



California Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., Chapter

Minutes of the Meeting for
10 December 2004

The Friday, 10 December 2004, meeting of the General George S. Patton, Jr., Chapter of the CASSAR was held in the small upstairs dining room of the Berylwood Officers Club, being called to order by Chapter President J. Stephen Hurst. Following the pledge and the invocation, members adjourned to the buffet. In attendance were seven compatriots: President J. Stephen Hurst, Joe Coffman, Hale Hamilton, Jim Cary, Gary Smith, Frank Budroe and Robert Taylor; and guests, Mrs. Bernie Smith, Mrs. Shirley Hamilton, Mrs. Patty Coffman, Mrs. Willette Budroe, and Mr. Steve Schleder. President Hurst reconvened the meeting following the buffet luncheon.

Steve Schleder presented an update on his efforts for restoring the St. Mary's Cemetery, and his frustration with the City of Ventura. James Sumner, Medal of Honor winner for an 1869 battle with the Apaches under Cochise, is buried there, as is a CSA colonel. Following the report, Steve was presented the SAR bronze good citizenship medal.

The Chapter Officers' slate for 2005 was elected by the membership and installed. Officers Richard Hawley, Richard Caldwell and Ron Risley were elected and installed in absentia. The officers for 2005 are:

President – Richard Hawley
Vice President – Steve Hurst
Secretary – Bob Taylor
Treasurer – Richard Caldwell
Registrar – Ron Risley
Chaplain – Frank Budroe
Historian – Joe Coffman

Chaplain Frank Budroe presented a Christmas message regarding its history.

The minutes for 8 October 2004 were distributed and approved as read.

Due to absence, there were no Treasurer's or Registrar's reports.

The Chaplain's report was presented.

Old Business:

Due to the absence of Richard Hawley and Ron Risley, a report on the presentation of the SAR Fire Commendation Medal to Ventura City Fire Chief Mike Lavery was deferred to the 14 January 2005 meeting.

Bob Taylor reported on the 28 October 2004 meeting with the Mitz-Khan-a-Khan Chapter DAR, at which Pati Longo, Regent, was presented the SAR Medal of Appreciation by Richard Hawley and Ron Risley. This meeting was in lieu of the November regular Chapter meeting.

President Hurst reported on the Veterans Day observances at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park and Cemetery Park. Ron Risley and President Hurst formed the color guard for the Ivy Lawn services, after which President Hurst portrayed Ventura pioneer and photographer John Brewster for the Cemetery Park memorial funeral services for Medal of Honor winner James Hamner. Col. Millet was the speaker at Cemetery Park and was described as an interesting person, being one of the more decorated Army veterans. It was noted the Ventura Star did not publish any mention of the Cemetery Park observance.

New Business:

A solicitation to donate for a brick in the SeaBee heritage Park was received; it was moved and approved that the Chapter support this event.

The Knights essay contest was discussed. President Hurst has received a single enquiry, and has talked to school counselors. The National Society awards \$3,000 and a winning recognition plaque for first place, plus airfare and hotel for two nights at the SAR 115th Annual Congress in Louisville, KY. Second place award is \$2,000, while third place is \$1,000.

Sending an area teacher to Valley Forge was discussed as a means to inject actual Revolutionary War history into the local schools. CASSAR pays for a teacher to attend a week long course at the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge. Attendees are usually invited to give a presentation at state conventions.

In place of a Chapter program presentation, a round table discussion was held for each Chapter member to relate his search for his Revolutionary War ancestors, and the process whereby he came to seek membership in SAR. Some stories were particularly memorable.

Finally, a Christmas drawing was held for three boxes of confections. Winners were Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Coffman and Steve Schledel.

The next regular Chapter meeting will be convened 14 January 2005.

The meeting was adjourned following the benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Taylor, Chapter Secretary.