



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

December 2018

Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

NEXT MEETING:

When: Saturday, December 15

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S Strang Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 6:00 PM

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.com or call Preston Washington (816) 444-1198 by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before.

Christmas Dinner price: \$40.00/person plus cash bar.

Program : Christmas Party Dinner; plus short members meeting at completion of party.

CALENDER & COMING EVENTS

12/12 DX EC Meeting, at Pegah's, 2122 W.87th St, Lenexa, KS; be there at 5:30 PM if eating dinner. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM.

12/15 Wreaths Across America

12/15 Chapter Christmas Party; + Chapter Meeting. See writeup below.

Editor's Note (Greg Millican)

Send news about your ancestor patriots, special events, career changes, history trips, etc., that may be included in the *Delaware Crossing Patriot*. You may reach me at Gregory.millican@gmail.com, and phone number (913) 268-4932.



The President's Corner

By Kirk Rush

Compatriots,

My President's corner will be brief this month as I am borrowing from *The Scoutmaster Minute* by Ron Wendel. This is book full of wise sayings for Boy Scout leaders to pass on to their Boy Scouts. I found one that I think is particularly interesting and that I believe well sums up what we should be doing as members of the SAR:

“Take a stand for right, for truth, for freedom, and for justice. Don't be afraid to stand up for what you believe in, and you'll find you won't stand alone. When the time comes and you must take a stand, let your voice be heard.”

I am also borrowing from Edmund Burke (1729-1797) who was an Irish statesman and philosopher. He criticized British treatment of the American colonies and supported the rights of the colonists to resist. He has been quoted as saying, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

As descendants of our Patriot ancestors we should remember the words of our SAR Pledge Recessional and be ready at any time to defend the foundations of our country which our forefathers built for us.

(End of President's Corner)

Eagle Scouts Honored:

On Saturday November 10th, Chapter President and Eagle Scout Chairman Kirk Rush was in uniform at Troop 123's fall Eagle Court of Honor in Lenexa, KS to present SAR Eagle Scout certificates to the following Eagle Scouts: Wilson Anglemyer, James Ball, Bryce DeBok, and Brian Parks



You are invited to the Delaware Crossing Chapter Christmas Party on December 15:

Contact the Chapter Secretary with your reservation and the number of persons in your party. The Christmas party will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, with the BlueValley Northwest H.S. quartet to play Christmas selections. Happy hour will be at 6:00 PM till 7:00, with Dinner at 7. Quartet to play 6:30 PM to 7:30. Cost for the event will be \$40 per person plus cash bar. The dinner will be Buffet style, with choices listed below:

Buffet Package at Hilton Garden Inn

Entrée (choice, "Some Like It Hot"):

Cedar planked salmon

Or Smothered beef steak tips

Served with:

House Baked Bread

Chef's Seasonal fresh Vegetables

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

House Salad

Chef's Assorted Desserts

Coffee Station, Hot tea

Iced Tea & Water

Quartet at Christmas Party, Dec 15:

A string quartet from Blue Valley Northwest High School will play at our December Meeting, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. They will play a variety of holiday music, patriot, old popular, and classical. Orchestra director is Michael Arbucci. The students playing are Cynthia Dong, 1st violin (senior), Sophia Peng, 2nd violin (junior), Naomi James, viola, (sophomore) and Max Rush, bass (senior).

November Chapter Meeting in Review:

At the beginning of the November Chapter meeting three new chapter members were inducted, and one inducted that had never been through the induction ceremony. The three new members inducted were Bradley Bullock, Donald Linn, Matthew Smith, also David Overmyer was present at the induction ceremony. The patriots for the four inducted were respectively Elias Van Benschoten, Adam Linn, Gabriel Tutt, and John George Overmyer. The four inductees were also presented chapter challenge coins.



1 (l to R) Kirk Rush, Tim Peterman (stand in sponsor), Bradley Bullock, Donald Linn, David Overmyer, Matthew Smith (recite oath).



2 Dewey Fry (left) presents challenge coins to inductees: Matthew Smith, Donald Linn, Bradley Bullock, David Overmyer.

Letter of Thanks from the VA:

November 26, 2018

Dear Mr. Fry:

On behalf of the Leavenworth VA E Kansas HCS patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you and your organization for your Nov. 12 donation of caps, puzzle books, snacks, clothing, books, fleece throws, comfort items, planners, gift cards, DVDs and playing cards.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

CHARLES RAMEY
Voluntary Service Specialist

The speaker for November chapter meeting:

Ronda Hassig was the speaker at the November chapter meeting, and the subject matter was “Bataan Death march and Japanese POW camps.”

She is a national board certified library media specialist and Kansas Master Teacher. She taught for 36 years before retiring in May of this year! She is a 5th generation Kansan whose family came to Lawrence in November of 1863, three months after Quantrill's Raid! She is the author of two books: the first "The Abduction of Jacob Rote" was about Quantrill's Raid. She loves to read, write, research and walk her three feral dogs. She is married to a retired history teacher and together, they have traveled the world. Whenever possible you can find all of them at their home away from home - a 120 year old farm house near Westmoreland and the Oregon Trail.



3 Program speaker: Ronda Hassig.

To be noted from the Executive Committee, Nov 14, 2018 meeting:

- New Business: Chapter dues should be set by the local chapter and not set at the state level. If this subject comes up at a state meeting, let your view point be known (through your officers).
- The draft By-Laws after several change iterations over a six month period were

approved by the Executive Committee and will be presented to the chapter for a vote at the Dec 15 meeting (at the completion of the Christmas Party). The current 'DXSAR By-laws.pdf' and 'Draft Bylaw updates 13Nov2018.pdf' are available for your reading pleasure at www.dxsar.com

Click "Look Inside ->

Compatriot Info (Members)->

Guest Area -> Password

The following changes should be noted:

- Preamble. Added.
- Article I, changes to membership, changes to 'Life' members.
- Article II, Youth Protection Training course added.
- Article III added section on Executive Committee.
- Added clarification of elected officer duties.
- Article IV Added clarification of appointed officers duties. Added Commander of the Color Guard, Veterans Services Chairman, and Web Master.
- Article V Added clarification of Standing Committees duties. Added Youth Poster Contest Committee.
- Article VI Added table format for Meeting Order of Conduct.
- Article VII No change.
- History of Changes, Added/

The changes to the "Draft By-Laws" are in purple font, in the file: "Draft Bylaw updates 13Nov2018.pdf".

If you have forgotten the password for the Compatriot Info (Members only on the web page); It will be sent to you as a separate email after the December newsletter.

**Article by Ken Ludwig): Our Forefathers
Flags**

First Navy Jack

Well this month's flag has provided a couple of things I did not expect. First it a colonial flag with verifiable history, and second it is a colonial flag still in use today! Please read on!



4 First Navy Jack flag.

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The **First Navy Jack** is the current naval jack of the United States, authorized by the U.S. Navy and is flown from the jackstaff of commissioned vessels of the U.S. Navy while moored pierside or at anchor. The design is traditionally regarded as that of the first U.S. naval jack flown in the earliest years of the republic.

History



5 Probable First Naval Jack.

In late 1775, as the first ships of the Continental Navy readied in the Delaware River, Commodore Esek Hopkins issued, in a set of fleet signals, an instruction directing his vessels to fly a "striped" jack and ensign. The exact design of these flags is unknown. The ensign was likely to have been the Grand Union Flag, and the jack a simplified version of the ensign: a field of 13 horizontal red and white stripes. It is likely that the colonial ships did not use (and could not have legitimately used) the canton of the Grand Union Flag (i.e., the Union Jack) as their jack given its use as a jack by Royal Navy warships. Despite the probability that the original jack may have been a simple striped flag, since about 1880, this jack has traditionally been depicted as consisting of thirteen red and white stripes charged with an uncoiled rattlesnake and the motto "Dont Tread on Me" [*sic*]; this tradition dates at least back to 1880, when this design appeared in a color plate in Admiral George Henry Preble's influential *History of the Flag of the United States*. Recent scholarship, however, has demonstrated that this inferred design never actually existed but "was a 19th-century mistake based on an erroneous 1776 engraving".

In 1778, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin wrote a letter to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sicily, thanking him for allowing entry of American ships into Sicilian ports. The letter describes the American flag according to the 1777 Flag Resolution, but also describes a flag of "South Carolina, a rattlesnake, in the middle of the thirteen stripes."¹

The rattlesnake had long been a symbol of resistance to the British in Colonial America. The phrase "Don't tread on me" may have been coined during the American Revolutionary War, a variant perhaps of the snake severed in segments labelled with the names of the colonies and the legend "Join, or Die" which had appeared first in Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1754, as a political cartoon reflecting on the Albany Congress.

The rattlesnake (specifically, the Timber Rattlesnake) is especially significant and symbolic to the American Revolution. The rattle has thirteen layers, signifying the original Thirteen Colonies. Additionally, the snake does not strike until provoked, a quality echoed by the phrase "Don't tread on me."

Modern use

The First Navy Jack was first used in recent history during the United States' Bicentennial year, 1976, when all commissioned naval vessels were directed to fly it while moored or anchored for the entire year, this in lieu of the standard fifty-star Jack of the United States.

In 1980, Secretary of the Navy Edward Hidalgo directed that the warship or fleet auxiliary (e.g., a vessel designated as a "United States Ship" or "USS") with the longest active status shall display the First Navy Jack until decommissioned or transferred to inactive service. Then the flag will be passed to the next ship in line.

At the time, the order disregarded the sailing frigate USS *Constitution*, which while technically the oldest vessel in the U.S. Navy (in service in 1797), did not display the flag. As such, the honor of "oldest ship" in the Fleet was conferred on the following U.S. Navy vessels:

- 1981–1982: Destroyer tender USS *Dixie* (AD-14), commissioned in 1940

- 1982–1993: Destroyer tender USS *Prairie* (AD-15), commissioned in 1940
- 1993–1993: Submarine tender USS *Orion* (AS-18), commissioned in 1943
- 1993–1994: Destroyer tender USS *Yosemite* (AD-19), commissioned in 1944
- 1994–1995: Repair ship USS *Jason* (AR-8), commissioned in 1944
- 1995–1995: Ammunition ship USS *Mauna Kea* (AE-22), commissioned in 1957
- 1995–1998: Aircraft carrier USS *Independence* (CV-62), commissioned in 1959
- 1998–2009: Aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63), commissioned in 1961
- 2009–2012: Aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65), commissioned in 1961
- 2012–2014: Amphibious transport dock USS *Denver* (LPD-9), commissioned in 1968
- 2014–present: Amphibious command ship USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC-19), commissioned in 1970

On 31 May 2002 the Secretary of the Navy issued SECNAV Instruction 10520.6, directing all warships and auxiliaries of the U.S. Navy to fly the First Naval Jack as a "temporary substitution" for the Jack of the United States "during the Global War on Terrorism". This was based on a late 2001 post-9/11 suggestion from retired Captain Brayton Harris (who in 1975–76 had been Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy for the bicentennial). Most vessels made the switch on September 11, 2002, the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

This directive only applied to commissioned vessels of the U.S. Navy, to include the previously excluded USS *Constitution*. Commissioned vessels of the U.S. Coast Guard designated as "United States Coast Guard Cutter" ("USCGC") and USCG patrol boats, vessels of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the predominantly civilian-manned vessels of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command designated as "United States Naval Ship"

("USNS") would continue to fly the Jack of the United States from their jackstaffs while moored or at anchor.

This First Navy Jack, along with the Serapis flag, is also featured on the crest of the *Arleigh Burke* class guided missile destroyer USS *John Paul Jones* (DDG-53).

Other U.S. Navy uses

Since 11 September 2002, the First Navy Jack has also been flown on an optional basis from multi-halyard gaff-rigged flagpoles aboard U.S. Navy installations and facilities ashore, such use always being in addition to the flying of the United States ensign.

The First Navy Jack has also been authorized for wear as a patch by sailors and naval officers on flight suits and certain versions of the Navy Working Uniform (NWU), including sailors and naval officers wearing the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) while assigned to and serving with Army units, at the discretion of the local Army commander. For the NWU and ACU, the patch is typically worn on the opposite sleeve as the U.S. flag.

Sailors and naval officers assigned to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are also authorized to wear the First Navy Jack on their Army Combat Uniform (ACU)/Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern (MultiCam) on the right sleeve, below the American flag.

(End of First Navy Jack Flag article)

(End of Patriot newsletter)