



## *The Delaware Crossing Patriot*

### *Kansas Society*

### *Sons of the American Revolution*

December 2017

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

#### CALENDER

##### NEXT MEETING:

When: Dec 9 [SEE INVITATION BELOW.](#)

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S  
Strang Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 9:00AM

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email  
[Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Ken  
Ludwig (913) 897-0379 by 3:00 PM,  
the Wednesday before.

**CHRISMAS DINNER PRICE:**  
\$36.00/person

Program: Christmas Party (see description)

#### COMING EVENTS

12/06 DXSAR EC meeting, at Oak Park Library,  
95<sup>th</sup> St., Overland Park, KS

12/09 Chapter Christmas Party

12/16 Wreaths Across America

#### 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](mailto:Gregory.millican@gmail.com), and phone number (913) 268-4932.



#### The President's Corner

By Stu Conrad

The Forgotten.

The forgotten person at Thanksgiving and Christmas is the soldier; stationed

far from home and family at what should be a family time. "Just following orders" they say, and we rationalize their service as "volunteers," forgetting that not long ago many of us received draft notices calling us to national service whether willing, eager or not.

As we the privileged sit around our respective Thanksgiving tables or Christmas trees and think about the gifts of family and friends that we have received, we should always remember those who have given us gifts that we cannot even begin to list or value.

Two days ago, as we were driving to Fort Leonard Wood to meet our extended family for Thanksgiving and I was beginning to think about the substance of this writing, I stumbled upon the following piece, adapted from a sermon by John Hagee, that seemed particularly appropriate to share at this time of year and for this group of Compatriots who have given much thought to our Revolutionary ancestors but less to the young to whom we must shortly hand the torch.

Now close your eyes and picture in your mind the soldier at Valley Forge as he holds his musket in his bloody hands. He stands barefoot in the snow, starved from lack of food, wounded from months of battle and emotionally scarred from the eternity away from his family surrounded by nothing by death and the carnage of war.

He looks at us now across the years in anger and disgust and tells us this...

“I gave you a birthright of freedom vested in the Constitution and now your children graduate too illiterate to read it.

I fought in the snow barefoot to give you the freedom to vote and you stay at home because it rains.

I left my family destitute to give you the freedom of speech and you remain silent on critical issues, because it might be politically incorrect or offend someone to express your thoughts.

I orphaned my children to give you a government to serve you and it has stolen democracy from the people.”

As we think about these words, remember: it’s the soldier, not the reporter who gave you freedom of the press.

It’s the soldier, not the poet who gave you the freedom of speech.

It’s the soldier, who salutes the flag, serves the flag, whose coffin is draped with the flag that allows the protestor to burn the flag. Duty, Honor, Country is their guiding principle.

Prayer for the “rest of us:”

“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands, protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen”

(End of President’s Corner)

### Special DX Chapter Vote after 1<sup>st</sup> of year:

During the Delaware Crossing January chapter meeting, there will be a vote to raise yearly chapter dues from the current level of \$15/year to \$20/year. The dues increase will be in effect for 2018.

### Two Awards given at November Chapter meeting:

**The Fire Safety Commendation Award** was presented to Captain Thomas Hoegler of the Olathe Fire Department. Captain Hoegler joined the Olathe Fire Department in February 2007 nearly 11 years ago. He was a Firefighter and is a Paramedic. Since November 2012 he has been an Explosives Detection K9 Handler, Captain Hoegler has been a Fire/Explosions Investigator for 7 1/2 years beginning May 2010. He has been a Bomb Technician for nearly 8 years beginning in February 2010. Captain Hoegler was co-founder of the Kansas City Memorial Stair Climb that honors the 343 firemen who lost their lives in the twin towers on 9-11-2001. Each year 343 firemen, with full gear, each representing a named fireman who lost his life, climb the 110 story Town Pavilion, at 1100 Main, Kansas City, MO. As is typical of many Firemen, Captain Hoegler also has many fire safety presentations to students and organizations.



*I Stu Conrad, Captain Hoegler, and wife, Marge.*

**The Medal For Heroism was be presented to Sean Anthony Gianfrancesco.**

On August 18, 2017, a westbound truck tractor pulling a flat bed trailer crashed into a shock absorption barrier separating the Antioch exit from I-435. It came to rest more than a hundred feet down I-435 and began to burn. Mr. Francesco was westbound on I-435 when he saw smoke, then the truck tractor on fire. He stopped and asked a lady if the driver had gotten out, she told him no. He immediately parked his car and ran to the truck tractor that was on fire, she followed. Upon arriving at the severely damaged truck, he communicated with the injured driver. The driver handed Mr. Francesco a dog through the door window, he in turn handed it to the lady, he then began to help the injured driver from the truck who indicated he could not get out by himself; a third person arrived, a man, who assisted Sean as he carried the truck driver to safety. A few seconds after they had reached a safe distance there was a fiery explosion of the truck. Videos from traffic control camera confirmed the fiery collision of the tractor trailer. The Overland Park Police Department Public Information Officer Lacy confirmed the Mr. Gianfrancesco did indeed place his life in imminent danger by running to the burning truck and assisting the driver to escape. Sean Gianfrancesco is an 18 year old student at Olathe North High School.



2 Sean Gianfrancesco receives heroism metal, pinned by his friend.

**Supplemental for Carl Barnes:**

Carl Barnes received the supplemental papers for his patriot, Charles Cottingham.



3 Carl Barnes receives supplemental.

**Summary of November 18 program:**

Beth Foulk was the speaker and presented a program on Military Genealogy and nuances of the Revolutionary period. She covered the Revolutionary War timeline and players, understanding military organizations, research methods, and records. For further study, see web page: [www.genealogydecoded.com](http://www.genealogydecoded.com) .



4 Beth Foulk, program speaker.



***You are invited to the Delaware Crossing Chapter Christmas Party on December 9:***

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 American Legion Band to play Christmas selections. Happy hour will be at 6:00 PM till 7:00, with Dinner at 7. Band to play 6:30 PM to 7:30. Cost for the event will be \$36 per person. The dinner will be Buffet style, with choices listed below:

***Buffet Package at Hilton Garden Inn***

**Entrée (choice):**

Johnny's Lasagna

Chicken DeBurgo

**Served with:**

House Baked Focaccia Bread

Chef's Seasonal Vegetables

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

House Salad

Caesar Salad

Chef's Assorted Desserts

Coffee Station

Iced Tea & Water

\*Complimentary Signature Drink

*(End of Patriot News letter)*