



# The Courier



April 2014

Sacramento Chapter— Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. 46, Issue 4

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On July 6, 1966 **Mike O'Connor** enlisted into the Army Warrant Officer Flight Training Program. A year later, after completing flight training and advanced missile training, he was assigned to an Aerial Rocket Artillery unit (C Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division. After extensive combat throughout I Corp, Mike's unit, was moved North of Hue (pronounced 'way') in the midst of the 1968 Tet Offensive.

Mike's aircraft was shot down in the early morning on February 4, 1968; in support of U.S. troops who were 'pinned down' just north of Hue. He was the only survivor from his crew of four. His Aircraft Commander Ron Fields, Door Gunner Sgt. Adler, and Crew Chief Sgt. Reeves, were all killed by gun fire and in the crash. Mike was shot in his left shoulder and sustained numerous injuries from the crash. Despite his injuries he evaded the enemy for a day and half before being captured the following evening.



**Michael O'Connor**



Over the next several months Mike, along with other U.S. military and civilian personnel were moved from various camps in the mountains of South Vietnam and Laos into North Vietnam. Conditions were extremely difficult. Four South Vietnamese Rangers who were captured with Mike were taken from his holding area and presumed executed, and an American civilian sitting next to him in the jungle was killed by interdiction bombing. Mike was poisoned by one of the guards and subsequently developed such severe food poisoning that he was going to be left behind and presumably executed by the guards. It was only due to the heroic and adamant protest of the other surviving Americans that he survived.

After more than five years in various prison camps; Mike was finally released on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1973 under the conditions of the Peace Agreement. For his service, he was award numerous medals; including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 'V' device for Valor, Three Purple Hearts, and the POW Medal.

Unable to return to military flight duty due to his injuries upon his return; Mike pursued a career as a Branch Chief in Personnel with the Air Force at McClellan AFB; and later as the Assistant Personnel Director with the County of Yuba. Mike has been married to his wife Dawn for over 31 years and they have two sons, Chris and Andy, who both recently graduated from college. Mike and his wife reside just outside of Lincoln, CA.

### Cattlemens Meal Selections:

10 oz. Rib Eye Steak	\$24.
Grilled Salmon	\$24.
Teriyaki Chicken	\$24.
Pesto Spinach/Cheese Ravioli	\$24.
(vegetarian)	

**Friday, April 18, 2014, 7:00 PM**

**Cattlemens Restaurant**

**12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova**

If the telephone committee has not taken your reservation and menu selection(s) by **Wednesday evening, April 16** please call Don Littlefield at (916) 985-6544 **directly and leave a message** by noon on Thursday. We strongly encourage reservations be made in advance. All reservations are guaranteed. Don't be a "no show."

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, EIN # 68-0004288

**2014 Officers**

**Russ Kaiser**  
President

**Don Littlefield**  
Executive Vice-President  
Treasurer and Webmaster

**Craig Anderson**  
Vice President & Secretary

**Eric Sloan**  
Registrar

**Joe Mohamed**  
Vice President, programs

**Jim Faulkinbury**  
Color Guard Coordinator  
Genealogist

**Jeff Goodwin**  
Chaplain

**Don Spradling**  
Photographer  
Guardian of the Flags

**Neil Elvick**  
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ROTC Program Chairman  
Americanism Poster Contest

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**Ernie Garcia**  
Chairman  
Law Enforcement Program

**Calling Committee**

**Carl Ahlberg**, Chairman  
Tom Chilton  
Ernie Garcia  
Alan Brooking  
Roy Adkins

**President's Corner****April President's message**

Fellow compatriots, welcome to springtime! It is truly amazing here in California where one day it is 48 degrees and cloudy and the very next day it's 82 degrees and sunny.

Speaking of springtime, by the time you read this, the Spring Conference will be in full swing. According to the numbers being presented to me, it will be well attended. I hope to have seen many of you there. This conference is the culmination of several years work. Below is a list of people who have worked on this project to date and I'm sure there will be more to add:

Don Littlefield  
Tom Chilton  
Marilyn Chilton  
Craig Anderson  
Carl Ahlberg  
Jeff Goodwin  
Karen Faulkinbury  
Alan Brooking  
Susan Brooking  
Jim Young  
Ernie Garcia  
Don Spradling  
Donna Spradling



**Russ Kaiser, President**

These people worked hundreds of hours to make this function a success. Thank you folks for all your hard work!

Hearty congratulations to our very own Jim Faulkinbury, on being sworn in as the new CASSAR President. Please join me in wishing him a successful year.

I was speaking to one of the members just the other day and we were remarking on the quality of speakers the Sacramento Chapter has at its meetings as well as the meetings themselves. From the coordination with the restaurant, to the programs and to the phone committee. A big thank you to those that make this all possible.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Russ Kaiser  
SARSAC President  
916-801-2818  
Boat361@aol.com

## Sons of the American Revolution—Sacramento Chapter

### Meeting Minutes March 21, 2013

President Russ Kaiser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chaplain Jeff Goodwin gave the invocation. Alan Brooking led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Jim Dawson led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Kaiser recognized Past Presidents of the Sacramento Chapter and guests: Tom Chilton, Sacramento Chapter Past President in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2012, and his wife Marilyn; Jeff Goodwin, CASSAR Chancellor, Sacramento Chapter Past President 2009, and current Sacramento Chapter Chaplain; and Jeff Sylvan, President of the Delta Chapter SAR and his wife Ursula. He also recognized Joe Mohamed, VP Programs, Craig Anderson, Chapter Secretary, Carl Alhberg, SAR Calling Committee Chairman, Ernie Garcia-Sacramento SAR Chairman of Activities and Don Spradling, SAR Photographer.

President Kaiser recognized and welcomed DAR members present: from the Sacramento Chapter, Medora Allen, and Marilyn Chilton; and from the Gold Trail Chapter, Susan Brooking, Vice-Regent.

President Kaiser introduced our guest speaker for the evening Monica M. Miller, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Sacramento Office, and her guest Tom McDonald, Chief of Police for West Sacramento. President Kaiser introduced his guest Donna Baca. President Kaiser also recognized our new members Brian Alexander, and his wife, Gina, and Jim and Noel Dawson. President Kaiser recognized other guests present, Sally Hill, sister-in-law of Alan Brooking and soon to be member of New York City Chapter DAR. Joe Mohamed introduced his guest, Robert Erikson.

Past President Tom Chilton came forward and talked about the importance of the JROTC Program to our chapter; he feels that it is important for these awards to be presented by a chapter member. Tom announced that he is going to have knee surgery in mid-April and won't be physically able to attend JROTC award ceremonies. He asked for volunteers to help with these presentations. Those willing to help should contact him directly.

President Kaiser asked our new members, Brian Alexander, Jim Dawson, and Noel Dawson to come forward. Past President Tom Chilton introduced them and read their biographies; President Kaiser administered the SAR oath and presented them with their membership certificates. Tom Chilton pinned the SAR Rosettes on them.

Following dinner, VP Programs Joe Mohamed introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Monica M. Miller, Special Agent in Charge FBI. She gave a very interesting talk on her career experiences in military intelligence and the FBI. She also gave an overview of the biggest safety threats facing our community. President Kaiser thanked her for a very interesting presentation and presented her with a SAR Certificate of Appreciation and Liberty Bell.

Alan Brooking and President Kaiser conducted the raffle. President Kaiser thanked those who brought gifts: Marilyn and Tom Chilton, Donna and Don Spradling, Clair and Medora Allen, Ernie and Helen Garcia, Jeff and Ursula Sylvan, Jack and Jerri Pefley, Susan and Alan Brooking, Ron and Betty Proffer, Harlan and Sidney Tougaw, Evan Jonas, Craig and Sandy Anderson.

Vice-President Programs, Joe Mohamed, announced that the guest speaker for the April meeting would be Mike O'Conner, a Vietnam War POW.

President Kaiser thanked Dona Baca for her assistance selling the raffle tickets, Don Spradling for taking pictures and maintaining the flags, and Neil Elvick for editing the newsletter. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Jeff Sylvan led the Recessional and Jeff Goodwin gave the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.



Craig Anderson

Respectfully Submitted

Craig Anderson, Chapter Secretary

# Photos from the March 21st Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



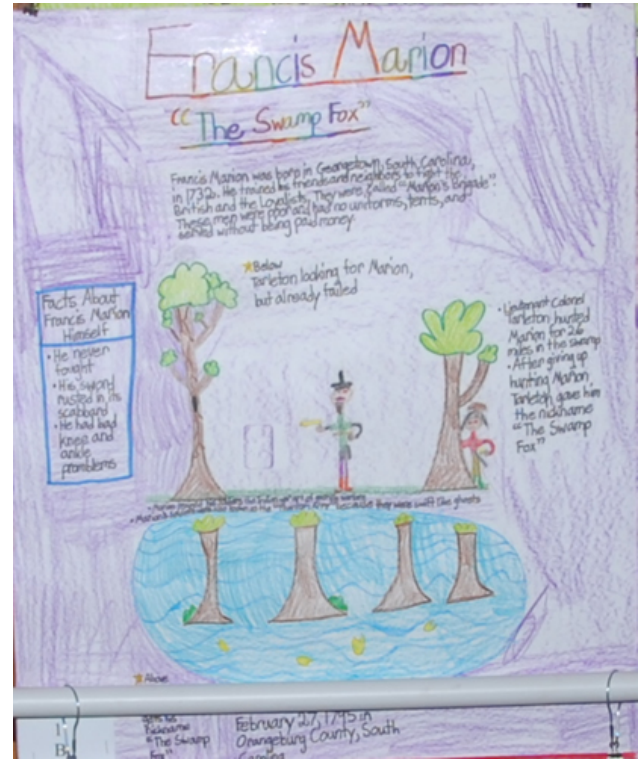
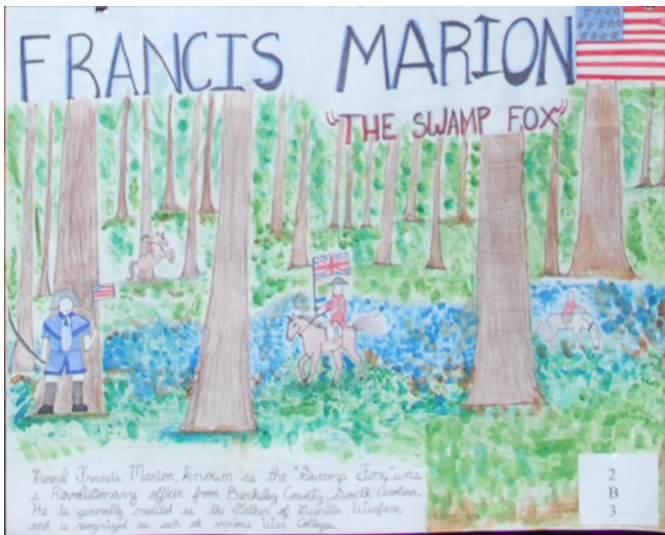
## The Swamp Fox

Francis Marion

Francis Marion, the “Swamp Fox,” was the theme for this year’s Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest. This contest is sponsored by the national society each year and is open to those elementary students in the grade that is studying the American Revolution, which in California is mostly 5th graders. The posters pictured above were from students in the four schools that participated this year in the chapter’s contest. They were Green Valley Elementary, Sandra Gallardo Elementary, Oak Chan Elementary, and Isadora Cohen School. The posters are judged on such things as creativity, originality, historical accuracy and artistic merit and also on how well the poster exhibited the theme. Small cash prizes are awarded to the top three winners and the top overall winner’s poster is entered in the statewide contest.

# Photos from the March 21st Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



These are just two samples from the thirty-six posters submitted

# Photos from the March 21st Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



**Monica Miller**

Our guest speaker, Monica Miller receives Certificate of Appreciation and Liberty Bell from Russ Kaiser. Monica Miller is the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Sacramento Office. Ms. Miller has a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. She joined the FBI in 1989 and she described her career path through various positions she has held in the organization for the past 24 years.

# Photos from the March 21st Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



Upper left from left to right. Alan Brooking, who is transferring membership to the Sacramento Chapter, Brian Alexander, Noel Dawson, Jim Dawson who are being accepted as new members and Evan Jonas, who is adding a supplemental ancestor. The three new members are shown in the upper right.



**Brian Keith Alexander** was born in San Mateo, CA and spent his childhood in San Carlos, CA. He graduated from U.C. Davis, with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering. He is married to Virginia Ann Thom and they have two children; Donna Marie and Thomas Brian.

Brian is a retired civil engineer having had a career in the highway/heavy construction industry. His hobbies include genealogy, golf, home improvement, and fishing.

Brian's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. His patriot ancestor, Conrad Henning, served as an artificer, bombardier, and gunner in Capt. Thomas Wylie's Co., Pennsylvania Continental Line.



**Noel James Dawson** was born in Bakersfield, CA, and spent his childhood in between Bakersfield, Chowchilla, and Merced. He graduated from Merced High and Cal State Bakersfield with a degree in Marketing.

Noel works for S.R.L. Spears Southwest Tour Series, where he is a technical inspector that assists with technical aspects and race procedures of the series. His hobbies include following any and all sports, playing golf, and various kinds of poker.

Noel's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on February 11, 2014. His patriot ancestor, Levi Dawson, was a Capt. & Major in the 5th Reg. & Lt. Col. in the 8th Reg. of the NC Troops. He was also a member of the Committee of Safety.



**James Larry Dawson Jr.** was born in Grass Valley, CA, and spent his childhood in Marysville, Ca. He graduated from Marysville High School and San Jose State University. He is married to Loretta Ann McGinty. They have one son, Noel James Dawson.

Jim served in the United States Army from 1969 through 1971. He served in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Jim is retired from Valero Energy Corporation where he worked as a Branded Territory Sales Manager. He and his wife Loretta currently own and operate a coin laundromat, the "Suds Factory," located in Sacramento. His hobbies include auto racing, classic cars, and gardening.

Jim's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on February 11, 2014. His patriot ancestor, Levi Dawson, was a Capt. & Major in the 5th Reg. & Lt. Col. in the 8th Reg. of the NC Troops. He was also a member of the Committee of Safety.

# Photos from the March 21st Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



**Alan Brown Brooking** was born in Oklahoma City, and spent his childhood in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma City University.

Allan married Susan Jane Hill in 1963. He served four years in the Navy, attached to Fighter Squadron 44. After completion of Aviation Electronic Technician School, he was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida.

Allan retired in 1999. He was owner of a commercial window covering business in Santa Clara California. His hobbies include collecting antique fountain pens, genealogy, and cars.

Allan's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on 27 April 2012. His Patriot ancestor, John Ruble, was a Soldier in the Virginia Militia.

Allan has three approved supplemental applications. Jeremiah Day served as a Private in New Jersey Troops, George Ruble performed Patriotic Service, and Harry Bartlett Sr. served as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Militia.



From left to right: Robert Erickson, Shirley Mohamed, Joe Mohamed, Monica Miller, Tom McDonald, and John Mohamed



Monica Miller and her guest Tom McDonald, who is Chief of Police for West Sacramento.



Ursula and Jeff Sylvan  
Jeff is past President of the Delta SAR Chapter

## Photos from the March 21st Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



**Susan Brooking, Alan Brooking and their guest, Alice Hill, who is Alan's sister-in-law**



**Robert Erickson, guest of John Mohamed**



**Carl Ahlberg and Jeff Sylvan**



**Roy and Martha Adkins**



**Jack and Geri Pefley**



**Ron and Patti Proffer**



## SAR MEMBERSHIP RING

NSSAR Approved 1 March 2014

**Help with President General Joseph Dooley's campaign to Raise Donations for the SAR Foundation. Website for ordering will be active 26 March 2014**



The SAR Membership Ring is now available to Compatriot members after a \$30.00 donation to the SAR Foundation. The face of the ring is a raised hand carved profile of a Cameo of General George Washington, on Black Onyx or Red Agate stone. On the ring's shoulders is an SAR Logo on one side and an American eagle with 13 stars on the other. Around the crown is the Motto: LIBERTAS ET PATRIA (Liberty and Patriotism) with Dates: Revolutionary War 1774-1783, and Founding of the SAR 1889.

All orders require a new donation to the SAR Foundation of \$30.00. An e-mail notice will be sent to the Compatriot member for ordering verification and manufacturing. Please go to the NSSAR Main page and click on Donation Tab or to the SAR Foundation page for mailing instructions. Please note in remarks section, SAR Membership Ring.

Price: Sterling Silver: \$355.00  
Gold plated Sterling Silver \$395.00:  
Gold 9K \$1750.00

To view SAR Membership Ring and/or to order, go to <http://www.regnasjewelry.com>

## Coming Events

April 18, 2014—Regular Meeting  
7:00 PM at the Cattlemens Restaurant  
Speaker: Mike O'Conner, Viet Nam War  
Veteran and POW

April 10-13, 2014 - Annual CASSAR Membership  
Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento  
Samuel Adams (aka Rex Ruth) will be the  
featured speaker. Jim Faulkinbury will be  
installed CASSAR President. All members and their  
guests are welcome. Mark your calendars now!

**A PUBLICATION BY THE  
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION**

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**On the Internet at  
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