



THE LONG KNIFE

Quarterly Newsletter of the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter
Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution

"Serving Madison County"



Madison County Circuit Judge Charles V. Romani (left) accepts the GGRCC Law enforcement Award from chapter members (from right) Lloyd E. Schwarz, James A. DeGross Jr. and President Ronnie D. Hicks. Chief Judge Ann Callis is a 2nd recipient.

2 Madison County Judges Receive Law Enforcement Awards

Two veteran Madison County Circuit judges who have been active in establishing and conducting a unique "veterans' court" are the recipients of the annual GGRCC Law Enforcement Award.

Charles V. Romani, who has been on the bench in the 3rd Judicial Circuit (Madison and Bond counties) for 30 years and will retire next year, has overseen the veterans court. He received the GGRCC recognition Sept. 21 from event chairperson Lloyd E. Schwarz at a meeting of the Madison County Board.

Chief Circuit Judge Ann Callis, who developed the concept of the veteran's court in 2009, was announced as the other award recipient. She and Romani have been asked to speak at the chapter's annual banquet in February.

The veteran's court provides special resources **(continued on Page 2)**

The Long Knife is a quarterly publication of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

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Luncheon meetings third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt.143)

Madison County Judges Receive Law Enforcement Awards

(Continued from Page 1) including therapy for non-violent offenders. Judge Romani said 28 individuals have been served by the court.

Judge Romani, a native of Greenville, IL, is a graduate of Western Illinois University and St. Louis University Law School. He is an Army combat veteran of the Vietnam War. A former Bond County prosecuting attorney, he was elected to the circuit judgeship in 1988 after five years as an associate judge. Most of his career has been as a criminal court judge.

Judge Callis, from Granite City, was appointed to an associate judgeship in 1994 and circuit judgeship in 1999. She is credited with a number of reforms in court practice in the circuit, including reducing the county's reputation as a judicial hellhole.

Flag Display Awards for 12 Madison County Households

The residents of 12 southern Madison County households received certificates of commendation Nov. 3 for displaying the U.S. Flag daily at their homes.

It was the 16th annual Flag Award Ceremony conducted by GGRCC in the lobby near the James Madison statue at the Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville.

The certificates were presented by chapter President Ronnie D. Hicks Former President William R. Feeney has arranged and chaired the event since its inception.

The chapter alternates every other year recognizing households or businesses for flag display in northern or southern Madison County.

The 2011 honorees by township, with former military affiliation, were:

Gerald Affeldt, Nameoki, Army; Roland (Army) and June Ahlmeyer, Marine; Jeffery Bridick, Venice, the Madison fire chief; C. Raymond Carlton, Collinsville, World War II Army; Fred (Navy) and Nancy Decker, Pin Oak; Rudy (Army) and Josie Diak, Edwardsville; Kenneth and Carol Kloke and Marie Shanks, son and daughter-in-law in Marines, Choteau; Terry (2 brothers Army vets) and Virginia Lancy, Helvetia, nephew in Army, grandson in Navy; George (Army) and Norma Opolka, Jarvis; Dean and Sue Saathoff, Saline, 2 sons Navy vets; Byron and Sarah Skalisius, St. Jacob, son in Army; and Rita Smith, Granite City, 2 sons Army vets.

President's Letter

By Ronnie D. Hicks

Numerous members of GGRCC, with the deepest sorrow, attended the visitation and funeral service for Mrs. Eleanor Schweizer, who died Oct. 21 at age 96. She had a connection with GGRCC from the chapter's beginning, since she was the wife of founder and first president Charles B. Schweizer. She will be greatly missed at chapter inaugurations and gatherings, where she supported her husband during his long continuous leadership in the chapter. She married then Lt. Schweizer in 1941 in Webster Groves. She was a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Daughters of the American Revolution, P.E.O., Chapter LX, the Mayflower Society and Tri Delta Sorority. She was a role model for her family and friends. In addition to her husband of 70 years, Eleanor is survived by a son, Charles W. Schweizer, two daughters, Ann Van Giessen and Elizabeth Saunders, nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

On Oct. 14, the GGRCC honor guard and chapter members conducted a memorial service for long-time chapter member Clarence Iberg, 97, who died Oct. 5. He had been inactive in recent years because of health, but is remembered for his service in compiling chapter scrapbooks for several years.

The GGRCC Ladies and Members Night Out event was well attended Oct. 13 at Julia's Banquet Center, East Gate Plaza. Event chairman Tim Raymer was unable to participate because of a health problem. The food was excellent and plentiful, and the service was awesome. Entertainment was by Belleville native and Civil War historian Dennis Hermann, in a Civil War uniform, and singer Mike Kimbrell of Swansea, a member of the Belleville Philharmonic Chorale. They presented commentary from the foot-soldier's viewpoint on the war, and led the audience in several songs that were popular during the conflict.

Jim DeGross and I have attended several Court of Honor ceremonies where a Boy Scout receives the rank of Eagle. These award events have kept GGRCC definitely active this year. Other GGRCC members who have participated include Bill Feeney, Al Oleson and Tim Raymer. Vice President DeGross and I presented the awards Oct. 2 to Joey Duncan and Oct. 30 to Harrison McLaughlin, both at Eden United Church of Christ.

Our chapter now has 78 members, probably the most in its history. Vice President Jim DeGross is especially to be commended for recruiting new members. I appeal to other GGRCC members to recruit at least one new member.

GGRCC meetings are conducted the third Wednesday of each month at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge, Rt. 143. Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m., with the actual meeting around noon. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, perhaps you can attend the business session. Many attend regularly and enjoy the food and camaraderie. I hope to see all of you there!

Hero Award for Saving Classmate Goes to Boy, 11

An 11-year-old sixth grade student who saved a classmate from possibly fatally choking on a snack is the recipient of the 2011 Hero scroll and medal of GGRCC.

Ross Eldridge, son of Bruce and Renee Eldridge of Bethalto, received the citations Nov. 7 at a council meeting at Bethalto village hall.

The event was arranged by Lloyd E. Schwarz, with presentation of awards by chapter Vice President James A. DeGroff Jr. and member Albert A. Oleson Jr. The potentially fatal incident occurred Sept. 1 at Trimpe Junior High. During a lunch period, Sean McGiffen, 12, choked on a taco. Ross, seeing his friend's distress, immediately performed the Heimlich maneuver. The food was expelled.

"Ross was the first person to respond and knew just what to do . . . He was very humble

about it, but we are very proud of him," said Trimpe Assistant Principal David Weller.

"I just did it because I was there when it happened," Ross said. He could not remember receiving training in the emergency technique. His mother said the boy may have learned about it in a Boy Scout first aid course.

GGRCC Birthdays

Dec. 5 Marvin Meng
 Dec. 7 John B. Oleson
 Dec. 13 Jerry Mass
 Dec. 15 Lynn D. Hargus
 Dec. 18 John A. Fruit
 Dec. 20 Vernon S. Fox
 Dec. 29 John Draper
 Jan. 7 Larry Roseberry
 Jan. 14 Andrew R. Johnson
 Jan. 16 H. Donald Laughlin
 Jan. 31 Donald L. Hastings Sr.
 Feb. 4 Kenneth W. Leroy Sr.
 Feb. 8 William Charles Brown
 Feb. 15 Ronald F. Luebben
 Feb. 20 G. Thomas Lawrence
 Mar. 19 Wm. Corey Harpole
 Mar. 28 Thomas W. Blixen

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