



## ***BATTLE LINES***

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR  
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### **IN OUR MEMORY**

We were saddened to learn, long after the fact, that compatriot Gordon E. Murray had passed away on Feburary 21, 2004. Compatriot Murray was interred in the Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery.

Our condolences also chapter President Duane Booth on the loss of his uncle and our compatriot Burton W. Mosher. Compatriot Mosher passed away at the age of 83 on December 3, 2004.

### **NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

Peter J. Lindemann, Howes Cave, NY  
Robert E. Skellie, Schuylerville, NY  
Matthew E. Skellie, Schuylerville, NY  
Stephen F. Markell, East Greenbush, NY  
Eric M. Markell, Newcastle, WA

A warm welcome to these new compatriots.

### **CHAPTER ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY**

Our annual Wreath-Laying and Memorial Service was held on September 19 at the DAR monument in the Saratoga National Historical Park. The event was especially colorful, as a reenactment was in progress that weekend.

We were especially honored to have President General Henry N. McCarl and his lovely wife Mary with us again this year. PG McCarl is a dual member of our chapter.

Honored Guests included: Officers and Senior Officers of the Bemis Heights and Schuyler Societies, NSCAR; Mrs. Lois Gruner, NYS Direstor Dist. IV, NSDAR; Compatriot Richard W. Sage, Historian General, NSSAR; Compatriot William J. Woodworth, President, ESSAR.

Reenactors from the 25<sup>th</sup> Continental Regiment served as Color Guard under the direction of Gen. David Brennier, Sr., Commander.

Wreaths were presented by the following, in addition to our own chapter: Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR; National Society, NSSAR; NYS Organization,

NSDAR; Empire State Society, NSSAR; Bemis Heights Society, NSCAR; Schuyler Society, NSCAR; Molly Stark Chapter, NSDAR.

Our thanks go out to all who helped make this event a rousing success. Special thanks go to our friends at Saratoga National Historical Park for their usual hospitality.

### **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DUANE BOOTH**

As I near the end of my term as Chapter President, I want you all to know that it has been a great two years, and I thank my fellow officers and the committee chairs for their support and encouragement. In addition, we have had great support from our members and their families. The 2004 July 4<sup>th</sup> Citizenship Ceremony was our flagship event. We had great turnout and great press coverage. The event, which was jointly held with other groups, will be held again next year. Mark your calendars, for what better can we do on July 4<sup>th</sup> but welcome new citizens, many of whom are children, at such a site as the Saratoga Battlefield? A close second to the Citizenship Ceremony was this year's Annual Wreath Laying with PG and Mrs. McCarl and State President and Mrs. Woodworth present.

Dues for 2005 should be mailed to Treasurer Rich Fullam before 12/31. The Chapter can win up to \$500 from the State Society if everyone pays timely. Therefore please mail your checks as soon as possible to avoid the possibility of forgetting to pay in the rush of the holiday season.

The Annual Meeting/Washington's Birthday dinner is set for Saturday, February 19, 2005 at the Century House in Latham. We will have a short business meeting, dinner, election and installation of officers, and a speaker. Please mark your calendars now to avoid conflicts with other events. Reservation forms will be mailed with the next issue of the *Battle Lines* in late January or early February. Copies can be printed from the website.

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and I extend my Best Wishes for 2005.

***CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION DINNER***

We were honored to be invited by our friends in the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR, to participate with them in a dinner honoring our veterans. This event was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Century House in Latham.

President Duane Booth ably represented our chapter in making several awards during this event. Following are the prepared remarks that he delivered:

I want to thank the Peter Gansevoort Chapter for inviting us tonight and allowing us to present two well-earned awards. Also, on behalf of the officers and members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter I want to say "thank you" to all of the active military personnel and veterans who are here tonight. Each of you is owed a debt of gratitude by every American. Your unselfish service to your country has made America and the world a better, safer, place.

Our first award is presented to one of our own. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Goebel is SAR and very active at all levels. Peter is a Past Vice President and President of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, and currently serves as Chaplain. At the National level, Peter is Trustee. He is also ESSAR Vice President of the Capital Region and State Society Chaplain. This past July he received command of the National Society's Color Guard. Peter is married to Teri Lyn Melita, and they are the parents of three children. Peter is the son of Henry and Alice Goebel.

Peter graduated from Averill Park High, and from West Point in 1981. He has served in Operation Sea Signal in the Caribbean Sea, where thousands of Haitians and Cubans were rescued from certain death while fleeing their homelands. He served in Operation Determined Effort in Germany and went on to serve in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia and Croatia. Peter received the NSSAR War Service medal for service in Operation Joint Endeavor.

Tonight I am proud to present Lieutenant Colonel Goebel with a bar and certificate for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The bar supplements his NSSAR War Service Medal. It is a small bar, but one that holds a huge "thank you" for his service in Iraq. Congratulations, Peter, and thank you for serving our Country. Please come forward with your wife Teri and receive this well-deserved award.

The next award is presented for outstanding leadership qualities. The NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and certificate is awarded to William C. Butz. The son of immigrant parents, his mother Scottish, and his father German, Bill had three brothers and a sister. Not unlike many other young men in the 1930's Bill quit school and got a job. In 1940 he married his wife Effie Booth and in the fall of 1942 they became the proud parents of a daughter. For those who remember draft boards, Bill was classified 3A, which meant he wasn't going to be drafted until things were worse. He was a husband, father, and the only son not in the military. He was torn between family and country. Finally in the spring of 1943 he went to the recruiting office and begged to go. A letter to the local Draft Board did the trick. He was Army-bound. He quickly rose through the ranks and made sergeant in seven months. Next he was off to England, and then to Normandy. One day he found himself as the highest ranking officer of his half track unit in a very dangerous situation. Instinctively, and unselfishly, he risked his life and then led his men to safety. He was awarded a Silver Star, a Purple Heart, and earned a Bronze Star for his leadership qualities. He received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the field but didn't have time to get the uniform until the war was won. He easily passed the GED exam that he had to take after it was found that he was not a high school graduate, and hadn't met Army standards for his new rank.

He came home from the War, and a held his second daughter for the first time. He made it home, he appreciated that, but he wondered why he did and others didn't. He changed careers to better himself; to provide more for his family that now included a son. He went to work in a paper mill as a third hand, but not for long. He climbed the ranks to machine tender, tower boss, assistant superintendent and then superintendent. By this time he knew that he was truly blessed as he had found Christ. He became involved in his church and has served the Lord there in many ways. As a Gideon he ministered to those in prison for fifteen years. He went to Honduras as a missionary with others to enlarge a school. He came home, raised money and went back to Honduras again to help build a church. Bill, you have led others in many and varied tasks. Your leadership qualities have made a difference to your country, to your community and to your church. I am honored to ask you to come forward with your wife Effie so that I may present you with the NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award.