



THE LONG KNIFE

Quarterly Newsletter of the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter
Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution

"Serving Madison County"

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December 2012



Third grader Wyatt Erber, who gave his \$1,000 scavenger prize to a leukemia-stricken two-year old neighbor, received Good Citizenship recognition from GGRCC officers (from left), Treasurer James C. Hicks, Vice President James A. DeGross Jr., President Ronnie D. Hicks and Chaplain Lloyd E. Schwarz.

Boy's Generous Gift to Ailing Neighbor Recognized by GGRCC

Wyatt Erber, an 8-year-old Edwardsville third grader, has received a Good Citizenship Certificate from GGRCC for generously donating a \$1,000 prize to a 2-year-old neighbor suffering from lymphocytic leukemia.

Wyatt, son of Jeff and Noelle Erber, is believed to be the youngest person to have ever received the recognition from the chapter. The certificate was presented to the Columbus School student at a Sept. 24 meeting of the Edwardsville Board of Education.

Wyatt won the \$1,000 prize money from a scavenger contest sponsored by First Clover Leaf Bank of Edwardsville. He said he didn't need the money and wanted to donate it to Cara Kieley, daughter of a neighbor, to help meet expenses of her long-term treatment.

"She was sick and I felt like that was the right thing to do," Wyatt said.

The donation attracted newspaper and broadcast attention to Wyatt from throughout the nation. Edwardsville citizens, coordinated by school officials, raised another \$1,000 to match Wyatt's gift.

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 Luncheon meetings held the third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt. 143)

Northern Madison County Residents Cited for Flag Displays

Residents of 12 northern Madison County households received certificates of commendation Nov. 1 for displaying the U.S. Flag daily at their homes.

It was the 17th annual Flag Award Ceremony conducted by the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, in the lobby near the James Madison statue in the Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville.

The chapter alternates every other year recognizing households or businesses in northern or southern Madison County, said event chairperson William R. Feeney, a former chapter president and retired political science professor at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Compatriot Feeney has chaired all 17 of the Flag Display programs.

Several of the honored individuals were military veterans. With former branch of service indicated, the 2012 honorees by township were:

Olive: Robert (Army and Marines) and Frieda Augustine;

Fort Russell: Lowell (Army) and Mary Brown; Alton: David (Army) and Mary Eckhouse (he is state fire marshal); Moro: Mark (Navy) and Holly Fildew; Leef: Ron and Janet Hunsche; New Douglas: Leonard and Jean Lindgens (2 sons Air Force vets); Alhambra: Richard (Army) and Carly Ann Maurer; Hamel: William (Army) and Amy Meyer; Omphgent: Dr. William (Army) and Wanda Miller; Godfrey: David and Rita Poehlerin; Foster: Arlene Yost (deceased husband was Navy veteran); Wood River: Steven and Becky Wade.

Compatriot Lloyd E. Schwarz gave the invocation. Chapter President Ronnie D. Hicks handed each recipient an honor certificate. Observers were Madison County Circuit Judges Ann Callis, Barbara Crowder, William Mudge and David Hylla

GGRCC Leads State Chapters in Daily Flag Display Awards

A report by Michael Campagnola, Illinois State Society SAR Flag Committee chairperson, shows that the 12 Flag Display awards presented by GGRCC were the most by any Illinois Chapter in 2012.

Closest were the Fox Valley and Springfield Chapters with 10 awards each presented.. Four chapters had only one or two awards presented. Nine of the 16 Illinois chapters reported a total of 50 flag awards, up from 32 a year ago.

President's Letter

By Ronnie D. Hicks

We welcome SAR members Philip Alfeld, Chuck Dobias and new member Larry Smith to the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter. Vice President Jim DeGroff has been diligently recruiting new members for GGRCC. We are very appreciative of his endeavors as the membership is now at 91. Please ask your friends and co-workers if they are eligible to become a member of SAR.

GGRCC conducted the annual Flag Award ceremony at the Madison County Courthouse in Edwardsville Nov. 1. GGRCC member and past President William "Bill" Feeny chaired the event for the 17th time. Residents from 11 of the 12 northern Madison County households that displayed the flag each day were in attendance. Thanks to compatriots Chuck Burgess, Lloyd Schwarz and GGRCC Color Guard members Jim DeGroff, Jimmy Hicks and Bob Shaak for attending.

The Pre-Veterans Day ceremony conducted in Glen Carbon Nov. 4 was well attended by GGRCC members. The uniforms worn by chapter members Jim DeGroff, Jimmy Hicks, Roger Meyers and Bill Wilson drew the interested scrutiny of numerous Cub Scouts and veterans in attendance.

The annual Veterans Day parade scheduled for Nov. 11 in Edwardsville, in which GGRCC planned to participate, was cancelled due to inclement weather. The continuous afternoon downpour prevented the event from taking place much to the regret of many veterans.

A pleasant Members and Ladies Night Out event was held Nov. 18 at Bella Milano in Edwardsville. James Bohn (Col. USAF retired) spoke about his military experiences and teaching career at Webster University and Southwestern Illinois College. His explanation of the significance of the Bill of Rights was entertaining and enjoyed by everyone.

Chapter members attending included Chuck Burgess and wife Arene, Jim DeGroff and wife Lola, Alan Harrison and wife Nancy, Jimmy Hicks and wife Sharon, Ronnie Hicks and wife Betty, Joe Hill and wife Gin, Tom Lawrence and date Norma, Lloyd Schwarz and wife Lois, Bob Stegemeier and wife Betty, Larry Smith and wife Pam, and Bob Shaak and GGRCC founder Charles Schweitzer, age 99, in his 27th year of leadership of GGRCC activities.

Jim DeGroff and I presented an Eagle Scout commendation scroll and medal Nov. 17 to Christopher McLaughlin at Eden Church, Edwardsville.

Don't forget to put on your calendar for Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013, the Annual GGRCC dinner at Sunset Hills Country Club. Chapter officers will be elected and sworn in for two year terms. The state president will be coming, and Barbara Kay will be performing as Betsy Ross.

GGRCC meetings are conducted the third Wednesday of each month at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge on Rt. 143. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. with the actual meeting beginning around noon or shortly thereafter. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, perhaps you can attend the business session. Thanks to all of the GGRCC officers and event chairman for the difficult tasks you achieve.



Steven and Becky Wade of Wood River Township were among honorees in GGRCC's Flag Display Ceremony. Recipients were identified by ceremony chairperson William R. Feeney (at podium) and received award scrolls from President Ronnie D. Hicks. Observers included Madison County Chief Circuit Judge Ann Callis (seated). Story of Page 2.

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