

The Musket Report

Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, ALSSAR
Enterprise, AL

"Home of the Boll Weevil Monument"

November, 2001

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR will be held **November 15th at 11:30 at Po' Folks** in Enterprise. Compatriot Rex Everage will present some of the information that he has uncovered on the four Revolutionary War Patriots who settled in Covington County. As the year progresses the chapter hopes to move forward in finding the grave of one if not more of these patriots. This would provide a perfect opportunity for the Wiregrass Chapter to organize a grave marking in the county. This is especially important since there are no known Revolutionary War Patriots buried here in Coffee County.

The year is rapidly coming to an end and it is again time to consider nominations for chapter officers to serve next year. As has been stated before, we have a lot of excellent talent within the chapter, and numerous members who are more than qualified to handle leadership positions. At the November meeting a Nominating Committee will be appointed to develop a slate of officers for presentation at the December meeting.

SAR DUES

To date the chapter has collected dues from more than one-third of its members. The deadline for submission of State and National is right around the corner in December. During this period of both National Tragedy and National Resolve, the Society, at all levels, is redoubling its efforts to insure those historic and patriotic events, which led to the founding of this great nation, along with the sacrifices of our forefathers, are never forgotten. If you haven't done so already, please take a minute and send your check for \$45.00 payable to the Wiregrass Chapter to: Mr. Dick Kemp, P.O. Box 311093, Enterprise, AL 36331-1093. New membership cards will be distributed in December.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to report that the membership application of Mr. Charles Dye has been submitted. Dick Kemp who helped in this application is out searching for more new prospects (As the weather turns cold, he is looking for things to keep him busy!). Several other applications are still in various stages of preparation and should be ready to go before the end of the year. The chapter was challenged with a 15% growth rate in membership for 2001 and thanks to everyone's effort, this growth rate has been achieved. Compatriot Wallace has the computer program for applications, and is more than willing to assist in the preparation of the final application document. If you know of a potential candidate, please bring him to a meeting. We know there are many gentlemen out there who are eligible to join - ask a friend!!

NOTE:

Chapter President John Wallace will be out of town from the 22 October—6 November and again from 24 November—2 December. Anyone needing assistance with SAR business or information should contact Compatriot John R. Fuller (347-4213) or Compatriot Dick Kemp (308 -2391)

Veterans' Day

November 11th is Veterans' Day and every compatriot is encouraged to attend or support the Veterans' program in your particular area. As this country moves in its war on terrorism, this is a fitting time to stop and remember the contributions that the members of the armed forces have made, and continue to make, in securing and protecting our freedoms and way of life.

On 4 October, some 200 books were delivered to the Veteran's Hospital in Biloxi. This brings the total number of books distributed by the chapter to veterans this year to over 1700!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Please mark your calendar

20 December—Chapter Meeting and election of officers, Enterprise

17 January, 2002—Installation of new officers. A program will be presented by Rod Hildreth, ALSSAR Trustee and VP General of the International District, NSSAR who will also install the new officers.

22-23 February, 2002—ALSSAR State Convention, Birmingham. Members are encourage to attend, as this provides an excellent opportunity to meet members from around the state.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

When President Bush participated recently in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in a New York City school, he was probably unaware that the recital to Old Glory began on another October day a little more than a century ago. The occasion was the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' historic visit, with American clergyman and editor Francis Bellamy devising a statement in 1892 that he hoped would be a fitting tribute to the Great Discoverer. Mr. Bellamy's name was not a household word at the time. Born in Mount Morris, N.Y., in 1855, he became a minister after his graduation from Rochester Theological Seminary in 1879. For several years, he plied his trade at various churches, but in 1891 decided to join the staff of a magazine, *Youth's Companion*. One of his first major duties as a magazine editor was to be chairman of the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day, an organization set up by *Youth's Companion*. Mr. Bellamy and staffer James B. Upham planned numerous activities for schoolchildren in observance of the quadricentennial. One suggestion was for youngsters to recite the following statement that Mr. Bellamy devised:

I pledge allegiance to my flag -
And to the Republic for which it stands
One Nation indivisible
With liberty and justice for all.

Not only was the statement recited on Columbus Day, but daily afterward because it seemed to be a fitting way to begin each school day. Of course, slight modifications were made to the Pledge of Allegiance, as it came to be known, over the years. In 1923, the National Flag Conference held in Washington changed the words "my flag" to "the flag of the United States." A year later, it added "of America" after "United States." Congress got into the act as well, approving the Pledge in 1945 and nine years later adding the words "under God" after "one Nation." But as these changes were being affected, controversy raged over the authorship of the Pledge. After Mr. Bellamy died in 1931, the family of Mr. Upham contended that their namesake had actually written the Pledge. Despite the Great Depression that overwhelmed the nation at the time, the United States Flag Association decided to settle the controversy. In 1939, it appointed a committee of three historians to ascertain authorship of the Pledge of Allegiance. The committee agreed that Mr. Bellamy had, indeed, penned the statement. Controversy continued afterward as 17 states passed laws requiring public school children to salute the flag and recite the Pledge daily. When members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious sect, took issue with the requirement, the Supreme Court in 1940 upheld such laws on the grounds that "national unity," the foundation for "national security," prevailed over individual religious preferences. However, the court reversed itself three years later in a West Virginia case, again involving Jehovah's Witnesses. Said the court: "We think the action of the local authorities in compelling the flag salute and the pledge transcends constitutional limitations on their power and invades the sphere of intellect and spirit which is the purpose of the First Amendment ... To reserve from all official control."

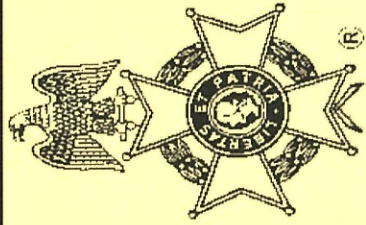
Although the court's decision was met with both support and disagreement from Americans, the most widely repeated view since 1892 about the flag and the Pledge came from President Woodrow Wilson in 1915: "The things that the flag stands for," said Wilson, "were created by the experiences of a great people. Everything that it stands for was written by their lives. The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history. It represents the experiences made by men and women, the experiences of those who ... live under that flag."

SARTALK—By Thomas V. DiBacco

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES October 8, 2001

NOTES FALL TRUSTEES MEETING/ALSSAR BOM MEETING

- NSSAR has increased fees for new members. Effective 1 January 2002, the NSSAR application fee will be increased from \$35.00 to \$55.00 which will be non-refundable, while the National supplemental fee will rise to \$45.00. The increases were a result of a time and motion study showing the society was losing money in processing applications. The cost of becoming an ALSSAR member will increase to slightly over \$100.00 when state and chapter fees are included.
- As of 13 October the State had commitments for \$14,000 for the Patriot Doors at the American Village!
- The year 2002 represents the 300th anniversary of the establishment of Mobile; ALSSAR plans to take an active part in the city's year long celebration.
- Compatriot Dick Kemp has been appointed a member of the ALSSAR's Nominating Committee for 2002 state officers.
- The NSSAR has instituted a Patriot Fund drive to assist victims of the Sept 11th tragedy. Some \$113.00 was donated by representatives at the BOM meeting on the 13th.



The Musket Report

Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, ALSSAR
Enterprise, AL

"Home of the Boll Weevil Monument"

November, 2001

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR will be held **November 15th at 11:30 at Po' Folks** in Enterprise. Compatriot Rex Everage will present some of the information that he has uncovered on the four Revolutionary War Patriots who settled in Covington County. As the year progresses the chapter hopes to move forward in finding the grave of one if not more of these patriots. This would provide a perfect opportunity for the Wiregrass Chapter to organize a grave marking in the county. This is especially important since there are no known Revolutionary War Patriots buried here in Coffee County.

The year is rapidly coming to an end and it is again time to consider nominations for chapter officers to serve next year. As has been stated before, we have a lot of excellent talent within the chapter, and numerous members who are more than qualified to handle leadership positions. At the November meeting a Nominating Committee will be appointed to develop a slate of officers for presentation at the December meeting.

SAR DUES

To date the chapter has collected dues from more than one-third of its members. The deadline for submission of State and National is right around the corner in December. During this period of both National Tragedy and National Resolve, the Society, at all levels, is redoubling its efforts to insure those historic and patriotic events, which led to the founding of this great nation, along with the sacrifices of our forefathers, are never forgotten. If you haven't done so already, please take a minute and send your check for \$45.00 payable to the Wiregrass Chapter to: Mr. Dick Kemp, P.O. Box 311093, Enterprise, AL 36331-1093. New membership cards will be distributed in December.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to report that the membership application of Mr. Charles Dye has been submitted. Dick Kemp who helped in this application is out searching for more new prospects (As the weather turns cold, he is looking for things to keep him busy!). Several other applications are still in various stages of preparation and should be ready to go before the end of the year. The chapter was challenged with a 15% growth rate in membership for 2001 and thanks to everyone's effort, this growth rate has been achieved. Compatriot Wallace has the computer program for applications, and is more than willing to assist in the preparation of the final application document. If you know of a potential candidate, please bring him to a meeting. We know there are many gentlemen out there who are eligible to join - ask a friend!!

NOTE:

Chapter President John Wallace will be out of town from the 22 October—6 November and again from 24 November—2 December. Anyone needing assistance with SAR business or information should contact Compatriot John R. Fuller (347-4213) or Compatriot Dick Kemp (308 -2391)

Veterans' Day

November 11th is Veterans' Day and every compatriot is encouraged to attend or support the Veterans' program in your particular area. As this country moves in its war on terrorism, this is a fitting time to stop and remember the contributions that the members of the armed forces have made, and continue to make, in securing and protecting our freedoms and way of life.

On 4 October, some 200 books were delivered to the Veteran's Hospital in Biloxi. This brings the total number of books distributed by the chapter to veterans this year to over 1700!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Please mark your calendar

20 December—Chapter Meeting and election of officers, Enterprise

17 January, 2002—Installation of new officers. A program will be presented by Rod Hildreth, ALSSAR Trustee and VP General of the International District, NSSAR who will also install the new officers.

22-23 February, 2002—ALSSAR State Convention, Birmingham. Members are encourage to attend, as this provides an excellent opportunity to meet members from around the state.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

When President Bush participated recently in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in a New York City school, he was probably unaware that the recital to Old Glory began on another October day a little more than a century ago. The occasion was the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' historic visit, with American clergyman and editor Francis Bellamy devising a statement in 1892 that he hoped would be a fitting tribute to the Great Discoverer. Mr. Bellamy's name was not a household word at the time. Born in Mount Morris, N.Y., in 1855, he became a minister after his graduation from Rochester Theological Seminary in 1879. For several years, he plied his trade at various churches, but in 1891 decided to join the staff of a magazine, *Youth's Companion*. One of his first major duties as a magazine editor was to be chairman of the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day, an organization set up by *Youth's Companion*. Mr. Bellamy and staffer James B. Upham planned numerous activities for schoolchildren in observance of the quadricentennial. One suggestion was for youngsters to recite the following statement that Mr. Bellamy devised:

I pledge allegiance to my flag -
And to the Republic for which it stands
One Nation indivisible
With liberty and justice for all.

Not only was the statement recited on Columbus Day, but daily afterward because it seemed to be a fitting way to begin each school day. Of course, slight modifications were made to the Pledge of Allegiance, as it came to be known, over the years. In 1923, the National Flag Conference held in Washington changed the words "my flag" to "the flag of the United States." A year later, it added "of America" after "United States." Congress got into the act as well, approving the Pledge in 1945 and nine years later adding the words "under God" after "one Nation." But as these changes were being affected, controversy raged over the authorship of the Pledge. After Mr. Bellamy died in 1931, the family of Mr. Upham contended that their namesake had actually written the Pledge. Despite the Great Depression that overwhelmed the nation at the time, the United States Flag Association decided to settle the controversy. In 1939, it appointed a committee of three historians to ascertain authorship of the Pledge of Allegiance. The committee agreed that Mr. Bellamy had, indeed, penned the statement. Controversy continued afterward as 17 states passed laws requiring public school children to salute the flag and recite the Pledge daily. When members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious sect, took issue with the requirement, the Supreme Court in 1940 upheld such laws on the grounds that "national unity," the foundation for "national security," prevailed over individual religious preferences. However, the court reversed itself three years later in a West Virginia case, again involving Jehovah's Witnesses. Said the court: "We think the action of the local authorities in compelling the flag salute and the pledge transcends constitutional limitations on their power and invades the sphere of intellect and spirit which is the purpose of the First Amendment ... To reserve from all official control."

Although the court's decision was met with both support and disagreement from Americans, the most widely repeated view since 1892 about the flag and the Pledge came from President Woodrow Wilson in 1915: "The things that the flag stands for," said Wilson, "were created by the experiences of a great people. Everything that it stands for was written by their lives. The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history. It represents the experiences made by men and women, the experiences of those who ... live under that flag."

SARTALK—By Thomas V. DiBacco
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES October 8, 2001

NOTES FALL TRUSTEES MEETING/ALSSAR BOM MEETING

- NSSAR has increased fees for new members. Effective 1 January 2002, the NSSAR application fee will be increased from \$35.00 to \$55.00 which will be non-refundable, while the National supplemental fee will rise to \$45.00. The increases were a result of a time and motion study showing the society was losing money in processing applications. The cost of becoming an ALSSAR member will increase to slightly over \$100.00 when state and chapter fees are included.
- As of 13 October the State had commitments for \$14,000 for the Patriot Doors at the American Village!
- The year 2002 represents the 300th anniversary of the establishment of Mobile; ALSSAR plans to take an active part in the city's year long celebration.
- Compatriot Dick Kemp has been appointed a member of the ALSSAR's Nominating Committee for 2002 state officers.
- The NSSAR has instituted a Patriot Fund drive to assist victims of the Sept 11th tragedy. Some \$113.00 was donated by representatives at the BOM meeting on the 13th.