

The Iowa Compatriot

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

March 17, 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.

William Wittich Wins Iowa SAR 2020 King Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition

In January, eleven Iowa SAR members volunteered to judge five submissions for the 2020 King Eagle Scout Scholarship competition. A scout's application consists of 10 sections: leadership, merit badges, activities, hobbies, community, religious, school, other awards, ancestor chart, and a patriotic essay. The judges voted, and the winner was William Wittich, a member of Troop 2000 in Coralville, Iowa. Mr. Wittich and family will be invited to our next IASSAR state meeting.

IASSAR, GSW 1812 Grave Marking Project

The Iowa SAR has partnered with the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 to place military headstones from the Veterans Administration at the graves of veterans. In 2020, our organizations placed VA granite gravestones on 118 previously unmarked graves. Now that spring weather has arrived, the 2021 work has begun. In early March, several members installed 17 new veteran stones, with 11 more planned in coming weeks. Stay tuned for future updates on this important project honoring our veterans.

2021 National SAR Spring Leadership Meeting Report

The Spring Leadership Board of Trustees Zoom Meeting was held on Saturday, March 6, 2021. Some of the items of business included the following:

- 1. Approved a motion for the Executive Committee to issue Request for Proposals for the design and buildout of the second floor of the national headquarters.
- 2. Approved the investment allocations for the George Washington Endowment Fund, SAR Foundation, and SAR Restricted Fund.
- Approved a policy for the SAR Foundation to attract large donations by providing naming opportunities.
- 4. Approved a naming opportunities brochure for exhibits and galleries of the SAR Education Center and Museum.

Plans continue to move forward for an in-person Congress in Renton, Washington from July 10 to July 15, 2021. Registration is expected to be available in mid-May.

Ethan Read Receives North Central District Meritorious Service Medal

With many service opportunities cancelled due to the pandemic, SAR members across the country have turned to volunteering their time entering data into the Patriot Research System (PRS). The PRS contains information on patriot records, burials, biographies, and more. The database can be used by prospective members to help with their SAR application and by existing members as an aid for creating supplemental applications. A volunteer completing 40 hours of National Society service receives the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and an oak leaf cluster for each additional 40 hours of service.



Ethan Read started entering information into PRS as a volunteer for Minnesota in January of 2019. He guickly completed the 40 hours necessary to earn the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and continued to volunteer his time. In January of 2020, Ethan entered applications and worked with volunteers to publish applications for the entire North Central District (Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakotas). As an updater, he has completed 611 patriot record updates, 725 application entries, 42 biography entries, and 28 cemetery entries. As a publisher, he has published 526 patriot record updates, 1563 application entries, 30 biography entries, and 39 cemetery entries. This equates to well over 1,000 hours of service. Upon the recommendation of Lt. Col. Gary Green, Chairman of the Patriot Records Committee, Ethan Read has received the North Central District Meritorious Service Medal. Ethan's work is appreciated at the state, district, and national levels. Because of his many hours of service, prospective and existing members across the county will be better able to find information about their American Revolutionary War ancestors.

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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.