



THE LONG KNIFE

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

*"Serving Madison, Jersey, Macoupin, Bond,
Greene, Calhoun, & Montgomery Counties"*



Genl George Rogers Clark on "The March to Vincennes" by Frederick Coffay Yohn, 1929

Volume XXXII, Number 2

Page 1

November 2022

Death of a Member

Ronald J. Foster Sr.



Ronald J. "Ronnie" Foster Sr., age 86, of Maryville, Illinois passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois. He was born June 6, 1936, in Glen Carbon, Illinois, a son of the late John E. and Agnes J. (Johnson) Foster.

Ronald married the love of his life, Joan G. (Treat) Foster on December 31, 1958, at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Glen Carbon and she survives.

He retired in 1998 as the Vice-president of St. Louis Lithographing Company after 34 years of dedicated service. He proudly served his country with the United States Air Force for four years. A faithful member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church since he was baptized as an infant, he had served many capacities in the church including serving on the Bishop Committee, serving as treasurer and was very instrumental in establishing the church daycare center and the expansion of the church building. Ronald was dedicated to the Village of Glen Carbon throughout his lifetime and proudly achieved an abundance of the growth and expansion of the village serving 16 years as a Village Trustee and serving 20 years as the Village Mayor from 1981 until 2001. He received much proclamation for

his service to the village but was overwhelmed by the naming of the Ronald J. Foster Heritage Trail for his achievements. He cherished his family, loved spending time with his grandchildren; enjoyed his days of traveling, fishing, cooking, remodeling his home, and a nice summer night enjoying his ice cream. He also had a love of arts and enjoyed visits to a museum, nice concert, or a play, was a history buff and proud of his years of family genealogy and was an avid fan of the Illini and Edwardsville Tigers football. He was also a member of the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

In addition to his beloved wife of over 63 years, he is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, Steve and Christine Foster of Arvada, Colorado, Gregory Foster of Collinsville, Illinois, and Ron and Jamie Foster Jr. of Glen Carbon; seven grandchildren and spouses, Leah and Matt Hosburgh, Jeffrey Foster, Jennifer and Joe Bainbridge, Nicholas Foster, Madelyn Foster, Adam Foster and Lydia Foster; seven great grandchildren, Asher, Miles, Oliver, Sage, Kyle, Amelia, and William; a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Linda Sue Foster of Glen Carbon; a sister and brother-in-law, Linda Lee and Max Helfer of Glen Carbon; a brother-in-law, Dennis Johnson of Edwardsville; many nieces; nephews; other extended family and many friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Nancy Johnson.

In celebration of his life, visitation was held at Irwin Chapel in Glen Carbon on Friday, August 19, 2022. The funeral service was held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Glen Carbon on Saturday, August 20, 2022, with Father Eugene Stormer officiating. Burial with full military honors followed at the Glen Carbon City Cemetery in Glen Carbon.

*Death of a Member***John D. Coleman**
1934 – 2022

John D. Coleman, age 88 of Greenville, passed away at his home on Sunday, September 11, 2022.

John Dennis Coleman was born on Thursday, February 1, 1934, in Freeport, Illinois, the son of John Richard and Margaret O. (Schamberger) Coleman. He spent his childhood growing up in Mt. Carroll, Collinsville, and mostly Smithboro, Illinois. He was the last graduate from Smithboro High School and

graduated from Mulberry Grove High School in 1951, and had degrees from University of Illinois, Greenville College, and Southern Illinois University. In the 1950s, John served in the U.S. Army and was stationed at West Point, New York. After he left the Army, he became an art teacher and taught at Edwardsville High School, and Greenville Elementary and Junior High Schools. In the 1960s

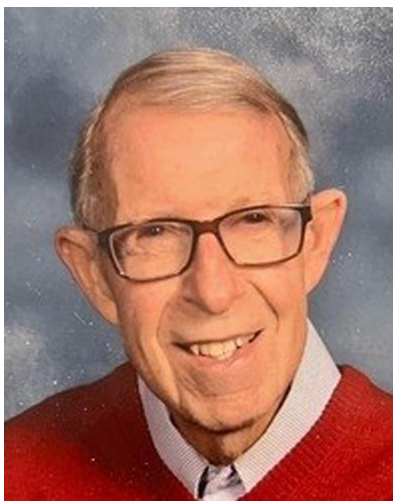
he also worked for the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools as a Supervisor for Art Instruction. After retiring from teaching in 1990, John spent much of his time volunteering with local organizations including the Bond County Historical Society, the Hills Fort Society, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Illinois War of 1812 Society, Farm Heritage Museum, AMVETS, and was a past member of the Greenville Public Library Board.

John had a lifelong love for art, especially painting and drawing. He was a founding member of the Prairie Artist guild and for many years taught adult painting classes.

He married Mary Jeanette McClure on March 28, 1964, in Greenville. He is survived by his wife, son John Spencer of Greenville, daughter Jennifer Louise of Highland, grandsons Nathan (Significant other Zana Bone) and Andrew Higgins, sister Carole (Don) Marchetti of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, and brother Gerald (Sue) Coleman of Brownsville, Texas.

Visitation was held at the Donnell-Wiegand Funeral Home in Greenville, Monday, September 19, 2022. Graveside Services were held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Greenville, Illinois.

Memorials can be made to the Hill's Fort Society, the Sons of the American Revolution, or the Greenville First Presbyterian Church.

*Death of a Member***Dr. James D. Bimes**
1941 – 2022

James David Bimes, a loving husband and father and longtime educator, of Edwardsville, IL went home to be with the Lord on September 16, 2022. He was born in Greenville, Illinois to Chester David Bimes and Cornelia Kuhn Bimes in 1941 and graduated from Greenville High School (1959) and Greenville College (1963).

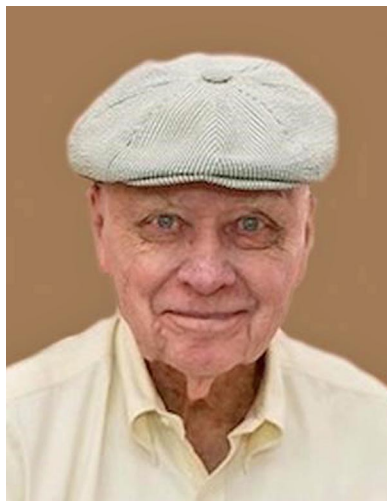
Jim started his long career at Hazelwood School District in 1963, working his way up from his first appointment as a Social Studies Teacher to Director of Curriculum Services in 1990. In 1973, Jim earned his Ed.D. from the University of Missouri—Columbia. In 1988, he co-authored a text book on Missouri government with Darryl Stacy. After retiring from the Hazelwood School District in 2000, Jim worked at Missouri Baptist College passing his love of teaching to a new generation of teachers.

With his wife Carol Bimes, whom he married on March 30, 1985, Jim travelled the world, visiting over 15 countries. He was an intrepid tour guide for friends and family.

Jim was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church Maryville. His Bible Study Group met weekly and was an important part of his life, in addition to game nights spent with his good friends. After retiring, Jim volunteered as a docent for Cahokia Mounds, a helper at Maryville Food Pantry, and a mentor for at-risk students.

Among the survivors are his wife Carol and children, Kimberly (Tim) McKinley, Terri Bimes, Cheryl (Alfonso) Vargas, Daniel (Renee) Kaegy, Jennifer (Tom) Sanders, and Christy (Eric) Birkner, in addition to 12 grandchildren: Ryan (Katie) McKinley, Jacob (Ali) McKinley, Samuel Schickler, Cora Schickler, Austin Sanders, Conner Sanders, David Vargas, Michael Vargas, Alex Vargas, Haley (Josh) Eaton, Aidan Birkner, and Avery Birkner. Proud great-grandfather of Parker. He is also survived by his two younger twin brothers, Ron and Don. His parents along with his mother's second husband Albert Erdel preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church Maryville and interment following in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Greenville. Donnell – Wiegand Funeral Home in Greenville in charge of arrangements. Memorials are to the Maryville First Baptist Church Building Fund.

*Death of a Member**Charles McKittrick, Jr.*
1929 – 2022

Charles Everett McKittrick, Jr., a member of the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, was born July 7, 1929, in Memphis, Tennessee. He passed away September 3, 2022 at his Bethesda home in the Fox Hill community he loved and where he had been thriving for over 6 years. Charles graduated from Duke in the Spring of 1950, and entered sales training school at IBM. As the Ko-

rean War worsened, Charles enlisted in the Air Force serving as Second Lieutenant. Charles re-joined IBM after the Air Force, moving from salesman, to branch manager to regional manager to becoming a pioneer in Banking and a specialist in Public Sector marketing. His success with government sales, combined with an enduring passion for politics, led IBM to ask Charles to start and develop what would eventually become a groundbreaking Public Affairs office in Washington DC, where he retired, after 40 years as Vice President.

Driven by a thirst for knowledge and experience, Charles was a consummate traveler: he traveled around the world as a bachelor, internationally as a global executive, and in retirement where he traveled for 25 years with his longtime companion Charlotte Potler Klein. Visiting over 70 countries, Charles especially loved train travel: Trans-Siberian Railway from Vladivostok to Moscow;

Beijing to Moscow through Central Asia; across Australia; across Canada; London to Venice; Cairo to Luxor; Adelaide to Alice Springs; and Johannesburg to Cape Town.

Charles' curiosity did not stop with politics and travel. He was a consummate student and collector. His collections ranged from European porcelain, to Native American art, to political cartoons of the late 19th and 20th century. His most prized collection filled a climate controlled room-full of over 3,500 Spanish Civil War books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, and musical recordings.

Chuck, as he was known to many, could be tough. He was opinionated, definitive, and always well informed. Yet, as someone recently remarked, "he was as affable, kind, patient and humble as he was brilliant and accomplished." He learned from everyone, regardless of status, and everyone learned from him. He was a sought after confidant, as well as impactful board member - serving the Washington Hospital Center Board for 18 years, the Institute of American Indian Art for 10, and the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity for 6.

Survivors include: Companion-Charlotte Potler Klein; Daughter-Linda H. McKittrick, Tucson, AZ; Son-Charles E. (Ana Gasteyer) McKittrick III, Brooklyn, NY; Grandchildren-Frances Mary McKittrick and Ulysses Holmes McKittrick; Brother-Jack M. (Betty W. "Waldean") McKittrick, Redmond, OR.

Preceded by: Parents-Charles E. and Elva J. (nee Matter) McKittrick; Ex-Wife- Alice (nee McCausland) McKittrick.

Graveside Service and Interment occurred on Monday, October 17, 2022, at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, Illinois.

Memorial contributions may be made to Institute of American Indian Arts, IAIA Foundation, 83 Avan Nu Po Road, Santa Fe, NM 87508-1300.

Outstanding Citizen Awards

The GGRC Chapter Chairman of the Outstanding Citizen Awards Committee sent letters to the high schools in Madison, Jersey, Macoupin, Bond, Calhoun, Greene, and Montgomery counties inviting them to select one student from their senior class as a recipient of a Sons of the American Revolution Outstanding Citizen Award. Because of the restrictions on public gatherings, we could not hold the normal ceremony

The seniors nominated are great high school students whose accomplishments needed to be recognized. A Certificate and an Outstanding Citizenship Lapel Pin were mailed to each of the winners. Honorees included:

Connor Mathus.....	Alton High School
Alison Ridens	Bond County Community High School
Drake T. Scroggins	Bunker Hill High School
Callie McAdams	Carrolton High School
Guadalupe C. Pichardo	Civic Memorial High School
Macy Silvey	Edwardsville High School
Luke Hatlee	Gillespie High School
Vance Brindley	Highland High School
Dillon Snail	Hillsboro High School
Connor Berry	Jersey Community High School
Ryan D. Baugher.....	Litchfield High School
Meliyah McGee	Madison Senior High School
Monica Wendle.....	Marquette Catholic High School
Jack D. Blair	Metro-East Lutheran High School
McKenzie Brooke Wright.....	Mississippi Valley Christian School
Carly E. Butts	Mount Olive High School
Skylar Stewart	Nokomis High School
Bailey Berry	North Greene High School
Audrey Bosse	Roxana High School
Jake Radosevich.....	Triad High School

The students were nominated by their schools based on their dependability, cooperative spirit, leadership, service to their school and community, evidence of personal values and patriotism.

“The SAR has been instrumental in promoting the qualities of dependability, cooperation, leadership, and patriotism in the community and nation-wide for many years,” said GGRC Chapter John Stanton, Outstanding Citizen Award Chairman. “We are pleased to honor these outstanding students.”

Eagle Scout Award



EAGLE SCOUT AWARD
VFW Post 2859, Wood River, Illinois
Saturday, October 15, 2022

Congratulations to Grant Kolesa of Troop 7, Godfrey, Illinois, for attaining the rank of Eagle. The new Eagle received a certificate, patch, and pocket Constitution.

Shown are (l-r): Richard Ruedin, ILSSAR President and GGRC President; Grant Kolesa; Philip Bailey, GGRC Vice President; and Robert Ridenour, GGRC Treasurer.

Flag Awards Program
27th Annual Flag Award Ceremony

On Thursday, November 10, 2022, the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held their 27th Annual Flag Award ceremony at the Edwardsville Courthouse. The SAR Flag Award Ceremony is held each year in November close to Veterans Day to honor Madison County residents who regularly and properly fly the U.S. flag.

This year, the awards were given to residents of the northern townships of Madison County; next year, the awards will go to residents of the southern townships.

This year's award recipients received their certificates from Phil Bailey, Chairman of the GGRC Flag Award Committee. Those recipients are:

Name	Township	Name	Township
Charles G. Gronau	Alton	Nelson Ottwell, Sr.....	Moro
Dawn & Greg Reinhardt	Alhambra	Michael Cremeens	New Douglas
Melinda Stilts	Foster	Dennis & Pat Jones	Olive
Raymond Buchholz.....	Godfrey	Gary L. Erwin & Jane Hutton	Omphgent
Aaron & Jessica May	Hamel	Billy Daubenspeck	Wood River

Several of the awardees were unable to attend the ceremony, but their certificates will be delivered to them.



*Phil Bailey, GGRC Flag Award Chairman
and Charles G. Gronau of Alton Township*



*Dawn & Greg Reinhardt of Alhambra Township
Could not attend,
Donna Yates accepted the award on their behalf
from Phil Bailey, GGRC Flag Award Chairman
and Richard Ruedin, GGRC and ILSSAR President*

Flag Awards Program



*Melinda Stilts of Foster Township
Receiving the award from
Phil Bailey, GGRC Flag Award Chairman
and Richard Ruedin, GGRC and ILSSAR President*



*Raymond Buchholz of Godfrey Township
Receiving the award from
Phil Bailey, GGRC Flag Award Chairman
and Richard Ruedin, GGRC and ILSSAR President*



*Nelson Ottwell, Sr of Moro Township
Receiving the award from
Phil Bailey, GGRC Flag Award Chairman
and Richard Ruedin, GGRC and ILSSAR President*



*Michael Cremeens of New Douglas Township
(Along with his Grandchildren)
Receiving the award from
Phil Bailey, GGRC Flag Award Chairman
and Richard Ruedin, GGRC and ILSSAR President*

Flag Awards Program



*Gary L. Erwin & Jane Hutton of Omphgient Township
Receiving the award from
Phil Bailey, GGRC Flag Award Chairman
and Richard Ruedin, GGRC and ILSSAR President*



The Award Recipients, Madison County Judges, and GGRC Compatriots

*Front Row (l-r): Melinda Stilts, Donna Yates, Michael Cremeens, Jane Hutton, Gary L. Erwin,
Richard Ruedin-GGRC*

*Middle Row: Eric Reelitz-GGRC, Charles G. Gronau, Nelson Ottwell, Sr, Philip Bailey-GGRC,
Robert Ridenour-GGRC, Raymond Bucholz*

Back Two Rows: Madison County Judges (They are mostly hidden.)

Another GGRC Compatriot, James Patterson was present but escaped the photograph.

Flag Awards Program



Madison County Judges Attending the Flag Awards Program

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

— Thomas Paine

The Long Knife is a quarterly publication of the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Robert W. Ridenour, Editor; Lola DeGroff, Associate Editor

Send announcements, items of interest, and member news to:
Editor, *The Long Knife*, 4814 Loop Rd, Dorsey, IL 62021-1014; e-mail: rwridenour566@gmail.com;
phone: (618) 377-9096.

Scheduled monthly meetings: 11:30 a.m., the third Wednesday of each month at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (Rt. 143), unless announced otherwise.

Veterans Day Memorial Service

On Friday, November 11, 2022, the Ninian Edwards Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, in cooperation with the Wood River Heritage Council and the City of Wood River held a Veterans Day Memorial Service and Dedication of Crosses for Unmarked Graves at Vaughn Cemetery in Wood River, Illinois.

The Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of the War of 1812 in Illinois were asked to provide a color guard.

Twenty-nine white wooden crosses had been assembled, painted, and placed in the cemetery prior to the ceremony. The Mayor of Wood River gave a short address and the names of the families who had no markers were read by Dee Blasa of the Ninian Edwards Chapter DAR.

The turnout was excellent even though the temperature was low and the wind was not.



Color Guard

(l-r): Richard Ruedin, President of both GGRC and ILSSAR; Eric Reelitz, Member of both GGRC and War of 1812 Society; Al Oleson, Member of both GGRC and War of 1812 Society; Robert Ridenour, President Society of the War of 1812 in Illinois and Member of GGRC; Debbie Killebrew, Ninian Edwards Chapter NSDAR



Mayor of Wood River, Tom Stalcup, addressing the audience, with Carol Borner, Regent of Ninian Edwards Chapter NSDAR.



Dee Blasa of Ninian Edwards Chapter NSDAR reading the list of families with no grave markers, with Carol Borner, Regent of Ninian Edwards Chapter NSDAR.