



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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September 2011



Highland High School teacher Barbara Kay accepts the 2011 Schweizer American History Teacher Award from ISSSAR officer James A. DeGroff Jr.

Schweizer History Teacher '11 Award Given

A Highland High School teacher is the 2011 recipient of the coveted Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution Charles B. and Eleanor N. Schweizer American History Teacher award.

Barbara Kay, who teaches advanced placement United States history, AP European history and Women's Bio, received the plaque and a \$500 check at a luncheon ceremony in May at Springfield.

It was the third such award since its establishment by the Schweizers to recognize teachers who actively address the era of the American Revolution 1750-1800. Charles B. Schweizer, at age 95, continues to be active in the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter SAR, which he founded 25 years ago.

In applying, Barbara Kay described growing up listening to her father's and grandfather's stories about experiences in World Wars I and II. "Their remembrances brought history to life for me," she said. "It was just natural for me to become a history teacher so I could bring history to life for others."

Her unique teaching methods include dividing a class between colonists and the British, with each team trying to manage resources, alliances and hardships. Her students participate in "Meet the Press"-style discussions, conduct mock trials and debates, and dress in period (*Continued on Page 2*)

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Col. Charles B. Schweizer, Associate Editor.
Send announcements, items of interest and member news to, Editor, The *Long Knife*, 6264 Lanterman Dr., Bethalto, IL. Ph. 618-377-6010, e-mail Cbur305325@aol.com
Luncheon meetings third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd., (Rt. 143)

Schweizer History Teacher Award Given

(Continued from Page 1) clothing to better visualize and understand events of the American Revolution.

Highland High's Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Lynne Newton, wrote that "Barbara Kay goes out of her way to make history come alive for students throughout the district. Each year she presents Constitution Day lessons to students in grades K-6. She also presents programs on Betsy Ross and Martha Washington for grade 2-4 students."

Barbara Kay said that each year there are students who question why they should learn about the American Revolution. "Because it is the backbone of our country," she tells them. "All of our freedoms and rights can be traced back to that struggle. By taking an active part in the lessons, students realize that trial by jury, freedom of religion, all the liberties we take for granted came about because of the men and women of the Revolution."

In presenting the award, ILSSAR history teacher award chairman James A. DeGross Jr. noted that Barbara Kay has received many awards for teaching skills but "looks to her students as her greatest achievement."

She has taught American History for 32 years. She earned a bachelor of science in education degree from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University) and master of arts degree from Webster University.

– Lola and Jim DeGross

15 Eagle Scouts Honored by GGRCC

As of summer, GGRCC in 2011 has recognized 15 new Eagle Scouts in Madison County. The latest were:

Thomas Pauk, 18, received on July 31 a medal and certificate for attaining Eagle Scout status. The court of honor was at First Presbyterian Church, Edwardsville.

Thomas Pauk, the son of Jeffrey and Melinda Pauk of Edwardsville, is a recent graduate of Edwardsville High School and now is studying mechanical engineering at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. A member of Scout Troop 1031 of Edwardsville, his Eagle Scout project was mapping and placing markers in Lusk Cemetery, Edwardsville, for reference of researchers and genealogists.

The Eagle Scout recognition awards also were presented May 27 to Zachary Watt, son of Don and Sherrie Watt of Edwardsville in a court of honor at St. John's Methodist Church, Edwardsville. Zachary, a 2010 graduate of Edwardsville High School, planned to enter the U.S. Naval Academy with the goal of becoming a Marine officer.

The court of honor presentations for both were by GGRCC President Ronnie D. Hicks and Vice President James A. DeGross Jr.

President's Letter

By Ronnie D. Hicks

GGRCC has various activities scheduled for the upcoming fall.

Team 607, the GGRCC-sponsored team in the Edwardsville-Glen Carbon Little League Assn., exceeded our expectations by winning first place in its division. The team defeated its next opponent by winning the grade 6-7 tournament. Manager/coach Mike Montgomery and his coaching staff were most appreciative of GGRCC's monetary contribution. I presented the donation to them while attending a pool party for Team 607 members. GGRCC received trophies for team 607's division and tournament wins. Each player signed a baseball for GGRCC. As a representative of the chapter, I spoke to parents and the coach staff about membership in SAR. Patriotism is every chapter member's objective. The youth of today are very easily influenced during the early stages of their lives.

Jim DeGross and I have heard numerous testimonies from the young men at the court of honor Eagle Scout award ceremonies we attended. The Eagle Scout rank awards have definitely kept GGRCC active this year. I appreciate the participation and assistance in presenting the certificates at courts of honor by Jim DeGross, Bill Feeney, Al Oleson and Tim Raymer.

During the month of July the remains of MIA SP4 Randall Dalton from the Vietnam War were positively identified through DNA testing. SP4 Dalton was a resident of Collinsville. There were 1,050 American flags placed along Illinois Rt. 157 for his funeral procession and ceremony. Volunteers placing the flags included GGRCC members Harry Windland and I. The tribute to Dalton by Larry Eckhardt from Little York, IL was extremely inspiring.

At the August GGRCC luncheon Jim DeGross reported that GGRCC is now the third largest chapter in Illinois. There are about 15 new member applications awaiting NSSAR processing. With approval of these, GGRCC will exceed even the Chicago chapter. Public awareness is very essential to the survival of GGRCC. I appeal to every chapter member to make a meticulous effort to sign up at least one new member.

Please remember that GGRCC meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge on Rt. 143 in Edwardsville. Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and the actual meeting around noon or shortly thereafter. If you are unable to make the luncheon, perhaps you can attend the business session. If you would like to have a chapter event conducted in your community, contact one of the GGRCC officers and with your request. Thanks.

GGRC Member Activities

The Green Mountain Boys Revolutionary War Flag has been added to GGRCC's collection of historic banners. James A. DeGroff Jr., chapter vice president and Illinois Society-SAR secretary, accepted it from the collection of the late Joe Smith, donated to ILSSAR. The flag, with a green field and 13 white stars set on blue, was carried by Vermont soldiers in campaigns starting with the conquest of Ft. Ticonderoga.

* * *

Compatriot DeGroff received three awards at the ILSSAR annual banquet—a silver color guard medal, silver good citizenship medal and excellence patriot award. His wife, Lola, who frequently assists GGRCC and ILSSAR projects, received the Martha Washington Medal. GGRCC President Ronnie D. Hicks received a bronze good citizenship medal, immediate Past President Gaylord (Jim) James a military service medal, and former President Timothy S. Raymer silver good citizenship medal. GGRCC received a president's citation for attendance at ILSSAR meetings, and a Joel Willis Newsletter Award for regular publication of the *Long Knife*. Several war service awards were listed in the June *Long Knife*.

* * *

Compatriot DeGroff was a member of the color guard June 18 at Mt. Vernon during the dedication of a statue honoring Revolutionary War heroine Molly Pitcher and Army Major Tammy Duckworth, who lost both legs when her Black Hawk helicopter was shot down in Iraq. A memorial wall behind the statue honors women war participants.

* * *

Eleven GGRCC members toured historic sites and lunched June 9 at Vandalia. They visited the restored Illinois State Capitol building, city museum and Madonna of the Trail (National Road) statue. The activity was led by Troy M. Huddle and Jerry E. Maas.

* * *

For what is believed to be the first such cancellation, the annual Flag Day Ceremony June 14 was not held because of threat of rain. It was scheduled by coordinator Timothy S. Raymer in Miner Park, Glen Carbon. Damage to our irreplaceable flags was feared. It may be at the same location in 2012.

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