cannon balls & weapons to Spanish American War bolos and edged weapons captured in the Philippines at the turn of the last century. There were WWI artifacts including a large collection from an early WWI U S Army nurse. Gas masks and just an enormous collection of materials, uniforms, original photos and a complete collection of all the US and allied Generals in WWI and



much, much more.

Dan Henry was personally tasked with sorting and clearing over 300 rounds of military ordnance and explosives including everything from bullets, grenades, artillery shells and aerial bombs. Dan discovered 12 live rounds of .50 caliber incendiary rounds, 20mm, 30mm and 40mm cannon rounds. He coordinated a low profile Homeland Security & L A County Bomb Disposal response which brought about 20 LAPD Bomb Disposal vehicles and fire engines and a US Marine Corps EOD team to the warehouse where we conducted our work. That was a low profile response. Imagine what full response would have been. They concluded that Dan was spot on and identified all the live rounds in the collection and then split the live rounds for destruction between the USMC EOD unit and the LAPD Bomb Disposal units. Our job completed, we are waiting for the clearance to go and set up a preliminary display at the Hall while the County and a professional museum display company iron out a contract and theme which may take some time to get going.

Congratulations Dan and Joe!!!

GOING GREEN

Compatriots, we wish to remind you of a couple projects that are on going to help with waste and improve the environment.

First we wish to remind all Compatriots who receive a certificate, whether from Chapter, State or National, that if they do not need the folder, your chapter can recycle them to use again for future award presentation. This also saves your chapter money as they are purchased through the Merchandise department back at National.

Secondly, do you have any used ink cartridges from your printer? If so, your chapter can use them to get money to use toward copying at Staples. You can bring your used cartridges to our meetings or mail them to Jim Blauer, 594 Hamilton St. #E, Costa Mesa, CA 92627-2656.

Both of these items will save our chapter money which is greatly appreciated by our Treasurer, Arthur Koehler.

AMERICAN MINUTE WITH BILL FEDERER MARCH 24-Heroes of the Anti-Slavery Movement

John Jay helped draft New York's first Constitution, proposing it abolish slavery, as he wrote to Robert Livingston and Gouverneur Morris, April 29, 1777, that there should be: "...a clause against slavery." John Jay was appointed by George Washington to be the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme

John Jay

1745-1829

First Supreme
Court Chief Justice



Court. Jay helped found the New York State Society for promoting the Manumission (Freeing) of Slaves in 1785, filing lawsuits on behalf of the slaves.

John Jay wrote to Benjamin Rush, March 24, 1785: "I wish to see all...discriminations everywhere abolished, and that the time may soon come when all our inhabitants of every colour and denomination shall be free and equal partakers of our political liberty."

Jay helped found New York's African Free School in 1787 and supported it financially. Jay bought slaves in order to free them, writing: "I purchase slaves and manumit them." As Governor of New York, John Jay signed an Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery in 1799, prohibiting the exportation of slaves and making a path for children of slaves to attain freedom.

John Jay was also president of the American Bible Society, 1821-1828.

Newspaper editor Horace Greeley stated in 1854: "To Chief Justice Jay may be attributed, more than to any other man, the abolition of Negro bondage in this State."

John Jay's son, **William Jay** (1789-1858), founded New York City's Anti-Slavery Society in 1833. William Jay drafted the constitution for the American Anti-Slavery Society and served as its corre-

William Jay
(1789-1858),





John Jay, II
Son of William and
Grandson of Chief
Justice John Jay.

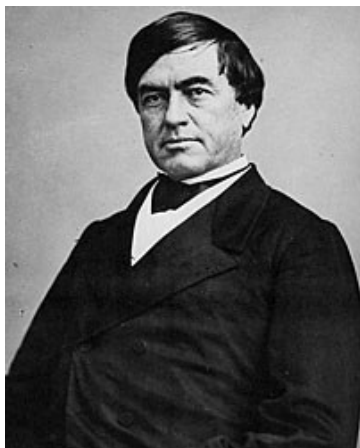
sponding foreign secretary, 1835-1837. William Jay was the first judge of New York's Westchester County from 1820 to 1842, but was removed on account of his strong anti-slavery views. William Jay helped to found the American Bible Society in 1818.

William Jay's son, **John Jay II** (1817-1894), was manager of the New York Young Men's Anti-Slavery Society in 1834. John Jay II was a prominent member of the anti-slavery Free Soil Party. John Jay II later helped found in New York a branch of the new political party dedicated to the social issue of ending slavery - the Republican Party.

Supreme Court Justice **Joseph Story** and former **President John Quincy Adams** helped establish the illegality of the slave trade in 1844, as portrayed in Steven Spielberg's 1997 movie *Amistad*.

Salmon P. Chase coined the slogan of the Free Soil Party: "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men." A member of the newly created Republican Party, Salmon P. Chase defended so many escaped slaves that he was nicknamed "Attorney-General of Fugitive Slaves." Salmon P. Chase was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court where he admitted John Rock as the first African-American attorney to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

Cassius Marcellus Clay heard William Lloyd Garrison speak while a student at Yale and became an abolitionist. Cassius Marcellus Clay helped to found the Republican Party and served three terms as a Kentucky Representative till he lost his seat due to his strong anti-slavery views. In 1843, pro-slavery



Cassius Marcellus
Clay
1810-1903

Rufus King
1755-1827



Democrats attacked Cassius Marcellus Clay and shot him in the chest, but he was able to fight them off with his Bowie knife. Clay began publishing an anti-slavery newspaper in 1845 called *The True American*. He received death threats and had to barricade his newspaper office doors. A mob broke in and stole his printing equipment. In 1849, while making an anti-slavery speech, Clay was attacked, beaten, stabbed, and almost shot, till he fought off his attackers. Cassius Marcellus Clay helped pressure Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. As Minister to Russia, Clay helped negotiate the U.S. purchase of Alaska.

Anti-slavery leader **Rufus King** was born March 24, 1755. Rufus King was a Harvard graduate who was an aide to General Sullivan during the Revolutionary War. At 32 years old, Rufus King was one of the youngest signers of the U.S. Constitution. Rufus King later served as U.S. Minister to England, U.S. Senator from New York, and was a candidate for U.S. President. In a speech made before the Senate at the time Missouri was petitioning for statehood, Rufus King stated: "I hold that all laws or compacts imposing any such condition as slavery upon any human being are absolutely void because they are contrary to the law of nature, which is the law of God."

WILLIAM J. FEDERER is a nationally known speaker, best-selling author, and president of Amerisearch, Inc., a publishing company dedicated to researching America's noble heritage.

Bill's **AMERICAN MINUTE** radio feature is broadcast daily across America and by the Internet. His *Faith in History* television airs on the TCT Network on stations across America and via Direct TV. Born October 1, 1957, Bill was raised in south St. Louis, 5th of eleven children, Bill lettered in wrestling, football and was a state finalist in track-high hurdles. He graduated from St. Louis University High School ('76), studied at University of Dallas, Texas ('76-'78); in Rome, Italy ('78), and graduated from Saint Louis University ('80) with a degree in Accounting/Business Administration.

After college, Bill worked for Federer Realty,



William J. Federer

founded in 1913 by his grandfather, William A. Federer, who was president of the St. Louis Board of Realtors, as was his father Richard L. Federer, building large portions of the city and county. His uncle and namesake taught at St. Louis University, led retreats at White House Retreat Center and worked with native Americans, seniors and inner-city poor. His father's cousin, Charles A. Federer, Jr., was founder of Sky & Telescope Magazine at Harvard.

Bill worked in real estate, oil & gas industry (Santa Fe Industries '81-'84), and held positions with community organizations, charity groups, churches - working with youth, families, elderly and minorities. He served as a Scoutmaster, having been an Eagle Scout.

FAMILY: Bill married his high school sweetheart, Susan Maria Misko, on May 2, 1981. Susan received the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Community Service by U.S. Senator John Danforth in 1980 for being spokesperson of the Missouri/Illinois Red Cross Blood Services and working with elderly/handicapped. Sue graduated with honors from Cor Jesu High School ('76), Fontbonne College ('80), worked for St. Louis Union Trust. Sue became a licensed real estate, an insurance agent, and is a broker-specialist. Bill and Sue have four grown children.

You can view and read other articles by Mr. Federer at <http://www.americanminute.com/about.php>.

WALTER EHLERS PASSES AWAY Medal of Honor Recipient, Walt Ehlers, age 92,



Walter Ehlers

passed away on Thursday, Feb. 20. He was buried at Riverside National Cemetery on March 8 at 1PM. Only 7 WWII MOH recipients now survive. He had lived in the same Buena Park home for more than 50 years. We will miss this great man.

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 Ehler 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 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 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 near 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 V A 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 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 gun crew 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.)

See news Video below.

<http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/shepard-smith/index.html?intcmp=features#/v/3309288500001> . ***

Walter Ehlers receives the Medal of Honor for his gallantry and bravery during the D-Day Invasion.



Photo Album



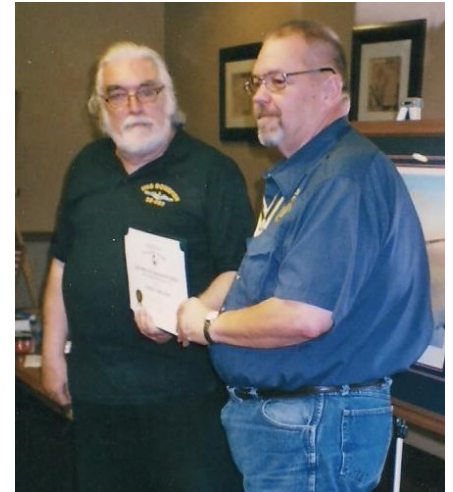
Richard Baylis spoke to us about the use of airplanes in war.



A wounded Warrior he was presented with a quilt from the Quilts of Valor Organization.



Dan Henry presented other Wounded Warriors their coins and certificates. At left is Norm Griffith. At right is Norm's brother Robert Griffith.



Below, Norm and Robert's father Roscoe also received a Wounded Warrior Coin and certificate from Dan.

This was a family affair as you see Norm, Robert, Dan Henry and Roscoe.



Photo Album



New member John Ferris received his membership Certificate from President Dan Shippey.



New member Gustav (Gus) Rudolf Fisher received his Membership Certificate from President Shippey.



At left was the winning poster in the chapter Contest. Drawn by Taryn Ogasawara.

2nd place went to Eileen Lee.

3rd Place ot Elizabeth King

and Honorable Mention to Christian Kim.

