



THE LONG KNIFE

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

"Serving Madison County"

Volume XX, Number 1

Page 1

June 2010



Sixteen high school seniors received Outstanding Citizenship Award certificates April 7 in an annual GGRCC ceremony at First Christian Church, Edwardsville. The activity, coordinated by Robert Stegemeier, included for the first time students from counties north of Madison in an extension of the chapter's service area. The students were nominated by their schools on the basis of dependability, cooperative spirit, leadership, service to their community, evidence of personal values and patriotism. The recipients and their high schools were (front, from left), James T. Nippert, Alton; David N. Wilkins, Bunker Hill; Thomas Woelfel, Bethalto Civic Memorial; Lakiesha S. Cox, Madison; Philip Carter, Collinsville; Abigail Harmon, East Alton-Wood River; Thomas Dannenberg, Edwardsville; Mikayla Seeber, Triad. (Second row, from left) Tyler J. Burns, Gillespie; Alex Dilday, Granite City; Jason M. Scott, Highland; Kyle E. Foutch, Metro-East Lutheran; John Hoefert, Marquette Catholic; Kaitlin C. Scheller, Mt. Olive and Matt Miller, Staunton. Not pictured, Zachary Payne, Roxana. Behind the students are GGRCC members who assisted with the ceremony (from left), James A. DeGroff Jr., Ronnie D. Hicks and Chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James. Photo by Lola DeGroff, who also was the program speaker.

The Long Knife is a quarterly publication of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution.
Charles E. Burgess, Editor
Col. Charles B. Schweizer, Associate Editor
Send announcements, items of interest and member news to:
Editor, *The Long Knife*
6264 Lanterman Drive
Bethalto IL 62010
Phone: (618) 377-6010
Email: cbur305325@aol.com
Luncheon meetings held the third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt. 143)

GGRCC Is Illinois SAR Chapter of the Year

The General George Rogers Clark Chapter SAR was named as ILSSAR Chapter of the Year at the state society's annual awards banquet May 14 at Springfield.

The award goes annually to the Illinois chapter that has most effectively maintained an active and far-reaching presence in the community and has done an outstanding job of fulfilling the goals established for the society, said ILSSAR President A. Gordon Bidner.

The Clark Chapter also received a Chapter Presidential Citation for perfect attendance at four ILSSAR Board of Manager meetings. The chapter's *Long Knife* newsletter was recognized for regular quarterly publication.

The chapter also received a USS Stark Memorial Award for service to veterans, based mostly on activities by chapter Vice President Ronnie D. Hicks.

Bronze Good Citizenship Medals were awarded chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James, who is serving as ILSSAR Sergeant of Arms, and to James A. DeGroff Jr., for committee leadership and webmaster activity for the chapter. His wife, Lola DeGroff, regent of the Silver Creek Daughters of the American Revolution, received a special Certificate of Appreciation for public relations activities for ILSSAR.

ROTC Awards Presented

Jordan Downey, of Auburn, was the recipient April 29 of the annual GGRCC ROTC Award for the unit at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

The annual Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet Award at Alton High School went May 8 to Tevin Michael Rose, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rose.

The awards were presented by GGRCC Awards Coordinator James A. DeGroff Jr. and Chapter Vice President Ronnie D. Hicks.

Pre-Memorial Day Service

Several GGRCC members participated in a Pre-Memorial Day Service at Oak Lawn Cemetery, Glen Carbon. The service honored 38 military veterans, buried at Oak Lawn, who served in Indian Wars 1782 to 1812, the War of 1812, Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War and Panamanian conflict.

Speakers were Glen Carbon Mayor Robert Jackstadt and U.S. Rep. John Shimkus. Other participants included American Legion Post 435, Boy Scout Troop 1034, Cub Scout Troop 4034 and VFW Post 2222. Ronnie D. Hicks, vice president of the Clark Chapter, is commander of the VFW post.

Other GGRCC members attending were Harry K. Windland, Henry J. Boss, Timothy S. Raymer and James C. Hicks.
– Timothy S. Raymer

Roxana Teacher Receives Schweizer History Teaching Award

A Roxana High School teacher has received the third Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution Charles B. and Eleanor N. Schweizer American History Teacher Award.

Jeffrey L. Welker, an O'Fallon, IL resident, received a plaque and a \$500 check from the society to recognize outstanding methods of teaching American history.

The award was presented during the ILSSAR's 119th annual conference at the Hilton Springfield Hotel May 15. The award was founded three years ago by the Schweizers, of Edwardsville. Charles B. Schweizer is the founding president of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, SAR, and a past president of the Illinois Society.

In applying for the award, Welker wrote, "Today more than ever we need to understand what kept General Washington's rag tag Continental Army together during the winter of 1777-1778 to emerge from that 'Valley Forge' experience to bring about victory four years later."

"The student today has a tendency to think the way history turned out was the only option open to the people at that point in time," according to Welker.

In teaching colonial and Revolutionary War history, he likes for his students to have a hands-on experience. The students compose narratives based on their personal understanding of colonial arts, crafts, dress, food and weapons.

Welker believe that the lessons of the American Revolution, the examples put forth by the men and women of that period, still serve as our anchor and foundation today. He has inspired many students to become professional educators in the field of history, according to a Roxana district administrator.

In nominating Welker for the award, Roxana High humanities coordinator Murray Harbke wrote: "He has been very innovative in our district. He started the high school's first advanced placement class in American history, a class on twentieth century foreign and military policy and annual American history seminars for adults."

In presenting the award to Welker, ILSSAR award chairman James A. DeGroff Jr., of Troy, noted this is not the first time Welker's teaching accomplishments have been recognized.

"He received a Partners in Education 'Beacon of Quality Award,' an Emerson Electric 'Excellence in Teaching Award,' was listed in *Who's Who Among American Teachers*, and was the Illinois State Historical Society Teacher of the Year in 2007. We hope he has room on his wall for this plaque as well."

Welker, a graduate of East Alton-Wood River High School, attended Belleville Area College and graduated from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville before his employment at Roxana High School.

---James A. DeGroff Jr.

Flag Day in Brighton

The annual Flag Day Celebration by GGRCC will be held at 5 p.m. Monday, June 14, at Schneider Park, Brighton, according to coordinator Timothy S. Raymer. It will be the first time that the ceremony is to take place in Macoupin County, in line with the chapter's expansion of services to counties north of Madison.

Chapter members will present their program on 16 historic flags, and a full display of the chapter's 66 state and historic flags is planned. Participating will be the chapter's color guard, officers of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Boy Scouts.

President's Letter

By Gaylord J. (Jim) James

The activities of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter increase as summer nears. Nevertheless, the past two months have not been devoid of activity. An Eagle Scout Certificate was presented at Greenville, an ROTC Certificate and JROTC Certificate were presented at Southern Illinois University and Alton High School, respectively. On May 25 the chapter cooperated with the DAR and placed a patriot marker on the grave of William Gillham at the Newbern Cemetery.

During the next month the chapter will honor five Revolutionary patriots in Glenwood Cemetery, Collinsville, and our color guard has been asked to participate in several DAR Patriot recognitions: at Pruitt Cemetery in Bethalto and at Grant Fork in July. We have also been asked to present our Historic Flags at the Fort Hill celebration in Greenville June 11-12. Our Flag Day Celebration will be in Brighton June 14.

See the Page 2 story on awards won by GGRCC at the Illinois Society SAR meeting in May. None of these awards would have been forthcoming without the dedication of the membership. My personal congratulations to all of you for your efforts on behalf of the chapter.

In concluding, I again make a plea to all the compatriots to consider a contribution to the National Society for the "Center for Advancing America's Heritage." Foundations and corporations consider the percentage of members of an organization who have donated when they consider a contribution. The library is nearly completed; the anticipated opening is to be in August. However, funds are needed to complete the main building.

May God Bless America!

The Long Knife, Quarterly Newsletter
Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter
of the Illinois Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
6264 Lanterman Dr., Bethalto, IL 62010