



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution

June 14, 2021

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.

2021 IASSAR Spring Conference

By Mike Rowley



The IASSAR Spring Conference was held at noon on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at Bennigan's in Urbandale, Iowa. Here are a few of the events that occurred:

- Secretary/Treasurer Doug Frazer shared a poster of photographs taken at the Nathan Brown monument dedication.
- Bob Niffenegger received the State Distinguished Service Medal for his many hours of volunteer work with Des Moines cemetery grave markings.
- The treasurer's report was presented and accepted.
- An update was given on the joint SAR/War of 1812 grave marking project:
 - 168 graves have been marked with VA granite headstones since January 1, 2020.
 - 1,080 veteran's graves have been identified and marked with flag holders in Woodland Cemetery.
- The IASSAR has averaged about 25 new members per year over the last three years.
- Members were informed about a QR code video biography program created by Kristine Bartley at Woodland Cemetery.



One of many QR codes at Woodland Cemetery. To play the video, put your cell phone in camera mode, hold it over the QR code, and click the top of the screen.



From left to right: President Patrick Lant, 2nd V.P. Kevin Parmenter, Rollin Howell, Registrar Stephen Stewart, Mark Howell, 1st V.P. Don Corrigan, and Secretary/Treasurer Doug Frazer at the Spring Conference

Upcoming SAR events include the Urbandale Parade on July 3 and the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade on September 18. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

My Road to Eagle Scout and Scouting Memories

Letter written by William Wittich and read at the Iowa SAR Spring Conference



I am sorry I wasn't able to meet with you in person, but I am currently representing my school at HOBY, which is the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference. I started as a Cub Scout in Pack 2000 in Coralville. Soon after, my family decided to move to Solon, so I then joined Pack 120, the local Pack. I went through all of the ranks in Cub Scouts, and before I knew it, I was crossing over to become a Boy Scout. I went to summer camp with my former Troop the following year because our schedule didn't work with the Troop in Solon. I really enjoyed that summer camp because I got to see all my old friends and met even more people. Soon after summer camp, my brother and I decided that we would like to rejoin Troop 2000 in Coralville. I quickly went through the lower ranks of Boy Scouts and before I knew it, I was a Life Scout thinking of an Eagle Scout project. I knew I wanted to do something outdoors and something that everyone could do. I chose to make a life-sized checkerboard at Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca for team building activities. The board itself is made out of 256 concrete tiles, which makes a 16 foot by 16 foot board. For the checkers pieces, I took sheets of plywood, cut them into large circles, sanded them, and then painted them. In June of 2019, I was in my Board of Review

becoming an Eagle Scout. Currently, I am in Troop 2000 and serving the position of Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

I was very interested in applying for this award because I have several ancestors who fought in the American Revolution. In addition, I wanted to learn more about the historical places I had visited in Boston, Massachusetts during a family vacation. Thank you for selecting my entry for 1st place in the Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Competition. When I begin college in Fall of 2022, I will use this scholarship money to pursue a Mechanical Engineering degree and possibly play college soccer. I would like to thank Dr. Frazer for helping me along the way and for reading this message on my behalf.

DAR Monument Dedication in Springville, Iowa

By Mike Rowley

Nathan Brown was born in 1761. At the age of 14 he started training as a soldier, and at the age of 16 he enlisted and fought in the American Revolution. Around 1839, when he was an old man of well past 3 score and 10, he followed his family to Iowa even before it was granted statehood. We do not know for certain what brought him west, but it might have been a combination of hope and family; hope for a better opportunity to work and succeed and a multi-generational family with whom to share the effort.

Nathan died at the age of 81 in 1842 about three years after he arrived here. A monument was commissioned by one of his sons in 1886. Over the next 135 years, the monument would be tested and damaged by time, a tornado in 1977, and the derecho of 2020. For six years, local DAR chapters have worked to raise the \$44,000 necessary to repair the monument. Having recently completed the project, a rededication ceremony was held in Springville, Iowa on Saturday, May 22, 2021.



The Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota Color Guards at the Brown Monument Dedication (photo by Tami Krock)

North Central District Vice-President General Chris Moberg declared the dedication a District Color Guard event and encouraged members from Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and the Dakota Societies to participate. The Iowa Color Guard members included Danny Krock, Alan Wenger, Harold Goodrich, James Stone, Dave Nation, Joshua Dyer, and Mike Rowley. Color Guard members from other states included Paul Burrigh and James Sly from Nebraska and Chris Moberg from Minnesota. Besides the DAR, SAR, and C.A.R., U.S. Senator Joni Ernst, veterans, and local volunteers attended the ceremony.

These events not only honor the past but also show current active military and their families that their service will always be remembered. The event was covered by several TV and print media outlets. The Iowa Society SAR, the Rick Hickman family, and several other members made significant donations to help assist and make this rededication possible.

Participation in the Iowa Color Guard and Earning Color Guard Medals

By Mike Rowley

I joined the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in 2005. At the first informal gathering that I attended, I was appointed Historian. You can't say there is no room for rapid advancement in the IASSAR (in case you were wondering, the Illinois Society took the abbreviation ISAR first). I first put on a borrowed Color Guard uniform in 2006, which was quite a leap for a natural introvert. The uniform was double knit and a tad warm in even mild weather. Wool sounds worse, but I guarantee you it is not.

What I quickly learned is that the uniform of a Revolutionary War soldier is the single best advertisement for the SAR. People have been interested, respectful, and grateful every time they see a Color Guard member wearing their uniform in public. We have had veterans and families from the pre-WWII era to present day active military personnel ask if they may have their photo taken with us. We are always thanked for our participation, whether it is marching in a parade, posting the Colors, standing guard at George Washington's tomb (a yearly opportunity), or silently standing at a funeral for a returning MIA.

The Iowa Society has extra uniforms that are of little use hanging in a closet, but of great value when worn in public by one of our members. We may not have your exact size, but we can accommodate you enough to let you see if it is something you might enjoy doing. Years ago, we even passed a resolution to match the money spent by a member to buy a uniform dollar for dollar.

A few of years ago, one of our Color Guard members stood on the hill along Fluer Drive in Des Moines, Iowa, saluting the WWII veterans passing by in buses on their way to Washington D.C. on the Honor Flights. Two years later, while standing off in the distance during a ceremony at the Iowa Veteran's Cemetery in Van Meter, Iowa, this same member was approached by a woman who told him that she was an escort for her father on one of those buses. When they saw the lone Color Guard member in Revolutionary War uniform on the hill, the entire bus erupted in cheers and every one of the old soldiers saluted.

We don't always know the impact that we have, but respectful efforts are always more impactful than doing nothing. While most members are not seeking recognition, it is important to show our appreciation for the time and financial sacrifices of our members. Here are the requirements for a couple of the awards that are available to SAR Color Guard members:



To earn an SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal, a Color Guardsman must participate in at least 50% of the scheduled Color Guard activities for his State and/or Chapter in each of three years, which do not need to be continuous. A year shall be any period of twelve consecutive months.

To earn an SAR Silver Color Guard Medal, a Color Guardsman must participate in at least three District and/or National events in each of three years, which do not need to be continuous. A year shall be any period of twelve consecutive months.

With the Covid-19 situation, many of the District and National events are available as Zoom meetings and are therefore much more accessible.

If you have an interest in the Color Guard or know of someone that might be interested, please contact Mike Rowley at MJR1825@gmail.com.

Armed Forces Day, 2021



On Armed Forces Day, we honor and show gratitude to those who serve in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force, and Coast Guard. This year, Armed Forces Day was on May 16, 2021. Isaac Rowley, the youngest member (2 1/2) of the Iowa Society Color Guard, assisted other Iowa members in the placement of stakes and flags in historic Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa, to honor our veterans.

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*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.*