



# Empire Patriot

Empire State Society

Sons of The American Revolution

Descendants of America's First Soldiers

Volume 6 Issue 2

MAY 2004

Printed Four Times Yearly

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

THE FORERUNNER OF

## THE UNITED STATES ARMY

*The Continental Congress created the United States Army on June 14, 1775, in the midst of the American Revolution (1775-1783).*

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that Washington never got the kind of army, molded in the British image, that he desired. The experience before Boston in 1775 was repeated many times, as local militia had to be called in continually to give the American Army a numerical superiority in the field. The Continental Army, nevertheless, became the center of American resistance, and its commander, Washington, the symbol of the patriot cause. The extent to which militia could be expected to rally to that cause was very largely determined by the Continental Army's success or failure in the field.

Though the militia belonged to the states, the Continental Army was a creation of the Continental Congress. Congress prescribed its size and composition, chose its generals, and governed the system for its administration and supply. Suspicious on principle of a standing army and acutely aware of historic examples of seizure of political power by military leaders, its members kept a watchful eye on the Army's commanders and insisted they defer to civilian authority. Washington countered these suspicions by constantly deferring to Congressional wishes, and he was rewarded by the assiduity with which Congress usually adopted his recommendations.

Lacking an executive, Congress had to rely on committees and boards to carry out its policies—un-

wieldy devices at best and centers of conflicting interest and discord at worst. In June 1776 it set up a Board of War and Ordinance, consisting of five of its members, the lineal ancestor of the War Department. In 1777 Congress changed the composition of the board, directing that it henceforth be made up of persons outside Congress who could devote full time to their military duties.

Neither of these devices really worked well, and Congress continually handled administrative matters by action of the entire membership or by appointment of special committees to go to camp. In 1781 the board was replaced by a single Secretary at War.

Under the Articles of Confederation the states were responsible for raising troops for the Continental Army, for organizing and equipping them, and for appointing officers through the rank of colonel. State authorities called out militia sometimes at the request of Congress and sometimes on their own initiative. When they joined the main army, militia normally shared in its supplies and equipment. The states, however, maintained an interest in supplying and administering the troops of their own "lines" as well as their militia, and the Continental agents had continually to enlist state assistance in their own efforts. Lines of authority crisscrossed at every turn.

It was an inefficient military system for an organized national effort. Washington could never depend on having enough trained men or supplies. He continually in-

*Continued Page 4 Col 1*



Staff Sergeant Kenneth P. Lane  
Station Commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Office  
Hudson, NY

## A FIRST FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> NY CONTINENTAL



A resounding round of applause was given after the induction of Gavin Peck Galbraith, age nine, as the First Junior Member of the First New York Continental Chapter, and as the first Junior member in the Empire State Society.

The occasion was the annual Sons & Daughters Gala Ball held on 24 Jan 2004 at the Yale Club in NYC. Master Galbraith was personally sworn in by President General Raymond Musgrave and repeated his oath flawlessly for the enthusiastic crowd in attendance.

Left to right: PG Musgrave, Chapter President Wesley M. Oler, IV (at podium) Junior Compatriot Gavin P. Galbraith, FGG Charles Thomas Galbraith, (Gavin's father) O

## ROCHESTER CHAPTER PRESENTS . .



## . . CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Rochester Chapter is required by its constitution to have an annual meeting at which the chapter's president and treasurer are required to report to the members about the state of the chapter. This year's meeting was held on 17 January at Bogey's Wood Fired Grill with 25 members and guests attending, President

Stephan P. Clarke reported on our various activities and treasurer Red Fairley established that the chapter is on solid financial footing.

Following the official business, members and guests were brought up to date about the Navy Junior ROTC program at East High School in Rochester. LCDR Rod Shaffer-with help from CWO Tim Greene-reviewed the program, its goals and successes. A spirited question and answer session followed LCDR Shaffer's presentation and several men mentioned that they were pleased to learn about the program in greater depth. In turn, the local SAR members have been invited to attend in the drill team competition at East High. The NJROTC team there regularly takes awards throughout the area. The Rochester Chapter supplied a trophy for the competition. Following his presentation, LCDR Shaffer was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation to warm applause.

The meeting concluded with a workshop for the five prospective members in attendance. Various members reviewed application worksheets with our guests and helped several address knotty problems. We look forward to having them all join our ranks . O

## SYRACUSE CHAPTER HERITAGE LUNCHEON 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

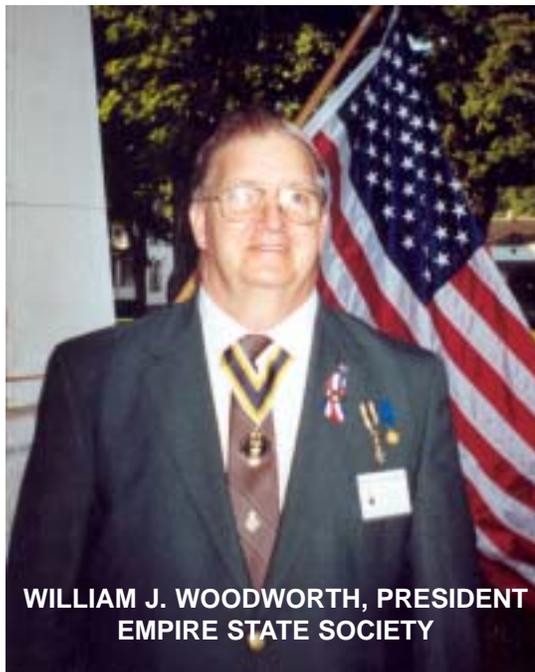


1st Row, William Billingham, Roy Pickard, John Downing, Terry Pickard - 2nd Row, Otway Pardee, John Churchill, Jerry Orton, Ken Warner - 3rd Row, Shawn Doyle, Earl Traug, Tom Clark - 4th Row, Hon. Jack Schultz, Bill Knowlton, Frank Decker, Bob Pickett, Ken Sweet, Jim Christensen

The Syracuse Chapter, SAR, held its 100th annual Heritage Day Luncheon in commemoration of the 272nd birthday of Gen. George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the US Continental Army and first president of the United States of America at Drumlins Country Club on Saturday, February 21, 2004. The Honorable Jack Schultz, Justice of the Town of Dewitt, delivered the address.

Pictured are Syracuse Chapter members in attendance minus Ed Hess and Don Piron. Guest were given a commemorative ribbon and program. Over 80 people attended representing our nation's history from colonial days to the present. O





**WILLIAM J. WOODWORTH, PRESIDENT  
EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY**

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully, with this issue of the "Empire Patriot" Winter has finally given way to some decent weather and we can start thinking about mowing grass instead of shoveling snow. I trust you all had a safe and healthy Wintry Season.

My congratulations, once again, for another great year in membership recruiting. We have succeeded in keeping our State Registrar, Roy Goold, busy while increasing our numbers in the State Society. Thanks to all who made this possible. We also have our first Junior Member, Gavin Peck Galbraith who is the son of ESSAR Board of Manager Charles T. Galbraith - Congratulations Gavin!!

The new increased application fees and Supplemental Application fees have persuaded some prospective members to change their minds about joining according to phone messages and e-mail messages I have received from prospective members as well as other Chapter Members. While speaking with DAR Representatives regarding the application fee increases, I have been told that some State Societies and Chapters have set up a special fund to help prospective members with their initial application fee costs. It seems to have helped them keep some of their prospective members from just giving up on becoming members.

I would also wish to congratulate those Chapters who were "winners" in the new ESSAR 100% Dues Contest. This was an

incentive for the members to pay their dues before December 31st and, as a result, the Chapter would benefit from a \$500 prize. If only one Chapter had their dues 100%, the complete \$500 would be theirs. If more than one Chapter reached this goal by the cut-off date, they would share equally in the prize. The ESSAR also benefited from this contest as a cost saving program in not having to spend extra postage in sending "dues reminder letters". Thanks again to everyone who helped with this program.

As your President and Representative, I have been busy attending other meetings and my travels have taken me to the SAR Spring Trustees Meeting in Louisville, KY; the N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. Conference in Poughkeepsie, NY; meetings with other SAR Chapters and DAR Chapters. Susan and I were also guests of the New York State DAR Regent, Frances Patterini, for a luncheon.

During our visit to the CAR Conference, I was very impressed with the way the children conducted themselves and their meetings. It was all very professional and they all took their patriotic heritage very seriously. I was escorted by a Page named Phillip Mosher who also led us in the Pledge of Allegiance during the Saturday morning meeting. Phillip is the nephew of our ESSAR Secretary Jonathan Goebel and ESSAR Chaplain Peter Goebel. I believe Phillip is 7 years old and he did a great job in all of the duties that were asked of him. Also during the Conference I presented CAR Medals of Appreciation to the State President, several Past Presidents, and a SAR Medal of Appreciation to Senior State President, Ann Otten. All in all, the conference was quite an experience and one that every SAR Member should attend if at all possible.

A date to mark your calendar, 15 May 2004 which is the date of our Annual ESSAR Meeting which will be held at the Beeches in Rome, NY. Oriskany Battle Chapter is hosting the meeting and will be having three good luncheon choices. We may even have "musical entertainment" like we had last year. I hope to see you there. My best to you and your families. O

*William J. Woodworth*

## EMPIRE PATRIOT

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Sons of the American Revolution  
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Published Four Times Yearly

Feb. 1st, May. 1st, Aug. 1st, Nov. 1st

Submissions must be received 30 days prior to mailing (15 days before publish date) and are printed at the discretion of the Editor. They may be edited for length, content and accuracy. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The Editor.

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**Editor's Note:** I wish to correct an error on my part that appeared in the February 2004 Issue regarding the **UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**. On the front page, it read "**UNITED STATE MARINE CORP.**" and I apologize to anyone I may have offended by that error. Hank O

## BOARD OF MANAGERS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Empire State Society Sons of the American Revolution Board of Managers will be held May 15, 2004, 11:00 AM at the Beeches, Route 26N Turin Road, Rome, New York. For anyone interested in attending, the Beeches is holding a block of rooms at \$59.00 each. The rooms can be reserved for Friday the 14th and if needed also the 15th. The number is 1-800-765-7251.

The guest speaker will be Alan Foote, noted Historian and author. His latest book is "Valley of Liberty, a Guide to the Upper Valley in the American Revolution".

The menu will be Petite Cut Prime Rib, Chicken Cordon Blue or Baked Haddock which includes salad, rolls, beverage and light dessert at \$17.00 each. Checks for the Dinner must be made payable to: Oriskany Battle Chapter and mailed to: Thomas Foley, Treasurer, 7060 Fox Road, Marcy, NY, phone 315-865 no later than May 10, 2004.

Come join us, meet compatriots from all avenues of New York State and enjoy the camaraderie and atmosphere of this annual affair. O

*Continued from Page 1, Evolution of the Continental Army*

veighed against sending militia to fight his battles and by early 1776 had concluded that he needed an army enlisted for the duration of the war. Congress did not, as has often been charged, ignore his wishes. In October 1776 it voted a new establishment, superseding the plan developed for the army before Boston in 1775 and haphazard arrangements made in the interim for raising Continental regiments in various states. This establishment was to contain 88 battalions of infantry, or about 60,000 men, enlisted to serve three years or “during the present war,” with each state assigned a quota in proportion to its population under the system set up in the Articles. After the disastrous retreat across New Jersey in December 1776, Congress went further and authorized an additional 22 battalions to be recruited by Washington’s officers directly into the Continental service. These 110 battalions remained the authorized strength of the Continental Army until 1781, when Congress cut it to 59.

Neither the 88 battalions, nor the 110, nor even the 59 ever existed except on paper. The Continental Army never had as many as 30,000 men at any one time, and very rarely was Washington able to muster as many as 15,000 effectives in the field. The states were simply unable to meet their quotas. By the winter of 1777-78, the effort to enlist men for three years or the duration collapsed, and the following spring, with the sanction of Washington, Congress reverted to a system of one-year enlistments and recommended to the states that they institute a system of drafting men from the militia for one year’s service. This first American wartime draft was applied irregularly in the various states and succeeded no better than had earlier methods in filling the Continental ranks. Bounties, instituted by both the states and the Congress very early in the war and progressively increased one step behind the pace of inflation, also produced only temporary and irregular results.

The coin did have another side. In reality the shortage of arms and ammunition and of facilities for producing them limited the number of men who could be kept continuously in the field as effectively as did the failure of enlistment drives. The militia system enabled many able-bodied males to perform part-time military service and still remain most of the time in the labor force that kept the economy going. It is doubtful whether the American economy could have sustained such an army as Washington and Congress proposed in 1776, even had there been a central administration with adequate power. As it was, the small Continental Army that did remain in the field intermittently suffered extreme hardship and near starvation. On the other hand, American ability to raise local armies in any threatened region helped to balance the strategic mobility that the British Fleet gave to the British Army. Although militia generally did not perform well in regular warfare, when highly motivated and ably led, they could fight well on

terrain suited to their capabilities. Given the conditions under which the Revolution was fought, the American military system was more effective than its critics have recognized, though it failed to provide adequately for a sustained military effort over a period of years.

Perhaps Washington’s greatest achievement was simply in maintaining the Continental Army continuously in the field. Despite its many vicissitudes, that army did take shape during the war as the first distinctively American military organization, neither quite a replica of the professional British Army on which it was modeled nor yet the type of national army raised by conscription that was to appear in France after the Revolution of 1789.

The Continental Army operated in three main territorial divisions or departments—the main army under Washington largely in the Middle States, the Northern Army in northern New York, and the Southern Army in the Carolinas and Georgia. Although Washington was Commander in Chief of the whole, the commanders of the Northern and Southern Armies still operated with a considerable measure of independence. Congress, rather than Washington, named their commanders and communicated directly with them. Of the two “separate armies,” the Northern Army was by far the most important until 1777 and the Southern Army existed largely on paper; by 1780 the situation was reversed as the British transferred their main effort to the southern states.

The Continental Army was composed mainly of infantry and artillery, with very little cavalry. The basic unit of infantry organization was the regiment or battalion composed of eight companies above this level was highly flexible. A brigade was usually formed of several regiments and was commanded by a brigadier general; a division consisted of a similar grouping of several brigades commanded by a major general. Artillery was organized into a brigade of four regiments under a Chief of Artillery, Brig. Gen. Henry Knox, but the various companies were distributed among the infantry battalions. There was a small corps of engineers and an even smaller contingent of artificers, who handled the servicing and repair of ordinance.

Washington was provided with a staff generally corresponding to that of the British Army. The most important staff officer was the Quartermaster General, responsible not only for transportation and delivery of supplies but also for arranging the camp, regulating marches, and establishing the order of battle of the army. There were also an Adjutant General, a Judge Advocate General, a Paymaster General, a Commissary General of Musters, a Commissary General of Provisions, a Clothier General, a Chief Surgeon, and a Chief Engineer. Each of the separate armies also usually had staff officers in these positions, designated as deputies to those of the main army.

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- painting by Garth Ditrack

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All these staff officers had primarily administrative and supply functions. The modern concept of a general staff that acts as a sort of collective brain for the commander had no real counterpart in the eighteenth century. For advice on strategy and operations, Washington relied on a Council of War made up of his principal subordinate commanders, and, conforming to his original instructions from Congress, he usually consulted the council before making major decisions.

Both organization and staff work suffered from the ills that afflicted the whole military system. Regiments were constantly understrength, were organized differently by the various states, and employed varying systems of drill, discipline, and training. In the promotion of officers in the state lines, Continental commanders shared authority with the states, and the confused system gave rise to all sorts of rivalries, jealousies, and resentment, leading to frequent resignations. Staff officers were generally inexperienced, and few had the patience and perseverance to overcome the obstacles posed by divided authority, inadequate means, and poor transportation and communication facilities. The supply and support services of the Continental Army never really functioned efficiently, and with the depreciation in the currency they came close to collapse.



## The Hardships of a Continental soldier

From: Private Yankee Doodle, *Being a Narrative of some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier*, by Joseph Plumb Martin, Eastern Acorn Press

Martin, who enlisted as a militiaman in 1776, and served that year in the defense of New York, enlisted the following year in the Connecticut Line for the duration of the war, and was finally discharged in late 1783. While obviously not a Jerseyman, his experiences are typical of a Continental soldier. The deprivations and sufferings here described are the same suffered by the New Jersey line.

Why did the Continental Congress and state governments allow these shortages of food, clothing and pay to happen? Remember that the colonies had been governed by England. No one in America had experience in creating or running a commissary or quartermaster's department. These bureaucratic functions had to be created from the ground up. When the various governments did find workable methodologies, they then found they had a serious, actually catastrophic shortage of money to pay both for the necessary material and its transport.

Both Congress and the states believed, probably wrongly, that corruption was the cause of most of the shortages and cost. Just before the Army entered Valley Forge for the winter of 1777-1778, they revised the Quartermaster's Corp, resulting in the resignation of the Quartermaster General and many of his subordinates. Much of the suffering there was because of lack of proper management of the supply departments. By 1780, and the

Morristown, New Jersey encampment, the Treasury was almost completely without funds. An extremely harsh winter making transport difficult exasperated the situation. After starving many days upon their return to Morristown from Elizabethtown, Martin's regiment almost mutinied that June, parading without orders under arms and refusing to disperse on command. Eventually after standing about arguing and complaining they did go back to quarters and their duty. Martin also describes here some of the debate on soldiers pensions, created under President Monroe, who fought and was wounded at the battle of Trenton. At the close of the war, the soldiers were furloughed rather than discharged, because the government could not pay them—indeed, many never received any pay. Those that stayed to wait for certificates showing what was owed them usually had to sell them, dirt cheap, to speculators in order to get money to walk home, buy clothing, and make a start in civilian life.

*Here Martin describes the lack of food, clothing and pay common to all Continental soldiers:*

When those who engaged to serve during the war enlisted, they were promised a hundred acres of land, each, which was to be in their or the adjoining states. When the country had drained the last drop of service it could screw out of the poor soldiers, they were turned adrift like old worn-out horses, and nothing said about land to pasture them upon. Congress did, indeed, appropriate lands under the denomination of "Soldier's Lands", in Ohio state, or some state, or a future state, but no care was taken that the soldiers should get them. No agents were appointed to see that the poor fellows ever got possession of their lands; no one ever took the least care about it, except a pack of speculators, who were driving about the country like so many evil spirits, endeavoring to pluck the last feather from the soldiers. The soldiers were ignorant of the ways and means to obtain their bounty lands, and there was no one appointed to inform them. The truth was, none cared for them; the county was served, and faithfully served, and that was all that was deemed necessary. It was, soldiers, look to yourselves; we want no more of you. I hope I shall one day find land enough to lay my bones in. If I chance to die in a civilized country, none will deny me that. A dead body never begs a grave;—thanks for that.

They were likewise promised the following articles of clothing per year. One uniform coat, a woolen and a linen waistcoat, four shirts, four pair of shoes, four pair of stockings, a pair of woolen and a pair of linen overalls, a hat or a leather cap, a stock for the neck, a hunting shirt, a pair of shoe buckles, and a blanket. Ample clothing says the reader; and ample clothing says I. But what did we ever realize of all this ample store—why, perhaps a coat (we generally did get that) and one or two shirts, the same of shoes and stockings, and, indeed, the same may be said of every other article of clothing—a few dribbled out in a regiment, two or three times a year, never getting a whole suit at a time, and

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*Continued from Page 5, The Hardships of the Continental Soldier*

all of the poorest quality, and blankets of thin baize, thin enough to have straws shot through without discommoding the threads. How often have I had to lie whole stormy, cold nights in a wood, on a field, or a bleak hill, with such blankets and other clothing like them, with nothing but the canopy of the heavens to cover me. All this too in the heart of winter, when a New England farmer, if his cattle had been in my situation, would not have slept a wink from the sheer anxiety for them. And if I stepped into a house to warm me, when passing, wet to the skin and almost dead with cold, hunger, and fatigue, what scornful looks and hard words have I experienced.

Almost every one has heard of the soldiers of the Revolution being tracked by the blood of their feet on the frozen ground. This is literally true, and the thousandth part of their sufferings has not, nor ever will be told. That the country was young and poor, at that time, I am willing to allow, but young people are generally modest, especially females. Now, I think the country (although of the feminine gender, for we say "she" and "her" of it) showed but little modesty at the time alluded to, for she appeared to think her soldiers had no private parts. For on our march from the Valley Forge, through the Jerseys, and at the boasted Battle of Monmouth, a fourth part of the troops had not a scrap of anything but their ragged shirt flaps to cover their nakedness, and were obliged to remain so long after. I had picked up a few articles of light clothing during the past winter, while among the Pennsylvanian farmers, or I should have been in the same predicament. "Rub and go" was always the Revolutionary soldier's motto.

As to provision of victuals, I have said a great deal already, but ten times as much might be said and not get to the end of the chapter. When we engaged in the service we promised the following articles for a ration: one pound of good and wholesome fresh or salt beef, or three quarters of a pound of good salt pork, a pound of good flour, soft or hard bread, a quart of salt to every hundred pounds of fresh beef, a quart of vinegar to a hundred rations, a gill of rum, brandy, or whiskey per day, some little soap and candles, I have forgot how much, for I had so little of these two articles that I never knew the quantity. And as to the article of vinegar, I do not recollect of ever having any except a spoonful at the famous rice and vinegar Thanksgiving in Pennsylvania, in the year 1777. But we never received what was allowed us. Oftentimes have I gone one, two, three, and even four days without a morsel,

unless the fields or forests might chance to afford enough to prevent absolute starvation. Often, when I have picked the last grain from the bones of my scanty morsel, have I eat the very bones, as much of them as possibly could be eaten, and then have had to perform some hard and fatiguing duty, when my stomach has been as craving as it was before I had eaten anything at all.

If we had got our full allowance regularly, what was it? A bare pound of fresh beef and a bare pound of bread or flour. The beef, when it had gone through all its divisions and subdivisions, would not be much over three quarters of a pound, and that nearly or quite half bones. The beef that we got in the army was, generally, not many degrees above carrion; it was much like the old



*During the American Revolution (1775-1783), the colonists wore different uniforms depending on the state they were from and their military rank. This drawing depicts the following uniforms, from left to right, Light Infantry, First City Troops Philadelphia, George Washington's Body Guard, Pennsylvania Line Infantry Private, Continental Artillery Private, Massachusetts Line Infantry Lieutenant, New York Line Infantry Private, Artillery Captain, South Carolina Line Infantry Lieutenant, Washington's Uniform and Movian's Dragoons. - Culver Pictures.*

Negro's rabbit, it had not much fat upon it and very little lean. When we drew flour, which was much of the time we were in the field or on marches, it was of small value, being eaten half-cooked, besides a deal of it being unavoidably wasted in the cookery.

When in the field, and often while in winter quarters, our usual mode of drawing our provisions, when we did draw any, was as follows:—a return being made out for all the officers and men, for seven days, we drew four days of meat and the whole seven days of flour. At the expiration of the four days, the other three days allowance of beef. Now, dear reader, pray consider a moment, how were five men in a mess, five hearty, hungry young men, to subsist four days on twenty pounds of fresh beef (and I might say twelve or fifteen pounds) without any vegetables or any other kind of sauce to eke it out. In the hottest season of the year it was the same. Though there was not much danger of our provisions putrefying, we had none on hand long enough for that, if it did, we obliged to eat it, or go without anything. When General

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Washington told Congress, “the soldiers eat every kind of horse fodder but hay” he might have gone a little farther and told them that they eat considerable hog’s fodder and not a trifle of dog’s—when they could get it to eat. We were, also, promised six dollars and two thirds a month, to be paid us monthly, and how did we fare in this particular? Why, as we did in every other. I received the dollars and two thirds, till (if I remember rightly) the month of August, 1777, when paying ceased. And what was six dollars and sixty seven cents of this “Continental currency,” as it was called, worth? It was scarcely enough to procure a man a dinner. Government was ashamed to tantalize the soldiers any longer with such trash, and wisely gave it up of its own credit. I received one month’s pay in specie while on the march to Virginia, in the year 1781, and except that, I never received any pay worth the name while I belonged to the army. Had I been paid as I was promised be at my engaging in the service, I needed not to have suffered as I did, nor would I have done it; there was enough in the country and money would have procured it if I had had it. It is provoking to think of it. The country was rigorous in exacting my compliance to my engagements to a punctilio, but equally careless in performing the contracts with me, and why so? One reason was because she had all the power in her own hands and I had none. Such things ought not to be.

The poor soldiers had hardships enough to endure without having to starve; the least that could be done was to give them something to eat. “The laborer is worthy of his meat” at least, and he ought to have it for his interest, if nothing more. How many times have I had to lie down like a dumb animal in the field, and bear “the pelting of the pitiless storm”, cruel enough in warm weather, but how much more so in the heart of winter. Could I have had the benefit of a little fire, it would have been deemed a luxury. But, when snow or rain would fall so heavy that it was impossible to keep a spark of fire alive, to have to weather out a long, wet, cold, tedious night in the depth of winter, with scarcely clothes enough to keep one from freezing instantly, how discouraging it must be, I leave to my reader to judge. It is fatiguing, almost beyond belief, to those that never experienced it, to be obliged to march twenty-four or forty-eight hours (as very many times I have had to) and often more, night and day without rest or sleep, wishing and hoping that some wood or village I could see ahead might prove a short resting place, when, alas, I came to it, almost tired off my legs, it proved no resting place for me. How often have I envied the very swine their happiness, when I have heard them quarreling in their warm dry sties, when I was wet to the skin and wished in vain for that indulgence. And even in dry

warm weather, I have often been so beat out with long and tedious marching that I have fallen asleep and not been sensible of it till I have jostled against someone in the same situation; and when permitted to stop and have the superlative happiness to roll myself in my blanket and drop down on the ground in the bushes, briars, thorns, or thistles, and get an hour or two’s sleep, Oh! how exhilarating.

Fighting the enemy is the great scarecrow to people unacquainted with the duties of an army. To see the fire and smoke, to hear the din of cannon and musketry and the whistling of shot, they cannot bear the sight or hearing this. They would like the service in an army tolerably well but for the fighting part of it. I never was killed in the army; I never was wounded but once, I never was a prisoner with the enemy; but I have seen many that have undergone all these and I have many times run the risk of all of them myself. But, reader, believe me, for I tell a solemn truth, that I have felt more anxiety, undergone more fatigue and hardships, suffered more every way, in performing one of those tedious marches than ever I did in fighting the hottest battle I was ever engaged in, with the anticipation of all other calamities I have mentioned added to it.



*The American militia were normally expert marksman and were often backwoodsmen experienced in Indian fighting. Some, known as minutemen, because they guaranteed to take up arms at a moment's notice, fought the Redcoats on the Boston-Lexington road.*

allow, but there are many among them, too, I hope the citizen soldiers will be ready to allow, who are not so good as regulars, and I affirm that the militia would not have answered so well as standing troops, for the following reason, among many others. They would not have endured the sufferings the army did; they would have considered themselves (as in reality they were and are) free citizens, not bound by any cords that were not of their own manufacturing, and when the hardships of fatigue, starvation, cold and nakedness, which I have just mentioned, begun to seize upon them in such awful array as they did on us, they would have instantly quitted the service in disgust, and who would blame them? I am sure I could hardly find it in my heart to do it.

That the militia did good and great service in that war, as well as in the last, on particular occasions, I well know, for I have fought by their side, but still I insist that they would not have answered the end so well as regular soldiers, unless they were very different people from what I believe and know them to be, as well as I wish to know. Upon every exigency they would have been to

*Concluded Page 8 Column 1*

*Continued from Page 5, The Hardships of the Continental Soldier*

be collected, and what would the enemy have been doing in the meantime? The regulars were there and there obliged to be; we could not go away when we pleased without exposing ourselves to military punishment, and we had trouble enough to undergo without that. It was likewise said at that time that the army was idle, did nothing but lunge about from one station to another, eating the country's bread and wear her clothing without rendering her any essential service ( and I wonder they did not add, spending the country's money too, it would have been quite as consistent as the other charges). You ought to drive on, said they, you are competent for the business; rid the country at once of her invaders. Poor, simple souls! It was very easy for them to build castles in the air, but they had not felt the difficulty of making them stand there. It was easier, with them, taking whole armies in a warm room and by a good fire, than enduring the hardships of one cold winters night upon a bleak hill without clothing or victuals.

If the Revolutionary army was really such a useless appendage to the cause, such a nuisance as it was then and has since been said to be, why was it not broken up at once; why were we not sent off home and obliged to maintain ourselves? Surely it would have been as well for us soldiers and, according to the reckoning of these wiseacres, it would have been **much** better for the country to have done it than for us to have been eating so much provisions wearing out so much clothing when our services were worse than useless. We could have make as good militia men as though we had never seen an army at all. We should in case we had been discharged from the army, have saved the country a world of expense, as they said; and I say we should have saved ourselves a world of trouble in having our constitutions broken down and our joints dislocated by trotting after Bellona's car.

But the poor old decrepit soldiers, after all that has been said to discourage them, have found friends in the community, and I trust there are many, very many, that are sensible of the usefulness of that suffering army, although perhaps, all their voices have not been so loud in its praise as the voice of slander has been against it. President Monroe was the first of all our Presidents, except President Washington, who ever uttered a syllable in the "old soldiers" favor. President Washington urged the country to do something for them and not to forget their hard services, but President Monroe told them how to act. He had been a soldier himself in the darkest period of the war, that point of it that emphatically "tried men's souls," was wounded, and knew what soldiers suffered. His good intentions being seconded by some Revolutionary officers then in Congress, brought about a system by which, aided by our present worthy Vice-President [John C. Calhoun], then the Secretary at War, Heaven bless him, many of the poor men who had spent their youthful, and consequently their best, days in the hard service of their country, have been enabled to eke out the fag end of their lives a little too high for the groveling hand of envy or the long arm of poverty to reach.

Many murmur now at the apparent good fortune of the poor soldiers. Many I have myself seen, vile enough to say that they never deserved such favor from the country. The only wish I would bestow upon such hardhearted wretches is that they might be compelled to go through just such sufferings and privations as that army did, and then if they did not sing a different tune, I should miss my guess. But I really hope these people will not go beside themselves. Those men whom they wish to die on a dunghill, men,

who, if they had not ventured their lives in battle and faced poverty, disease, and death for their country to gain and maintain that Independence and Liberty, in the sunny beams of which, they, like reptiles, are basking, they would, many or the most of them, be this minute in as much need of help and succor as ever the most indigent soldier was before he experienced his county's beneficence.

The soldiers consider it cruel to be thus vilified, and it is cruel as the grave to any man, when he knows his own rectitude of conduct, to have his hard services not only debased and underrated, but scandalized and vilified. But the Revolutionary soldiers are not the only people that endure obloquy; others, as meritorious and perhaps more deserving than they, are forced to submit to ungenerous treatment. But if the old Revolutionary pensioners are really an eyesore, a grief of mind, to any man or set of men ( and I know they are), let me tell them that if they will exercise a very little patience, a few years longer will put all of them beyond the power of troubling them, for they will soon be "where the wicked cease from troubling and weary are at rest."

*Martin's account, written in his old age, is the most complete account of the life of a Revolutionary soldier. It was written from memory, but is remarkable for having few errors. It is a standard, and anyone reading about the lives and times of the soldiers of the Revolution should read it. O*

## NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Several years ago I was asked to return the Tompkin's County Chapter Charter to the ESSSAR Board of I Managers due to a very low number of active members and at the request of the current Tompkin's County Chapter President. Since that time, Newtown has been working hard to re-establish a SAR Chapter back in the Ithaca area and during the March 2004 ESSSAR Board of Managers Meeting a Chapter Charter Application was presented to request the formation of a new Chapter. Although we may lose some Newtown Battle Members it will be a good feeling to have another Chapter established in our Society. I will keep you updated as to the progress of this application and the status of the new Chapter.

During our January Chapter Meeting, the former slate of officers were re-elected to serve another term and plans were discussed for upcoming events as well as other activities. Our schedule for 2004 includes having a SAR Display and Information Table at the Seneca County Centennial; the presentation of three SAR ROTC Awards during the Cornell University Ceremonies on May 1, 2004; next regular Chapter meeting to be held at a historic church in Addison, New York; our Annual Chapter Picnic and SAR Information Booth at Newtown Battlefield; participation in the "Let Freedom Ring" ceremony; 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Newtown event being held 27-29 Aug 2004 at Newtown Battlefield State Park just East of Elmira, NY.; and our Annual Christmas Party, details to be announced at a later date.

Chapter Treasurer Samuel Pulford and Chapter Board of Manager Chairman Sheldon Robinson continue working on a booklet about some of their Revolutionary War Patriots and the role Chief Cornplanter had in the lives of some of these Patriots. The Chapter has also put together a 20+ page booklet with the names and

*Continued page 9 Column 1*

*Newtown Battle Chapter Cont'd. from Page 8*

some interesting facts regarding the Revolutionary War Patriots who are buried in various cemeteries located in Chemung County, NY. The booklet contains grave locations, military service information, and some information regarding the families of these Patriots. The Chapter has these booklets available as a fund raiser effort for a cost of \$5. plus postage and can re ordered from the Chapter President. They will also be available at our SAR Information Booth during the events we participate in.

Our Chapter membership continues to grow with the addition of several new members since the last report published in the February issue of the "Empire Patriot" and we congratulate each one of you as well as welcome you to the SAR Society.

A special invitation to all SAR members and their families; Newtown Battle Chapter has regular meetings on the 3rd Saturday of January, April, July, and October. The Annual Chapter Picnic is usually held at Newtown Battlefield State Park, just East of Elmira on Route 1-86, during the Revolutionary War Weekend Event in August. If you are in the area during any of these times, please feel free to contact me for information in attending any of these functions.

*William J. Woodworth, Chapter President O*



*Park Ranger Joe Craig of the Saratoga National Historical Park entertains group with a lighthearted fact that the US Dept. of Agriculture symbol Smokey Bear wears a National Park Service Ranger's hat and not the hat worn by Forest Rangers who are employees of the Agriculture Dept.*

## **SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER 2004 ANNUAL MEETING AND WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY DINNER**

*Duane Booth, President, Saratoga Battle Chapter*

The Saratoga Battle Chapter, held its Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner, at the Century House in Latham on February 21st, with 35 members and guests in attendance.

Chapter President Duane Booth asked members to support the 11 th Annual March 4 Parks. This event, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield and the Saratoga National Historical Park (SNHP), will be held at the Schuyler House on April 24th between 10am and 2 pm. While the idea is to get people to sponsor you for walking in the March, that is not mandatory. The goal is to raise

money so programs at the SNHP can be continued. It is a fun time, with silent auctions, ice cream, music and a chance to enjoy a spring day with friends and family while supporting a worthwhile event with a donation.

Following dinner, President Booth introduced recently admitted members David Anthony Marsh of Troy and Joseph Insull Whittlesey, of Scotia and presented Joe with his membership certificate. Acting Chaplain Henry Goebel gave members and guests an update on Past President and Chaplain Peter K. Goebel who has been serving in Iraq.

Park Ranger Joe Craig of the Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater gave a presentation on the Saratoga Monument. Ranger Craig's presentation corrected many myths about the monument and provided a chronological list of events from the start of construction in 1877 through the recently completed renovation of the historic obelisk in 2002. O

## **COLUMBIA CHAPTER'S . . . . . . KNIGHT ESSAY WINNER**

Columbia Chapter, ESSSAR, has been fortunate this year to have had several Knight Essay Contest Writers from some of the area schools. Several of our chapter members took the essay information to many of the local schools and, consequently, the chapter received many essay contestant submissions.

Our chapter is privileged to announce that Matthew Fyffe, a junior at Arlington High School, is our essay winner. His essay is entitled: "Benedict Arnold: An American Hero". Arnold has come down in history as the most unforgivable traitor to the American Cause in the Revolution. Matthew takes the position that prior to his betrayal Arnold performed many valuable services to the American Cause. He presents strong arguments to defend his thesis.

Matthew and his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Fyffe of Poughkeepsie, NY, are the guests of the Columbia Chapter at its Spring Luncheon. Lloyd Loop, Jr., Chairman O

## **USS ORISKANY CV 50**

The aircraft carrier USS Oriskany was named after the Battle of Oriskany, where General Nicholas Herkimer led soldiers against British troops and their Indian allies in 1777. Commissioned in 1950, the Oriskany saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars and decommissioned in 1976. The ship is 888 feet long and 32,000 tons.

The mothballed Oriskany was sold for scrap several years ago but the salvage company went bankrupt and the ship was been stationed at Beaumont, Texas. A drive was started to save the ship from being scrapped. In January the ship began the first step in a process that will lead to its eventual sinking off the Atlantic Coast or the Gulf of Mexico as an artificial reef. It was moved in February to Corpus Christi for millions of dollars in remedial work to rid the vessel of contaminants like asbestos and mercury.

In October 2003, Congress passed a bill that approved Navy ships for artificial reefing. President Bush has since signed the bill into law allowing the Navy to sink its first combatant ship for the program.

Once sunk, the ship will create a new habitat for fish and plant life. It will be the largest vessel ever purposely sunk as a reef. Several locations are being considered to sink the ship including off the coast of Pensacola, Fla., Corpus Christi, Tex., the Mississippi Gulf, and off the Georgia and So. Carolina coast

The small village of Oriskany is home of the museum that houses many USS Oriskany artifacts such as the ship's anchor, bell and a F4 Skyhawk jet fighter plane like those that flew off its wooden deck during the Vietnam war.

*Burke Muller, Oriskany Battle Chapter, ESSSAR O*

## SONS AND DAUGHTERS GALA BALL A BIG HIT IN NEW YORK CITY

*Below is a congratulatory letter from the  
Mayor of The City of New York*

January, 2004

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Sons and Daughters Gala Ball of the 1st New York Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

On behalf of the residents of New York City, I commend all those associated with SAR and the Daughters of the American Revolution for making this annual benefit possible. This is a wonderful way to bring your members from throughout the nation together in support of your dedication to preserving our country's rich history. All Americans should be proud of our courageous and defiant beginnings, and I thank you for your efforts to ensure that future generations of New Yorkers are mindful of the bravery of those who fought for our freedoms.

It is always gratifying to unite with people and organizations sharing my commitment to making a difference in our great City. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and for continued success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

**Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, The City of New York**

The 1st New York Continental Chapter's annual Sons and Daughters Gala Ball was held on Saturday, January 24, 2004, and a festive crowd of 120 gathered at the Yale Club of New York City to help commemorate the courage and zeal of the revolutionary forefathers who served as America's first soldiers and fought for the independence of the United States.

SAR President-General Raymond Musgrave was the Guest of Honor, and the SAR was ably represented by other dignitaries including Secretary-General Henry McCarl, former ESSAR President Walter Kuhn, and Vice President-General Jonathan Goebel. A number of National Officers of the NSDAR were also in attendance, as were various current and past presidents of other lineage societies in New York.

Letters of congratulations and personal greetings from President George W. Bush and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg were read to the crowd, which stood and gave a loud, cheering ovation.

The Colors were presented by the Color Guard of the Military Garrison of Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, N.Y. The 1st New York's recently deceased Charter Member, former President-General James B. Gardiner II, was fondly remembered in an eloquent eulogy delivered by John M. Hilliard, who served as the Gala's Master of Ceremonies. The James B. Gardiner Silver Bowl, which serves as a continual reminder of the many years of dedicated service Jim contributed to the SAR, was awarded to Kenneth A. Menken, former President of the 1st New York Continental Chapter.

Next year's Gala will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2005. There will again be a block of discount priced rooms available at the Yale Club for those who would like to overnight in New York and attend the Gala. We look forward to seeing you then!

*Wesley M. Oler, President, 1st New York Continental Chapter, O*

## A BANNER YEAR FOR EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

This is a "heads up" to our ESSAR chapters on our 2004 Eagle Scholarship Competition winners for New York.

Our state winner is Michael William Vrana of Commack, NY, a member of Troop 125 of the Suffolk Council on Long Island. Mike is 16 years old, has earned 88 merit badges, including the three "bonus" badges: American Heritage, Genealogy, and Law. He has been in Scouting for 10 1/2 years, and has had 161 months of credited leadership responsibilities in Scouting. His father is a banker; his mother a teacher. His paternal great grandparents came to the US from Czechoslovakia; his maternal great grandparents immigrated from Austria. (This continues an interesting tradition in our great melting pot state: nine of the winners in the last eleven years have not had Revolutionary War ancestors and seven of these are from recent immigrant stock. Also, we have yet to have an entrant who immigrated here from Arkansas.)

Mike is an intern for Congressman Steve Israel, and has worked actively in breast cancer fund-raising activities.

He has been an alter server in his church for 6 years, an usher for 3, a food pantry volunteer for 4, and assisted in Vacation Bible School for 1. He has earned all of Scouting's religious medals of his Church.

In school, he has been on the "A" honor roll every quarter since freshman year, is a candidate member for the National Honor Society, and has had perfect attendance for 2 1/2 years. He has rowed crew for a year and track for 2 1/2 years.

The Suffolk Council falls in the SAR's Huntington chapter's turf. Mike will be awarded the Council medal by the Huntington chapter, the Bronze Eagle by the state with his scholarship check at the State Annual Meeting in May, and will compete with winners from the other states at a meeting of our National Awards Committee in Louisville in late February. If he wins first at the national level, he will receive his national \$8000 award at the Annual Convention this summer.

Other winners, with their state rank, council rank, Council affiliation, and nearest SAR local chapter are: **Erik Willie**, #2 in ESSAR, #1 in Theodore Roosevelt Council, Huntington Chapter; **Nicholas Willie**, #3 in ESSAR, #2 in Theodore Roosevelt Council, Huntington Chapter. ***Congratulations, Huntington Chapter on pulling off a 1-2-3 sweep of the top 3 state winners!***

**Matthew Fueston**, #4 in ESSAR, #1 in Twin Rivers Council, Saratoga Battle Chapter; **Charles S. Weck**, #5 in ESSAR, #3 in Theodore Roosevelt Council, Huntington Chapter (again!); **Gregory O. Brown**, #6 in ESSAR, #1 in Trail Blazer Council, Huntington Chapter (this is getting tedious!); **Andrew Borelli**, #7 in ESSAR, #1 in Otetiana Council, Rochester Chapter; **Chris Toth**, #8 in ESSAR, #4 in Theodore Roosevelt Council, Huntington Chapter **Michael Acanfora**, #9 in ESSAR, #1 in Otschodela Council, Binghamton Chapter **Alex Dunckle**, #10 in ESSAR, #1 in Baden Powell Council, Newtown Battle Chapter.

Seven council medals will be sent along to the 6 SAR chapters, as well as patches to all participants, including these ten and another 24 who participated.

*Logan M. Cheek, III O  
State Chairman*

## ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER PRESENTS CERTIFICATE TO NEW MEMBER



USS ORISKANY CV 50  
Oriskany Battle's Namesake  
(See page 9 col. 2)



Judge Arther Dunckel receiving his SAR Membership Certificate. *left to right: Burke Muller, Past President, Judge Arther Dunckel, and Norb Bankert, President*

Judge Dunckel is one of the organizers of "The Revolution Heritage Committee of the Mohawk Valley". This organization sponsored the Colonial Heritage Days last year at the Fort Herkimer Church in German Flatts, NY. Plans are already in the works for another celebration this year at the same site June 18-21. The event will include a skirmish re-enacting the Battle of Fort Herkimer with American, British and Indian forces in full dress. There will also be a campground where re-enactors in period dress are featured in period campsites. Other sponsors are: The Tryon County Battalion of Minute Men, Campbell's Company, the Burnings of the Valley Military Association, the Oneida Indian Nation Living History re-enactors, and artillery unit. O

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## N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. STATE CONFERENCE

The 85th Annual Conference of the New York State Society Children of the American Revolution was held the weekend of March 5th and 6th, 2004 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel and Conference Center. Many thanks to State President Amber Miller and her State Board for an outstanding year!

We were very honored to welcome Empire State Society Sons of the American Revolution President, Mr. William Woodworth and New York State DAR Regent, Mrs. Frances Pattarini to the Conference. These two State leaders of our parent organizations were able to join us for the entire weekend. From the reports of the officers, chairmen and society presidents to the Friday night activities (including C.A.R. Jeopardy and member/senior relays); from the election of new officers to the Memorial Service on Saturday; from ice-skating at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center to the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening; the Conference was a perfect time to share C.A.R. with them. The Awards Banquet was the opportunity to honor local societies for their work during the year. Peewee Patriots (age 10 and under) received certificates based on their participation at society meetings during the year. Forty members of local societies received medals to recognize that they 'took the challenge' to complete the Nations Trails United States Heritage Award Program. Honored as the outstanding societies in the State were Highland Pass as the Most Outstanding Society and Suffolk as the Second Most Outstanding Society. Congratulations to State President-elect, John Barrack, and Incoming Senior State President, Miss Cynthia Babb who will be installed during National C.A.R. Convention in April in Washington, DC.

The greetings brought by Mr. Woodworth and Mrs. Pattarini from SAR and DAR were one of the highlights of the weekend. I was so delighted that the four State Presidents of my administration; Douglas A. McHoul, Meghan Ann Otten, Christopher Michael Bianchi and Amber Mae Miller; were honored by receiving the



*L to R: John Barrack, Incoming State President, N.Y.S.S.C.A.R.; Miss Cynthia Babb, Incoming Senior State President, N.Y.S.S.C.A.R.; Amber Miller, State President, N.Y.S.S.C.A.R.; Mrs. Ann Otten, Senior State President, N.Y.S.S.C.A.R.; Mrs. Frances T. Pattarini, State Regent NYSDAR; and Mr. William Woodworth, State President ESSAR.*

SAR Bronze Medal of Appreciation. These four young people represent the future of SAR, DAR and our country. I was very surprised, and very honored, when Mr. Woodworth presented me with the SAR Medal of Appreciation. Thank-you to all members of the Empire State Society SAR and especially to Bill Woodworth. I am looking forward to a growing partnership between N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. and the ESSAR.

Through the generosity of C.A.R. members, seniors and friends close to \$1600 was raised for Amber Miller's State Project, to provide scholarships to the unique summer camp program at the Old Bethpage Restoration Village in Bethpage, Long Island. The weeklong camp allows young people to experience life as it was during the early 1800's.

Many thanks again to Mr. Woodworth and Mrs. Pattarini for making this year's State Conference such a memorable experience. *Ann Otten, Senior State President, N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. O*

## ROCHESTER CHAPTER CELEBRATES WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

The Rochester Chapter celebrated George Washington's birthday with a luncheon on 21 February at the historic Spring House Restaurant. Attending were 40 members and guests, including representatives from five area DAR chapters and the Ensign Robert Wilson Chapter, CAR, whose members created table favors and assisted in other ways as well. Chapter President Stephan P. Clarke delivered the toast to the memory of President Washington, adding a special exhortation to the CAR members to use our first president as a model on which to fashion whatever service they might be able to provide for their communities and the nation.

Special guests of the Rochester Chapter at the luncheon were four honorees who were recognized for their commitment to community service. First was Eagle Scout Andrew Borelli, the local winner of the Eagle Scout Essay Contest. Andrew's parents accompanied him as guests of the Chapter. Then the Fire

Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate were presented to Monroe County Fire Coordinator Edward Riley for his lifelong service both as a volunteer and as a professional worker in fire safety and hazardous chemical handling. The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate were presented to Town of Greece Police Chief Merritt Rahn for his lifelong service to the

citizens of Monroe County. The Silver Good Citizenship Medal was presented to Douglas Call, Town Court magistrate for the Town of Stafford, Genesee County. Call has been a Judge Advocate for the U. S. Air Force, Sheriff of Genesee County, public safety administrator in Monroe County and member of a host of public service boards and committees. His ongoing commitment to public service is impressive.



*L to R Millard A. Fairley, Chapter Treasurer; Merritt Rahn, Greece Police Chief; Anthony Borelli, Eagle Scout, Stephan Clarke, Chapter President; Douglas Call, Staffprd Town Magistrate; Edward Riley, Monroe County Fire Administrator*



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