



The President's Message

By Chapter President Keith L. Bigbee

As I write this I have recently returned from another successful and interesting State Society meeting. Our own Dale Ross was honored with the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Medal and The Silver Von Steuben Color Guard Medal. Great job Dale. Gold Country Chapter received multiple awards including: Largest Percentage of Members Attending Meetings, Largest Number of Chapter Activities, Largest Number of Guests Attending Meetings, Most New Members, Best Website, Best Chapter Publicity, Most Chapter Meetings, and Participating in the Most CASSAR Programs. We were also awarded Best Large Chapter. These awards belong to all of you. A special thanks goes out to Bill A Welch for his excellent tracking and reporting of chapter activities.

The planning committee, consisting of Coreena & Dale Ross, Barry Hopkins, Ernie McPherson, Smitty Virgil, Keith & Cyndy Bigbee, and Wayne & Yoncie Griswold received many kudos for the smooth coordination of the meeting and events. One past

CASSAR president even made a point to send a letter of gratitude noting, "The Gold Country Chapter has set a standard that other chapters who host our state meetings in the future will do well to emulate."

Our chapter poster contest winner also won at the State level so will be moving on to National competition. Thanks again to the dedicated team that supports this program. More volunteers are needed to make classroom presentations (awards and historic flags). If you have time and want to learn the ropes, contact me ASAP.

This month's meeting is our annual community awards and will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday May 16th at the Auburn Library. This is typically the lowest attended meeting; I would really like to see our members show up to honor our recipients.

In June we have an election on the 8th and are still seeking individuals to serve as clerks for a whole day or partial shift. We have teams in Roseville and Auburn. Please contact Keith or Wayne for more information about serving. Our June 26th meeting (note that it is one week later than usual) will be very short followed by a BBQ lunch service at Camp Beckworth in Nevada City for about 500 Cub Scouts and leaders. Cooks and servers are needed. The directions will be included in the next newsletter.

Yours in service and patriotism,

Keith L. Bigbee

<i>In This Issue</i>	
<i>The President's Message</i>	1
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>A Patriot's Perspective</i>	3
<i>American Revolution Series</i>	5
<i>Leadership</i>	6
<i>CASSAR Meeting Photos</i>	7
<i>Meeting Minutes and Photos</i>	8
<i>Remembering Our American Heritage</i>	10

CHAPTER OFFICERS**2010 - 2011 TERM****PRESIDENT****Keith L. Bigbee**

(530) 878-0144

kckbigbee@auburninternet.com

FIRST VP**John M. "Mike" Holmes**

(530) 889-2780

NJRHS@Inreach.com

SECOND VP**William A. Welch**

(916) 987-1356

Welch19@Comcast.net

SECRETARY**Ed Beyer**

(916) 791-4014

iobeyer@surewest.net

TREASURER**Bruce N. Choate**

(530) 878-3783

BruceC4193@aol.com

REGISTRAR**Smith "Smitty" Virgil**

(530) 885-9038

SWVirgil@SBCglobal.net

HISTORIAN**Barry E. Hopkins**

(530) 906-4562

Pau.Hana@Yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN**Ronald P. Williams**

(916) 791-0587

wolfram@surewest.net

CHANCELLOR**Craig M. Hopkins**

(503) 419-6320

Craig@Hopkinslaw.net

**PAST PRESIDENT &
CASSAR PRESIDENT****Wayne A. Griswold**

(916) 985-3756

WAGris@ATT.net

Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 6th

National Day of Prayer - Fly the Flag!

Saturday, May 8th

V-E Day - Fly the Flag!

Sunday, May 9th

Mother's Day - Fly the Flag!

Monday, May 10th

SAR Honoring Spain Trip, Madrid and Malaga.

Saturday, May 15th

Peace Officers' Memorial Day - Fly the Flag!

Saturday, May 15th

Armed Forces Day - Fly the Flag!

Sunday, May 16th

Gold Country Chapter's Awards & Certificate Program, Auburn-Placer Library, Auburn.

Sunday, June 6th

D-Day - Fly the Flag!

Monday, June 14th

Flag Day - Fly the Flag!

Thursday, June 17th

Bunker Hill Day - Fly the Flag!

Sunday, June 20th

Father's Day - Fly the Flag!

Saturday, June 26th

Regular Meeting, 9:30 A.M., LDS Church, Grass Valley.

Happy Birthday wishes to the following who will celebrate birthdays this month: Ed Beyer, Harlen Cleaver, Patricia Holmes, Richard Manifor, Robin Ringwald, Stephen Rogers, JoElla Welch, and John Welch.

The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is
Sunday, May 16th at 2:00 P.M.
 Auburn-Placer Library, Auburn

The Gold Country Chapter's 2010 regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month except in May, September, and December. During these months special meeting dates occur in order to accommodate other Chapter or California Society activities. All regular meetings are held in the banquet room of Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, 13460 Lincoln Way, Auburn, (530) 885-9193, at 9:30AM. See you there!

Visit our Chapter, State and National Websites
GoldCountrySAR.org ♦ CaliforniaSAR.org ♦ SAR.org

The submission deadline for the June edition of
 The Forty-Niner is Friday, May 21, 2010.

The Forty-Niner is the official newsletter of the Gold Country Chapter, California Society, SAR. Statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect or state those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, SAR. All content, photographs and graphics contained herein are subject to copyright law. Newsletter or Website related questions or submissions should be directed to Chapter Editor/Webmaster Michael G. Lucas at (530) 878-6506 or email dmlucas@sbcglobal.net. All Rights Reserved.

The Desperate Prayers of a Nation

By Michael G. Lucas

There have been pivotal moments in history where a nation's destiny hung in the balance. At such critical times an entire country can find itself on the ropes with no seeming way of escape; it must face a desperate situation while depleted of resources. After all options are exhausted, they often remember the promise God made to Israel - when His people humble themselves, pray and seek His face, He will respond. There were two very similar occasions in history when the fate of the world rested upon prayer alone.

In 1933 Adolph Hitler became the unchallenged leader of Germany and immediately proceeded to build a war machine capable of conquering the world. By early 1940, Hitler had conquered Poland, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Luxembourg, and Belgium. In a mere 40 days, France was added to the list. After the fall of France, the Allied forces were completely routed. They were forced, with little remaining equipment, to retreat towards the English Channel to a coastal enclave called Dunkirk. There, the half million Allied soldiers faced certain annihilation. Hitler's armored divisions were only fifteen miles away and the Luftwaffe controlled the skies. Winston Churchill had just replaced Neville Chamberlain as Britain's prime minister. Panic gripped the nation with the realization that their country was the next one to be crushed. The loss of the Allied forces at Dunkirk would have removed the only remaining obstacle to an invasion into Britain. This bleak situation gave the world little hope. General Edmund Ironside, chief of the Imperial General Staff, stated that "this is the end of the British Empire." Leaders around the world felt there would remain little resistance to Hitler. Even members of Parliament were preparing their families for their eminent deaths. With the conquest of Britain, Hitler's tyranny would have remained unchallenged. Millions more would have become victims of the Nazi death camps and a millennium of British history would have come to a terrifying end.



On May 23, 1940, while a half-million soldiers waited at Dunkirk for their inevitable death or imprisonment, churches throughout Britain called for a national day of prayer. Political leaders, newspapers, and King George VI all rallied behind this call to prayer. In the next few days, churches throughout the country were packed. From the large Westminster Abbey to the smallest chapels, large crowds of people pleaded with God to spare their men at Dunkirk. Twenty-four hours after the call to prayer, Hitler inexplicably ordered his generals to stop their attack. To this day, historians are baffled by Hitler's move. A quick and easy victory would have been certain, but Hitler prevented his army from finishing off the Allies. Historians feel certain that an attack against the troops at Dunkirk, followed immediately by an attack on England, would have resulted in Britain's fall to Hitler. After the defeat of Britain, Germany could have turned all their resources against Russia, which could have been defeated before the onset of winter. There would have been only one remaining obstacle between Hitler and world domination - the United States. But God heard the prayers of a nation and halted Hitler's army. On the evening of May 23rd, the order went out that all seaworthy vessels were to cross the English Channel to rescue the soldiers. While the evacuation of the Allied soldiers was being carried out, the German army remained stationary. Hitler was content to bomb Dunkirk from the air. Thunderstorms and thick fog reduced both visibility and the effectiveness of the bombers, while providing cover for the rescuers. For nine days, operators of little boats and yachts risked their lives navigating the treacherous waters of the English Channel. They rescued 336,000 stranded soldiers while the Luftwaffe bombed Dunkirk from the air. Churchill had declared that "if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and care for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age." But they did not fail and some historians see Dunkirk as the turning point of World War II; Hitler never regained his lost momentum. General Ironside, who earlier was about to throw in the towel, wrote, "I still cannot understand how it is that the

[Germans] have allowed us to get [our troops] off in this way. It is almost fantastic that we have been able to do it in the face of all the bombing and gunning.” God heard the prayers of His people and spared the world from a continuing nightmare of Hitler’s unchecked oppression.

Amazingly the events at Dunkirk turned out to be a twentieth century repeat of very similar events which took place during America’s Revolution. On August 22, 1776, British General William Howe landed at Long Island, New York, and soundly defeated American General Charles Lee. The action on Long Island resulted in 400 British casualties whereas the Patriots lost over 2,000, either by casualty or imprisonment. Four days later General Lee’s army retreated to Brooklyn Heights. The Americans were heavily outnumbered. The British could have immediately stormed the American position and claimed a relatively easy victory, but instead they chose to hold back. General Washington arrived the following day and assumed command. He ordered the construction of more fortifications and he ordered in additional soldiers. Washington was slow to come to the realization that he was now entrapped. The British army was in front of them and the East River, under the control of the British, was behind them. Admiral Richard Howe could now close his trap by moving ships up the East River behind the American position. Washington’s army would have no path of escape. The war would be over and the American cause defeated. Realizing their certain defeat, the Americans now gave thought to surrender. The fate of the American Revolution hung in the balance.

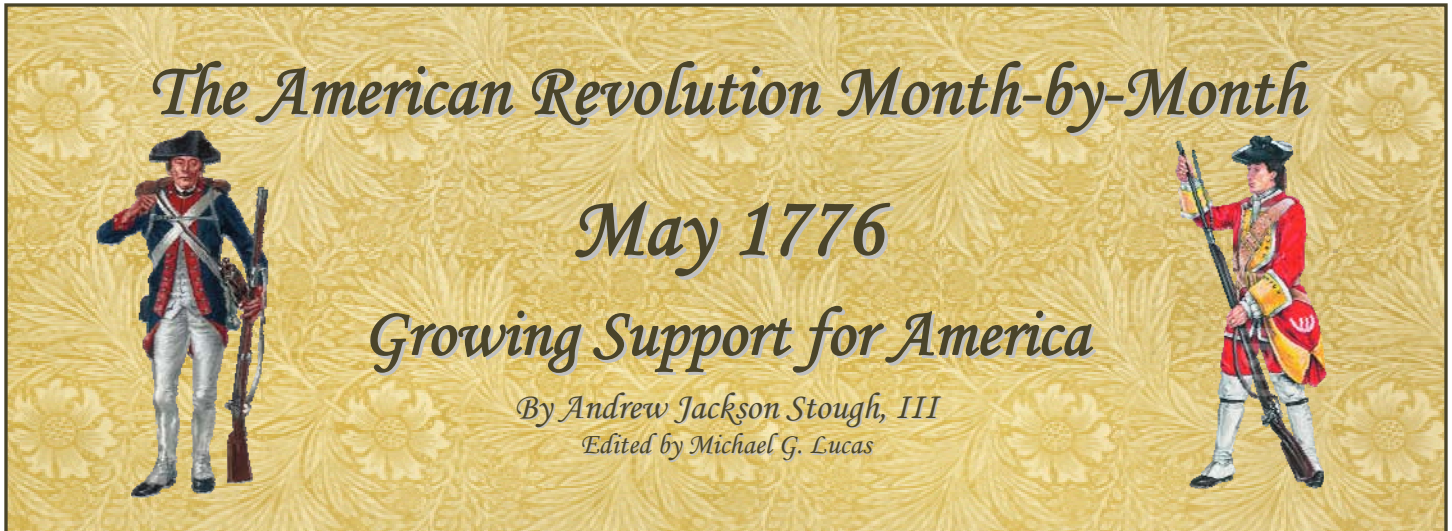
However, just prior to the Battle of Long Island, the Continental Congress had called for a day of “fasting, humiliation and prayer, humbly to supplicate the mercy of Almighty God, that it would please him to pardon all our manifold sins and transgressions, and to prosper the Arms of the United Colonies, and finally, establish the peace and freedom of America, upon a solid and lasting foundation.” Washington executed a General Order that the army was “to pay strict obedience to the Orders of the Continental Congress, and by their unfeigned, and pious observance of their religious duties, incline the Lord, and Giver of Victory, to prosper our arms.” When all seemed lost for the Continental Army, God intervened in a dramatic way. On August 29th, the temperature dropped and a violent “nor-easter” storm blew in. The storm prevented the British from attacking the Americans and it prevented Admiral Howe from moving his ships up the East River. Howe tried to move five warships up the river behind the American position but the wind direction immediately changed and he had to abort the effort. Washington finally realized that his only option was to retreat to New York across the East River. At about 11:00 that evening, the wind died down and the wind direction changed to the southwest, allowing the Continental Army to cross the mile-wide river to safety. All night long an armada of small boats ferried the 9,000 men and their horses, supplies, and cannon across the river to safety. Many of the

boats were so overloaded that water was within inches of the gunwales. The wind became so calm that the sailors were even able to hoist sails to increase the speed of their exodus. However, at dawn another three hours was needed to complete the evacuation. Again, divine intervention spared the American cause in the form of pea-soup fog. On the New York side of the river, it remained clear, but on the Long Island side of the river, fog reduced the visibility to near zero. The thick fog allowed the evacuation to continue and remain hidden from the British. Right after the evacuation was completed, the fog began to lift. When the British attacked in the morning, they found only empty trenches.

Prayer has been a part of America since its inception. Two years before Congress’ call for a day of prayer in 1776, Dr. Jacob Duche’ had opened the First Continental Congress in prayer at Carpenter’s Hall in Philadelphia. Duche’ acknowledged that Americans had “thrown themselves upon Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only upon Thee.” Tradition holds that during the difficult winter at Valley Forge, General Washington, on his knees, invoked God’s mercy upon his soldiers. Isaac Potts, a Quaker farmer, watched Washington in prayer from a distance. Potts later told his wife, Martha, what he had witnessed and remarked, “If there is anyone the Lord will listen to, it is this brave man. I have seen General Washington on his knees. Our independence is certain.” Down through generations the prayers of Americans have continued, and will continue, to invoke God’s protection, guidance, and blessings upon their nation.

Not for sale or republication. A *Patriot’s Perspective*® series is published solely for the benefit of the members of Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. ☞





Comte de Vergennes, France's newly installed Minister of Finance, saw support of the colonies as a great way for France to get some revenge against the detested English, without another bloody war. In May, Vergennes set up the firm of Hortolez et cie. From 1776-1777, under Caron de Beaumarchais, they purveyed over three quarters of the gunpowder used by the Continental Army. Blended by a fine scientist named Lavoisier, the powder was of exceptional quality.



May 2: France and Spain each put up \$185,000 for America to purchase munitions.



May 3: The armada, which had departed Cork on February 13th, was disrupted by a storm. It was finally reassembled as an entire fleet, minus a few smaller ships.




May 15: Port Decree, the open port commanded by the colonists, was an invitation to other nations to do legitimate business in North American ports. John Adams viewed this as a great way to allow other nations to shirk British might without going to war. He also foresaw that, without a declaration of independence from England, such flagrant disregard of Mother England's rules would be an act of war against the British Decree of the Closed Port Authority.

The first bold moves had been made toward independence from Britain. The Crown disempowered itself by removing the American colonies from British protection. Pugnacious trade at Port Decree resulted in violent military action by Royal governors in three colonies. Congress passed a resolve that each colony should consider itself without a government and should establish its own assembly.

May 31: All military and naval forces were placed under Sir Henry Clinton so he might restore British authority in Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. After he appointed trusted Loyalists in command, he was supposed to rejoin Howe's operations in the north, which would begin when the northern coast waters thawed and navigation became possible.

After the defeat at Moore's Bridge, Clinton lost heart and chose to move back into the Chesapeake Bay. Sir Peter Parker urged Clinton to focus on a much more valuable mission...Charleston. On May 31st, the British fleet weighed anchor, departing for Charleston.

Not for sale or republication, *The American Revolution, Month-by-Month* series was written and is published solely for the benefit of the members of Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. 



Comte de Vergennes

Leadership

By Michael G. Lucas

American businesses are increasingly willing to pay dearly for successful leadership. Corporate compensations have reached stratospheric levels. In 2007, the median CEO compensation for the Standard & Poor's 500 Index companies was \$8.4 million. However, George Washington, arguably the greatest leader ever produced in America, took no compensation for his eight years as commander-in-chief and even served as president at great personal sacrifice. He even received his promised reimbursement of expenses in almost worthless certificates of indebtedness. While his officers bickered over promotions and his troops mutinied over bonuses, Washington worked for six years straight before taking a single day off. Even when he was near Mount Vernon, Washington stayed on duty. He refused to accept bounties in western lands which were given to veterans, even though his share as commander-in-chief would have been enormous. His service as commander-in-chief wrecked his finances to the point that he had to borrow money for his trip to New York City to be inaugurated as president. He tried to borrow money to pay off his debts in Virginia before he became president, but his credit was not considered good enough. Even as president, Washington's salary was insufficient to cover the costs incurred by the position; it was necessary for him to liquidate thousands of acres of property to pay for presidential expenses.

Washington never received higher formal education or management training. However, he quickly learned the secrets of leadership while on the job. He became a master of using silence, distance, respect, and fear to make men willing and eager to be in his command. Even British and Loyalists celebrated him as superior to any of their own commanders. The following are a few of his leadership qualities:

George Washington and his subordinates had mutual respect and this attitude permeated the Continental Army. Even the lowliest privates were addressed as gentlemen. America was the only place in the world where soldiers were treated with such respect. Because the American soldiers had such respect for Washington, he became the ultimate motivator. There were times when the Continental Army was close to dissolving with enlistments expiring. The soldiers were homesick, exhausted, and anxious to go home. But by appealing to their conscience and honor, Washington was able to motivate them to remain after their tour of duty. These volunteers well knew that such an extension could be their death sentence.

Washington's management style was just the opposite of the dictatorial style of Lord Cornwallis, who made all major


decisions and rejected any contrary opinion. Washington's style was to construct a consensus. He would frame a problem and allow others to propose solutions. Even if he had a proposal, he would often present it as someone else's idea so as not to discourage open discussion and constructive debate. After receiving advice, he balanced alternatives and announced his own decision only at the last moment. However, once the decision was made, he became totally committed to its accomplishment. He learned to hesitate during decision making but not during its execution.

Washington was a great moral leader. He instilled into the Continental Army the philosophy that they were an army of liberty and freedom; the rights of humanity for which they were dying should extend even to their enemies.

George Washington was a selfless leader. Washington shared, along with the rest of the world's great leaders, a taste of power and a desire for fame. However, the difference was his desire to use that power and fame for the betterment of his fellow man. Washington denied the temptation of power as few great men in history have ever done. He had the conviction that his fame would endure if he surrendered his power rather than use it for selfish pursuits. By rejecting the call to become America's ruler, he achieved true greatness.

Usually it's true that you get what you pay for. In the case of George Washington, there wasn't enough money in the new nation to pay him what he was worth. Sometimes people are willing to do things out of love that they would never do for money.

The following was written by his fellow revolutionary and ultimately political antagonist, Thomas Jefferson, fourteen years after Washington's death: "He was incapable of fear, meeting personal dangers with the calmest unconcern. Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but, when once decided, going through with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed. His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives of interest or consanguinity, of friendship or hatred, being able to bias his decision. He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good, and a great man. . . ." Gouverneur Morris wrote "His form was noble - his port majestic. So dignified his deportment, no man could approach him but with respect - None was great in his presence. You have all seen him, and you have all felt the reverence he inspired. It was such, that to command seemed in him but the exercise of an ordinary function, while others felt a duty to obey."

When we consider Washington's leadership we're reminded of the saying that "the value of a leader is directly proportional to the leader's values." What a man values shapes his character and ultimately defines how he will lead, or whether he can even lead at all. 



Gold Country Chapter

*Hosts CASSAR Spring Meeting!
Wayne Griswold sworn in as
CASSAR President!*

The Embassy Suites, Sacramento Riverfront Promenade, was the setting for the 135th Spring Meeting of the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, hosted by Gold Country Chapter.

Compatriot Wayne Griswold was sworn in as president and received his presidential gavel from outgoing President Lou

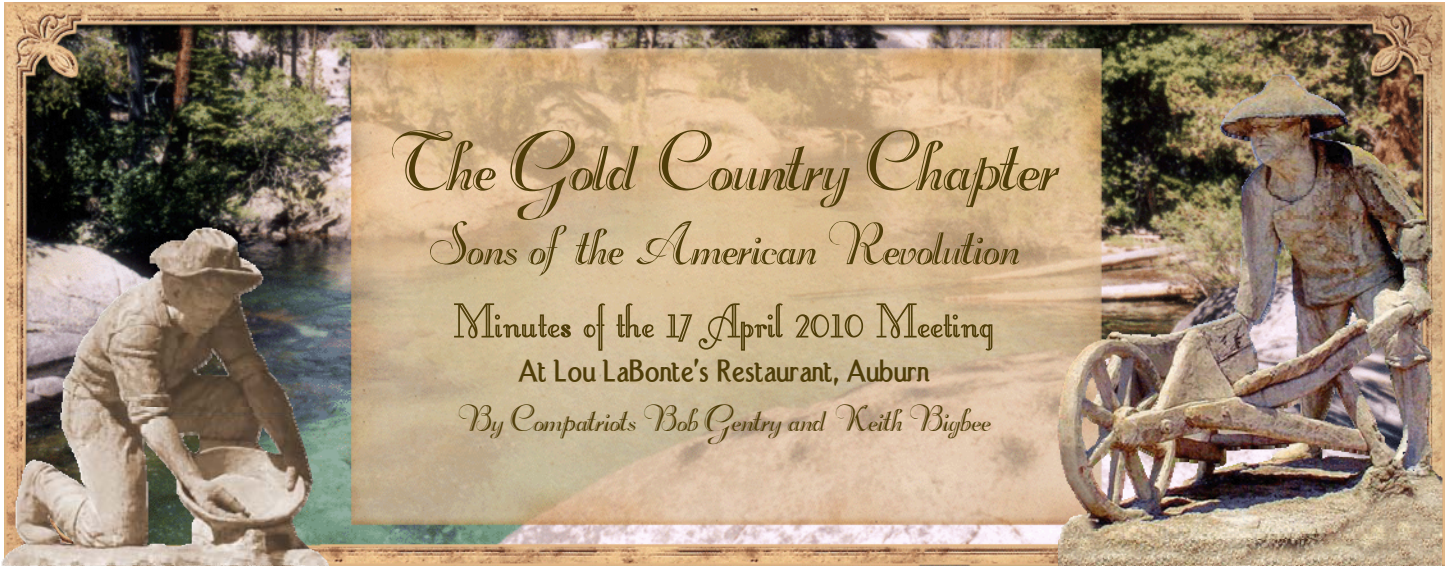
Carlson. Providing support to Wayne were his wife Yoncie, son Wayne, and daughter-in-law Sally.

Participating in the events were Keith & Cyndy Bigbee and Barry & Patricia Hopkins.

Compatriots Dave Gilliard and Lou Carlson are shown with the many awards presented to Gold Country Chapter.

Compatriot Dale Ross received CASSAR's Silver Von Steuben Color Guard Medal and the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Medal.





President Keith Bigbee called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Chaplain Ron Williams gave the Invocation. Smitty Virgil led the Pledge of Allegiance and Wayne Griswold led the SAR Pledge.

Attendance: There were eight members and four guests in attendance.

President Bigbee recognized DAR member Coreena Ross from the Capt. John Oldham Chapter, Boy Scout leader and potential member Mike Howell, and potential member Jim Webb.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March Meeting Minutes as published in the newsletter.

Reports:

President's Report: President Bigbee reminded everyone in attendance to update his or her e-mail address if needed. He then spoke about the CASSAR meeting last week in Sacramento. *The California Compatriot* will become a printed bi-annual publication with the next issue scheduled for September. The State Society approved the CA. 250 pin; this will be a lapel pin for a donation of \$250.00 or more to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. At Saturday's Youth Award Luncheon, Gold Country's entry in the Americanism Poster Contest won first place. It will now go on to compete at the National level. Compatriot Dale Ross was presented with the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Medal. This was well deserved due to all the hard work by Dale and his wife Coreena. The chapter expressed its appreciation to them. Gold Country Chapter won awards in seven categories and tied for two. (See the President's Message for a listing.) As a result, the chapter was presented with the Best Large Chapter Plaque. Members who assisted with the planning and the meeting were awarded Certificates

of Appreciation from the State Society. President Bigbee awarded Smitty Virgil his Certificate, as he could not attend the CASSAR meeting. At the Saturday night banquet Dale Ross was presented the Silver Von Stueben Medal for Color Guard participation at the State and National levels. The chapter expressed its appreciation for this award. The highlight of the Saturday banquet was Wayne Griswold being installed as the new president of the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Wayne received a rousing applause from everyone.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Bruce Choate reported that the chapter checking account was being transferred to a local bank.

Registrar: Smitty Virgil reported two new members have been approved and there are two more which are close to approval.

Color Guard: Captain Dale Ross reported the Capt. John Oldham Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is asking the chapter to provide a color guard on May 19th at 9:30 A.M. in Alta Sierra for their District 2 meeting. If you can participate, please contact Dale. If you do not have a uniform, one can be provided for you.

Chaplain: Ron Williams reported on the passing of Franklin "Burt" Payne. Burt was 99 years of age. Also Secretary Ed Beyer has undergone hip replacement surgery. A get well card for Ed and a sympathy card for Burt's family was passed around.

JROTC: Since Mike Holmes was out of town, Wayne Griswold reported on the JROTC program. A total of four awards have been presented or are about to be presented.

Boy Scout: Chairman Dale Ross announced there have been a total of five Eagle Scout Certificates presented.

Boy Scout leader Mike Howell was asked to speak to the group about upcoming events. The first will be May 1st at Beale Air Force Base. There will be about 5,500 scouts and leaders attending the three-day event. The chapter will be hosting a booth for Eagle Scouts, as a promotion for the SAR. The Cub Scout Day Camp in Nevada City-Camp Beckworth will be held June 23-26. The chapter will be holding its June meeting at the same time and will help cook and serve lunch for the scouts and their adult leaders. Mike mentioned the many rewards he had experienced as a teacher and as a Boy Scout leader.

General Business: Wayne reported the need for volunteers to help with the upcoming elections.

President Bigbee then asked for a vote on the proposed budget for the 2010 year. There were a couple of changes and the budget was approved as amended.

The Annual Chapter Community Awards program will be held May 16th at 2:00 P.M. in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Placer Library on Nevada Street. Members were encouraged to attend for a good showing of support for our community.

The Independence Day parade in Colfax has been canceled so alternatives, such as Lincoln, are being investigated.

Closing: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Following a moment of silence in memory of passed compatriots, Dale Ross led the recessional. The benediction was given by Ron Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M. ☺



Smith Virgil received a Certificate of Appreciation for his valuable contribution for the CASSAR Spring Meeting.



Boy Scout leader Mike Howell discussed some of his experiences with the Scouts.



CASSAR President Wayne Griswold provided a close up look at his new presidential gavel.



In Loving Memory
Franklin Payne, Sr.
 July 28, 1911 - April 6, 2010

Compatriot Franklin Burton Payne, Sr. passed away on April 6, 2010 in Sacramento at the age of 99. Burt was born in Sutter Creek on July 28, 1911. He is survived by his wife, Irene; son, Frank Payne Jr.; and two grandsons. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the North African and European theaters. His passions were square dancing, genealogy, and his Valley Community Church. Compatriot Payne became a member of the SAR's Gold Country Chapter on March 31, 2004, through the service of his patriot ancestor, Casper Egle. We will continue to remember Burt in the Memoriam page of the chapter's web site.



THE Forty-Niner

Newsletter of the Gold Country Chapter

California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
PO Box 408 • Meadow Vista, CA 95722-0408



First Class

Address Correction Requested

Remembering Our American Heritage

Like you, I am here only because of the actions of my patriot ancestors - the brave men and women who risked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to achieve the independence of the American people.

Those gallant men left their plows in the fields to stand before the world's mightiest power. Against all odds, they dared to proclaim freedom and independence.

Yes, our patriot ancestors answered freedom's cry and declared independence on liberty's battlefield. They willfully gave their possessions, their homes, their farms, their lives, and, yes, in some cases, even their families. They endured unspeakable hardships until their dreams of freedom became a reality.

But they not only achieved America's independence. No, they fashioned a form of government, designed to keep men free. It is the principles of that government that have become the envy of all nations. Our thanks are also due to those brave men and woman over the years and who today sacrifice to keep America free!

July 4, 1776 is a date indelibly marked in America's history. In each succeeding year since, America's independence continues to be celebrated with shouts of joy and colorful bursts of fireworks!

May we continue to walk in the footprints of our forefathers. May we continue to promote America's revolutionary freedoms, its history, our educational objectives, and our patriotic pride for love of God and Country!

---CASSAR President Wayne A. Griswold
Presidential Acceptance Speech Excerpt
April 10, 2010