



Issue No. 46 Spring 2026

The Marshal

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



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Emil Decker

Well, Compatriots, here we are, ending the 2nd quarter of the 250th year of Celebration! Yes, we have had an increase in participation supporting other organizations' events, although it's mostly the same few who attend. The Robert Forsyth Chapter has hosted some great events and can be proud of our participation this first half of the year.

Our recent Flag Day / Flag Retirement Ceremony went off without a hitch. Most folks enjoyed the program. We had a lot more visitors attend than in the past, including the District Manager for Congressman Rick McCormick, Mr. Ron Goodbub, Sheriff Ron Freeman, and come to think of it, Piedmont's President, who led off with the program is also named Ron.... Hum..... I guess we had a good RON of it!.... [Ba bum bum Tshhhh] Sorry. Couldn't help myself.

(Continued on page 2)

Honoring our Ancestors, The 250th Year on the Move



Robert Forsyth Color Guard presented Colors at the Chestatee River DAR Fundraiser Luncheon on April 11. Color Guardsmen included President Emil Decker, Past President Chris Russo, Chaplain Byron Tindall, and Treasurer David Johnson.



We had the opportunity to present the outgoing Regent, Perrie Tucker with a SAR Medal of Appreciation and her Bronze 250 Medal.

Chestatee River, in turn, presented Chris Russo and Emil Decker with DAR Medals of Appreciation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Dispatch.....	1
250th Year on the Move.....	1
Community News.....	4
Book Review.....	14
Ask the Expert.....	20
Ambassador to the Colonies.....	21
Event Calendar.....	22

The President's Dispatch

This half-year mark makes it a quarter of the way through my term as president. Unfortunately, less than a quarter of our membership has taken the challenge to find a personal fundraiser to help support the chapter's functions *[or donate a quick & easy hundred bucks to keep us going.]* Maybe those who have not committed can catch up during the second half of this year. Thanks to those loyal compatriots who have already stepped up to the challenge. If you haven't supported John Flikeid's fundraiser "Patriot - Lawn/Garden Flag" you need to get onboard. *(No, that doesn't count for your own personal fundraiser....but support John's. You'll like the results).*

While the July 4th parade will be over by the time most of you read this, I hope I saw you there. While many will think that after the 4th, the 250 Celebration is over, we know better. There's lots of 250's to come over the next few years. The Revolution wasn't fought in a day, nor a year, it was 8 long years of fighting.

I would love to see more of our members take on the opportunity to create a presentation to share at our monthly meetings. My help in creating a PPT, researching a topic, or suggestions on how to organize is only an "ask" away. Growing our own base of speakers is a great way to give back to other chapters who send us such fine speakers, and we get to hear it first. Step up and let's get a topic started.

Emil Decker
President, Robert Forsyth Chapter

Community News

On April 17, Lyman Hall Chapter held a Dr. Hall information event at the Hall County Administration Building next to his statue. Emil, his cannon, and Molly Pitcher (Leslie Watkins) participated in cannon salutes to supplement the musket salutes.



Cadet Eli Gaddis received the Bronze ROTC Medal at the North Forsyth High School's Marine Corps J.R.O.T.C. Change of Command ceremony.



Brayden S., Chris' nephew participated in the Change of Command ceremony as well. Family members Grayson S. and Eva R. attended.





Robert Forsyth Co-Sponsored the five Patriot Grave marking held at the Midway Cemetery. President Decker attended, presented the wreath, and fired his cannon in salute.

April ended and May began a busy couple of months. On the second of May, the Chestatee River Chapter, NSDAR, along with the Robert Forsyth Chapter held a Liberty Tree Dedication at Eagle Beak Park on the Old Federal Road in Forsyth County. This location was directly across from the Sherril House, original site for the Vann Tavern and the starting point of the Cherokee Trail of Tears.



Kholson Bull, Georgia C.A.R. President and Jr. Robert Forsyth Chapter member brought greetings.



May 2 wasn't finished with Robert Forsyth Chapter just yet. It continued with a Patriots of Liberty meeting, where the Chapter was given a DAR Medal of Appreciation for our support in their endeavours.



We then awarded Carrissa Bull, C.A.R. State Senior President, her justly deserved America 250 Medal and the SAR - C.A.R. Appreciation Medal.



Weather alerts on a stormy May 9th threatened to stop a Liberty Tree Celebration at the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, on the edge of Fort Benning. Luckily within a few minutes of the ceremony, which was moved under the rotunda entrance, the rain stopped. This allowed for Compatriot Decker to fire his cannon alongside the Musket Salute that day.

If you are at all interested in the formation of the Infantry, and its role in the many conflicts since its inception, you really need to visit the National Infantry Museum in Columbus. I spent several hours browsing the artifacts, history, and people who created, fought for, and died for this country. Highly Recommended!



The Sequoyah Chapter, NSDAR in Jasper, held a 250 Dedication for a bronze marker at the Pickens County Courthouse. Compatriots Byron Tindall and Emil Decker were chapter representatives there.





The Grave Marking for Enoch Smith in Ellijay, GA was held on May 16, with Robert Forsyth Co-Sponsoring, and Chaplain Byron Tindall representing the chapter.



May 17, President Emil Decker attended the Cub Scout Pack 20's Blue and Gold Event, a Cub Scout promotion day, and delivered a presentation on The Declaration of Independence. He then offered the Scouts an opportunity to sign a copy.... using a quill pen, and receive a copy of their own. Big Success!



"The Declaration Committee," an imagined scene for the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Currier and Ives, New York, 1876, via The Library of Congress



With the growing number of cannons in the GASSAR, the need for crew members to help safely fire also increases. The Brier Creek Artillery, both southern and mountain divisions, qualify through regularly held classes to learn and renew safety operations every two years. The certification is granted through classes presented by the National Civil War Artillery Association, and provide proof of training for insurance purposes. Recently the number of attending members was so great that two classes needed to be held on successive weekends. Alton Reynolds hosted the events. compatriots Carl Watkins and Emil Decker are now certified to fire the big guns.

Memorial Day weekend saw a goodly amount of activity. The Cannon Training above was simultaneous with other Events. One such event was the Heroes Hill Climb event in Dahlenega, at Camp Merrel.





Members of the Robert Forsyth Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) proudly participated in the annual Hero Hill Climb held May 23 in Dahlonega, Georgia, joining veterans, first responders, cadets, and community supporters in honoring America's heroes.

The Hero Hill Climb is a patriotic community event that recognizes the sacrifices of military personnel, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders while promoting unity and remembrance through fitness and service. Founded by Stephen Johnstone, a member of the Robert Forsyth Chapter, the annual event raises money to deploy critical support to our Heroes, by fostering community, financial assistance, and long-term wellness programs to combat PTSD and prevent veteran suicide.

Representing the Robert Forsyth Chapter, compatriot John Flikeid took part in the event's opening ceremony by joining the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard in the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, setting a respectful and patriotic tone for the day's activities. Past President Chris Russo also participated in the challenging hill climb event, demonstrating the chapter's continued commitment to honoring patriotism, public service, and community involvement.

The Hero Hill Climb brought together participants of all ages and backgrounds, highlighting the strong spirit of service and patriotism shared throughout the Dahlonega community. For more information about the Hero Hill Climb, visit Hero Hill Climb Official Event Page: <http://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Dahlonega/TheHeroHillClimb>



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU WANT TO PLANT A LIBERTY TREE BUT CAN'T?

Northlake Baptist Church in Murrayville, GA has major plans for construction. There is no tree on the property that can be used, nor a place a Liberty Tree can be planted that will not currently be in the way of the new construction. What did the original colonists do when their tree was cut down, or could not find a convenient tree to utilize for gatherings? They erected a Liberty Pole.



Northlake has a flagpole that has honored veteran members of that church for many years now. "In Memory of" bricks commemorating veterans who have passed, and "In Honor of" bricks for those veterans who still live. The flagpole, surrounded by all these veterans, simply begged to become A LIBERTY POLE.





The GASSAR Color Guard assembled under the command of State Color Guard Commander Scott Collins and presented Colors during the 11 o'clock service. Immediately after, the congregation gathered on the front lawn to dedicate the Pole, and observe a 3 volley musket and cannon salute. Compatriots Carl Watkins and Emil Decker were participants for Robert Forsyth.





Monday's Memorial Day Observance at the Oconee County Veterans Monument was moved inside the gym to accommodate seating and the threat of rain. President Decker was in attendance with his cannon. At the end of the program, as we filed outside to do the musket and cannon salute, we found the cannon had to be altered when a park and recreations truck had parked directly in front of the muzzle of the cannon. Yeah, we had to either alter our trajectory, or ask them to roll down both windows so the blast could pass through.

We moved the cannon 90 degrees to the right.



Forsyth County Public Library held a Bookmobile Rally Jun 12, to kick off the Summer reading program. The Robert Forsyth Traveling Trunk arrived and over 120 kids got to go on a scavenger hunt for 250 related items.



President Emil Decker and Compatriots Chris Russo & Nick Sule were honored to join the Chestatee River Chapter NSDAR to receive special proclamations from Mayor Brumbalow, recognizing the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Decker and Russo presented Robert Forsyth Chapter challenge coins to Mayor Brumbalow and all members of the City of Cumming, GA - City Hall City Council.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

George Washington's War

By Brigadier General P. Horry and Parson M. L. Weems

This is a lengthy publication (500 pages) about the establishment of George Washington as the Commander-in-Chief of America's first Army and later as our first Chief Executive. Author Chadwick recants the youth of Washington and how he developed as a young man who displayed leadership qualities early on.

Chadwick's considerable research enables him to appear to be in the presence of the great man throughout the entire war. Washington's thoughts come alive from his considerable writings, especially during the long cold winters when time after time the Continental Army faced starvation, disease and ill living conditions at both Valley Forge and Morristown, New Jersey. All the while, Congress is unable to respond adequately to the needs of the troops.

Chadwick carefully covers the successes and failures of the Commander-in-Chief during the eight long years of the war, lessons that later served him well as President.

The details of individual campaigns are covered lightly, but much insight is provided on thoughts and events that shape each activity. Especially noteworthy is the winter encampments at Morristown that was more harsh than those endured at Valley Forge.

This is an exciting book to read for it weaves many facts into the life and times of the *Great Man*.

Four Tricorns  ISBN 1-4022-0406-X, Sourcebooks, Inc, 2005 by Bruce Chadwick, PhD, \$17.95

George Thurmond

Annual Flag Retirement Program

Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters Annual Flag Day and Flag Retirement Ceremony takes place each second weekend in June. Both chapters sponsor flag collection boxes at their local Home Depot stores, where each year as many as 4 - 5 thousand flags are collected for retirement.

Throughout the year as flags are collected, they are brought to Ingram Funeral Home, our proud partner, where they are consumed in cleansing fires and properly disposed of according to the U.S. Flag Code.





Though the process continues all year, once a year we hold a ceremony honoring the yearly collection and reminding ourselves and the community why we do this service for our nation's emblem.

Each year we attempt to alter the program a little to keep it fresh and to focus on a new aspect of our mission to honor the nation's flag. Whether it is honoring the armed services that keep us safe, or detailing the meaning behind the stars, stripes, fields and colors of the symbol, we seek to recognize its meaning to each attendee personally.

This year, being the 250th Anniversary Year of our founding, we chose to expand a program we have also used. Cutting the stars from old flags and giving them to veterans.

Several organizations have adopted this program, and the words on the cards vary, but the Thanks and the appreciation are heartfelt.

Due to the 250 theme running through this year, the program included a star from a larger flag with a note attached to it. Each person present was requested to document their patriot ancestor, who was there at the beginning of our nation, lending his or her support to the cause.

Each individual came forward with their ancestor's star, and read the name, along with any information they included about that ancestor on the card. Laying it on the vintage wooden coffin we use to hold a small representation of the flags we have collected, they honored their patriot's service, and the opportunity to make a personal connection to American history for each person.







We wish to thank the many civic leaders who came to help recognize the service of these flags, and our honorable retirement of them. City, county, and state representatives, including Ron Goodbub, District Manager for Congressman Rich McCormick, who gave us a Certificate of Appreciation from the Congressman's Office.

Monthly Meetings



We were pleased to have the husband and wife team of Mike and Leslie Watkins to bring to our meetings some interesting programming. We also had Dr. Maryanne Holdzkom, PhD, Professor of History, Kennesaw State University who presented "Independence Like a Torrent: May, 1776 in the Continental Congress".



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HONOR YOUR PATRIOT.
CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE.**

★

ROBERT FORSYTH CHAPTER

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

PERSONALIZED GARDEN FLAGS
CELEBRATING YOUR PATRIOT
ANCESTOR AND OUR NATION'S
FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

★ PERSONALIZED WITH YOUR
PATRIOT'S NAME, RANK (OPTIONAL),
STATE (OPTIONAL),
AND CHAPTER NAME

★ PERFECT FOR YOUR GARDEN,
PORCH, OR PATRIOTIC DISPLAY

**GARDEN FLAG
ONLY | \$35**

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

 PayPal: @RForsythSAR

 Check: Written to
Robert Forsyth Chapter, GASSAR
(Contact David Johnson,
davidjo613@gmail.com,
for this option)

Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.



★ ★ ★

A MEANINGFUL
WAY TO HONOR
YOUR PATRIOT
ANCESTOR!

★ ★ ★

★ **A GREAT GIFT TO HONOR YOUR
REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT!** ★



ORDER YOUR PERSONALIZED FLAG TODAY!

CLICK LINK BELOW TO COMPLETE
ORDER INFORMATION.

CONTACT JOHN FLIKEID
jflikeid@gmail.com



★ PROCEEDS BENEFIT EDUCATIONN PROGRAMS FOR THE SAR ★



Ask the Expert:

With Lionel Hildebrand

If you have questions, please forward to the editor, eldecker@weegrr.com. He will see that it gets to me.

How did the outcome of the Battle of Bunker Hill foreshadow the course of the Revolutionary War?

The average soldier involved in the battle of Breed's (or Bunker) Hill (Jun 17, 1775) used a smoothbore musket, which, as we know, was inaccurate at anything beyond 100 yards. Nonetheless, within that range a focused armsman had a good chance of hitting a man-sized target. The tactical error committed by the British commanders on the day of the battle was to attempt to carry the fortified positions of the Americans by repeated frontal assaults. That tactic brought the Army regulars within very lethal range. The casualty count was the highest suffered by the British in any single encounter during the entire war. The British suffered over 1000 casualties (plus 19 officers killed and 62 wounded). The Americans lost 450 among all ranks.

A British surgeon in Boston (1775) wrote of the Patriot militia: "This army ... is truly nothing but a drunken, canting, lying, praying, hypocritical rabble, without order, subjection, discipline, or cleanliness; and must fall to pieces of itself in the course of three months." A French spy optimistically reported, that the militia was "stronger than others thought. It surpasses one's imagination ... Nothing frightens them."

Many believed that Americans would stand before trained troops only if they remained behind fortifications as the regulars attempted repeated frontal assaults. Truth be told, it was virtually impossible for ill-disciplined and poorly supplied part-time soldiers to defeat a professional army in the open field, so why try? The militia was barely capable of maintaining a decent line of fire, and found it impossible to make complicated maneuvers like flanking or obliques. That British generals chose to make those repeated frontal assaults on



the patriot positions is an indication of the lack of regard for which they held their American military opponents. In this regard General Israel Putnam is reputed to have said, "Americans are not at all afraid for their heads, though very much afraid for their legs; if you cover these, they will fight forever." General Charles Lee also noted that the Patriots were "accustomed from their infancy to firearms, and experts in the use of them." After the battle of Breed's Hill, General Gage was forced to admit that whenever the patriots could find cover they made a good stand.

Depiction by Percy Moran circa 1909 of British Grenadiers and Light Infantry scaling today's "Breed's Hill."

Courtesy Library of Congress

Ambassador to the Colonies

Our Ambassador has been very busy in North Carolina and sent these photos to ensure we knew he was not just lounging at the beach. From SAR events to his Traveling Trunk, J.C. Hustis has remained busy sharing the 250 Anniversary.

THE SAR

Traveling Trunk

An Interactive Living History Program

Wednesday July 13, 2026	11 o'clock 11:20 to the afternoon	Bourk Branch Room with County Library
-----------------------------------	---	---



Touch History. Live the Revolution.

Handle the relics & meet a patriot in the flesh.

Open the Trunk

Handle real colonial artifacts and experience — as and would — what daily life was like 250 years ago.

Meet a Patriot

Get to know the real colonial soldier, the key figure in the revolution, and a child with the audience.

Drop In Anytime

No tickets, no sign-up. We have a special in store — perfect for all ages, families & curious minds.



YOUR AGENDA FOR THE AFTERNOON

JC Hustis

Scout of the American Revolution — Wadesboro, North Carolina

Dressed in colonial livery, JC carries the trunk from room to room — a living chapter of the country's founding, ready to be opened by any curious child.





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 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 Sep 10, 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@weegrr.com



Calendar of Events

Event	Location	Date / Time	Status
Independence Day	Various	July 4, 2026	National
Braves PreGame	Truist Stadium	July 4, 2026	National/State
136 th Congress	Greensboro, NC	Jul 10-16, 2026	National
GASSAR BOM	Barnesville, GA	Jul 25, 2026	State
Educational Garden Center		Jul 26, 2026	
250th Event	Marietta, GA	2:00 - 3:30 pm	State
Jophn Stonecypher Chapter		Aug 15, 2026	
Inagural Banquet	Toccoa, GA	10:00 am-2:00 pm	State
Bushnell's Turtle 250th	Warrenton, GA	Sep 5, 2026 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	State
Patriot Grave Marking (4)	Elberton, GA	Sep 12, 2026 10:00 am	State
Constitution Day	Various	Sep 17, 2026	National
Washington Tomb Vigil	Mt. Vernon, VA	Sep 19, 2026	National
Patriot Grave Marking	Shady Dale, GA	Sep 19, 2026 11:00 am	State
Fall Leadership	Louisville, KY	Oct 1 - 3	National
Kings Mountain	Kings Mt. NC/SC	Oct 7, 2026	National
Siege of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Oct 9, 2026	State
Patriot Grave Marking	Rabun Co., GA	Oct 17, 2026 1:00 pm	State
GASSAR BOM	Barnesville, GA	Oct 24, 2026	State
Veterans Day	Various	Nov. 11, 2026	National