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®

## **BATTLE LINES**

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Primitivo Africa**

**Dear Compatriots-**

As we celebrate the holidays, I would like to wish all of you and your families a healthy, happy holiday and a merry new year. As members of SAR, we are always looking both to the past for experience and to the future for new adventures, and keeping values and traditions alive as we tackle our challenges.

This past year, the Saratoga Battle Chapter has kept the honor and tradition of our chapter alive by attending many events and supporting some great endeavors, such as the C.A.R. I would like to encourage all of you who have not been to a meeting lately, or to an event, to please join us and to bring your children along to begin to raise interest in the younger generation. It is only in this way that our chapter can continue to thrive. I hope your membership continues with us in the new year to come, and may the peace of the holiday season be with you and yours. Thank you.

### **JONATHAN GOEBEL RECEIVES MINUTEMAN AWARD FROM NSSAR**

**Past Pres. Col. Peter K. Goebel**

Compatriot Jonathan E. Goebel was awarded the NSSAR Minuteman Medal at the 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution at Winston-Salem, North Carolina on Monday evening, 11 July 2011, for his extensive service to the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Minuteman Award is the most prestigious award of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The National Executive Committee established the award in 1951. Only those Compatriots who have made distinguished and exceptional contributions of service to the National Society may be recognized with the sixty year old medal. Each recipient may receive the award only once.

The beautiful medal is made of sterling silver. It depicts a Minuteman holding a musket, with a plow

and the Liberty Bell in the background. The medal is suspended from a neck ribbon of light blue silk.

The Minuteman Award was first presented at the 1952 National Congress. The first honoree was Former President General Benjamin H. Powell of Texas. The award has been presented annually since 1952. Since 1967, the year Jonathan was born, a maximum of six awards may be presented in each year. Through 2011, a total of three hundred and sixty-four Compatriots have been recognized with this highest award of the NSSAR, only for members.

Jonathan was inducted into the SAR on March 28, 1994. He served the National Society as Vice President General of the North Atlantic District for two terms, as a member of the NSSAR Nominating Committee, as National Trustee for four years, and as Alternate National Trustee for two years for the Empire State Society. Compatriot Goebel was the first-line signer for sixty-five new compatriots. He has served faithfully for many years on National Committees, most notably on the Young Members Committee for fifteen years; the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations and the Membership Committees for thirteen years each; the ROTC/JROTC Committee for twelve years; the Color Guard and the Historic Sites and Celebrations Committees for seven years each; the SAR-W3RLiaison Committee for five years; the Council of State Presidents (State President of the German Society) and the Youth Activities Committees for three years each; two years on the Council of Vice Presidents General; and the Strategic Planning Committee. He has attended twelve Annual Congresses and twenty-five National Leadership Meetings. He is a George Washington Fellow and a contributor to The Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

Jonathan was escorted by his brother, Colonel Peter K. Goebel, Minuteman Class of 2009. Their mother, Alice G. Goebel, was in attendance, as well as Jonathan's wife, Ruth, and their two daughters, Anna and Martha.

Peter and Jonathan are the third set of Brothers to receive the Minuteman Award and the first set to have their membership in the same State Society.

Previous recipients from the ESSAR received the Minuteman Award at the following annual conventions:

1953 – John W. Finger – NSSAR President General 1949-50, in Cincinnati, OH,  
1953 – Messmore Kendall - NSSAR President General 1936-40, in Cincinnati, OH,  
1954 – William S. Bennet – in Williamsburg, VA,  
1955 – Gardner Osborn – in Chicago, IL,  
1955 – Walter A. Wentworth – NSSAR President General 1958-59, in Chicago, IL,  
1960 – Reginald H. Runge – in Memphis, TN,  
1962 – Augustin G. Rudd – in Philadelphia, PA,  
1967 – James B. Gardiner – NSSAR President General 1969-70, in Columbus, OH,  
1968 – Warren S. Woodward – in Williamsburg, VA,  
1971 – Harry S. Schanck – in Atlantic City, NJ,  
1987 – Wendell R. Lovering – in Valley Forge, PA,  
2009 – Peter K. Goebel (ESSAR), in Atlanta, GA

Your Editor apologizes for the delay in recognizing Jonathan's achievement, but he was not aware of it until reading about it in the SAR Magazine.

#### ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

This year's wreath-laying at the Saratoga National Historical Park was held on Sunday, September 18. Once again it was a colorful and moving event.

Wreaths were presented by:

National Society, SAR – Dennis F. Marr  
Empire State Society, SAR – George F. Malinoski  
Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR – Carole Strong  
Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR – Duane Booth  
Bemis Heights Society, C.A.R. – Kate Szewczyk  
Schuyler Society, C.A.R. – Ryan Hare

Special thanks go out to Dave Bernier of the 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Continental Regiment and to all of the re-enactors who participate under Dave's command. Thanks also to the staff of Saratoga National Historical Park for their hospitality in allowing us the use of their grounds.

The Welcome was given by Corinne Scirocco, Regent, Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR and Primitivo Africa, President, Saratoga Battle. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Karl L. Danneil and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Registrar Thomas Dunne.

Following the ceremony, a chapter meeting was held in the park Visitors' Center Conference Room.

In view of our healthy treasury, a motion to double our contributions to the Bemis Heights and Schuyler Societies, C.A.R. from \$100 to \$200 was approved.

Approval was also given to seek out other worthy organizations that we may support financially.

Registrar Dunne reported that as of September 18, 2011, our membership stood at 176, the largest in the Empire State Society. As a point of reference, your Editor can state that when he became a member in January of 1993, the chapter had about 37 members.

#### GENEALOGY NOTES

Any compatriots with French-Canadian ancestry who have not pursued it may be interested in the following. Dennis Marr recently completed an extensive research project into the French-Canadian ancestry of his sister-in-law, Sandra Benoit Marr. This consumed virtually all of his free time over a 6-month period and resulted in identifying over 1,800 ancestors.

A wonderful aspect of this research is that women are uniformly referred to by their maiden names. In addition, the church and vital records almost always include full names of the parents of the bride and groom, making it fairly easy (at least compared to American genealogy research) to extend a family back many generations.

This research was done using primarily 2 record collections. The first is the Drouin Collection of Quebec Church and Vital Records, 1621-1967. These are searchable at Ancestry.com and cover many religious denominations.

The second collection is the remarkable *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes*. This 7-volume set was compiled over a 19-year period by Fr. Cyprien Tanguay from the Catholic church records in Quebec. Vol. 1 covers the 1600's and Vols. 2-7 cover the 1700's.