



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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Among residents of 12 households to receive recognition in the 15th annual Flag Awards Ceremony of GGRCC were Karen Zimmerman and Gerald Lippold of Ft. Russell Township. Both are retired Air Force veterans. Chairperson for the ceremony was William R. Feeney (at podium), assisted by James A DeGross Jr. and Chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James. Observers included Madison County Circuit Judge (at left, seated) Ann Callis.

Military Vets Among Flag Award Ceremony Honorees

The residents of 12 northern Madison County households received certificates of commendation Nov. 4 for displaying the U.S. Flag every day at their homes.

It was the 15th annual Flag Award Ceremony conducted by GGRCC in the lobby next to the James Madison statue at

the Madison County Courthouse.

“Since 1996, some 150 households have received the award. We promote patriotism by demonstrating our appreciation for residents who properly display and faithfully fly our American Flag,” said William (Continued on Page 2)

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Military Veterans Were Among Flag Ceremony Honorees

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R. Feeney of Edwardsville, chairperson for the event. He is a retired professor of political science at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and a former president of the SAR chapter

The chapter alternates every other year recognizing households or businesses in northern and southern Madison County. Many of the recipients are retired from military service as indicated in the listing. The 2010 honorees by township were:

Louis (Navy) and Patricia Bagaglio, Omphgent; William (Army) and Brandi Boyd, Moro; Robert and Deborah Eichen, Alton (he is a member of the Alton Fire Department and they are parents of a Navy veteran); George (Army) and Bertha Grindstaff, New Douglas; Ted (Army) and Velma Henkhaus, Alhambra; Hilbert (Army) and Verna Klenke, Hamel; Katherine Klucinick (late husband was Navy veteran) and daughter Katherine Burns (husband is Navy veteran), Olive; Gary (Army) and Quilla Ledford, Godfrey; Gerald Lippold and Karen Zimmerman (both Air Force veterans), Fort Russell; Dick (Army) and Lucy Mann, Wood River; Harold (Navy) and Mary Ritchie, Foster; Thomas and Kim Roniger, Leaf.

Madison County Circuit Judges Ann Callis, Dennis Ruth and David Hilla observed the ceremony

Focus Was on Refinery In Night Out, Fall Trip

The fall trip and the Members and Ladies Night Out—not held every year because of lack of interest—were a refined (whoops, refinery!!) success at Madison County sites for GGRCC compatriots, spouses and guests in October.

Credit for planning and conducting the events goes to Timothy S. Raymer, a long-time officer of the chapter.

Attendance was about 40 at the Members and Ladies Night Out Oct. 13 at Ravenelli's Restaurant, Granite. Speaker, anticipating the later fall trip, was Keesha L. Dhanene, an information coordinator for Conoco

Phillips Corporation's giant refinery in Wood-River-Hartford.

She discussed operations at the refinery and its importance in providing oil-derived products to the nation and the world. GGRCC members and several spouses got further insights on the refinery's operation in the Fall Trip Oct. 20 to the facility's museum, which originally was founded by Shell Oil Company when it operated the refinery.

On the same trip, participants had an opportunity to ascend the recently completed twin towers at the Lewis and Clark Historic Site

The Meaning of the Star-Spangled Banner

By Harry K. Windland

[I have spoken a number of times about the history of our National Anthem. Here is a complete version of all four verses with remarks I have made. Like so many of the songs and poems we have memorized and recited hundreds of times, we all too often sing our National Anthem without thinking about what its words really mean. Few people know the Star Spangled Banner has four verses because rarely are the last three sung. We all know the first verse, but usually don't recognize it as a question—"Oh! Say can you see " Is the flag still there? Does it still wave?]

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
 O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
 Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
 Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

[The second stanza answers the question with the words "Now it catches a gleam of the morning's first beam . . ."]

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
 Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
 What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
 As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
 Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
 In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
 'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

[The third verse reflects pride and defiance by taunting the British with mockery of their threat to take away our freedom and country.]

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
 That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
 A home and a country should leave us no more!
 Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
 No refuge could save the hireling and slave
 From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

[The final stanza expresses thankfulness, appeals for forgiveness and avows justification for the national struggle.]

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
 Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
 Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
 Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
 Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
 And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

GGRCC Participated in 9 Patriot Marker Activities in 2010

A chapter record of 9 for holding or participating in Revolutionary Patriot Marker placements took place in 2010, with most occurring during the summer.

The final ceremony was Oct. 30 at the burial place of Revolutionary War soldier Jacob Seagraves in the United Church of Christ Cemetery in Breese, Clinton County. GGRCC provided a color guard for the recognition, which was sponsored by the Ninian Edwards Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The GGRCC color guard was composed of Chapter officers Gaylord J. (Jim) James, Ronnie D. Hicks, James A. DeGroff Jr. and Timothy S. Raymer.

GGRCC Birthdays

Larry Roseberry, Jan. 7
 Andrew R. Johnson, Jan. 14
 H. Donald Laughlin, Jan. 16
 Bruce Cullen, Feb. 1
 Kenneth W. Leroy Sr., Feb. 4
 William C. Brown, Feb. 6
 Ronald F. Luebben, Feb. 15
 G. Thomas Lawrence, Feb. 20
 Ronnie D. Hicks, Feb. 26
 William C. Harpole, March 19
 Thomas W. Blixen, March 28

GGRCC on Vets Day Parade

Waving flags from a pickup driven by GGRCC member Alan Y. Harrison in the Veterans Day parade Nov. 11 in Edwardsville were GGRCC officers Gaylord J. (Jim) James, James A. DeGroff Jr. and Timothy S. Raymer.

Having appeared in the Alton Memorial Day parade, this was the second appearance this year for the truck-borne color guard.

Annual Meeting To Be Feb. 16

Chapter officers for two year terms will be elected at the GGRCC Annual meeting at Sunset Hills Country Club, Edwardsville Wednesday, Feb. 16. The social hour begins at 5:45 with dinner at 7 p.m. after the presentation of the colors, Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

The program will include a portrayal of flag maker Betsy Ross by impersonator Barbara Kay. Illinois Society SAR President Franz Herder and Vice President Bruce Talbot are expected to attend.

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