

# The Marshal

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

Issue No. 11 Summer/Fall 2017



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



### Growth & Involvement

By Allen Greenly

Here it is September already. We are now nine months into our year and I'm thinking it's still May. A lot has happened this summer, and it's been a very good summer for our chapter.

One of the good things I see as we roll into fall is the interest our local schools have begun to show for our programs. We have already gotten interest in our Knight Essay contest by one Forsyth teacher; we have a possible contestant for the Rumbaugh Oration contest; interest in our middle school brochure contest and also presentations of our traveling trunk program. This is a far cry from the interest we have had in the last four years.

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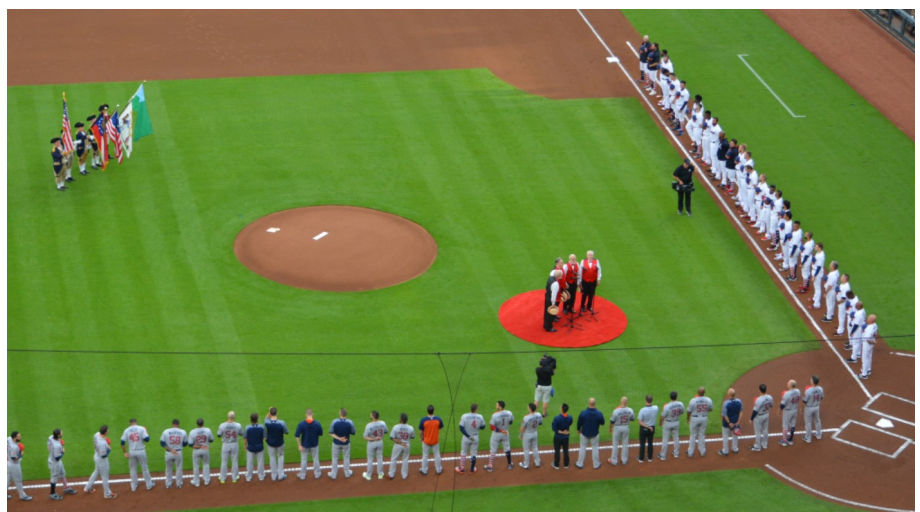
## GENTLEMEN, ..... SHOOT TO THRILL !

By Emil Decker, Editor.

When word was sent out that, maybe, just maybe, the Georgia Color Guard and Militia would be invited to participate in the Atlanta Braves 4th of July Pregame Celebration at SunTrust Park, I knew Betsy would never forgive me if I didn't take her to the game. I never want to deny Betsy an opportunity like this, so I immediately threw my hat into the ring. Gee, I might even get my wife to go with us. Now before you get the wrong idea, Betsy is my Smoke-pole (Musket). We have participated in several commemoration events, grave markings, and enjoy raising a bit of a cloud every now and then. To do so in front of what may be the largest crowd available? Super cool.

We ended up with 13 muskets, one for each state. I am going to claim that I represented Georgia in the lineup. Why not?

*(continued on page 2)*



Members of the Georgia Color Guard and the Elijah Clarke Militia participate in the July 4 Pregame Ceremony of the Atlanta Braves baseball game at the inaugural season of SunTrust Park. (Photo by Linda Decker)

## SHOOT TO THRILL (CONT.)

We arrived at 1 pm, and after the usual hurry up and wait, we were finally escorted into the park carrying our uniforms and firearms. (We did not want them to fear an outright invasion.) There we met many of the 80 men and women of the Army, Georgia National Guard, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve who would be unfurling an American flag / banner in the shape of the US, that would cover the entire outfield. The militia would line up behind 2nd base, while the Color Guard would be just behind the pitcher's mound.

Each time the director talked with us, the order changed just a little. After practicing our maneuvers, we were escorted back out of the stadium to wait several hours. Many of us wished they had allowed us to remain inside, but we did have the opportunity to test some food and beverage options from the restaurants outside the ballpark. At 5:30 we were allowed to reenter the stadium, and go to the locker room to dress and retrieve our equipment. Betsy was waiting for me, and as usual, was throwing sparks just fine as we performed the traditional safety check and prepped for our entrance. And of course, it rained, delaying our entrance just before game time, 7:30. Expect a slight change in procedure.....again. used to sing, "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes".

*(continued on page 3)*



*Color Guard and Militia march in and position for the Pregame show. (Photos by Linda Decker)*

## SHOOT TO THRILL (CONT.)

A Barbershop Quartet sang the National Anthem, and as they ended with “home, of the Brave.....” we again raised our 13 muskets for another salute. Two jets from the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard performed the flyover at the same time. We then marched off the field in a column of two. Fans were impressed, as we were given a rousing applause. The Braves organization stated that the sellout crowd was a record setting, 41,456.

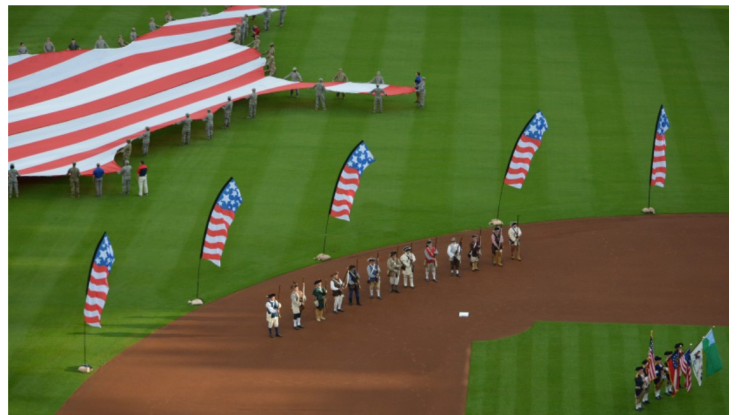
We were given nose-bleed seats in the general attendance section, and the game proceeded. While we left our muskets and uniforms in the locker room below, (another hilarious story in its own right), the smoking continued. The Houston Astros literally smoked the Braves in a 12-4 blow-out. The game went on forever, and it seemed it would never end. Some members left early, but the wife and I stayed for the fireworks. They were pretty neat in their own right, but with the weather being the way it was, the smoke, yes, more smoke, seemed to hang just above the ground. Lots of it.

Robert Forsyth was represented by Betsy and me in the Militia firing line, and by Allen Greenly in the Color Guard. I can hardly wait till next year.



*From Top: The SAR & Currently Serving military personnel join to salute America's Birthday. A Militia of 13 represent each original state. (Photos by Jamie Ruff)*

*Practice makes perfect. All participants arrived early to practice "being in the right spot at the right time." The stadium was crowded for the presentation and the following game. (additional photos by Linda Decker)*



## Chapter and Community News



Allen Greenly, Pres. Inducts multiple members of the Lewis family into the Robert Forsyth Chapter of the SAR. (Photo by Chris Russo)

Even visits to places like NYC offer SAR members opportunities for making connections to the past, as demonstrated by Chris Russo's recent visit to New York City. Chris stands next to a statue of George Washington. "Federal Hall, built in 1700 as New York's City Hall, later served as the first capitol building of the United States of America under the Constitution, as well as the site of George Washington's inauguration as the first President of the United States under the Constitution. It was also where the United States Bill of Rights was introduced in the First Congress. The building was demolished in 1812." ~Wikipedia

(Photo by Chris Russo)



President General of the SAR, Larry Guzy attends a recent Robert Forsyth Chapter meeting. (Photo by Chris Russo)

## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

On Sept. 2, there were a pair of Grave Marking Ceremonies in Elbert Co. John Flikeid represented Robert Forsyth Chapter, which is only fitting since one of them, William Bibb Key, was an ancestor of his.

*(Photo by Ed Rigel Jr.)*



# PATRIOT



On the back side of the Biltmore Estates in Asheville, NC, amid the trees, vineyards, and at the very edge of a dirt back road, stands a cemetery containing the grave of a patriot and his family. Grave Marking Ceremonies take place all over the original 13 states, and even further into western states as patriots acquired land grants and moved west as the population grew. There are opportunities to attend memorial ceremonies occurring in many locations. What could be finer than to honor a patriot in Late Summer up in the Smokey Mountains.

*(Photo by Emil Decker)*

## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

Chris and Eva Russo attended the Alpharetta Old Soldier's Day Parade on Aug. 5.

*(Photo by Chris Russo)*

### PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

We are now working on fund raising for our education programs. We are currently giving \$25 for a first-place finish, \$15 for second and \$10 for third-place. Wouldn't it be great to announce that we will give \$400 or \$500 for a first-place finish? Do you think that would attract the attention of the school teachers, parents and students?



As many of you know, we are holding a raffle for a Brown Bess Model II black powder musket. Tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50. We have set a limit of no more than 500 tickets to be sold. The proceeds, after expenses, will be used to support our educational programs. Each chapter member will be given six tickets to sell (or purchase for themselves). That will take care of approximately one half of the tickets. The balance of the tickets will be sold at various venues and to other SAR members.

If we sell all tickets (assuming everyone purchases three for \$50), we will have gross revenues of approximately \$8,300. The musket cost was approximately \$1160, printing costs of approximately \$200, so we could potentially have a net profit of approximately \$6,940. This money would go a long way in supporting our education programs.

Once we can begin giving larger prizes for our education programs, this will help fuel our PR campaigns with the local newspapers, which in turn will spread the word into the schools, which will hopefully turn into more requests and more participation. Hopefully, this will all come to fruition and we will have very strong educational programs, which is one of our primary goals. I want to thank each and every one of you, our members, for your support and hard work on this fund raising program. Let's make it a great success.

## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

The Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution hosted a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday June 10, 9:00AM at Ingram's Funeral Home in Cumming.

The Robert Forsyth & Piedmont Chapters collected approximately 2000 United States flags over the past year. The flags were collected by members of the SAR and from flag collection boxes placed in Home Depot stores in Cumming, Dawsonville, Alpharetta and Roswell. Flag collection boxes are located in front of each store.

The ceremony was attended by members of the SAR chapters, along with members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution and the American Legion. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the flags were incinerated by Ingram's Funeral Home.

Following the ceremony, Compatriots Greenly, Rigel, Hooper and Russo presented a Flag Respect certificate to the Home Depot store on Market Place Blvd.

## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY (CONT.)



Above: Combined members of the Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters met at Ingram's Funeral Home to conduct Flag Retirement services on June 10, 2017.

Left: Over 2000 flags, collected at bins located at Home Depots throughout the area were retired.



Left: Flags were removed to Ingram's Crematorium for respectful and final disposal.

Below: Members of a local veteran's group also join us as well as a local Boy Scout Troop.



# FLAG FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

By John Flikeid, V.Pres.

The Chapter's first official fundraiser for youth scholarships was a rousing success! A committee was established to source US made flags, assemble, launch and execute the program. Members were requested to offer US flags (Made in the USA of course) through their personal contacts. This was the chapter's first foray into this type of venture.

A total of 43 US flag kits were sold, netting almost \$400 to support patriotic youth programs in north Georgia. Additionally, the chapter, through network communications, gained significant exposure in the community. Many positive lessons were learned as a result of this first exercise, and will be applied to the Chapter's next fundraiser: a revolutionary-era styled flintlock raffle. See details elsewhere in this edition.

## BEEN TO A ROBERT FORSYTH MEETING LATELY?

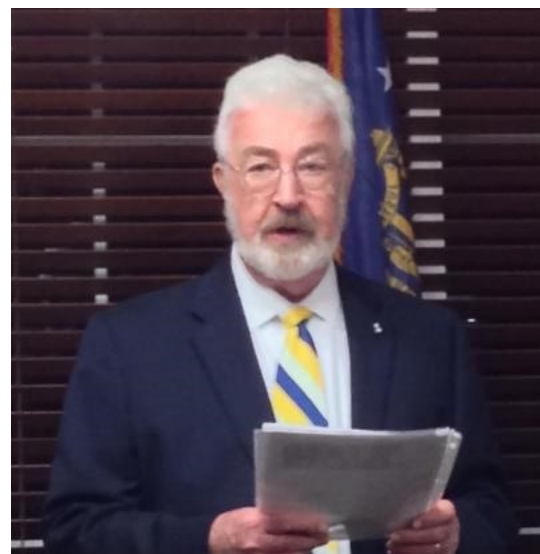
If you have not attended one of our meetings recently, you have missed out on a couple of wonderful presentations. Maybe you were unfortunate enough to have missed when General James Oglethorpe dropped by to tell us about the founding of our colony. Or maybe you missed when Jennifer Forbes from the Forsyth County Library gave a very informative presentation on the Resources for Genealogy available from the county system. Did you know that Elijah Clarke almost seceded from the U.S. and formed his own Trans-Oconee Republic? These and many other fascinating topics have come our way in the form of guest speakers. If you are not attending our monthly meetings, you are missing a lot.



Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at "The Golden Corral", 2025 Market Place Blvd., Cumming, GA 30041. Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings.

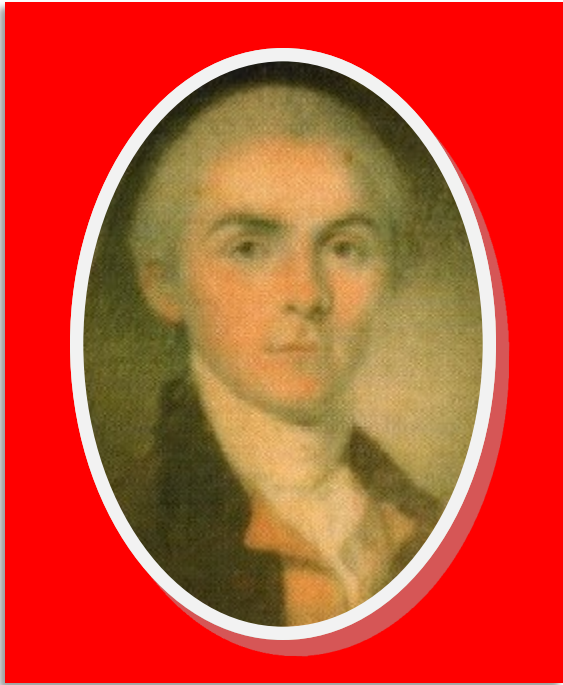
**6:00 meal**  
**7:00 meeting**

Recent Speakers at Robert Forsyth Chapter meetings, (clockwise), Terry Manning, Paul Prescott, and Jennifer Forbes. (Photo by Chris Russo)





# SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Robert Forsyth , First Marshal of the state of Georgia & first Marshal killed in the line of duty.



## 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 quarterly 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 Thursday of each month at "The Golden Corral", 2025 Market Place Blvd., Cumming, GA 30041. Meal: 6:00 / Meeting 7:00.

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 chapter officer.

### Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Dec 1, 2017. 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 to: [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net).

Event	Date	Location	Level
South Atlantic District Meeting	Oct. 6, 2017	Spartanburg	District
Battle of Kings Mountain	Oct. 2, 2017	Kings Mt., SC	National
Siege of Savannah	Oct. 9, 2017	Savannah, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Oct. 12, 2017	Cumming, GA	Local
Patriot Grave Marking	Oct. 14, 2017	Roswell, GA	State
BOM Meeting	Oct. 28, 2017	Barnesville, GA	State
Patriot Grave Marking	Oct. 29, 2017	Dallas, GA	State
Patriot Grave Marking	Nov. 4, 2017	Putnam Co. GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Nov. 9, 2017	Cumming, GA	Local
Veteran's Day Ceremony	Nov. 11, 2017	Watkinsville, GA	National
Veteran's Day Ceremony	Nov. 11, 2017	Snellville, GA	National
Fort Morris "Come and Take It!"	Nov. 18, 2017	Midway, GA	State
Battle of Vann's Creek	Dec. 2, 2017	Elbert Co. GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Dec. 14, 2017	Cumming, GA	Local
Musket Raffle Drawing	Dec. 14, 2017	Cumming, GA	Local

## CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

Our website, [robertforsythsar.org](http://robertforsythsar.org) and our Facebook presence, <https://www.facebook.com/robertforsythsar/> are stronger now, and looking better than ever. Visit them. Give us some feedback and perhaps a photo. Chris Russo—[guido139@yahoo.com](mailto:guido139@yahoo.com) is waiting for your input.

*If you have not received your raffle tickets for sale, or wish to purchase additional tickets, contact John Flikeid, [jflikeid@gmail.com](mailto:jflikeid@gmail.com).*

## Revolutionary War Musket Raffle

Enter to a chance to win a replica Pedersoli Brown Bess 2nd Model Short Land Musket



Donation: \$20

Drawing Date: December 14, 2017

Winner need not be present to win #0000000

Proceeds go to Educational Scholarship program

Sponsored by Sons of the American Revolution, Robert Forsyth Chapter