

The Marshal

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



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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Christopher Russo



Over the past year, this president is proud to have again humbly led this chapter. We have accomplished so, so much. Members of Robert Forsyth have easily participated in over a hundred - chapter, state and national events across the county, state, and country. We've done battle commemorations, grave markings, leadership workshops, board of managers meetings, banquets, chapter meetings, parades, a Braves game, DAR events, CAR events, conferences, community outreach, Liberty trees, marker dedications, wreath laying, and so much more.

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Robert Forsyth's Loss, North Carolina's Gain

It was with great acclaim and a bit of sadness at his moving out of state, that Compatriot J.C. Hustis received the first Henry Knox medal from Robert Forsyth Chapter.

J.C. has been a constant companion and Chapter representative throughout the years. As a member from the start of the chapter, J.C. has represented Robert Forsyth time and again as a Color Guardsman at Grave Markings, Historic Sites, State, Chapter, and National Events throughout the years. These events range from the obvious, Georgia, but also Florida to New York, up and down the East Coast, and into some midwestern states as well.



Since the creation of our Traveling Trunk program, J.C. has supported visits to our local schools, he even created his own trunk version and carried it to support presentations in many locations outside our immediate area. When asked for help or participation, J.C. is among the first to volunteer to share the 18th century with students and adults alike.

Our Americanism points will be diminished with his absence, but our Chapter fellowship will be diminished even more. We wish J.C. a bright future in his new home, and hope the chapter gaining his attendance realizes just what a treasure they are receiving from the Robert Forsyth Chapter and the Georgia Society.



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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

Here are some highlights of what Compatriots have been a part of:

Flag Retirement ceremony: co-hosted again this year with participation from multiple SAR, DAR chapters, CAR societies, and community members. This was our biggest one yet with over 4000 flags collected and respectively retired

Stood guard at George and Martha Washington's tomb

Wreaths Across America: presented colors at 2 ceremonies and laid wreaths at 5 cemeteries

Battle commemorations: Events at over eight significant Revolutionary War battle sites, including Kettle Creek, Brier Creek, Cowpens, and the Siege of Savannah

Independence Day: 2 parades and a musket salute at Atlanta Braves game

Grave markings: co-hosting or participating in 7 ceremonies honoring 20 Patriots across 3 states

Traveling Trunk: Multiple presentations at schools and for groups around the area. *As always, a special thanks to JC Hustis and Emil Decker for always making these happen.*

Memorial Day ceremonies

Veterans Day ceremonies

Washington's birthday ceremony

Liberty Tree dedications: Past State President Joe Vancura, Former President Jimmy Carter, Mars Hill

Chapter meetings with outstanding presentations by chapter members

District and state Board of Manager (BOM) meetings

State conference and National Congress

CAR State conference

Patriots of Liberty NSDAR annual banquet: Presented colors

Eagle Scout and ROTC ceremonies and awards

Flag Certificates to community members for proper display of the US flag

DAR America250 marker: Dedicated at Cumming City Center with chapter and state color guard presenting colors and myself delivering remarks, seated among dignitaries on the stage and a student band performing patriotic songs, closing with Woody Guthrie's 'This Land is Our Land'. (This was probably one of the more amazing things I've done as chapter president!)

I've taken time to call out these specific items to illustrate what we do and how and where we do it. Some of these are chapter events – planned and executed by us. Some are done by others that we join and support, sometimes invited to assist. ALL are opportunities to get involved.

Over the past year, our Registrar, Charles Meagher has been quite busy. We add 12! new members in 2025 and one transfer. This president believes that is a record since our charter in 2013. A tremendous thanks to the hardest working officer in the chapter, with a close second to our treasurer, David Johnson.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to some friends. In November, we lost Compatriot Paul Eugene Bryant, better know to us as Gene. Gene was a long-time member of the chapter. While not snow birding in Florida, Gene and Maxine brought smiles to the room at meetings. I will miss them dearly. JC Hustis recently announced that he is relocating to North Carolina. It was my great honor to present JC with the Bronze Henry Knox Achievement Medal at the December meeting, recognizing all of his efforts over the years in representing the chapter, his initiative with the traveling trunk and to advance the causes of SAR. I know this will not be the last we see of JC. Until then.

2025 was a big year for Robert Forsyth. 2026 will be even better! This is the big one folks. There will be all the above and so much more. I hope to see each and everyone of you at one event or another.

*Patriotically,
Christopher Russo
President,
Robert Forsyth Chapter*



COMMUNITY NEWS

Left and Right: The October meeting of the Robert Forsyth Chapter featured an old "Salt" Terry Manning, who spoke of "Sea Power in the American Revolution."



Below: Laura Cronan's family was installed as members. Anthony Smith, Scott Smith, and Luke Smith.



Above and Right: Compatriots Decker and Hustis presented the Traveling Trunk to Vickery Creek Middle School GA History Classes during October, when the students study the Revolution Era.



Parades + Patriotism = SAR 250th Anniversary Medal

By Eva Russo Patriots of Liberty Society, C.A.R.

This past October was a month I won't forget anytime soon. At the Robert Forsyth Chapter meeting, I had the honor of receiving the Sons of the American Revolution 250th Anniversary Bronze Medal.

For those who might not know, this medal is part of the celebration leading up to 2026 - the 250th birthday of the United States of America! To earn the Bronze Medal, you have to accumulate 25 points by participating in events that recognize the anniversary of the Revolutionary War and the men and women who fought for our independence from Parliament and the British Crown.



Some of the events and activities that I participated in this year include: Dr Joseph Warren's birthday celebration at Dairy Queen, Independence Day parade in Cumming, SAR Flag Retirement ceremony at Ingram Funeral Home, Liberty Tree dedication at Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, Hero Hill Climb in Dahlonga - honoring my Patriot, Charles Word, visiting numerous sites in Savannah - including the graves of Button Gwinnett, Nathaniel Greene, and Lachlan McIntosh, and attending CAR and SAR meetings. Each of these activities earns 3 points. If you wear colonial attire, you get 5 points.

The highlight of the night, however, wasn't just getting the medal - it was who gave it to me. It was a really special moment to have the Chapter President, Christopher Russo - better known to me as "Dad" - call my name and present the award.

I am proud to represent the Patriots of Liberty Society, C.A.R., and often alongside the SAR. We have a big anniversary coming up in 2026, and I'm already working toward the Silver Medal next!

Below Left: The November chapter meeting was well attended by both members and visitors. Compatriot Stephen Johnstone was our speaker and highlighted the goals and rewards of the Annual The Hero Hill Climb - Bike, Run, Ruck, or Walk for Veterans. Johnstone has been spearheading this event for 4 years, with the chapter as a proud sponsor.



Above: Newest member Hendrick Edgerton was sworn in, with his lovely bride, Iris, pinning the rosette. Welcome Compatriot Edgerton!

Below: Early in November, we helped sponsor the 5 Grave Markings at Sugar Hill. Four in Militia, John, Don, Byron and Emil, and two in Continental uniforms, Ed Jr. and J.C. participated. November through December was a busy time for the Chapter and our members.



Below: And we honored Compatriot Gene Bryant. Gene passed on November 5th. President Russo presented Gene's 10 Year SAR Service medal to his son Brad. Gene will be greatly missed by all of us.



Below: Members of the Patriots of Liberty C.A.R. Society, lead by our own president, assisted the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Maxwell Cemetery in Alpharetta. Private John T. Maxwell, Patriot of the American Revolution is buried there.

Patriots of Liberty C.A.R. President Kholson Bull led the ceremony. Kholson is one of our newest SAR members.



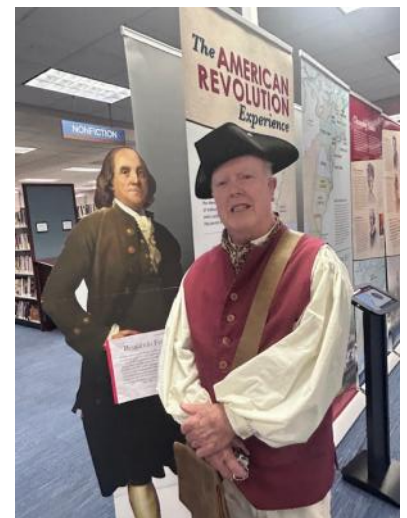
Below: December started with the Chapter Color Guard presenting Colors for the Patriots of Liberty DAR Annual Meeting.



Above Left and Below: Our December meeting had Robert Forsyth Compatriot Carl Watkins share his collection of a typical Militiaman's kit, such as one would bring to a muster to march off to war. Many of the items in his kit were handmade and stitched with great care and precision. The craftsmanship was impressive. His presentation also referenced the diary of Joseph Plum Martin.



Below: We presented a Flag Respect Certificate as well as a Flag Retirement to the 2717 Trail Life Chapter from Murrayville, GA. Meeting at the Northlake Baptist Church, the group is responsible for maintaining the church flagpole, as well as holding regular Flag Retirement Ceremonies. This ceremony was conducted with the assistance of Compatriot Decker.



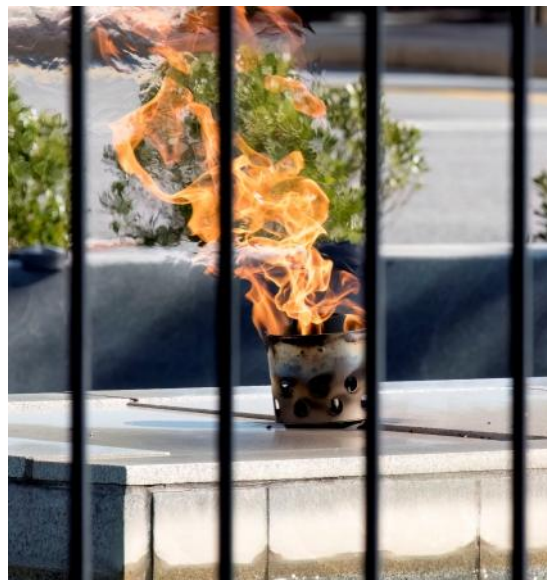
Center and Right: Don Loudermilk and David Johnson Supported the DAR as they shared the **American Revolution Experience**, the Battlefield Trust traveling displays, while shown at the Cumming Main Library.



Compatriot Rick Reese's family requested Color Guard presence at his Mass, held during the first part of December. David Johnson and John Flikeid were present to honor him.

Once again, Robert Forsyth Color Guard raised the Colors during a Wreaths Across America Ceremony in Sugar Hill. This WAA event was the second in which we have participated, and the second time we visited this Historic Cemetery in Sugar Hill this quarter.

After the ceremony, we collected the wreaths we purchased that were not used at Sugar Hill and carried them to honor veterans in our area. While we could not possibly cover all veteran graves in Forsyth County, we plan on increasing our participation in the county in future years.



The Colors were presented and raised on the City Hall flagpole. After the ceremony at the front of the Cemetery, where the reflecting pool, stones, and seals of services are located, the crowd moved into the cemetery to place wreaths on appropriate graves. One was placed on the Patriot Memorial Section which was added in the first of November.



The wreaths Robert Forsyth members carried away, were taken to wreaths across our area of operation to mark graves of our patriots and honored veterans.

John LeGrand, only Revolutionary War Soldier buried in Forsyth.

Toy Tallant, Vietnam Veteran at Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery. This is the location we hope to hold future WAA Ceremonies. There are many veterans buried here.

James Banister, and James Watkins, parents of Compatriots in our chapter.



Ruben Hill, and Edmund Singleton, Patriots of the Revolutionary War, buried and marked in Dawson County.



Northlake Baptist Church located near Murrayville, has a flagpole surrounded by memorial bricks recognizing members, and family of church members who honorably served in the armed forces.





Left and Right: Compatriots Gary Page and Emil Decker were awarded their 10 year pins.... Emil found it amazing that it was 10 whole years ago.



Left: Afterward, VP Decker presented Pres. Russo his own Bronze 250 Medal.

Right: Then it was Gary Page's turn to hand off the Robert Forsyth Charter, which he has kept safe in his office for a few years.



"Keep an eye on the Cumming Home water tower in 2026 for red, white, and blue"

Robert Forsyth Chapter is 'sponsoring' the lights on the Cumming Home water tower a number of times in 2026. The water tower is located off GA 400, across from Northside Forsyth Hospital, just south of exit 14. Each year non-profit organizations submit requests to the City of Cumming to have the water tower lights represent a cause or event. Robert Forsyth has a number of events that will be recognized with the tower being lit up in red, white, and blue. The city has an America 250 category and we have signed up for the grand majority of those commemorations.

250th Anniversary of Thomas Paine Publishing 'Common Sense', January 10th

Benjamin Franklin's Birthday & Battle of Cowpens, January 17th

Battle of Kettle Creek, February 14th

Battle of Brier Creek, March 3rd (we'll ensure our Compatriots in the Skunk Brigade and guardians of the battlefield are aware)

Patriots' Day / 250th Anniversary of British troops evacuating Boston, March 17th

Passage of the Stamp Act (1st Direct Tax on Colonists), March 22nd

Anniversary of Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech, March 23rd

Anniversary of Paul Revere, William Dawes & Samuel Prescott's Ride, April 18th

Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17th

250th Anniversary of Independence Day, July 1-5

Anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, ending the American Revolution in victory, September 3rd

United States Constitution Day, September 17th

Anniversary of the Boston Tea party, December 16th

If you are in the area on any of these days, stop by the water tower and take a photo.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

Decisive Day

This is the earliest of the Richard M. Ketchum books that I have read. This is the story of the Battle of Bunker Hill which actually was fought on Breed's Hill. Author Ketchum describes events as if he were there.

The rag tag patriot army displayed its courage in the midst of a colorful display of Britain's finest, providing considerable casualties to their enemy. It would be a battle that insured a serious effort by the British to commit to war.

Outnumbered two to one, the Continentals distinguished themselves by standing their ground and fighting the British on equal terms, inflicting casualties of about one-half of the redcoats while receiving one third in killed, wounded or captured. Bunker Hill was lost by the Patriots, not for want of courage, but for want of ammunition. As the day, June 17, 1775 wound down, unfortunately the Continentals ran out of ammunition and withdrew from the field to live and fight another day.

Three Tricorns



ISBN 0-8050-6099-5, Owl Books, 1973 by Richard M. Ketchum

\$14.95

George Thurmond

**Ask the Expert:**

With Lionel Hildebrand

If you have a question you would like to ask, please forward to the editor, eldecker@windstream.net. He will see that it gets to me.

How common was political violence in the immediate aftermath of the American Revolution? Were there any major revolts by loyalists or those opposed to the policies of the new federal government (excluding the Civil War much later)?

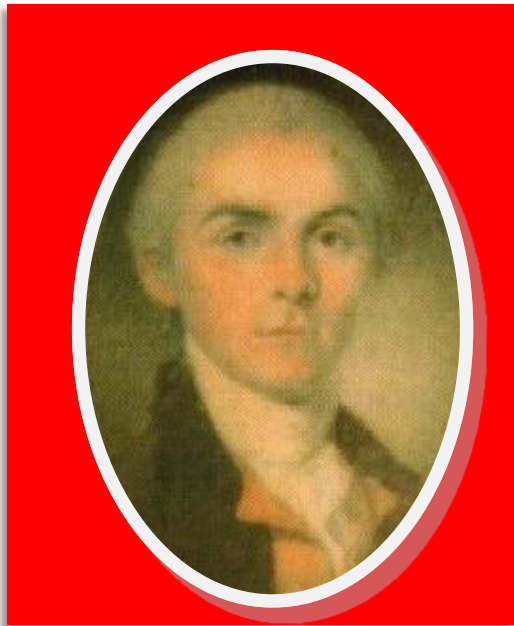
Some violence against Loyalists remained in strong 'Patriot' supported areas, with some property seized and laws passed against "Tories"; but those who chose to stay were generally absorbed into the political life of the new US after the Revolution ended. There was no 'Loyalist Underground' formed.

After the war, an estimated 20% of Loyalists moved to Canada, where they were compensated for their losses by the British government. Some Loyalists who left the developed east coast of the US for less-developed British Colonies in upper Canada and Atlantic Canada eventually returned to the US, finding life far too difficult in exile. Many Loyalists and their military units were staged at American east coast cities and evacuated abroad to remaining British colonies in specially arranged evacuation fleets by the Royal Navy. Loyalist regiments were often settled

together in blocks of land and served as a ready-made militia located close to the new boundaries with the US.

The success of this strategy became apparent in the major 'revolt' of the Loyalists, which came with their families showing great spirit in a successful defense of Upper Canada during the War of 1812 in opposition to a failed American invasion.

SAR Calendar of Events



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

Event	Location	Date	Status
Battle of Cowan's Ford	Cowan's Ford	Jan 31, 2026	National
Georgia Annual Conference	Hilton Atlanta NE, 5993 Peachtree Ind. Blvd, Peachtree Corners, GA	Feb 6-7, 2026	State
Heroes of the Hornet's Nest	Elijah Clark St. Park	Feb. 13, 2026	State
Kettle Creek	Washington Square & War Hill Park	Feb 14, 2026	National
Vann's Creek	Bobby Brown State Park	Feb 21, 2026	State
247th Anniversary Battle of Brier Creek	Brier Creek Historic Preservation Site	Feb 28, 2026	State
Spring Leadership	The Galt Hotel Louisville, KY	Mar 5 - 7, 2026	National
Battle of Thomas Creek	Seaton Creek Historic Preserve Park	Mar 28, 2026	National
Patriots Day	Various	Apr 19, 2026	National
Frederica Navel Engagement	St. Simons Island	Apr 18 - 19, 2026 (TBD)	National
Memorial Day	Various	May 25, 2026	National
Independence Day	Various	Jul 4, 2026	National
136th Congress	Greensboro, NC	July 10-16, 2026	National

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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 normally held on the second Thursday of each month at "The Golden Corral", 2025 Market Place Blvd., Cumming, GA 30041. Meal: 6:00pm / Meeting 7:00pm. Contact us for the most current information. 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 our Chapter Registrar, Charles Meagher at (404) 822-6428, via email at chasm242@yahoo.com or any chapter officer.

Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Mar 31, 2026. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to the Editor:

Emil L. Decker: Txt. at 706-482-8248 or via email to: eldecker@weegr.com

