

# BATTLE LINES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JULY 2022

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## Color Guard Muskets Fired for Patriot

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

Muskets rang out at Albany Rural Cemetery on May 7 as the Saratoga Battle

Chapter Color Guard honored a Patriot.

John Nicholas Bleecker was a soldier, merchant and official in the City of Albany. He lived from 1739 to 1825.

His descendant, Dirk VanDerwerker and family Cuyler, Nicholas and Margaret VanDerwerker traveled from Minnesota to adorn their Patriot ancestor's grave with a Daughters of the American Revolution marker.

According to a biographical history sketch from the New York State museum exhibitions webpage Bleecker represented the Second Ward of Albany on the Albany Committee of Correspondence.

He served as an agent of the American Army –

*(Continued on page 5)*



*Family members observe a military gun salute by the Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard during a grave marker dedication ceremony at Albany Rural Cemetery in Menands. Photo by Ed Munger.*

## JROTC Youths Recognized in Albany

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

Brothers John and George Gormley each received a JROTC Certificate and Medal June 9; one from the Saratoga Battle Chapter and the other from the Sons of Union

Veterans of the Civil War. Secretary Michael A. Hernandez presented the awards.

The Albany High School ROTC Promotion/

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# President's Dispatch

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

Greetings Compatriots. My chapter update must begin sadly with recognizing the loss of Joyce C. Armstrong, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and fixture at our Chapter Meetings. Joyce Armstrong accompanied her longtime companion Duane Booth, our Chapter's former President, to meetings for years. Joyce's list of accomplishments and activities are many. A nurse for 20 years, she was secretary of the NAACP and a longtime member. She was also a



Joyce Armstrong

member of Stephentown Seniors and the Stephentown Historical Society. Our thoughts and prayers are with our brother Duane and the friends and family of Joyce Armstrong.

A note of gratitude – our Chapter

Webmaster, Compatriot Dennis Booth, updated our website a while back. He's thoughtfully maintained the chapter's website and email for years now. Many thanks for the great work, Dennis.

## Upcoming Events

- August 7: Turning Point Parade 1PM
- August 16: Battle of Bennington SAR Ceremony 6 PM at Walloomsac battlefield color guard and artillery salutes
- August 27: SAR Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration, Old Stone House, 11-2 color guard and artillery salutes
- September 18, 2022—Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony With Daughters of the American Revolution at Stop 2 and September Meeting
- October 17: Fort Hardy Park Surrender Day Ceremony with artillery salutes and demos for school groups
- November 11: Veterans Day - National Cemetery (tentative) – color guard

Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for updates. Below is a link to our website:

<http://www.saratogabattle-sar.org/>

Please take a look at our calendar of events and be sure to take some time out to join us at a meeting or other gathering.

Be safe everyone.

## Welcome New Members!

Member, Hometown	Patriot Ancestor
Dave J. Dariano - Albany, NY	Pvt. Jesse Groot-NY
John F. Gearing - Schenectady, NY	Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Wright-CT
Guillaume F. Jost - Scarsdale, NY	Sgt. Andreas Fritsch-France
Kenneth D. Liber - Smithville, MO	Pvt. Moses Coates-PA
Carl S. Lufkin - Argyle, NY	Pvt. Isaac Reed-R I
Michael E. Slavin - Glens Falls, NY	Cpl. Reuben Colvin-VT



# Meet Chapter Secretary Michael A. Hernandez

*Submitted by Michael A. Hernandez*

A graduate of SUNY Albany (BA, History), Michael has

worked at the New York State Legislature in various capacities over the last fifteen years including as: a Legislative Aide for former Assemblyman George A. Amedore Jr., a Legislative Analyst for former State Senator Jose R. Peralta, and a Legislative Policy Analyst for former State Senator Chris Jacobs.

He currently serves as a Legislative Aide for Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry, Speaker Pro Tempore.

During the past twenty years, Michael has pursued his love of history by volunteering at the New York State Military Museum, Empire State Aerosciences Museum, and the National Warplane Museum.

For several years, he also volunteered as a living historian,



*Michael A. Hernandez*

focusing on the World War II period. The annual encampment at the FDR Library in Hyde Park was one of his favorite events to participate in, not only because of the location, but because of the opportunity to engage with the public throughout the weekend's festivities.

This passion for history and education is attributable in large part to his great aunt (Gladys Newbold) and great grandmother (Alice Banta), the latter of whom served as the

Historian of the Village of Hagaman (Montgomery County, NY), where Michael was raised and where his family has lived for generations.

In addition to his involvement with the Sons of the American Revolution, Michael is also an active member of two other lineage societies: The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Camp Council Member & Patriotic

Instructor) & The Holland Society.

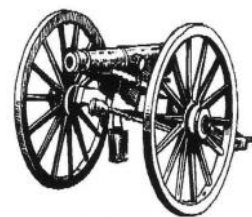
He also serves as an officer of several of Albany's Masonic organizations including: Mount Vernon Lodge 3, F. & A.M. (Secretary), Ancient Temple Chapter No. 5, R.A.M. (Trustee), & Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council No. 14, R. & S.M. (Secretary).

Last year Michael and his wife, Dr. Katherine E. Slye-Hernandez, Ph.D. bought their first home in the Town of Colonie.

## Chapter Wins New Member Award

Congrats to the Saratoga Battle Chapter for winning the Empire State Society's 2nd Place New Member Prize.

The chapter was notified of the \$100 prize through a letter to our Treasurer, David Flint. Many thanks to our Registrar, Thomas L. Dunne and Genealogist Duane P. Booth for their hard work enlisting new members into our organization.



# Cadets Lauded at LaSalle Institute

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

**C**ongratulations to the cadets at LaSalle Institute, gathered for the Cadet Officer Promotion and Commissioning Ceremony—the first event there to include female cadets.

Daniel Lovely was selected to receive the Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Medal.

Chapter President Edward Munger Jr. presented the medal and certificate during the 2022 Officers Commissioning Ceremony May 18 at LaSalle Institute in Troy.



## ***Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders***

*Daniel Lovely and his mother Joanne Lovely are pictured at LaSalle Institute during the Officer Commissioning Ceremony. Daniel was awarded the SAR ROTC Medal.*

*Photo by Edward Munger Jr.*

# Rhodes Memorial Fund Supports Chapter

**O**ur gratitude to the Rhodes Memorial Fund for its generous donation of \$2,000 to the Saratoga Battle Chapter's Patriotic Programs.

The Lawrence I & Eleanor H. Rhodes Memorial Fund, Inc. is a private foundation with a mission to help tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations in carrying out programs, according to director Dennis F. Marr, a Compatriot of the Saratoga

Battle Chapter.

The foundation does not solicit donations but seeks out organizations to support which are best suited to their mission. Donations may be recurring or one-time.

The fund has made several donations to the Chapter in years past, and they are most appreciated!





## ***Patriot honored ...***

*(Continued from page 1)*

coordinating the removal of cannons from Fort Ticonderoga in 1775.

Those cannons helped force the British out of Boston in the early months of the American Revolution.

The recreated 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment and Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard, along with the Village Volunteers Fife & Drum Corps., helped bring a sense of history to the

springtime dedication ceremony at the historic cemetery in Menands.



### ***Visit from Family***

*Dirk VanDerwerker traveled from Minnesota to Albany Rural Cemetery during the grave marker dedication ceremony for his ancestor.*

The Village Volunteers Fife & Drum Corps. Plays 1700s music, and the Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR Color Guard posted the colors and fired a military gun salute in Bleecker's honor.

Dozens attended the event, including members of the Mohawk Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, staff of Albany Rural Cemetery and the Friends of Albany Rural Cemetery organization.

## ***Youths recognized ...***

*(Continued from page 1)*

Leadership Awards Ceremony was held at the Joseph E. Zaloga Post No. 1520 on Everett Road in Albany.

Hernandez presented awards on behalf of both the Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR and the Col. George L. Willard Camp No. 154, SUVC, as he is a member of both.

The Gormley brothers, twins, are members of the JROTC Raiders Team and they participate in "Honor a Vet" ceremonies at veterans posts throughout the Capital Region.



### ***Supporting Youth***

*Parents John Gormley and Lynne Fiore join Saratoga Battle Chapter Secretary Michael A. Hernandez for a photo with John and George Gormley at the Albany High School JROTC Ceremony in June.*



### ***Greeting New Citizens***

*Saratoga Battle Chapter Compatriots were on hand to greet some of America's newest citizens during the July 4th Citizenship Ceremony at Saratoga National Historical Park. Pictured here are Chapter Secretary Michael A. Hernandez, Past President Douglas Tim Mabee and 2nd Vice President Timothy Keenan. Photo submitted by Michael Hernandez.*

### **Saratoga Battle Chapter, Empire State Society**

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