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®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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SPRING 2018

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We extend a hearty welcome to our new members and encourage them to participate in chapter activities to the extent possible.

Larry J. Arnold – Halfmoon, NY
Tyson J. Arnold – Sharpsburg, MD
Richard A. Beckwith – Stephentown, NY
J. T. Cox – Troy, NY
Charles M. Foster III – Schenectady, NY
Stephen J. Gravereaux – Ballston Lake, NY
Michael F. Heinel – Albany, NY
David L. Hornbeck – Homosassa, FL
Brenden J. Wettergreen – Clifton Park, NY
Steven F. Zapf – Rensselaer, NY

JROTC/ROTC MEDALS PRESENTED

Presentation of these awards were made by Dennis F. Marr (CBA and LaSalle) and Jonathan E. Goebel (RPI).

Christian Brothers Academy – April 23
Declan Tunny
LaSalle Institute – May 22
William Lamoutte
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – May 5
Zachary Bult – Army
Benjamin Zawislak – Navy
Jacob Krott – Air Force

JULY 4 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Douglas Gallant, President

I know the date for this event is easy to remember, just a little extra encouragement to attend if possible.

This is one of our Chapter's most important events of the year in terms of involvement. The Chapter has supplied items for the new citizen tote bags, cookies and the vocal talents of Danielle McMullen in addition to the President having a role in the ceremony itself.

I hope to see many of you there. And remember that there is always a group photo following the ceremony so don't run away!

The following is excerpted from the press release issued by the folks at the Battlefield.

Independence Day on Wednesday, July 4th will be celebrated at Saratoga National Historical Park with a 10:00 a.m. Citizenship Ceremony and traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence.

On the anniversary of our nation and upon the grounds where independence was won, 20 immigrants from countries all over the world will become new citizens of the United States of America. This special event is organized by the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The League of Women Voters will be onsite with voter registration forms for anyone interested in registering.

The upper lot of the visitor center parking area will be CLOSED the morning of July 4, 2018 in preparation for our annual Citizenship Ceremony event. All early-bird cyclists and pedestrians not attending the event are asked to park in the lower level of the visitor center parking area, or at the south entrance of the park along Route 423.

Join volunteer Joe Craig at 2 p.m. as a messenger from 17786, when he reads from the Declaration of Independence with authentic 18th century toasts reflecting the insightful wit of the document signers. Enjoy free lemonade to share in the toasts, followed by celebratory musket firings.

The events are free and open to the public. For more information about this or other events, please call the Visitor Center at 518-670-2985 or check our website at www.nps.gov/sara or on Facebook or Twitter: @SaratogaNHP.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Douglas Gallant

Greetings compatriots! Some long-awaited warm weather has finally decided to find its way into the area. That makes it much easier to begin thinking of summer activities. While that may mean graduation ceremonies or vacation time for some, it also means significant Chapter events are upcoming. As always, please consult the Chapter web site, saratogabattle-sar.org, for the most up to date information on those events.

The July 4th Citizenship Ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield is the first of our major events. A couple of points of interest this year. First, Priyanka Kumar has been invited to be a speaker. In case you don't know her, Priyanka was our Chapter's Knight Essay Contest winner in 2017 and she presented her work at the annual Chapter meeting in February of this year. SNHP Superintendent Bracewell was at the meeting as well and was impressed by what she heard and consequently extended the invitation. Second, there are some changes to the logistics at the Battlefield this year. The main parking lot is going to be almost entirely reserved parking for the new citizens, their families, dignitaries and media. The actual tent arrangement will also be modified. There will be an additional tent for coverage. However the Battlefield has only a limited number of chairs and all seats will be reserved for the new citizens and their families. I can only say to please plan appropriately.

In other news, the Empire State Society, with some direct financial assistance from the Long Island Chapter, approved a \$5,000 donation to the Sword Surrender Site project that is being overseen by the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield (friendsofsaratogabattlefield.org). That level of giving results in a donors' plaque at the site when it is completed. The possibility of the Saratoga Battle Chapter achieving the same level of donation was discussed at our annual meeting in February. You may recall that I sent an email to all members following the meeting that the Chapter would be accepting designated donations for this endeavor. That is still true. The Friends also indicated that they would be willing to aggregate any prior and/or direct contributions from Chapter members to try and help reach our goal. I don't have an up to date total (especially with the aggregation) but at last count we were still short. Regardless of whether the Chapter is able to get a donor plaque or not, the effort is still worthy of your consideration for a donation to try

to bring it to completion. The Friends do not want to start work until the entire budget is in hand.

I hope to see many of you this summer!

READING RECOMMENDATION

Compatriot Bill Poppino provided this brief summary of a work by a local author which he thought might be of interest.

Unshackling America - How the War of 1812 Truly Ended the American Revolution - By Willard Sterne Randall. 2017. St. Martin's Press, New York, NY.

This book begins in 1760 when King George III ascended to the throne and began his restriction of trade - the main cause of the revolutionary war and the war of 1812, extending thru 1815.

Author Randall resides in Burlington, VT. Pres. Gallant is inquiring into his availability as a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting. From a blurb at Amazon.com:

Unshackling America challenges the persistent fallacy that Americans fought two separate wars of independence. Willard Sterne Randall documents an unrelenting fifty-year-long struggle for economic independence from Britain overlapping two armed conflicts linked by an unacknowledged global struggle. Throughout this perilous period, the struggle was all about free trade.

Neither Jefferson nor any other Founding Father could divine that the Revolutionary Period of 1763 to 1783 had concluded only one part, the first phase of their ordeal. The Treaty of Paris of 1783 at the end of the Revolutionary War halted overt combat but had achieved only partial political autonomy from Britain. By not guaranteeing American economic independence and agency, Britain continued to deny American sovereignty.

Randall details the fifty years and persistent attempts by the British to control American trade waters, but he also shows how, despite the outrageous restrictions, the United States asserted the doctrine of neutral rights and developed the world's second largest merchant fleet as it absorbed the French Caribbean trade. American ships carrying trade increased five-fold between 1790 and 1800, its tonnage nearly doubling again between 1800 and 1812, ultimately making the United States the world's largest independent maritime power.