



THE LONG KNIFE

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

"Serving Madison County"

Volume XVIII, Number 1

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June 2008

SAR Heroism Medal Given For Saving Children in Fire

A Heroism Medal and Certificate has been awarded by GGRCC to Joshua Hearn, 18, of Granite City, for saving two children trapped in a house fire.

"You earned them, and our Chapter is proud to give them to you," GGRCC President Timothy J. Raymer said in presenting the recognition to Joshua.

The Granite City Fire Department and Mayor's office confirmed the courage in hazardous conditions that Joshua exhibited in the rescue, though he declined public plaudits, Raymer said.

The incident occurred Feb. 6, when Joshua, driving after midnight to his home on Briarwood Drive, noticed smoke coming from a nearby house.

The oldest of four children, Shae Ricketts, 15, was outside screaming that her three younger siblings were trapped inside.

Joshua had Shae boost him through a window, where he found Alexis Hart, 6, just inside. He handed her out the window to Shae. Then, with eyes closed against the intense heat and smoke, Joshua found Zach Hart, 4, on the floor nearby and handed him out the window to a neighbor. Joshua continued to search for the fourth child, Chelsea Ricketts, 13, until she was rescued by the neighbor.

"It was like you walked into hell," Joshua told a St. Louis reporter. "He saved the life of two young children, is

Joe Hill Named Man of the Year At ILSSAR Annual Meeting

M. Joseph Hill of Edwardsville, member and leader of GGRCC for 21 years, was named the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution "Man of the Year" at the society's annual meeting May 16-17.

Compatriot Hill is former president of both GGRCC and ILSSAR. In 2005 he became the second GGRCC member to receive the National Society Minuteman Award.

This year's honor was among those received by chapter members or individuals they sponsored at the annual state meeting. The others included:

Meritorious Service Medal Oak Leaf Cluster: M. Joseph Hill, Harry K. Windland.

Certificate of Appreciation for Activities: Donald E. Campbell

War Service Medals and Certificates: Henry J. Boss, Donald E. Campbell, William R. Feeney, G. Thomas Lawrence, Timothy S. Raymer, Harry K. Windland.

Boyce Wright Eagle Scout Certificate for Service to ILSSAR Eagle Scout Program: James J. Kessler Jr..

Eagle Scout Scholarship and Trophy: Tyler J. Moore.

Charles and Eleanor Schweizer History Teacher Award: Sue Settle, Centralia High.

Joel Willis Flag Streamer: *The Long Knife*. "what he did, plain and simple," said Granite City Fire Chief Tim Connolly.

The children were hospitalized and Joshua himself was treated for smoke inhalation and released

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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Chapter Standing Committees

Standing committee chairpersons and several co-chairpersons for GGRCC were appointed by President Timothy S. Raymer as he began his second year as the chapter's top officer.

Annual meeting: Raymer, Gaylord J. James.

Law Enforcement: Donald E. Campbell
 Archives/Scrap Book, Membership and Members and Ladies Night: James

Annual Awards: Alan Y. Harrison

Trips: Edwin G. Gerling, M. Joseph Hill
 Outstanding Citizenship: Robert J. Stegemeier, Ronnie D. Hicks

Eagle Scouts: James J. Kessler Jr., Raymer

Newsletter/Publicity: Charles E. Burgess
 Flag Awards William R. Feeney, Harrison

Flag Collection Custodian: Raymer

Telephone: James A. Cannon

Flag Day: A. Robert Shaak, Raymer

Veterans Affairs: Kenneth W. Leroy Sr.

Patriot Commemoration: Raymer,

Memorial Day and Website: Harrison

Color Guard/Flag Presentations

GGRCC uniformed members provided color guard/historic flag presentations April 12 for the Ninian Edwards DAR meeting, and for Collinsville Renfro School April 24.

GGRCC Confers Annual Award Badges to Eagle Scouts

New Eagle Scouts from four Madison County communities received award badges this spring from the GGRCC Eagle Scout Committee

The recipients were Carl David Bringenberg and Jordan Alexander Petry of Glen Carbon, Padrick Mulligan of Edwardsville, Patrick W. Krueger of Alton, and Jacob W. Broadhurst of Highland.

Presenting the awards were committee Chairperson James J. Kessler Jr., Ronnie D. Hicks, Kenneth W. Leroy Sr., Gaylord J. James and Chapter President Timothy S. Raymer.

ROTC Awards Go to Cadets

At Alton High, SIU-Edwardsville

The recipients of GGRCC ROTC awards for 2008 were Junior ROTC Cadet Major Maurice Davis at Alton High School and Cadet Raymond Ainslie, at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

The awards were presented by Donald E. Campbell, assisted by Gaylord J. James.

Cadet Davis was second in command of the Alton JROTC corps, color guard commander and manager of corps operations. He plans to major in sociology or engineering at the University of Tennessee.

Cadet Ainslie, of Hoffman, Ill., is a graduate of Centralia High School. He was involved in many activities of his detachment, student leadership and in sports at SIUE.

'We Do Not Fear Our Soldiers'—Pre-Memorial Day Address

(GGRCC President Timothy J. Raymer delivered this address on the resolution of an early military threat to our fledgling nation at the Pre-Memorial Day Ceremony May 18 at Oak Lawn Cemetery, Glen Carbon. It was adapted from an Internet article by Warner Todd Huston.)

On March 15, 1784, Gen. Washington unexpectedly entered a room filled with his highest ranking officers, gathered together to consider how to address the Continental Army's predicament after eight long, exhausting years of war.

They were discussing a letter—called the Newburgh Address—that had been passed around the officer corps of the army asking them to consider leading a march upon the Congress, to stage a coup and take hold of the government, forcing their subservience to the military.

The officers and men had not been paid for many long months and with the war with England now over and fairly won, these men wanted what was due them, and if they didn't get it, they threatened to take over.

The letter denounced Gen. Washington, claiming he had not ability to care for his men and no inclination to get for them what was promised in return for eight years of hard service at war. Congress and the country had failed them and they were angry.

As Washington addressed the men, he denounced the "shocking" and "insidious" document. He warned that if the Newburgh Address were followed the result would "open the floodgates of civil disorder," and would "deluge our rising empire in blood." He admonished the soldiery to do their duty to the nation, but pledged he would lobby Congress as hard as he could on their behalf.

He reached in his pocket and produced a letter written to him by a member of Congress. As he began to read, he stumbled and was forced to pause before he reached into his coat and produced a pair of glasses. This surprised his men who had never seen this lion of the Revolution reduced to such an admission of weakness.

"Gentlemen," he said, "you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray but almost blind in the service of my country." He finished the congressman's letter, as many in the room were reduced to tears of shame. Washington reminded them that *all* had sacrificed for their war.

He shamed the officers present on the notion that any of them could go forth to ruin the glorious achievement *they* had won on the fields of battle against the British, and thereby destroy the new nation they had fought so hard to bring to birth.

The march on Congress never took place, and Congress and a grateful nation did their best to live up to the commitments that had been made to the veterans.

It is much too often that we move from war to peace and we forget our veterans. **That is to the shame of all of us.** But, on Memorial Day, we remember them. We honor their struggle, their duty faithfully served, their loss keenly felt throughout the nation.

The saying seen on so many Vietnam memorials is not just a banal or trivial slogan: "All gave some, some gave all." But too many give their "last full measure," as Lincoln aptly put it. There is no glory for the soldier himself in dying for his country. But there are the thanks of a grateful nation for that sacrifice willingly made so that we may live in liberty and enjoy the freedoms that our many fathers, brothers, sisters and mothers died to protect.

The soldiers of 1784 realized their duty at the only time our nation was to have to fear the soldiers. They put down their arms and went home after the war was over. They did not rampage through our nation acquiring power unto themselves.

Unlike so many powerful armies of other nations in other eras, they went peacefully back to their shops, their plows, their homes and their hearths, to renew life in peace, leaving the civil government to resume its duties and lead the county.

To the veterans here gathered, those who are not here, and especially those interred here, a "thank you" is rather a weak gesture to express the gratitude of we common citizens, but please accept the heartfelt thanks from a grateful nation. God bless America, God bless our troops, our veterans, our families and all gathered here to honor those who have honored us. Thank you.

9 High School Seniors Receive Annual Citizenship Awards

Nine high school seniors from Madison County received GGRCC Outstanding Citizenship Awards in a ceremony April 9 at First Christian Church, Edwardsville.

The award certificates and pins were presented by event chairperson Robert J. Stegemeier, assisted by other GGRCC members who also served as a color guard. Jason Plummer, a past winner of the award and a recent University of Illinois graduate, returned as guest speaker.

The student recipients were nominated by their schools on the basis of dependability, cooperative spirit, leadership, service to their school and community, evidence of personal values and patriotism. The recipients and their high schools.

Denise Jones, Alton; Kerry Lorts, Bethalto Civic Memorial; Matthew Cook, East Alton-Wood River; Adam Sarhage, Edwardsville; Nathan Gagich, Granite City; Cristen L. Hardin, Madison; Guy A. Schwartz, Marquette Catholic; Jacob A. Sabalo, Roxana; and Peter Nikolai, Triad.

Spring Tour of Air/Space Museum

GGRCC members and guests toured the Air/Space Museum May 22 at the St. Louis Downtown Airport, Cahokia.

The museum is located in historic hangars at what formerly was Parks College of St. Louis University. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Compatriot M. Joseph Hill coordinated the activity. After the tour, participants lunched at Oliver's Restaurant

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GGRCC Birthdays

Carl D. Mizell, July 17
Donald B. Brammeier, July 25
Troy M. Huddle, July 31
M. Joseph Hill, Aug. 3
Timothy S. Raymer, Aug. 4
Kevin J. Babb, Aug. 7
Homer J. Vowels, Aug. 13
James D. Stewart, Aug. 14
David M. Bimes, Aug. 15
A. Robert Shaak, Aug. 17
Donald E. Campbell, Sept. 12
William R. Feeney, Sept. 13
James A. DeGroff Jr., Sept. 15
Edwin G. Gerling, Sept. 15
Albert A. Oleson, Sept. 18
Stephen C. Mudge, Sept. 23

