

# The Marshal

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



Issue No. 7 Spring / Summer 2016

## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



Mason Thompson Receives Eagle Scout Certificate

By Edward P. Rigel, Jr.

Compatriots,

It has been a busy first quarter for the Robert Forsyth Chapter. Shortly after our Annual Banquet, I attended the Georgia Society SAR Annual Meeting, where I was honored to receive several awards on behalf of the Chapter: A Distinguished Chapter Certificate and Flag Streamer for meeting the goals and objectives of the Georgia Society, The President General's Award Chapter of Distinction Certificate and Flag Streamer for outstanding service in conducting programs and activities that promote the ideals of the National and State Societies, and The Brigadier General Robert L. Scott, Jr. Veterans Award for Chapters with fewer than 50 members.

(continued on page 5)



2016 Pres. Allen Greenly is congratulated by Ed Rigel Sr. while Past Pres. Thomas Owen looks on.

## ROBERT FORSYTH MEMBER, ALLEN GREENLY SWORN IN AS GEORGIA SOCIETY PRESIDENT

By Emil Decker, Editor.

As Allen Greenly, member of the Robert Forsyth Chapter was sworn in as the President of the Georgia Society, he spoke of personal goals he wanted to achieve in his term of office. One goal this year was to visit every chapter at least once. "Every chapter that I have had the privilege of visiting has had a very positive attitude" Allen said. "Every chapter wants to grow and do more in their communities." As of this posting, Pres. Greenly has visited at least a dozen, with more to come.

Positive attitudes were at the forefront as proposed changes brought the establishment of an ethics committee. Another change involved adjusting the way the nominating committee is formed. The Regional VP's must ask someone from their region to serve on the Nominating Committee for that year. (continued on page 2)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Dipatch...1

Law Enforcement

Medal.....2

Streamers .....3

Patriot Biography

.....4

GA Essay Winner...7

## GA SOCIETY PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

They cannot appoint themselves.

The second goal was to design and create a new database for our website. This will help with the administration of the website and the Georgia Society. Online payments will soon be available, and hopefully help reduce the number of members who fail to timely renew their memberships.

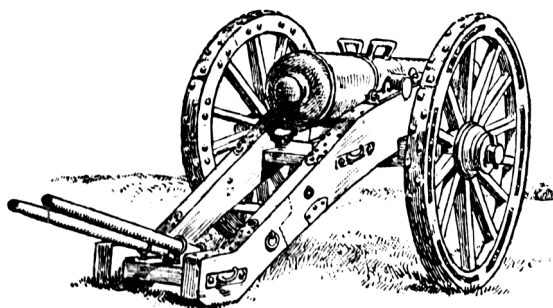
A third goal was to restart the Brier Creek Commemoration. Pres. Greenly asked the Wiregrass and William Few chapters to help accomplish this goal. "I am pleased to report that they have been working with the local mayor to hold a commemoration ceremony this fall. They are also working on a new Sons of the American Revolution chapter in Sylvania," compatriot Greenly stated.

Goal number four was to increase the membership growth rate. "As you know," President Allen continued, "we started the DAR Referral program this year and it has been rolled out to every DAR chapter in the state. It is very important that each application that comes from a DAR referral be accompanied by the DAR Referral Form."

Since this is how progress is tracked, our state president was happy to report that if the rate of applications continued coming in, the Georgia Society could have over 2,000 members by the end of the year!

My his last goal, President Greenly wants a strong focus on youth education programs. One such program is the National Eagle Scout contest, where the Georgia entry won 1st place! Not only that, but this outstanding young man also placed in the Knight Essay Contest!

President Greenly ended by encouraging all chapters to focus on at least one youth program for the next school year, and work to make it a successful event.



Clipart courtesy  
FCIT . [http://  
etc.usf.edu/  
clipart/1500/151  
3/cannon\\_1.htm](http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/1500/1513/cannon_1.htm)

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### COMMENDATION MEDAL PRESENTED

*By Emil Decker, Editor*

On February 26, the Robert Forsyth Chapter presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Deputy United States Marshal Donald R. "Russ" Hathaway. Deputy Hathaway was instrumental in the arrest and prosecution of a man who had been impersonating a US Marshal in the Atlanta area.

Deputy Hathaway facilitated meetings and interviews with key witnesses in anticipation of trial and sentencing. The relationships he developed with the witnesses led to them submitting victim impact statements to be used at sentencing. The suspect received the maximum sentence of 120 months imprisonment.

Deputy Hathaway was recognized by the US Attorney's Office for his diligence and devotion to seeing a dangerous criminal removed from the streets.

**Because our chapter is named for the first US Marshal to die in the line of duty, the US Marshal Service has granted us the distinct privilege of awarding this medal. No other organization is allowed to give them awards or publicity.**



[http://  
www.usmarshals.gov/  
history/badges/02.jpg](http://www.usmarshals.gov/history/badges/02.jpg)

**Due to the sensitive nature of their mission, we cannot publish any photos of the recipient or the event.**



## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH ALL THE RIBBONS HANGING FROM OUR FLAG?



*Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, Fort Hood commanding general, places a set of streamers on the Army flag as Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo Smith, III, holds the flag steady during the celebration of the 240th Army Birthday June 11 at Fort Hood. (U.S. Army photo by Daniel Cernero, III Corps and Fort Hood Public Affairs)*

*By Emil Decker, Editor*

The concept of honoring warriors has an ancient history going back over 2000 years. Greeks gave awards solely for military achievements, calling them “tafalara;” the Roman “phalera” means the same....Award. The word “phaleristic” is used to classify the science that studies orders, decorations, and their history. A Phalere was a circle or crescent shaped plaque worn by war horses, or mounted to soldiers armor, and are visible on Roman tombstones. <sup>1,2</sup>

An armband, armilla, was awarded to Legionary (citizen) soldiers of ancient Rome for gallantry. <sup>3</sup> Non-citizen soldiers were not eligible for these awards. However, entire auxiliary regiments could be honored with “armillata” (awarded bracelets) or granted citizenship en masse for their unit heroics. <sup>4</sup>

Medieval times saw knights wearing distinctive emblems on their clothing and armor to help comrades identify them. Shields and pennants were popular, often bearing a family coat of arms. <sup>5</sup> From these humble beginnings, our history of flags, guidons, honors, and awards evolved.

Flags became the standard to identify a country and guidons were used to represent a military unit. These however did not express a unit’s claim to fame, so the concept of streamers to attach to these banners was adopted. Campaign streamers are decorations attached to military ensigns. Streamers came into prominence during the Civil War when Army organizations embroidered the names of battles they participated in on their unit colors. General Pershing authorized the use of ribbons bearing the names of WWI operations. <sup>6</sup> (cont. page 6)



*Arist: Lena London  
<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/minutemen>*

***The 126th NSSAR National Convention is in Boston: July 8–13, 2016***



*marine streamers. © Broken-Sphere / Wikimedia Commons*



## PATRIOT BIOGRAPHY

### MAJOR BARNARD HEARD

*By Timothy F. Bassett, Chapter Genealogist*

Bernard Heard was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, about 1739 to Bridgett Carroll and John Heard Jr. (Heard's paternal grandfather, John Sr., had arrived in America from Ireland about 1720). Not much is known about the Heard family history in Virginia but it is known that the family moved to St. Paul's Parish sometime before 1773. This area would later become Wilkes County, Georgia.

This move was due to the fact that the family received land grants for their service during the French and Indian War. The land grant included some 150 acres of land that was located fourteen miles from the mouth of the Little River. Due to the fact that this area had not yet been secured from the Creek and Cherokee Indians, Barnard, Stephen and their father John, immediately upon their arrival began building a Fort to serve as a refuge for the local inhabitants. The fort was constructed approximately eight miles from the present town of Washington on Fishing Creek and was completed in early 1774. The fort would serve an important role during the Revolutionary War and would become known as "Heard's Fort".



We meet every second Tuesday at "The Ridge" in Cumming, Ga. Join us for Supper at 6:00 p.m. Our Program starts at 7:00 p.m. Interested parties welcome.

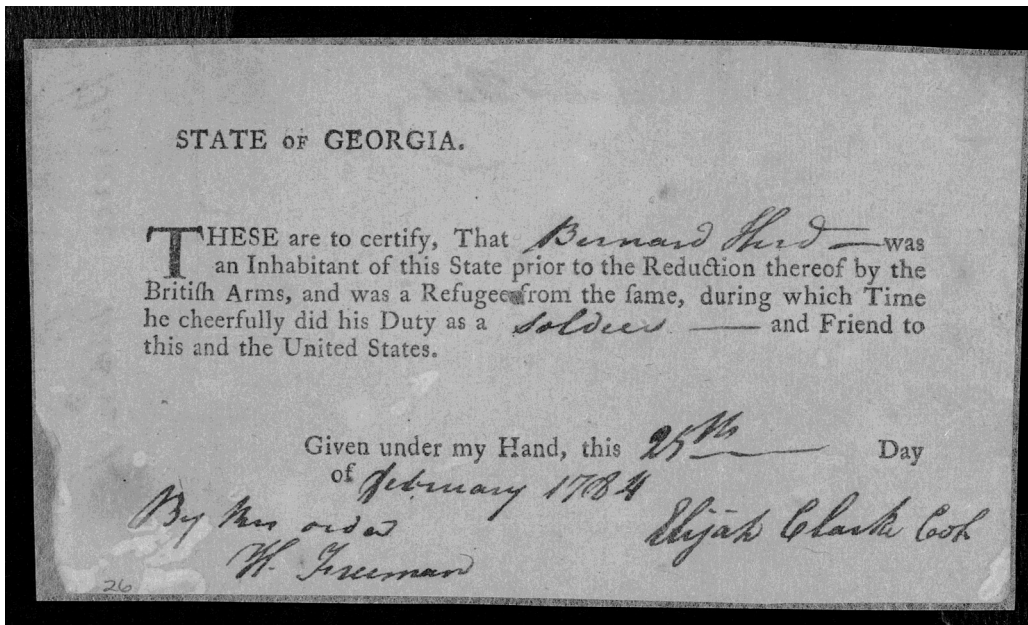
At the time of statehood in 1776, Georgia's revolutionary government operated from Savannah. Just after Christmas in 1778, Savannah fell to British forces. Georgia's government was forced to flee the city and they attempted to reorganize in Augusta in January of 1779. This governing executive council was then forced to leave the city later that month as the British arrived in the city. Several more attempts were made to reorganize the government that year but each time they were forced to leave the city. Finally the Executive Council convened again in January 1780 and on February 3, 1780, they designated that "Heard's Fort" would serve as the new seat of government in case of another attack by the British on the city. Soon after this meeting, the British recaptured Augusta and Georgia's government officially convened at "Heard's Fort" in May of 1780, under the guidance of Stephen Heard who was appointed the president of the council on February 18, 1780. The fort would serve as the seat of government for the state until mid 1781.

In addition to their public service, the Heard brothers also fought gallantly for the American cause during the revolution. On February 14, 1779, Barnard fought along side his brother Stephen at the Battle of Kettle Creek, which proved to be a decisive battle for the colonist. It was shortly after this battle that Barnard was captured and was carried in irons to Augusta and imprisoned in Fort Cornwallis, but he escaped in time to participate in the siege of Augusta in May of 1781. It was during this siege and the subsequent fall of Fort Cornwallis, that Barnard found that his father John had been imprisoned there and was able to free him and carry home to Wilkes County. *(Cont. page 5)*

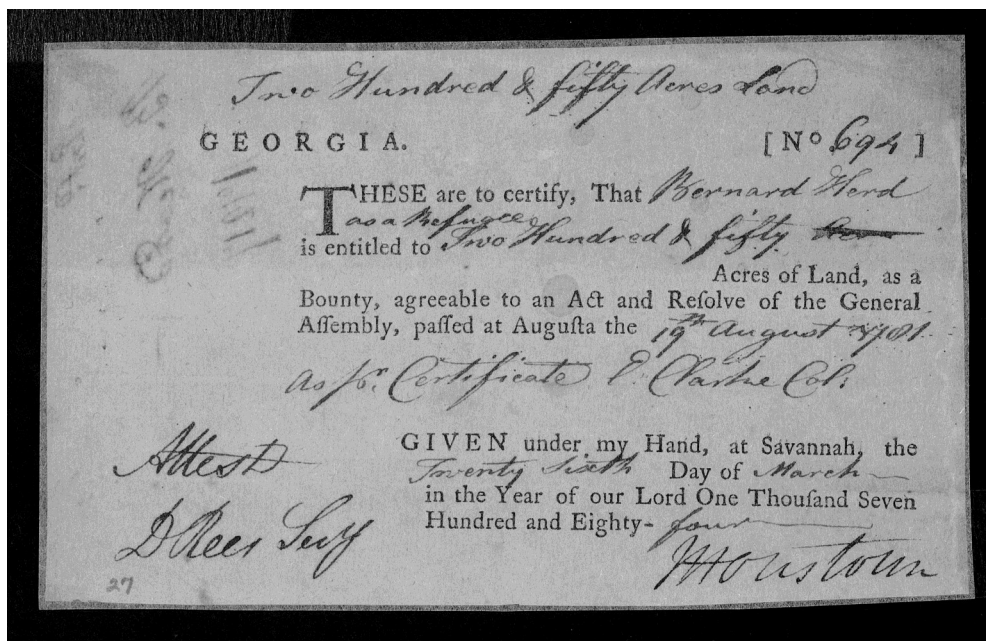
I Always dreamed of being related to someone who owned a castle. I guess a fort named for your ancestor would do. Do you have a Patriot Biography written and ready for publication in the Newsletter? If you do, send it in. If you don't write it up and submit it. *[The Editor]*



PATRIOT BIO (CONT.)



Barnard earned the Military rank of Major and on the 25 Day of February 1784 he received his certificate as a soldier from Elijah Clark. On August 19, 1784, Barnard received 250 acres as a bounty for his service during the revolution per his certificate from Elijah Clark.



Besides his Military endeavors, Barnard served as "Registrar of Probates" in Wilkes County, Georgia from 1776 – 1784 and as a Grand Juror in the first court held north of Augusta on August 25, 1779.

Thanks to Barnard the records of Wilkes County are some the most complete in the State.

Barnard was married to Nancy Germany a sister to his brother Stephen's wife. The exact date of Barnard's death is not known but according to records from the county and the division of his estate and property it was sometime in early 1785. There is no record of where he was buried and to date his only documented heir is his son John Germany Heard. (Cont. page 6)

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online. Please pass on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.



WWI Discharge Poster: Public Domain. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/512708>





*All Photos for this article by Timothy F. Bassett, Chapter Genealogist*

### STREAMERS (CONT.)

Streamers recognize achievements or service for a military unit. They are attached to the headpiece of a flag. The streamer is often inscribed with the name and date of a particular battle, military campaign, or theater of war. A ribbon's colors are usually chosen to match an associated campaign medal. <sup>7</sup> The United States Army officially established campaign streamers in 1920, with the United States Marines following in 1939. The Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy did not follow suit until much later. <sup>8</sup>

Currently the United States Army proudly displays 189 streamers, representing campaigns from the Revolutionary War (16 Streamers) through the present Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.

The Sons of the American Revolution carry on this time honored tradition by recognizing chapters with awards in the form of streamers. Attendance at battlefield anniversary commemorations is celebrated with a ribbon as well. Some of the streamers and awards the Robert Forsyth Chapter has earned and displays on its colors include the following:

- Distinguished Chapter Award 2013, 2014 & 2015
- NSSAR Battle of Kettle Creek
- 234<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Guilford Courthouse March 14, 2015
- 233<sup>rd</sup> , 234<sup>th</sup> , & 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens, 2013-2015

*(cont. page 7)*

From a genealogical standpoint, this ancestral line was a difficult one to prove. The problem arose out of the fact that there were two individuals named John Germany Heard. One was an uncle and the other the son of Barnard Heard. I knew from my research that my John Germany Heard (also known as John G Heard) was the son of Barnard but the problem would be separating him from his uncle the other John G. Heard. Due to the fact that Barnard's will had accidentally been destroyed in a fire, there was no documented proof of this fact. I found in the court records where Barnard's land and slaves had been divided among his sister Bridget and John G. Heard but this did not prove that he was the son of Barnard. Finally after months or research I found the missing link in the special collections library at the Georgia State Archives. It was in this collection that I found a record where my John Germany Heard appeared in open court and testified that he was the son of Barnard. From this record and the tracing of the slaves from Barnard through my John Germany Heard and then on to his children, I was able to prove the lineage.

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**The Robert Forsyth Chapter Annual Picnic will be held on July 23. Save the date. More information will be forthcoming at future meetings, or check out our Facebook page:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/robertforsythsar/>**

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## STREAMERS (CONT.)

Membership Award 2013  
 2014-2015 President General's  
 Initiative Patriot Ancestor  
 Biographies  
 Battle of Ramsour's Mill 235  
 Anniversary June 20, 2015  
 The Battle of Kings Mountain 233<sup>rd</sup>, 234<sup>th</sup>  
 235<sup>th</sup>  
 Anniversary 2013-2015  
 The American Revolutionary War Battle of  
 Thomas Creek 238<sup>th</sup>  
 Anniversary May 17, 2015  
 President General Award  
 Distinction 2015  
 Veterans Award 2015

Other streamers have probably been awarded since the writing of this article, and many more are sure to come as we participate in future events. Be a part of acquiring another

*Streamers awarded to the Robert Forsyth Chapter for participation at events, distinguished service, Presidential awards, or other notable achievements. Photo by Ed Hooper, Sergeant-at-arms*

### Footnotes:

1. <http://www.medalnet.net/OrderHistory.htm>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Military\\_awards\\_and\\_decorations\\_of\\_ancient\\_Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Military_awards_and_decorations_of_ancient_Rome)
3. Maxfield, Valerie A. (1981). *The Military Decorations of the Roman Army*, pp. 89-91. University of California Press: Berkeley and Los Angeles.
4. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armilla\\_\(military\\_decoration\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armilla_(military_decoration))
5. <http://www.medievalchronicles.com/medieval-knights/heraldry/>
6. [http://history.army.mil/html/reference/army\\_flag/](http://history.army.mil/html/reference/army_flag/)
7. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campaign\\_streamer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campaign_streamer)
8. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campaign\\_streamer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campaign_streamer)
9. <http://www.history.army.mil/html/reference/campaigns.html>

## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

None of these could have been accomplished without the contributions and hard work of the whole Chapter, for which you have my sincere gratitude.

Either Past President Greenly or I have represented the Chapter at the 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens, the 237<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek in Washington, the 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Frederica Patriot Days Celebration, and the Annual Meetings of the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida Societies, as well as various grave markings, civic events, and awards presentations over the past few months. We have more coming up, including the NSSAR Congress in Boston and your attendance is always welcome.

Two of the areas in which I want to continue to increase the Chapter's presence are our Education Outreach and Youth Awards. We received 15 entries to the Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Brochure Contest from Little Mill Middle School, whittled down from 140 (!), and our winner was submitted to the State Education Committee for adjudication. I am pleased to report that our entry placed second in the State. Both President Greenly and I have made presentations to Eagle Scouts and we look forward to receiving their submission to the King Eagle Scout Contest later this year. If you know a high school student who has an interest in US History, please encourage them to submit an entry to the Knight Essay Contest or come speak to us as part of the Rumbaugh Oration Contest.

Compatriot Emil Decker and I are also working on putting together a Traveling Trunk for presentation to elementary and middle schools. Contributions to this are greatly appreciated, and Compatriot Decker has put together a list of needed items that can be found online and purchased for donation to the Chapter. Don't forget that anything purchased for the Chapter is tax deductible!

Thank you all for your contributions to what I believe is the greatest Chapter in the Georgia Society. I look forward to working with you as we continue to strive to reach our Patriotic, Educational, and Historical goals in 2016 and beyond.

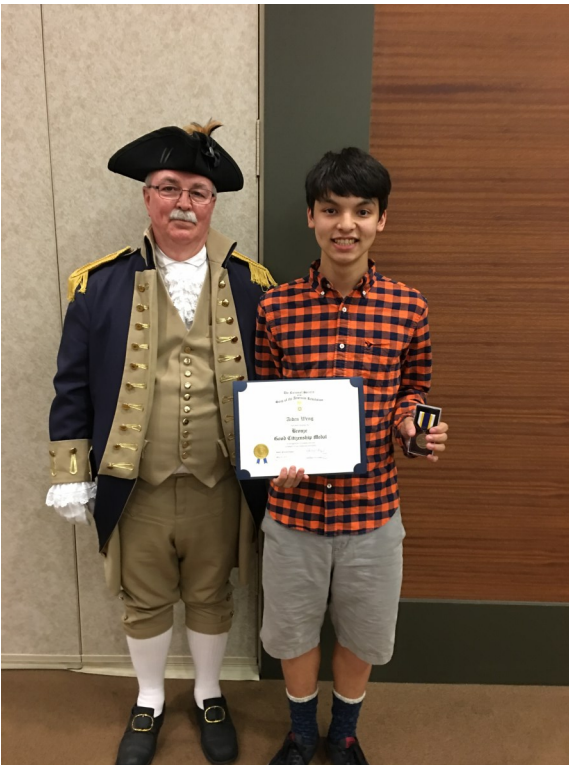
In Patriotism,  
 Ed Rigel, Jr.



## GA ESSAY WINNER

*By Emil Decker, Editor*

The Knight Essay contest winner for the 2015-2016 school year was Grant Mercer, a senior honor student. Grant's essay was titled "The Intolerable Acts: The Spark of a Revolution". Grant was sponsored by the Captain John Collins Chapter. Grant received a cash scholarship of \$600 at the Georgia Society annual meeting in January. Grant has since gone on to win first place in the National Eagle Scout's Contest as well. This earned him an additional \$10,000 cash award. Let's see if we can get a Robert Forsyth Chapter sponsored winner next year.



*South Forsyth Middle School student, Aiden Weng receives a Bronze Good Citizenship medal at their Honors Night Ceremony.*

### *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 three times per year and is distributed to current and prospective chapter members and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and to certain officials of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at "The Ridge", 1035 Turner Rd., 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 OCT 25, 2016. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to Editor Emil L. Decker at 706-482-8248 or via email at [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net).



*Thomas E. Lawrence and Georgia Society Knight Essay Chairman Terry A. Gibbs presenting Knight Essay award to Grant Mercer . Photo courtesy of Terry Gibbs.*

