



# The Musket Report



Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution

**ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA**

**March 2026**

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## From The President

Compatriot Phillip Kitchens

It is a great day to be a Revolutionary Patriot descendant. Through the sacrifices and determination of our Patriot ancestors, we live today in a nation of free men. Our goal each day is to honor them as they deserve—by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our great Nation.

Each of us reflects these goals in different ways. Whether through involvement in other veterans' organizations, support of our Military, conversations about the significance of the American Revolution, or even participation on social media, every effort matters.

I will admit that for many years I avoided social media like the plague. I believed nobody needed to know what I thought or liked. However, over the past few years, I have come to realize that social media is now one of the most effective ways to communicate across all generations. Platforms like Facebook, Truth Social, X, Instagram, and YouTube are filled with people just like us—seeking information, entertainment, and connection around shared interests.

This realization led us to create our websites at SARWiregrassAL.org, Facebook page @SAR Wiregrass Chapter and our YouTube channel @WiregrassSARAlabama, where we share how we honor our Revolutionary ancestors and serve our community. I once thought that liking or subscribing to something didn't really matter—but in reality, it matters a great deal. Likes, subscriptions, shares, and comments give a page visibility. When someone searches for topics like history, the American Revolution, or SAR, these interactions help ensure our message is seen.

So, when you are scrolling and see a story, website, or posts related to our mission, please Like, Subscribe, Share, and Leave a Comment. These simple actions truly make a difference in promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations.

HUZZAH!



## Wiregrass Chapter Compatriot Honored


Our very own Compatriot Paul Mullins was honored by the DAR's Quilts of Valor Foundation team on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Annual ALDAR Patriot's Luncheon in Auburn. This foundation honors the sacrifices of both current and former veterans. The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq.

According to Catherine: *"The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an*


emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing.” Congratulations!

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## Captain William Brackin Marking




*You are cordially invited to attend the*  
Revolutionary War Patriot Memorial Ceremony of



**Captain William Brackin**  
North Carolina

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
**2:00 PM**  
Kirkland-Brackin Cemetery  
County Road 73  
Newville, Alabama

Sponsored by:  
Wiregrass Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American  
Revolution  
[pksarwiregrass@gmail.com](mailto:pksarwiregrass@gmail.com)



The Wiregrass Chapter ALSSAR will host a Patriot Marking ceremony to honor one of our local Revolutionary War patriots Captain William Brackin. Remarks will be provided by one of our own Compatriots, Captain Brackin's 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson Dr. Glenn Brackin. Following the ceremony, the Emassee-Robert Grierson DAR Chapter will host a brief reception at the Concord Baptist Church located just down the road from the cemetery. We highly encourage your participation at this event. If you wish to volunteer with setup, tear down or to bring simple refreshments, please contact Compatriot Dallas at (254) 317-8623 or [jrdsar@gmail.com](mailto:jrdsar@gmail.com).

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## Historian's Corner

Compatriot James Crabtree

OUR REVOLUTION IN HISTORY: Armed Services Editions in WWII.

My wife Heidi and I have been interested in getting books into the hands of soldiers since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. I was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> USACAS BN which ran base camps in the Fort Bliss training areas north of the New Mexico border. To the surprise of my unit, we were in charge of mobilization training for Reserve and National Guard units on their way to various locations CONUS and OCONUS for security duties.

MacGregor Range Base Camp in New Mexico was the last stop on their way to isolated and underdeveloped areas. Talking to Heidi we came to the conclusion that it might be nice (based on my own experiences) to have some sort of reading material for off-duty time. So, we began a book drive.

With help from the post newspaper, we were soon getting books donated at the main library. We also agreed to pick up books at homes and had boxloads of Star Trek books and westerns. We also found out that the main library received a large box of books every month that they were supposed to distribute but instead put in storage. Over the years there were hundreds of these books and they were made available as well.

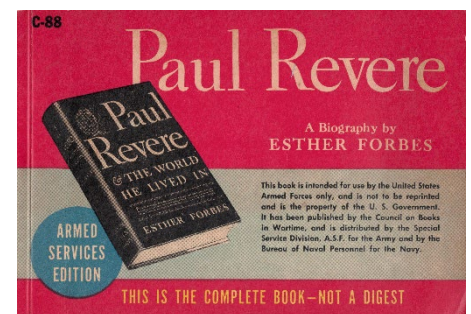
The book drive was an enormous success! During the Operation Noble Eagle mobilizations, we had at least a hundred Soldiers coming through MacGregor Range base camp every week. Sooner or later the Soldiers had the opportunity to visit the recreation center to get snacks and other items. Service members now had the chance to get free books on their way to whatever airport, bridge or base needed guarding. Thanks to trades and help from volunteers we had a wide selection for the young men and women to read during the downtime that would inevitably come.

We didn't know it at the time but we were following in the steps of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers when it came to providing reading material for American Soldiers. And yes, there is a link to the American Revolution.

After the United States entered WWII in December 1941, full mobilization began and troops were soon earmarked for duty in North Africa, Britain, Curacao, Iceland, Greenland, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, and Australia. Concerned citizens worried about servicemen being stuck in distant lands with little or no opportunity for entertainment, began collecting books to send to Soldiers overseas. This soon became a problem, as the supply of excess books began to dry up and distribution became a logistics challenge. Shortly afterward, the Armed Services Editions were created.

The books were paperbacks, an uncommon format at the time. The top edge was longer than the spine because the printers printed to books one above the other, in the old paperback format and then cut it in half. This made the books lightweight and small enough to fit in the shirt pocket of most field uniforms. Distribution began in 1943 and continued in smaller numbers through 1947 for occupation units. Each book was given out free to servicemen. ASEs were designed to last through six readers under normal conditions. Soldiers and sailors were expected to trade the books to other servicemen or to just give them away.

The titles were selected by the Council of Books in Wartime, which handled the printing and legal issues, such as royalty payments. The cover of the ASE had the name of the work and an image of the commercially-printed book. These were almost always printed in their entirety and NOT a digest version.



Titles were produced in poetry, sports, humor, history, murder mysteries, short-story fiction, westerns, science fiction, true adventure, political affairs, and current events. Classics by Kipling, Hemingway, Mark Twain, Edgar Allen Poe, Shakespeare and Herman Melville were also available. By 1945 books were being distributed ABOUT the war and the American experience of it: reporter Ernie Pyle's North Africa war reporting in *Here Is Your War*, Ira Wolfart's experiences as an American Guerrilla in the Philippines, Thomas St. George's misadventures in Australia in *C/O Postmaster*, George Baker's *Sad Sack* cartoons of 1944 France, and Bill Mauldin's cartoons of the Italian campaign in *Up Front*.



Included in the history titles were books about the American Revolution, such as *Ethan Allen* by Stewart H. Holbrook, *Benjamin Franklin* by Carl Van Doren, *Boston: Cradle of Liberty* by John Jennings, *Davy Crockett* by Constance Rourke and *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In* by Esther Forbes. Other books touching on the Revolution included Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Paul Revere's Ride and other Poems*, Walter Lippmann's *U.S. Foreign Policy*, Herbert V. Prochnow's *Great Stories of Great Lives* and *A Book of Americans* by Rosemary and Stephen Benet.

The Armed Services Editions sparked an American interest in reading which might otherwise not have bloomed after WWII. If, as some historians have argued, the books triggered an appreciation of good literature for literature's sake, then there can be no doubt that many GI readers gained an appreciation of history in order to understand how we got to where we are. Many of these GIs must have come to appreciate the unique history of the American Revolution and the struggle for liberty...especially after participating in a war to preserve these liberties in the Second World War.

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## Honoring Our Patriots



President Kitchens produced several videos on our YouTube channel this past month showcasing the lives of some of our local patriots. He plans to release a new video weekly. As of today, he has given us a glimpse into the lives and service of three of our local patriots: Joseph Watford, Jacob Beverett, and Bartholomew Fields. That leaves 50-something to go! If anyone wishes to contribute to this project, please contact President Kitchens. Our YouTube channel can be found by searching: [@WiregrassSARAlabama](https://www.youtube.com/@WiregrassSARAlabama)

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## Dates To Remember

**Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>-** ALSSAR Annual Meeting. Hoover, AL

**Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>-** Wiregrass Chapter Meeting. 11:30 am, Enterprise Country Club

**Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>-** Wiregrass Chapter Meeting. 11:30 am, Enterprise Country Club

**Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>-** Captain William Brackin Marking 2:00 pm, Neville, AL

**Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup>-** Wiregrass Chapter Meeting Time & Place TBD

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The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.