



The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



EDITORS: PAUL BURRIGHT, BOB KNOTT, BILL WEBB



OMAHA LEADERSHIP 2018-19

- Thomas Upton—President
- Benjamin Harvey—Vice President
- Paul Burright—Secretary
- John Parsons—Treasurer
- Robert Knott—Deputy Registrar
- Merle McAlevy—Past President

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



As we have done every year, our Chapter helped volunteer and support the Wreaths Across America event that took place in Omaha.

On 16 Nov, Past State President—David Kentsmith, Flag Chairman—Ryan Fuller, and Chapter Secretary—Paul Burright, presented a \$400 check to Mary Blodgett, Director of Wreaths Across America—Omaha, and Cindy Van Bibber—Director of the Omaha National Cemetery, for the purchase of wreaths for the event.

The Omaha Chapter also volunteered at the ceremony that

took place at the Omaha National Cemetery on 15 Dec 2018. Compatriots Ryan Fuller, Ben Harvey, Paul Burright, and Mel Burright were part of the volunteer crew to help direct and seat family members of veterans buried at the cemetery to ensure they were the first to be able to receive wreaths to place on their loved ones headstone.

The ceremony took place at the flag assembly area with a presentation of the colors by the American Legion Millard Post 374 and Millard South JROTC. There was a short welcome and blessing of the wreaths and presentation of wreaths for all branches of service. Omaha native, Sgt Maj Dean Vance, veteran of Operation Desert Shield, was the guest speaker. There was a 3-Volley Salute

followed by the playing of TAPS. The colors were retired and the public was released to lay wreaths on the headstones of the veterans.



Thank you to the Compatriots that volunteered and we hope to be able to get more volunteers next year and the Color Guard involved in the ceremony. All in all, it was a great event to honor our veterans during the holidays!



David Kentsmith, Cindy Van Bibber, Mary Blodgett, Ryan Fuller, Paul Burright



Ryan Fuller, Ben Harvey, Mel Burright, and Paul Burright—part of the crew!

AMERICAN HERITAGE DINNER

"Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, on the 18th of April in '75: Hardly a man is now alive, who remembers that famous day and year." - Longfellow

Compatriots, please take note that the 7th Annual American Heritage Dinner will take place on 16 Feb 2019 at the Havelock Social Hall, 4538 N. 62nd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Social Hour

will start at 5:30pm, with dinner at 6:30pm followed by our program at 7pm.

The featured speaker at this year's dinner will be Donald Hickey, Professor at Wayne State College in Wayne, NE, speaking on Paul Revere's Ride.

Reservation forms are now on the Lincoln page of the Nebraska SAR website (www.nessar.org/lincoln)

chapter). Cost for the event is \$22 per plate for dinner. Get your reservations in now for this fun event!



THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

**THE
AMERICANS
MARCHED
THROUGH THE
COLD, LEAVING
BLOODY
FOOTPRINTS IN
THE SNOW, DUE
TO LACK OF
PROPER
FOOTWEAR AND
SUPPLIES SO
EARLY IN THE
WAR.**



The Battle of Trenton happened on 26 Dec 1776. The American Army had been defeated and lost the Battle of Long Island earlier that year. Dejected, General Washington vowed to turn around their fortunes.

Hessian forces were camped in Trenton, New Jersey, and General Washington devised a plan with his commanding Generals to take Trenton back from the Hessians and improve the army's spirits.

The Delaware River was already freezing over and had ice floes, but it was the only way to get across without detection by the British. The plan was to cross the river at 3 points: 1 with a Rhode Island regiment accompanied by Pennsylvania and Delaware troops, a 2nd under Brig Gen Ewing, and a

third led by Washington himself along with Maj Gen Nathaniel Greene and John Sullivan. They did this on Christmas night 1776.

The thought was that the Hessians would be celebrating their

traditional German festivities and be drunk, thus making it easier to take the city back.

The cold and snow and the crossing of the freezing river, made the march very difficult for the Americans. When Gen Sullivan wrote to Washington about the gun powder getting wet, Washington replied firmly, "Tell General Sullivan to use the bayonet. I am resolved to take Trenton." Halfway to Trenton, the army met up with another American force led by Adam Stephen, and the Americans began to build their confidence. As the troops marched down Pennington Road, Washington sent out an advance of troops to a Hessian outpost in a copper shop.

The battle began when a German, Lt.

Andreas von Wiederholt came out of the copper shop for some fresh air and was immediately shot at by American troops. The Hessians began to retreat. Washington knew he had to cut off all means of retreat and disbanded some of the men from the main force and sent them near Princeton. General Sullivan stationed his men near Assunpink Creek. As the fighting intensified, the Hessians tried to regroup in the major streets of Trenton, but the Americans took them head on, and the Hessians began to retreat, as they realized they had miscalculated the force they were engaged with. Greene and Sullivan positioned their troops to block off all means of escape from Trenton, and troops began going house to house to find hiding German soldiers. General Sullivan's troops opened fire on the remaining Hessians trying to mount one last defense, under the command of Col. Rall. The German Colonel was shot and the Hessians scattered in all directions and surrendered.

The victory bolstered the American's spirits after a string of defeats early in the war.

OMAHA PATRIOT MUSTER!

The initial Patriot Muster for the Omaha Chapter was a great success. We had a good turnout and saw a few Compatriots that we have not seen in a while, which was great!

The night began as normal, with the SAR pledge and reading of officers reports. After dinner, Secretary Paul Burrighrigh provided a short program on a Chapter year in review for 2018, highlighting our accomplishments, new members added, our growing Color Guard, our great programs that we heard throughout the year, and recognizing some of our fallen Compatriots.

We then moved on to some Chapter recognition. We recognized our 5 and 10 year members, then awarded Bob Knott a 15 year member pin and certificate, and John Parsons a 20 year member pin and certificate. We recognized those that had supplemental applications approved in 2018, and Presi-

dent Tom Upton presented Compatriot Ryan Fuller with the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for his contributions to our Chapter's success.

After the celebration of the 2018 year, we moved on to celebrating our Patriots, by each current member in attendance, listing their Patriot, by State of service, in our new Chapter Muster Log Book.



We were able to muster in 39 Patriots, with Pennsylvania taking the most at 15! Members that mustered their Patriots into the Chapter include: Paul Burrighrigh, Mel Burrighrigh, Merle McAlevy, Tom Jones, James Sly, Dan Rowe, Bill Webb, Bob Knott, Fred Walden, John Parsons, Ryan

Fuller, and Ben Harvey. It took a little longer than expected, as some of our Compatriots had up to 15 Patriots to write down in the book! Mrs. Paula Burrighrigh provided tiny holiday bundt cakes and holiday cookies for the members and guests to enjoy while we filled in the book with our Patriot names.

This is the start of a new tradition for your Omaha Chapter. Each December, we will plan to review the great things we have done as a Chapter in the prior year, have some Chapter recognition, have some great holiday fellowship, and of course, fill in the Patriot Muster if there are members that still need to do so.

We will be using the book throughout the year, as it will become part of the new member installment ceremony, as well as any current members that come to a meeting that still need to add their Patriot. We hope you show up and muster in!!



Bob Knott and John Parsons, Member Anniversary pin and certificates



Some of our Compatriots adding their Patriots to the Muster Roll

FLAG CERTIFICATE PRESENTED



The Flag Certificate was authorized in 1987 and is presented to individuals, companies, and government agencies that fly the United States flag for patriotic purposes only.

On 14 Nov 2018, Flag Chairman, Ryan Fuller and Chapter Secretary, Paul Burrignt, presented the Durham Scout Center, at 124th and West Maple Rd., the Flag Certificate. Accepting the certificate was Program Director, Janelle Ehlers.

The Durham Scout Center flies its flag outside their complex along West Maple Rd. Compatriot Fuller also noted the scout's dedication to patriotism and the close relationship that the SAR has with the scouts, particularly the Eagle Scouts, with the Eagle Scout award and scholarships that we present.

Thank you to the Durham Scout Center for flying the American Flag so prominently!

OMAHA CHAPTER YEAR END RECOGNITION



As part of our year end celebration, Chapter President, Tom Upton, presented Compatriot Ryan Fuller, the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal. Compatriot Fuller was chosen for this award for his service as Flag Chairman and ensuring flag certificates are awarded by the chapters and the state society; his work with the Wreaths Across America event, presenting the Air Force wreath

a year ago and helping procure an Iraq War veteran to present the Army wreath at this year's event; as well as his work with Boy Scouts and teaching his young scouts the virtues of patriotism and flag etiquette. The service that Compatriot Fuller has provided, absolutely coincides with the SAR focus on Historical, Patriotic, and Educational. Congratulations, Compatriot Fuller!



December Birthdays

- John Andersen—Dec 1
- Jeffrey Spencer—Dec 30

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December Anniversaries

- Robb Hagstrom—9 Dec 1988
- Bob Knott—11 Dec 2003
- Robert Huff—12 Dec 2014
- Jeffrey Spencer—18 Dec 2015
- Jeremy Fischer—19 Dec 2008
- Hugh Nehls—20 Dec 2017



Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for December!

To those Compatriots with membership anniversaries in December, thank you for your membership and service to the SAR!



Check out our website at:

www.nessar.org/omaha-chapter/

We are updating the Omaha Chapter link on the State website and adding more pages and content. Check back often to see what updates we have installed.

Also, go and like our new **Omaha SAR** Facebook page. We will post lots of pictures, posts, and articles relevant to our Chapter and the Revolution. Check it out!!

If you have any interest in joining or supporting the Color Guard in any way, please contact Compatriot Chad Sherrets, State Color Guard Commander, at OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com or Paul Burrig, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at pburrig72@gmail.com.

Show your support for the Society and your Chapter and State Color Guards!

U P C O M I N G M E E T I N G S A N D E V E N T S

- Christmas Day—25 Dec 2018
- New Years Eve/Day—31 Dec/1 Jan
- Next Chapter Meeting—8 Jan 2019
Program: Ron Hernandez—“Moving Veterans Forward”

Planning ahead

- 12 Feb 2019—February Chapter Meeting
- 16 Feb 2019—American Heritage Dinner—Lincoln, NE
- 28 Apr 2019—Spring State Meeting—Mahoney State Park



“A CONSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT ONCE CHANGED FROM FREEDOM, CAN NEVER BE RESTORED. LIBERTY, ONCE LOST, IS LOST FOREVER.”

JOHN ADAMS IN A LETTER TO ABIGAIL ADAMS 7 JULY 1775

Chapter Meeting Minutes – 11 Dec 2018

11 Dec 2018

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 11 Dec 2018.

Members and guests attending: Thomas Upton (Jane), Ben Harvey, Paul Burrigh (Paula), Bob Knott, Merle McAlevy, Fred Walden (Jan), John Parsons (Pauline), Mel Burrigh (Sandy), Ryan Fuller, Tom Jones (Sharon), James Sly, Dan Rowe, Bill Webb (Georgia).

President Thomas Upton opened the meeting at 1815 hours.

All stood and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. Members remained standing and repeated the Pledge to the SAR. The members introduced themselves (with guests) in a roundtable.

The minutes of the 13 Nov 2018 meeting were accepted by member vote.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – Moved by Bob, seconded by Tom J. Approved.
- Registrar, Bob Knott - 3 apps in preparation. 1 awaiting approval. 12 apps approved this year (8 new, 4 supplemental), 3 apps still pended

Old Business:

- Ryan Fuller and Paul Burrigh discussed Wreaths Across America event for Saturday, 15 Dec

New Business:

- Secretary Paul Burrigh presented a Chapter Year in Review program, highlighting our events and growth in 2018.
- As part of program, recognition for member anniversaries for 5 and 10 year members. Also recognized were those with supplemental applications approved in 2018.
- Bob Knott was awarded the 15 year member pin and certificate, and John Parsons was awarded the 20 year member pin and certificate.
- President Tom Upton awarded Ryan Fuller the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for his work as Flag Chairman, his work with Wreaths Across America, and his work with Scouts and his teaching his scouts patriotism and flag etiquette.
- Current members listed their Patriots in the new Chapter Muster Roll Book.

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 8 Jan 2019. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh

Secretary Omaha Chapter