

# The Marshal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROBERT FORSYTH CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Issue No. 2  
Winter 2014

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Off to a Swift Start

By William A. Greenly

IT HAS BEEN A VERY BUSY quarter for the chapter, and we've accomplished a lot since we formed just late last year. I am proud of everyone's work. To say the least, the Robert Forsyth chapter is off to a swift start.

At the end of the year, I submitted our Americanism Report (similar to an operations report). Here are some of the highlights. We ended up with 672 Americanism points and 1,375 President General's Streamer points.

The Americanism points included 200 points for publicity; 70 for public service programs; 57 for Veterans support; 170 for special observances and ceremonies; 85 for Revolutionary War era grave markings; and 90 for SAR medals and certificates awarded to non-members.

The President General's Streamer points included 60 points for C.A.R. and DAR support; 15 for compatriot grave markings; 45 for SAR medals and certificates awarded to members, 1,180 for membership, reinstatements, supplementals, dues and secretarial Returns; and 75 for state, district, and national meeting attendance.

We also filed a USS Stark Award application. We won't know if we won until the summer. Our three-month total points were 5,702. Initiatives we undertake this year will, no doubt, boost this number.

At the State convention, our chapter received the Distinguished Chapter Award, a Certificate of Participation for the presentation of Flag Certificates in 2013, and the Georgia Society Membership Award!

Several exciting projects are in the works. Compatriots John Flikeid, Frank Clark, and Charles Meagher were appointed to form a committee to erect a flag collection box, working with the Boy Scouts and the DAR.

Don't miss several upcoming events (see page 2) to become involved with our newly formed chapter. We have started 2014 strong. Let's keep that momentum marching forward! ■

## OUR CHAPTER'S NAMESAKE

### American Patriot Robert Forsyth

By Frank Clark, Chapter Member

Because of his service in the American Revolution and his association with Gen. George Washington, Robert Forsyth was appointed, by Washington, as the first Marshal in the Georgia District. One of the original five U.S. Marshals, Forsyth, who served from 1790 to 1794, tragically also became the first Federal Marshal to die in the line of duty.

From his office in Augusta, Forsyth learned he needed to serve papers on the Allen brothers, William and Beverly, reported to be at the home of a Mrs. Dixon. Though he usually served papers alone, on this occasion he brought along two deputies, indicating he may have anticipated resistance. Ironically Beverly, the elder Allen, had been a well known circuit rider for the Methodist church and had been a fellow traveler of the well-respected, greatly admired Bishop Francis Asbury.

Arriving at the home, Robert asked the brothers to accompany him outside so that they might talk. But after first indicating they would follow, the Allen brothers ran up the stairs and locked themselves in the first available second floor room.

The Allens then loaded and cocked their pistols as they counted the footfalls of the Marshal and his deputies as they walked cautiously up the stairs.

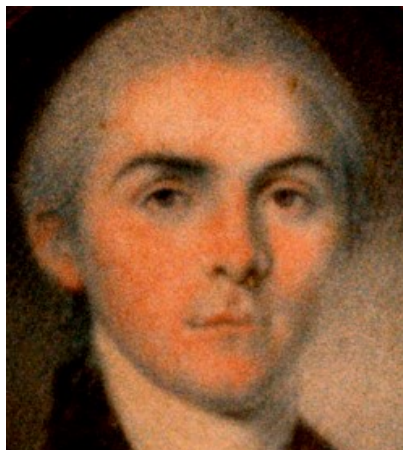
When Robert could be heard outside the door Beverly Allen aimed his pistol head high at the door's center, firing the shot. Splintering and penetrating the door, the bullet found its mark on the forehead of the 40-year-old Marshal, killing him instantly.

Robert had chosen his deputies well as they instantly swarmed the room, overcoming Beverly and his younger brother William and, arresting them, took them to jail, this time for murder. However the one-time Reverend invoked his oratory skills and convinced the jailer to leave the cell door open. That night the brothers fled to Elbert County where once again Beverly was arrested. William, who was still free, cited the injustice of jailing a "man of God" and raised a mob to storm the jail, once again freeing Forsyth's murderer who then escaped justice living out his life in a "robber's roost" in Kentucky.

Robert Forsyth was buried with honors in the St. Paul's Churchyard in Augusta. Some 187 years later, in 1981, the Marshals service created the "Robert Forsyth Act of Valor Award," given to Marshal service employees showing unusual courage or who endanger their lives in the act of saving another.

Robert's son, John, had a long and successful political career, including the governorship of Georgia.

Forsyth County, founded 1832, and the city of Forsyth, founded 1828, were named in John's honor. ■



Frank Clark provided a detailed bio on Robert Forsyth at the November 2013 meeting. He is pictured (l) with Vice President Tom Davis who presented a speaker appreciation certificate.

# Stars and Stripes: A Focus on our Flag

The Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has devoted much attention to the history and preservation of the American flag through various initiatives in the past few months.



## Cumming Library Honored with First Forsyth Chapter Flag Certificate

Cumming Library was the first recipient of a flag certificate from the Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The certificate is presented to government agencies, businesses, and private citizens who display the U.S. flag in the proper manner and for patriotic reasons.

Ed Rigel, Jr. (center) presents a certificate to Forsyth County Library Director Jon McDaniel and Information Services Supervisor Jennifer Kovac.

Nominations to receive the certificate can be made to any member of the chapter or via email to Rigel at [erigel@dogwood.net](mailto:erigel@dogwood.net). ■



## Ritual and Strict Tradition of the United States Flag Code Explained

January's guest speaker Paul I. Prescott, flag respect committee chair of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution discussed the importance of honoring our sacred American flag. For example, he noted the American flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

Prescott's captivating talk interjected anecdotes and humor, all the while demonstrating his commitment to educating others who simply may have been previously ignorant to respecting this enduring symbol. It is one that honors not only our nation, but also those who have and continue to bravely defend it. ■



## Compatriot Jones Demonstrates How to Properly Fold Old Glory

Compatriot Mike Jones spoke at the February chapter meeting on how to properly fold an American flag.

Jones discussed the honor guard and how the flag is used in military funerals, presented to loved ones of the deceased on behalf of a grateful nation. A flag folding demonstration was provided with the assistance of two other members of the honor guard.

A properly proportioned United States flag will fold 13 times on the triangles, representing the 13 original colonies. When finally complete, the triangular folded flag is emblematic of the tri-corner hat worn by the patriots of the American Revolution. ■

## Partnership with The Home Depot Ensures Respectful Disposal of Flags

Compatriots John Flikeid, Frank Clark, and Charles Meagher were appointed to form a committee to erect a flag collection box, working with the Boy Scouts and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The flag collection receptacle, to be housed at The Home Depot in Cumming, will serve as a safe-keeping hold for worn out American flags until they can be properly retired. "Partnering with these outstanding organizations makes perfect sense," said committee member and chapter chaplain John Flikeid. "The Home Depot has a strong history of supporting veterans through The Home Depot Foundation ([homedepotfoundation.org](http://homedepotfoundation.org)), so we are glad to align with them as a chapter." The committee is targeting Spring to have the box in place. ■



## Upcoming Chapter Events & Color Guard Schedule

- **February 28-March 1:** NSSAR Spring Leadership Conference (Louisville, KY).
- **March 15:** Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse (Greensboro, NC).
- **March 29:** Grave marking of Compatriot Thomas Richard Holcombe at the Big Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery at 11 a.m. (Hickory Flat, GA).
- **April 5:** Grave marking of Patriot Jeremiah Sparks (Fairplay, GA).
- **April 11:** Naturalization Oath Ceremony at the Richard Russell Federal Building (Atlanta).

Find Us on Facebook  
'Like' us at [www.facebook.com/robertforsythsar](http://www.facebook.com/robertforsythsar) for more event photos and announcements.



## In Appreciation



Certificates were recently presented to recognize those who graciously assisted at the Robert Forsyth Chapter charter banquet in October. Top: Jack Flikeid and his mother Stephanie who oversaw registration at the event. They are pictured with chapter president Allen Greenly. Bottom: President Greenly with Joel Hustis who accepted a certificate on his wife's behalf. Beth Ann Hustis is a professional photographer and can be found at [bethannhustis.com](http://bethannhustis.com).

Photos/courtesy Brandy Rigel (top), Matthew T. Patton (middle), and Allen Greenly (bottom)

Photos/courtesy John Flikeid



## The Marshal

This publication is the newsletter for the Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is printed four times per year: February, May, August, and November. It is distributed to current and prospective chapter members and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and to certain officials of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Golden Corral at 2025 Market Pl. Blvd., Cumming, GA 30041.

Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings. Men, eighteen years of age and older, who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interests are urged to contact the Chapter Registrar, Christopher Russo at 770-315-6348, via email at [guido139@yahoo.com](mailto:guido139@yahoo.com) or any other chapter officer.

### Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is **Apr. 10, 2014**. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquiries or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to Editor Matthew T. Patton at 215-285-0920 or via email at [matthewtpatton@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewtpatton@yahoo.com).

## Growing Through Our Chapter Committees

The Robert Forsyth Chapter of the SAR aims to have a high level of growth in membership and is committed to various programs that benefit its current members and attracts future members. We strive to be a civic and social community leader. You can help us achieve this growth and meet our goals through serving on a chapter committee. For more info, call Chapter President Allen Greenly at 404-788-8824 or email [wagreenly@gmail.com](mailto:wagreenly@gmail.com).

Committee	Chair and Co-Chair
Americanism	John Flikeid
C.A.R.	Unfilled
Color Guard	Allen Greenly and Ed Rigel, Jr.
DAR	Frank Clark
Eagle Scout	Ed Rigel, Jr.
Education	Charlie Woods and Carl Jackson
Flag Respect	Ed Rigel, Jr.
ROTC/JROTC	William Walker
Knight Essay	Unfilled
Medals /Awards	Allen Greenly and George Thurmond
Picnic	Charles Cox
Rev. War Graves	Frank Clark and Christopher Russo
Public Safety	Mike Jones
Proclamations	Mike Jones
Publicity	Matthew T. Patton
Rumbaugh Orations	Unfilled
Veterans	Unfilled

## Bill Kabel Advocates for Local Vets



Photo/courtesy Allen Greenly

Bill Kabel is known in the SAR for his outreach for local vets. On Dec. 12, he spoke at the chapter meeting to raise awareness for members to become more involved with their own support.

In recognition of Veterans Month, chapter members were encouraged to bring a donation of socks, books, magazines, or toiletries. Kabel facilitated moving those donations to the Atlanta VAMC. He is pictured (left) with Tom Davis. ■

## Chapter President Allen Greenly Recognized with Patriot Medal

At the Georgia Society Annual Conference on Jan. 24, Chapter President Allen Greenly was awarded the Patriot Medal.

The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a state society. It is the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level.

This medal is presented only to individuals and may be received

*‘The dedication he demonstrated is both admirable and notable.’*



only once. It represents long, faithful, and outstanding service at the state and/or chapter level. State societies may present one medal for every 500 members.

In receiving the medal, Greenly was commended for his service to the Georgia Society Color Guard, his past service as Piedmont Chapter President, and his tireless work in organizing the Robert Forsyth chapter, including sponsoring more than half of the chapter's new members.

Paul Prescott, former Piedmont Chapter President, said Greenly was “very deserving” of the Patriot Medal. “He has served in the Color Guard at nearly all events, until he went back to work, and then at most weekend events,” Prescott said, adding: “His greatest accomplishment, however, was the formation and chartering of the new Robert Forsyth Chapter.”

“He worked very closely with the Georgia Society Registrar, Bob Sapp, and met with him at least once a week for many months as he worked to bring in new members into the Society. That dedication he demonstrated is both admirable and notable,” Prescott explained.

Ed Rigel, Sr., Color Guard Commander of the Georgia Society, agreed with Prescott. “He was nominated primarily because of his hard work in bringing the chapter into being,” Rigel noted. He also said Greenly's accomplishments included his role as editor of the *Hornet's Nest*, the state society newsletter; his service as a member of the State Color Guard; his leadership as president of the Piedmont Chapter; and various other leadership roles.

“The Georgia Society is only allowed to award just three Patriot Medals each year,” Rigel said. “For Compatriot Greenly to have been chosen as one of those recipients is quite an honor. He is to be congratulated.” ■



Chapter President Allen Greenly, accompanied by his wife Jane, receives the Patriot Medal from SAR President-General Joseph W. Dooley.

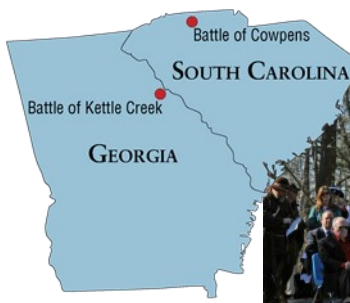
Photos/courtesy Ed Rigel, Jr.

Like Paul Revere, some of have important messages to get out! Need business cards, brochures, or flyers?

K & Me, LLC, can assist. As a matter of fact, we printed this issue of *The Marshal*.

Give us a call or drop us a line at 770-313-1502 or [michaelthornton@comcast.net](mailto:michaelthornton@comcast.net). We'd appreciate your business!





## On Sacred Soil

Chapter members Ed Rigel, Sr., and Allen Greenly attended ceremonies for the Battle of Kettle Creek.

Greenly and chapter members Ed Rigel, Jr., and Charles Meagher traveled to South Carolina for a ceremony at Cowpens.

These two Revolutionary War battles were decisive victories for American Patriots.

Top: Ed Rigel, Sr.  
Middle: Allen Greenly  
Bottom: Color Guard displaying flags  
Bottom two photos: Scenes from Cowpens.



Photos/courtesy Rick Reese and Charles Meagher (Cowpens); Map/courtesy Ian McCann

### Robert Forsyth Chapter Officers 2013-14

- ★ **President:** William A. Greenly, 6440 Ivey Meadow Ln., Cumming, GA 30040, 404-788-8824, [wagreenly@gmail.com](mailto:wagreenly@gmail.com)
- ★ **Vice President:** Thomas R. Davis, 7215 Wyngate Way, Cumming, GA 30040, 770-442-8147, [davtomln@att.net](mailto:davtomln@att.net)
- ★ **Secretary:** Edward P. Rigel, Jr., 1608 Indian Way, Cumming, GA 30040, 770-757-6070, [erigel@dogwoodpartners.net](mailto:erigel@dogwoodpartners.net)
- ★ **Treasurer:** William W. Walker, [REDACTED]
- ★ **Chaplain:** John Flikeid, 947 Lakemere Crest, Suwanee, GA 30024, 678-936-7635, [jflikeid@gmail.com](mailto:jflikeid@gmail.com)
- ★ **Registrar:** Christopher Russo, 2888 Cross Creek Dr., Cumming, GA 30040, 770-315-6348, [guidol39@yahoo.com](mailto:guidol39@yahoo.com)
- ★ **Sergeant-at-Arms:** Daniel P. Miles, Sr., 5625 Wills Wood Cir., Cumming, GA 30040, 770-475-3564, [miles-daniel@att.net](mailto:miles-daniel@att.net)
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- ★ **Genealogist:** Timothy Bassett, 2430 Spring Harbor Dr., Cumming, GA 30041, 770-889-8795, [bamatram@bellsouth.net](mailto:bamatram@bellsouth.net)
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### CHAPLAIN'S REFLECTIONS

## The Revolution: 'A Cause of Truth'

By John Flikeid

RELIGION PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE in the American Revolution by offering a moral sanction for opposition to the British—an assurance to the average American that revolution was justified in the sight of God. As a recent scholar has observed, “by turning colonial resistance into a righteous cause, and by crying the message to all ranks in all parts of the colonies, ministers did the work of secular radicalism and did it better.”

Ministers served the American cause in many capacities during the Revolution: as military chaplains, as penmen for committees of correspondence, and as members of state legislatures, constitutional conventions and the national Congress.

Some ministers even took up arms, leading Continental troops in battle.

The Revolution split some denominations, notably the Church of England, whose ministers were bound by oath to support the King, and the Quakers, who were traditionally pacifists.

Religious practice suffered in certain places because of the absence of ministers and the destruction of churches, but in other areas, religion flourished.

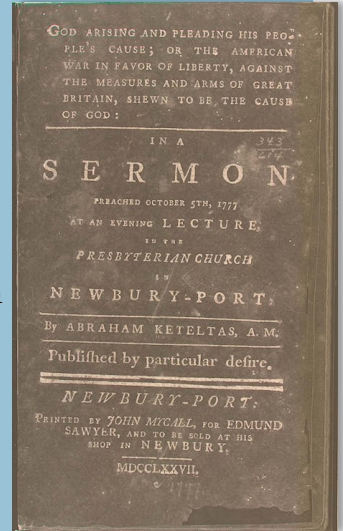
The Revolution strengthened millennialist strains in American theology. At the beginning of the war some ministers were persuaded that, with God's help, America might become “the principal Seat of the glorious Kingdom which Christ shall erect upon Earth in the latter Days.”

Victory over the British was taken as a sign of God's partiality for America and stimulated an outpouring of millennialist expectations—the conviction that Christ would rule on earth for 1,000 years.

This attitude combined with a groundswell of secular optimism about the future of America to create the buoyant mood of the new nation that became evident after Thomas Jefferson assumed the presidency in 1801. ■

### Resources

- Hutson JH. Religion and the Founding of the American Republic, 1998.
- Library of Congress. Religion and the Founding of the American Republic. Available at: [www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/). Last accessed Jan. 20, 2014.



Many clergy argued the war against Britain was approved by God. This 1777 sermon celebrated the American effort as “the cause of truth, against error and falsehood.”



James Caldwell, a Presbyterian minister, served as chaplain during the Revolutionary War. At the Battle of Springfield, New Jersey, in 1780, his company ran out of wadding. He was said to have dashed into a church, scooped up as many Watts hymnals as he could carry, and distributed to troops, yelling “put Watts into them, boys!”

Photos/courtesy Library of Congress