



THE MINUTEMAN



Volume VI, Issue 12

Dallas Chapter, TXSSAR, Founded July 4, 1929

December 2001

President's Message

by Dr. Gary N. Sisson



Religious Freedom

“A declaration of rights made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free convention which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government.”-Adopted June 12, 1776. This Declaration later became a model for the Bill of Rights James Madison wrote as the first twelve proposed amendments to the new United States Constitution. Article 16 of Virginia’s Bill of Rights reads:

“That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it, can be directed by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore, all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.”

The behavior of the people of Afghanistan recently rescued from the tyrannical rule of the Taliban is a clear reminder of the intent of our Founding Fathers in drafting such language concerning religion. We call it “freedom of religion”. It has been demonstrated that the source most often cited by the Founding Fathers was the Bible. Their frame of reference is obvious in our most precious documents. I’m no theologian, but legislative and judicial decisions made in the last few decades don’t seem quite as “God-centric”. When did freedom of religion change to “freedom from religion”? In the absence of a few moral absolutes, all that’s left is situational ethics. What better time than the Holiday Season to reflect upon the religious roots of your forefathers and do your part to preserve those values?

Merry Christmas!

December 8th Meeting

On the 60th anniversary of America’s entry into WW II, Dr. Cal Christman will discuss “Pearl Harbor: Whose Victory? Whose Defeat?”

For future program suggestions, please feel free to call 1st VP Cliff Slagle at 972-380-1500.

Compatriot **Richard Fawkes**, clad in his authentic army scout clothing and bearing his trusty longrifle, addressed the November Chapter meeting.



Registrar’s Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 312.
October meeting: 43 members, 6 guests.
Don Hay, Registrar

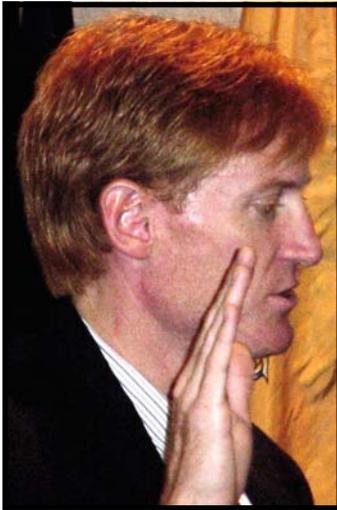
Treasurer’s Report:

Checking & Cash: \$ 1,924.01
Endowment Funds: \$ 32,147.16
Tracy Pounders, Treasurer

THE MINUTEMAN is the monthly newsletter of the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, a non-profit organization. (Pictures by Dr. H. Charles Baker)

Meetings are held on the Second Saturday of each month at Luby's Cafeteria, 6221 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. Coffee served with fellowship at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00, and meeting from 8:30 'til 9:45. Guests are welcome at our meetings.

November Meeting Highlights



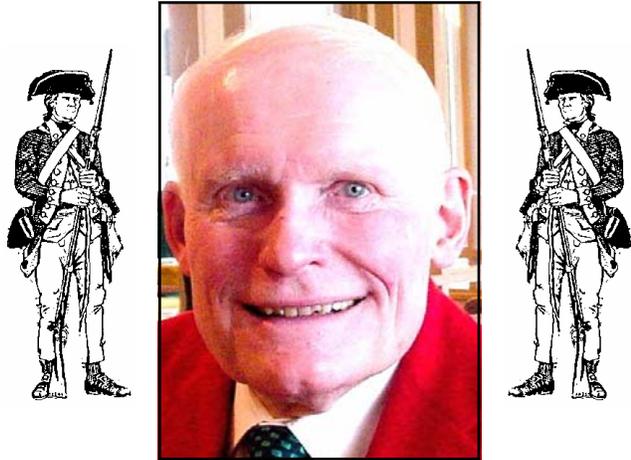
Above, from left: Compatriot **Robert Menke** was sworn in as the 312th member of the Dallas Chapter. **Hank Voegtle** gave the Americanism presentation. Compatriot **John Newton** transferred from the Florida Society of SAR to the Dallas Chapter, becoming our 311th member. Sara Coursey, member of the Jane Douglas Chapter, NSDAR, and wife of Compatriot **Robert Coursey**, received the SAR Medal of Appreciation for helping recruit many new members for the Dallas Chapter.



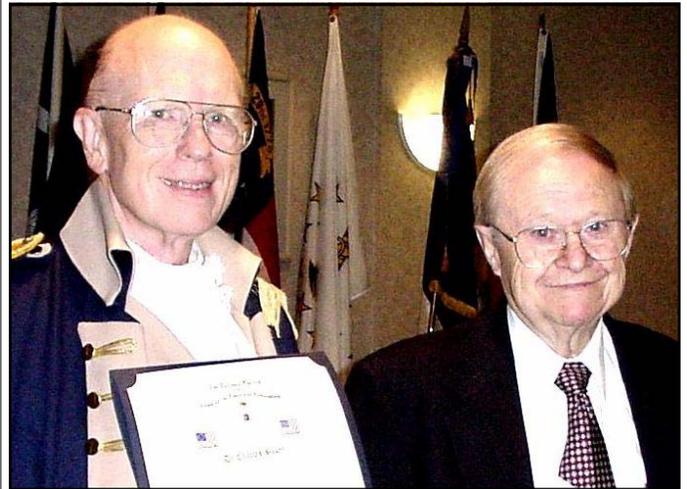
Left: Dallas Chapter Compatriots lined up to march in the November 10 Veterans Day Parade. Shown are Dr. **Charles Baker**, descendent of Cpl. David Baker, Virginia Line; **Ralph McDowell**, descendent of Pvt. James Boyd, Maryland Militia; **Melvin McCoy**, descendent of Pvt. Amos Richardson, North Carolina Militia; **Richard Arnold**, descendent of Pvt. Peter Arnold, Pennsylvania Militia; **Jack Carney**, descendent of Pvt. William Fox, New York Militia; and **Tom Smith**, descendent of Col. John Lamb,

To see these pictures in color, check out our Chapter Website at <http://sardallas.org>

While you are there, you can get lots of other useful information. There are links to Chapter Minutes, to the DAR and other organizations of interest, Chapter Officers, Minuteman Newsletter archives, and lots of other good info.



Compatriot **Henry Rather** passed away this past month. A career hotel manager, Henry was always the “point man” for arranging any kind of hotel event for the Dallas Chapter and for the state. He was a leader in recruiting and sponsoring new SAR members. At the November meeting, He reported 141 SAR prospects obtained during the State Fair this year. He was a Year 2001 recipient of the TXSSAR Patriots Medal. He will be missed!



Above: SAR Flag Certificates were presented to Dr. **Charles Baker** and to 1st V.P. **Cliff Slagle**.

Below: Jim Buffington, V.P. & General Manager, and Susan Parker, Office Manager, accepted a SAR Flag Certificate from Dallas Chapter President **Dr. Gary Sisson**, on behalf of the Merrill Corporation. Anyone traveling west on Woodall Rogers Freeway has seen the Merrill flag which is prominently displayed 24X7.

February 1945



September 2001



