



THE MINUTEMAN



Volume VII, Issue 1

Dallas Chapter, TXSSAR, Founded July 4, 1929

January 2002

President's Message

by Dr. Gary N. Sisson



New Beginnings

As a New Year begins, we often leave the Holiday season with a renewed sense of hope. Having been away from our normal routines and surrounded by family and friends, we begin to optimistically plan and look forward to the coming year. Those of us brave enough to make New Year resolutions soon find ourselves struggling to keep them. Life is a series of cycles, with history often repeating itself despite our best efforts at prevention. Then along comes the proverbial pearl that changes everything.

In the months following the victory at Yorktown and the cessation of hostilities in the American Revolution, our new country truly hung in the balance between anarchy and a return to monarchy (some wanted to declare General Washington king). The Articles of Confederation lacked many provisions for dealing with the aftermath of war. A stronger central government was necessary, and the resulting United States Constitution was and is a testimony to the unprecedented wisdom of our Founding Fathers in bringing about a successful new beginning. Over a year ago I studied the Federalist Papers. It took me months to read through them with any degree of comprehension, but I finished them and would encourage each of you to do the same. Thomas Jefferson considered them "the best commentary on the principles of government which ever was written".

One of the objects of the NSSAR is "to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our Country...". Fellow compatriots, please review the Preamble and the Constitution in its entirety. As new beginnings go, it ranks among the best in the history of mankind.

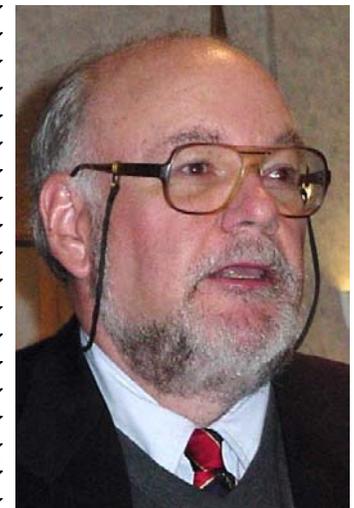
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 12 Meeting

Retired Dallas County Deputy Sheriff Terry Baker will discuss police officers killed in the line of duty.

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

Dr. Cal Christman, a professor at Cedar Valley College, gave a fascinating analysis of the attack on Pearl Harbor sixty years ago. See page 3. ▶



Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 311.
December meeting: 42 members, 12 guests.
Don Hay, Registrar

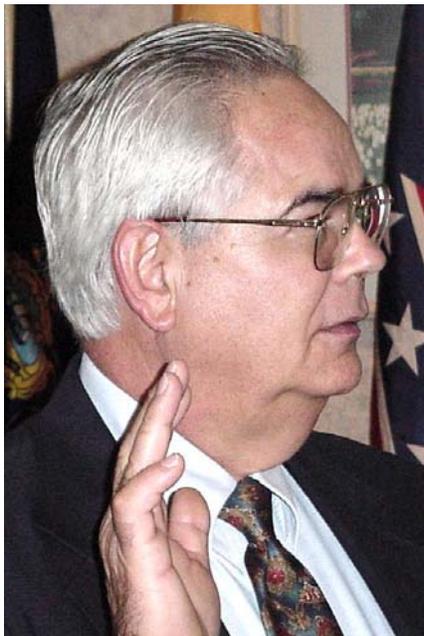
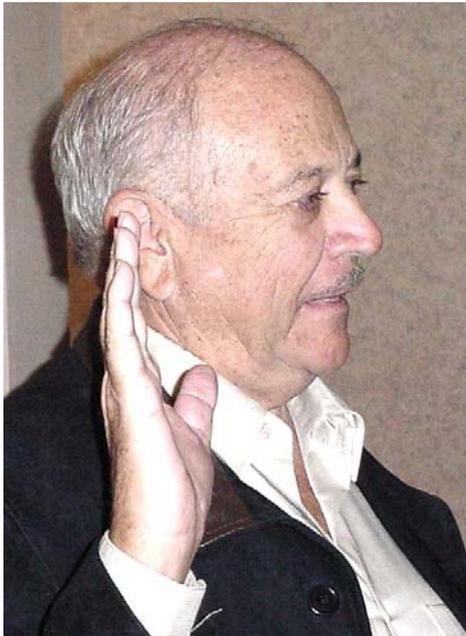
Treasurer's Report:

Checking & Cash: \$ 1,564.97
Endowment Funds: \$ 33,396.98
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.

December Meeting Highlights



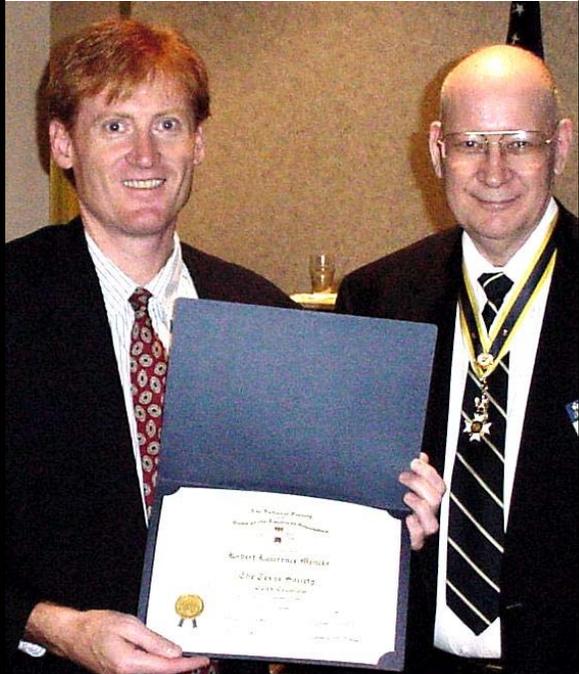
Clockwise, from left above, **Scott Arbuckle** and **Glenn Toal** were sworn in as new members of the Dallas Chapter, TXSSAR. **Tom Whitelock**, gave an Americanism presentation on what happened to the patriots after the American Revolution. **Gary "Patrick Henry" Sisson** led a rousing rendition of "Joy to the World," and **Art Ingalls** capped another year of jokes (?).



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.

Correction



The last issue of THE MINUTEMAN misspelled the name of **Robert Mencke** who was sworn in at the November meeting. Here, he is shown with his sponsor, **John Warterfield**.

Other Chapter News

During the December meeting, we collected \$234.17 to go toward a parade banner for the Dallas Chapter, SAR.

President **Gary Sisson** has stated his desire to present flag certificates to all Dallas Chapter compatriots who properly display the U.S. flag 24X7. "Proper" display includes having it lighted at night.

Dues notices were sent out some weeks ago. Members who have not paid their dues will be considered "delinquent" after December 31 and may be subject to a reinstatement fee of \$8.00.

Dr. Cal Christman's Intriguing analysis of the Pearl Harbor attack pointed out poor strategy and planning on both sides of the conflict. He distributed copies of a "war alert" that was sent to all US Naval forces in the Pacific on November 27, 1941. It predicted an amphibious invasion. General Billy Mitchell was one of the most famous and controversial figures in American airpower history. He was reduced in rank and eventually court martialed and convicted of insubordination because of his outspoken views on the potential of airpower and the ineptness of US military strategists of that day. In his presentation, Dr. Cal Christman's quoted Mitchell, as follows: "The Island of Oahu, with its military depots, both naval and land, its airfields, water supplies, the City of Honolulu with its wharfs and supply points, forms an easy, compact, and convenient object for air attack ... I believe, therefore, that should Japan decide upon the reduction and seizure of the Hawaiian Islands ... the attack will be launched on Ford's Island [Pearl Harbor] at 7:30 a.m." – Billy Mitchell, 1924



Osama's Last Drive in the Country? "Objects in mirror may be much closer than they appear."

