



## The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution December 4, 2018

*We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifice established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and solemnly pledge to defend them against every foe.*

## Compatriot Michael Rowley Awarded the SAR Patriot Medal for “Long, Faithful, and Outstanding Service”



“It was Mike who helped walk me through the paperwork to join the organization. And, everything was right the first time. He does this for many others as well to help strengthen the rolls of the ISSAR. Rowley has been the first signer on over 100 new and supplemental applications and has helped many make family connections they often thought impossible to document.

*IASSAR President Doug Frazer (l) presents Compatriot Mike Rowley with The Patriot Medal and Certificate*

“Since joining the SAR, I have heard that Mike has held every office, except Chancellor, at both the Chapter and State levels. As there is not always a high level of volunteerism, Compatriot Rowley has held many of these offices for multiple terms.

“If you have seen parades and other functions around the nation, you will notice he has been the Color Guard Commander for a number of years for Iowa. Michael Rowley continues to search for new and more opportunities to promote the mission of the organization.

“Mike has served as the ROTC awards chairman for several years. He is currently serving as the Iowa Society Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, and has time to be the North Central District Vice President General.

“If Paul Revere came riding through Des Moines tomorrow, shouting, “The Regulars are coming by I-80”, I would want Mike Rowley at my side!”

*- contributed by Compatriot **Ron Rittell**, who wrote the above in support of Compatriot Rowley’s nomination for the Patriot Medal, the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society*

# Don Corrigan Elected IASSAR 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

At the November 28<sup>th</sup> IASSAR meeting on November 28, Compatriot **Don Corrigan** was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the IASSAR. A long-time member of the SAR, GS1812, and SUVCW, Don will oversee the society's recognition and awards program. Welcome, Don!

## New Central Iowa Chapter Charter

The original charter of the Central Iowa Chapter SAR vanished mysteriously long ago. Compatriot **Mike Rowley** obtained a replacement and presented it in a handsome frame to chapter officers on November 28. The Central Iowa Chapter was founded on December 11, 1970, in Des Moines.



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY



At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 2018, members of the Iowa Society Sons of the American Revolution gathered in the WWI section of Historic Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. An earlier Veterans Day ceremony was also held Monday at the Gold Star WWI monument on East University Avenue in Des Moines. Pictured at the monument are Mike Rowley, left, of Clive; Rick Hickman of West Des Moines; and Doug Frazer of Des Moines. SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018 ■ WEST REGISTER

# Iowa SAR to Sponsor the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest

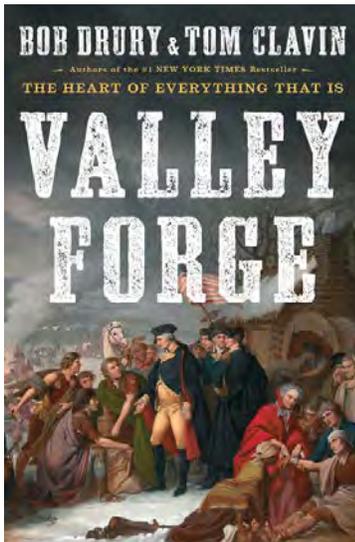
The contest is open to all students attending public, parochial, private or home school students in that same grade range. The preliminary rounds of the contest begin at the local level. Winners may potentially advance to the national level of competition where scholarships and cash prizes are awarded.

Orations are to be five to six minutes in length, and should be based on a compelling Revolutionary War subject that is directly related to current national issues and patriotism. Complete information about the contest is found at the NSSAR website: <https://www.sar.org/joseph-s-rumbaugh-historical-oration-contest>



Details for the Iowa contest are being worked out, with a likely date and place of **March 30, 2019, 10:00AM -2:00PM at the Iowa Gold Star Museum, Johnston.** Dual members of IASSAR and Iowa GSW 1812 are encouraged to assist.

2017 contest winners, Virginia Society



## Valley Forge

by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin  
reviewed by Alec D. Rogers

*Journal of the American Revolution*, November 26, 2018  
<https://allthingsliberty.com/2018/11/valley-forge/>

Americans refer to many of their nation's most iconic events by simple reference. The Alamo. Pearl Harbor. The Fourth of July. They are etched in our collective memories and once invoked are still capable of unleashing emotion and memory. Valley Forge, the Pennsylvania encampment of the Continental Army during the winter of 1777-1778, conjures images of misery and deprivation, but coupled with determination and resolve, as powerful as any in our nation's history.

Bob Drury's and Tom Clavin's simply titled *Valley Forge* is actually a superb account of the Revolutionary War from the Battle of Brandywine in the fall of 1777 to Monmouth Courthouse in the summer of 1778. Using these two major encounters of the war as bookends, they are able to demonstrate how the Valley Forge winter permanently altered the Continental Army from a gaffe prone, undisciplined, largely

amateur force into a one that could hold its own with one of the world's finest militaries. Their account of political and diplomatic events on both sides of the Atlantic help bolster the military tale.

Among the book's many virtues are the biographical pauses the authors take when a new actor appears on its pages. On page six we meet not only Gen. Sir William Howe, but his brother, the admiral Richard "Black Dick" Howe, whose expertise is related to readers: "so attuned to the world's tides that he was known as 'the human sea chanty.'" In describing British Gen. John Burgoyne, they rely on "English Whig Antiquarian" Horace Walpole's description: "all sail and no ballast." On the American side, well-penned portraits appear of the Marquis de Lafayette, Alexander Hamilton, John Laurens, and Henry Knox among many others. As a result, even a Revolutionary War novice can read *Valley Forge* with great interest.

Although the book focuses largely on Washington and the Continental Army, its scope is broad enough to cover the Battle of Saratoga, and the battle's long-standing impact on Washington and his forces even though they were not present. The momentary rise of Horatio Gates and the shadow "his" victory threw on Washington in Congress is assessed, as well as the role the battle played in the disaffection of one of America's truly great warriors, Benedict Arnold.

The work is divided neatly into three parts, with the first covering the fall of 1777 before the Americans settled into Valley Forge and the third the aftermath of its experience there. Of course, the middle covers the Valley Forge winter itself and this is the heart of the book. Washington remains at the center of the narrative, and the authors skillfully lay out the pressures that he faced in explaining his decision making during the period.

One topic that receives close particularly close attention is the multi-pronged attempts to wrest control of the Revolution's military leadership from Washington that is often referred to by the short hand phrase "the Conway Conspiracy." This conspiracy was really a series of efforts by Horatio Gates, trading on the unjust acclaim that had befallen him as the commander at Saratoga, and others such as Thomas Mifflin and George Conway, to bolster his own standing at Washington's expense. Drury and Clavin cover their thrusts and the counter thrusts by Washington and his subordinates in great detail.

Particularly interesting is their relation of Washington's report *A Representation to the Committee of Congress*. As Washington's leadership began to be questioned in Congress, a small committee of members paid a visit upon the commander in chief. With the help of Hamilton and others, Washington laid out detailed proposals for reorganizing the army, utilizing free blacks as teamsters and Native Americans as scouts, and even giving pensions for the soldiers. His presentation to the committee, largely orchestrated by Hamilton, was so powerful that the Congressmen who had come to judge Washington's suitability to continue in command left determined to carry out his proposed reforms. As Drury and Clavin note, "Washington the soldier-statesman had captured the hearts and minds of the visiting delegates."

The other great story of the period of course is the arrival of Baron von Steuben and the herculean task of reforming the army's operations from soup to nuts. Fortunately, von Steuben was as accomplished in the arts of military science as he was in embellishing his resume. By the time the "errors in translation" had been corrected regarding the latter, he was so far along in transforming the American army into something resembling a professional European fighting force that Washington and others were able to overlook any "misunderstandings" regarding his credentials.

Drury and Clavin are the authors of several military histories covering episodes from World War II (*Lucky 666*, *Halsey's Typhoon*), the Korean War (*The Last Stand of Fox Company*), and Vietnam (*Last Men Out*).

This is their first foray into the Revolution, but people and events are generally covered fluently and their descriptions of combat easy to follow. An exception is the somewhat disjointed, rambling epilogue, which attempts to cover in thirty-five pages decades worth of events that followed the war, particularly as they pertain to the book's main characters. It would have been better to have spent more space on the Battle of Monmouth, which is covered in only about half the space as the epilogue.

Although *Valley Forge* does not claim to break new ground, its well written account of the events and personalities from this storied period in American history is most welcome. A bibliography, index and endnotes are included as well.

## Opportunities to Serve

Please consider serving the Iowa SAR by volunteering for one of the following state and/or chapter positions. Most of them do not take a lot of time. **New members** are especially encouraged to serve. Compatriots Mike Rowley and George DeMoss will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the leadership positions listed below. Both are willing to spend time with you in person to show you what they do. Don't worry about "being thrown into" a position without any help. We all help each other. Should you decide to volunteer for a position, you would not need to start right away.

**Registrar: (state society):** receives membership applications; assists applicants with genealogy  
Contact Mike Rowley for more information. [MJR1825@gmail.com](mailto:MJR1825@gmail.com)

**Secretary-Treasurer (chapter and state society):** maintains membership and financial records; works closely with the Registrar regarding membership records.  
Contact George DeMoss for more information. [geodemoss62@gmail.com](mailto:geodemoss62@gmail.com)

## Your IASSAR Board of Managers

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Alt. Trustee	Tom Gaard	gaardt@aol.com



*Let us remember our obligation to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution,  
The Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men.*