

M I N N E S O T A

# SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • SUMMER 2022

## ANNUAL C.A.R. PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Wayzata, MN – The MNSAR Color Guard, the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment of Revolutionary actors and the Daughters of the American Revolution returned to join the annual July 4th Revolutionary Flying Pancake Breakfast celebration. The MNSAR Color Guard fired their muskets, talked about their uniforms and educated visitors on the history of Independence Day and the men and women who helped found the nation.

For the “flying” part of the breakfast, guests used their plates to catch airborne pancakes flung by the cooks stationed behind the griddle. The breakfast also includes sausage, coffee, and cold drinks. The lakeside celebration, which draws over 1,200 visitors, is hosted annually by the Lake Minnetonka Society of the Children of the American Revolution.

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Has your address changed?  
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Minnesota Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
15111 Elmcrest Ave. N.  
Hugo, MN 55038-8348





## 2022 MNSAR MEDALS AND AWARDS PROGRAMS

### Minnesota Society ROTC Awards

In 2022 the Minnesota Society again invited each Minnesota ROTC unit (College level), and each JROTC unit (high school level) to participate in the SAR ROTC/JROTC Awards Program. Silver Certificates and Medals were awarded to each ROTC cadet while Bronze Certificates and Medals were awarded to each JROTC cadet. Winners of the awards were chosen by the senior military leadership of each unit. The SAR ROTC and JROTC awards are awarded to a cadet, "in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence thus exemplifying the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors."

Six of the seven ROTC units responded with names of cadets to be given the SAR Silver Certificates and Medals, while all eleven JROTC units responded with names of cadets to be given the SAR Bronze Certificates and Medals.

All six of the ROTC units that responded with the name of a cadet to be awarded the SAR/ROTC Silver medals and certificates held in-person award ceremonies this year. One of the six, St. John's University, chose to have their

own staff present the awards. The remaining five ROTC units' cadets were presented their awards by a SAR Minnesota Society compatriot.

All eleven of the JROTC units that responded with the name of a cadet to be awarded the SAR/ROTC Bronze medals and certificates held in-person award ceremonies this year. Two of the eleven chose to have their own staff present the awards to their cadets. The remaining nine JROTC units' cadets were presented their awards by a SAR Minnesota Society Compatriot.

Special thanks to SAR Minnesota Society Compatriots that took the time to present ROTC and JROTC awards on behalf of the SAR Minnesota Society. Their names are: Michael R. Bradley, Dennis Croonquist, Dr. Richard Howey, James Hagen, Kerry Johnson, John Sassaman, and Dr. Rick Smith.

### Minneapolis and St. Paul Chapters Bronze Good Citizenship Medals

The Minneapolis Chapter presented a certificate and medal to the Naval Sea Cadets Squadron and fifteen area high schools – down from the usual twenty-plus. The High Schools that did not participate were from the Minneapolis School District. The teachers strike in May disrupted

the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program this year.

Medals were also awarded to eleven St. Paul area high school students this year.

The criteria for the recipient of the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Service and an appreciation of patriotism. Recipients are chosen by the faculty of each High School.

### Flag Certificates

On Flag Day five Saint Paul area businesses were presented with flag certificates by the Saint Paul Chapter SAR for showing patriotism and love of country by flying the flag. This year's recipients were:

- Bald Eagle Erectors Inc., Lino Lakes
- City View Electric Inc., Columbus
- D & T Auto Inc., Columbus
- Northwoods Humane Society, Wyoming
- Waldoch, Forest Lake

## Proposed MNSAR Bylaws Change

On November 30, 2020, the Minnesota SAR Constitution and Bylaws were updated to split the role of secretary into two roles: Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Unfortunately, section 20 concerning the composition of the Executive Committee was updated to only include the Recording Secretary and not the Corresponding Secretary.

At the January 22, 2022 MNSAR business meeting we discussed updating the Constitution and Bylaws so that the Corresponding Secretary is included as part of the Executive Committee. The change was brought before the Executive Committee for a vote and approved by email on February 4, 2022. The next step in the process is to bring the change to the Board of Managers for a vote, followed by a vote of the members, both of which will occur at the October 15, 2022 MN SAR/SR Constitution Day luncheon. The change is as follows:

*Section 20. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Managers composed of the President, the Vice President, the Corresponding Secretary, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, and the Chancellor.*

## Next Meeting

The Minnesota SAR's annual Constitution Day Luncheon will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.



## REMEMBERING COL. ANDREW MARTIN JOHNSON

The DC Society has informed us that our dual-society member Colonel Andrew Martin Johnson passed away on May 23, 2022. Col. Andy (as the announcement read) was born in 1935, a native of Windom, MN. He completed his BA degree and graduate studies in public administration at the University of Minnesota. He served in the US Army, including two years on active duty in Vietnam and four years with NATO forces in Germany.

In addition to his membership in the Minnesota Society, SAR, Col. Johnson was active in the DC and Virginia Societies. He served as President of the Virginia Society and was VP General for the Mid-Atlantic District. In 2005 he received the SAR's highest honor, the Minuteman Award. The following obituary was provided by the District of Columbia Sons of the American Revolution:



We are deeply saddened to report that Colonel Andrew Martin Johnson, who was president of our Society in 1996 and 1997, passed away yesterday.

Col. Andy was a native of Windom, Cottonwood County, Minnesota, the son of Clayton Andrew Johnson and Emma Phylis Bennett. He attended the University of Minnesota where he received his Bachelor of Art degree and completed graduate studies in Public Administration. He also graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was retired from the US Army Materiel Command, having served two years in Vietnam and four years with NATO forces in Germany while on active duty.

Following his retirement from the US Army reserves, Col. Johnson continued ac-

tivities in various veterans and hereditary organizations serving in 1999 as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the successor to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Andy was a proud member of the American Legion, serving in every officer position in National Defense Post # 46, Department of the District of Columbia over 39 years. He was recently honored by the department by being elected an Honorary Department Commander for the District of Columbia.

In addition to the D.C. SAR, he was long active in the Virginia SAR and served as its State President, and as Vice President General for the Mid-Atlantic District. He was the recipient of the National Society's highest honor, the Minuteman Award, and just about every medal, certificate,

or other honor the D.C. Society could bestow. Andy was a trusted counselor to a generation of presidents of this organization, and he will be sorely missed.

He was a member of many other hereditary societies as well.

Col. Johnson was active in his local community as a member of the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) and volunteer coordinator of Meals on Wheels.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Association of the US Army; Army Historical Foundation; Reserve Officers Association; Civil Affairs



# MNSAR COLOR GUARD ACTIVITY

## Patriot Chest Presentation at Maranatha Academy

Brooklyn Park, MN – On March 17, 2022, Saint Patrick’s day, Rich Howey and Chris Moberg of the MNSAR along with Gigi Hickey of the MNDAR gave a 90 minute presentation of our Patriot Chest to the combined 4th grade classes of Maranatha Christian Academy in Brooklyn Park, MN. We talked about the history of the Revolutionary period, how the revolution came to be, flags that were used during the revolution, major historical documents of the period, period clothing, household goods, the life of children at that time, etc. One of the students even got to try on a period dress.

## Patriot Chest Presentation to MN Civil Air Patrol

Rochester, MN – On April 7, 2022, three members of the MNSAR (Phil Christiansen, Rich Howey and Chris Moberg) gave a Patriot Chest presentation to members of the Civil Air Patrol in Rochester, MN. The CAP is a youth program of the USAF. They were interested in the life of a soldier during the Revolutionary War and how it differed from the life of a soldier today. The presentation focused on the history of the war, the differences between a smooth bore musket and a rifle and how the linear tactics of the

time were appropriate given the types of weaponry used in the war.

It is largely an American myth that the Continental Army did not adopt the British method of fighting in linear formations. In fact, George Washington appointed Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a Prussian army officer, as inspector general of the army at Valley Forge to teach the army how professional soldiers fought in formation. When the Continental Army met the British in battle at Monmouth, New Jersey after their training, they proved that they were the equal of the British in all aspects of fighting a set-piece battle in a linear formation.

## Patriot Chest Presentation at Schaeffer Academy

Rochester, MN – On May 5, 2022, three members of the MNSAR Living History Team, Phil Christianson (left), Rich Howey and Chris Moberg (not pictured) did a series of Patriot Chest presentations for the elementary school grades at Schaeffer Christian Academy in Rochester, MN.

The sixth grade students have been learning about ancient warfare. So they were given a demonstration of the loading and firing of a flintlock musket to demonstrate how complex it was and were also taught



why the soldiers at the time, both British and American, fought in lines. The picture clearly illustrates how much smoke was produced when a flintlock musket was fired. You can see the large plume of smoke generated by the main powder charge in the barrel emerging from the muzzle. You can also see the vertical plume of smoke emerging straight upwards right in front of the shooter’s face that was generated by the priming charge in the flintlock firing mechanism. With thousands of muskets, along with cannons, firing on a battlefield, you can see that the field would be obscured by smoke and visibility would be a big problem. That is part of the reason for the colorful uniforms, large flags that were carried and orderly formations. That helped the commanding officers know where their troops were in the noise, smoke and



confusion of battle.

## Oneota Cemetery Memorial Day Service

Duluth MN – Compatriots Craig Whiting and Michael Stainbrook participated in the Oneota Cemetery Memorial Day Service in the Duluth area. Craig fired his musket and Michael was the Emcee for the event.

## Memorial Day Flag Raising

Roseville, MN – On Memorial Day, Rich Howey, Kevin Sullivan, Chris Moberg and Steve Hyde of the MN SAR Color Guard did a flag raising for a golf tournament at Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville MN. The tournament was a fund raiser for “Folds of Honor,” a charity that provides scholarships to family members of wounded and deceased veterans. The tournament raised about \$10,000.

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Tuesday May 30, 1780

## BLOODY MASSACRE

Waxhaws, South Carolina – Yesterday British forces under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton encountered an American force under Colonels Abraham Buford and William Washington at Waxhaws Creek. Tarleton dashed off a brief report to Cornwallis that very day, and on the following morning a more complete recounting.

Colonel Abraham Buford, who had watched helplessly from the opposite bank of the Santee at Lenud's Ferry while Banastre Tarleton and his British Legion dragoons scattered the commands of Colonels Anthony White and William Washington, stayed where he was on hearing the news of the fall of Charleston.

General Isaac Huger, victim of Tarleton at Monck's Corner, then ordered Buford to fall back all the way to Hillsborough, North Carolina, in the northern part of that state, about forty miles from the Virginia line. Buford had a long way to go. With him were Governor John Rutledge and a few members of his council.

On the 18th of May Lord Cornwallis broke camp and marched with 2,500 men to Lenud's Ferry and crossed the Santee. Sir Henry Clinton had given him the task of pacifying the rest of the state

and setting up strongpoints. Cornwallis's goal was Camden, on the same road taken by Buford. The earl had learned that Governor Rutledge was with Buford and wanted to capture him as well as attack Buford's force. But Buford had a ten-day lead, too much for the British infantry to catch him. As he would on many occasions, Cornwallis turned to Tarleton and his fast-moving light troops.

On 27 May Tarleton left Nelson's Ferry on the Santee with 270 men: forty British regulars of the 17th Dragoons, 130 Legion cavalry, and 100 mounted Legion infantry. He also took one small artillery piece, a three-pounder. Because of Buford's long head start, Cornwallis was not certain that Tarleton could catch him, and he gave his young cavalry commander discretion to continue, turn back, or attack if he could catch Buford. It is doubtful that Tarleton, ruthless driver of men and horses, ever considered turning back. The heat was oppressive, but Tarleton pushed horses until they died beneath their riders, commandeered mounts wherever he could find them, doubled up when necessary, and never let up. The small column arrived in Camden the next day and stopped to rest. But not for long. At 2:00



A.M. on the 29th Tarleton and the Legion marched. By dawn they reached Rugeley's Mill, about eleven miles north of Camden on the road to Charlotte. Governor Rutledge and his party had been there, entertained and given lodging by a prominent local Tory, Colonel Henry Rugeley, who was not alone in the Carolinas in hedging his bets. Learning that the British had reached Camden, Rugeley awakened his distinguished guests at midnight and urged them to flee. If the Rebel Governor of South Carolina was to be taken, it would not be in Henry Rugeley's house. Nor was Tarleton told that he had been there. He did learn that Buford was only twenty miles ahead, wrote out a summons to Buford to surrender, and sent it on by Captain David Kinlock. The Captain's mission was meant to either trick Buford

into surrendering by greatly exaggerating British numbers or at the very least delay him. The letter read in part: "You are now almost encompassed by a corps of seven hundred light troops on horseback, half of that number are light infantry with cannon, the rest cavalry: Earl Cornwallis is likewise within a short march with nine British battalions." Delaying Kinlock so his infantry could reach a clearing, Buford then sent a one-sentence reply to Tarleton: "Sir, I reject your proposals, and shall defend myself to the last extremity."

"By this time," Tarleton wrote, "many of the British cavalry and mounted infantry were totally worn out, and dropped successively into the rear; the horses of the three pounder were likewise unable to proceed." At that point, with a column strung out for miles, many

commanders would have stopped. Not Tarleton. When in hot pursuit he was like a man possessed. At three o'clock in the afternoon, a few miles south of the North Carolina line in a district called the Waxhaws, first contact was made. In appalling heat Tarleton had come 105 miles in fifty-four hours, an exceptional march rate. Within view of both commanders, without ceremony or preliminaries, Tarleton's advance guard immediately attacked Buford's rear guard. They captured an American sergeant and four dragoons. Lieutenant Pearson, commanding the rear guard, was sabered and unhorsed, and as he lay on the ground was sabered in the face, slantwise, and his nose, lips, tongue, and jaw split.

Buford formed for battle. He had detached his supply wagons and sent them on. He could have used his artillery, but it also continued the march. Buford had his 350 Virginia Continentals and a detachment of William Washington's dragoons, although Washington was not present. He deployed the Continentals into a single line. We have no information on what he did with the

dragoons. Tarleton assigned fifty cavalry and about fifty dismounted infantry to harry the American left flank. Captains Corbet and Kinlock were to charge the center with the forty men of the 17th Dragoons and part of the Legion cavalry, while Tarleton with thirty chosen horse and some infantry assaulted their right flank and reserve. Some British stragglers on their jaded horses were beginning to arrive and were ordered to form a reserve in the event of a repulse.

Tarleton's small force formed on a low hill opposite Buford's center and in full view of the Americans. As Tarleton intended, the high ground was a good spot to regroup in case the attack failed, and also "made no inconsiderable impression" on the minds of his enemy. The forty troopers of the 17th Light Dragoons were a spot of red amid the green-jacketed British Legion. At 300 yards, Tarleton wrote, the "cavalry advanced to the charge. On their arrival within fifty paces, the continental infantry presented," but as he thundered across the clearing toward the American lines Tarleton could hear

the American officers shouting to their men to hold their fire until the British were closer. It was an appalling error of judgment by Buford. The order to fire did not come until the charging horsemen were in the faces of the long line of Continentals – a mere ten yards away, time for only one volley. Tarleton's horse was killed under him, and a few other "officers, men, and horses suffered by their fire, but the battalion was completely broken, and slaughter was commenced." The Americans were literally ridden down. "Thus in a few minutes" Tarleton wrote, "ended an affair which might have had a very different termination."

It was a superb performance, Tarleton at his best. Outnumbered, bone weary from the brutal forced march in the awful Carolina heat, he never looked back. Tarleton felt that if Buford had formed his wagons "into a kind of redoubt to protect artillery and infantry against a cavalry charge" the British either would not have attacked or would have been repulsed. "Colonel Buford also committed a material error, in ordering the

infantry to retain their fire ... which when given, had little effect either upon the minds or bodies of the assailants, in comparison with the execution that might be expected from a successive fire of platoons ... commenced at the distance of three or four hundred paces." But the Americans had not even raised their muskets to prepare to fire until the British cavalry was only fifty paces away. Abraham Buford and his officers had doomed the Continentals: 113 were killed and 203 captured, of whom 150 were wounded, some grievously. Abraham Buford did not share his command's fate, escaping "by a precipitate flight on horseback." Tarleton lost five killed and twelve wounded.

*Sources:*

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