

# **BATTLE LINES**

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**SPECIAL MEMORIAL ISSUE**

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**NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR**

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **COL. GEORGE WASHINGTON CHESBRO 1909-2000**

It is with profound sorrow that we report the passing of our beloved and respected Compatriot Col. George Washington Chesbro. George served our chapter as Vice President in 1984 and 1985 and was President from 1986-1988. Beyond his official duties, though, he was also a mentor to our younger members and was an inspiration and shining example of what a SAR should be. George also served on the Board of Managers of the Empire State Society, stepping down just this past May due to health reasons.

Few of us knew of the extraordinary life that George had led. He was not one for self-promotion and performed many acts of kindness and charity in private. He was, though, extremely proud of having been awarded the highest honors of both the French and British governments for his service during World War II. At the ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting held in Albany this past March, George put on a display of some of his memorabilia, including these two awards: the Croix de Guerre of France and the Order of the British Empire from Great Britain. He was also the recipient of the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross as well as numerous decorations of the United States of America.

The first of his family to attend college, George received his AB from Syracuse University, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1931. In 1933, he received his MA in Sociology from the Maxwell School at Syracuse, and followed this up with post-master's work at the New York School of Social Work at Columbia University.

George graduated from the Army Command and General Staff School and served four years in the Army Air Corps, in Europe and Iceland, as squadron commander, staff supply officer executive officer and, at SHAEF, administrative executive.

In civilian life, George worked during the 1960's and 1970's in New York State government. George was instrumental in the adoption by New York State of the new Medicare program in 1965. He served as Deputy Commissioner of the Dept. of Social Services, Deputy Commissioner of Welfare Administration and, from 1971-1973 as Executive Director of the New York State Board of Social Welfare.

George was preceded in death by Maxine, his wife of 61 years, who passed away in 1998. He is survived by his son George C. Chesbro and his daughter Judith Ragone, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

*Dennis F.M. Marr, Editor*

# BATTLE LINES

George Washington Chesbro



22 Feb 1909-4 Aug 2000

Col. George Chesbro was one of the first persons to speak to me at the first Saratoga Battle Chapter meeting that Jonathan and I both attended in February of 1995. He told me of service and asked how I would help the SAR. How will each of us continue to help the SAR? In honor of Compatriot Chesbro, we should each seek to serve and to help the SAR! I am extremely appreciative of the wise counsel and friendship of George Chesbro. I thank God that I was able to know him. His service to the SAR and to our country, especially during WWII, should be emulated. He will be missed. Now it is our turn to step up to the plate and continue and increase our service and giving.

*Maj. Peter K. Goebel  
President*

George was a man I felt privileged to have known and was one who exemplified the true spirit of the Sons of the American Revolution. His warm and never-ending smile will be missed by all who knew him personally, as well as those who knew him only casually. Whenever I would see him and ask "How are you feeling, George?" his response would always be the same: "Fine, just fine." I will never forget his smiling face.

*Clyde W. Childs, Jr.  
Past President*

Although I consider myself a relatively new member, right from the start, my first meeting, George Chesbro was always extremely friendly, terribly enthusiastic, willing to lend a hand, share a story, speak of history....and that SMILE! If you look at it from a global perspective, we have lost a Compatriot, a member. But from the personal perspective, we have lost a friend, a confidant, a brother of the highest character. The void that is left cannot be filled. You do not forget – you remember the great past and take what you have learned from this close personal relationship to guide you in the future.

*Richard C. Saunders, Jr.  
Vice President & Treasurer*

I remember working with George on his application papers for SAR. We had hit some sort of a snag and we were both ready to give up. George even offered to return the application fee. Then my late wife Iva said "let me have those papers," and in no time at all everything was in order for George to join SAR. He was a good friend, and I will miss him.

*Carlton E. Covell  
Past President*

I considered George a mentor when I first joined SAR. He always had an encouraging word and would, without fail, call me after each issue of *Battle Lines* went out to tell me how much he enjoyed it. I was honored to present him with the Meritorious Service Medal in February of 1998. I shall miss him.

*Dennis F.M. Marr  
Past President*