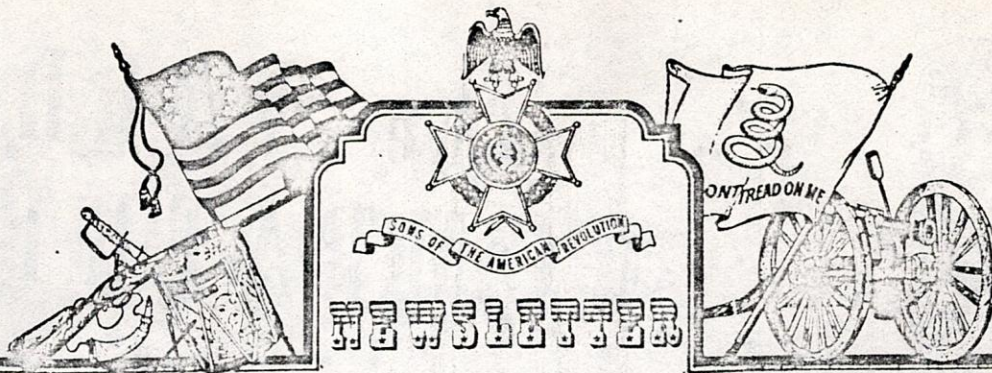


# the VALLEY COMPATRIOT

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



VOLUME V  
NUMBER 2  
FEBRUARY  
1986



NEWSLETTER

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER**

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Col. GEORGE A. ECKERT, Jr.  
1253 North Havenhurst St.  
Hollywood, California 90046

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT C. EMREY  
450 Kenneth Road  
Glendale, California 91202

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

De WILLO "Bill" SEMERAU  
2980 Highridge Road  
La Crescenta, Calif. 91214

SECRETARY

DONALD NORMAN MORAN  
7741 Fair Avenue  
Sun Valley, Calif. 91352

TREASURER

GEORGE SUTHERLAND VAN DORN  
2648 Risa Drive  
Glendale, Calif. 91208

REGISTRAR

BERNI K. CAMPBELL  
12806 Lorne Street  
No. Hollywood, Ca, 91605

CHANCELLOR

BRUCE ANDERSON JAGGER  
7548 Stewart Avenue  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90045

CHAPLAIN

LtC JAMES BELLAH, II  
19030 Miranda Street  
Tarzana, Calif. 91356

GENEALOGIST

MARVIN CLAYTON HUTCHINS  
9067 Amboy Avenue  
Sun Valley, Calif. 91352

HISTORIAN

JEFFREY LANE TOWERY  
7505 Canby Avenue #17  
Reseda, California 91335

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.....THE FRONT COVER.....

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA - January 25th, 1986  
Col. George A. Eckert presents George Sutherland Van Dorn  
a Plaque of Appreciation from a grateful Chapter. State  
President, Compatriot David A. Young looking on.

**THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT**

The VALLEY COMPATRIOT is the Official Publication of the  
**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER,  
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY,  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Donald Norman Moran  
Editor

Mailing Address: 7741 Fair Avenue, Sun Valley, Calif. 91352  
Telephone Number: 1-818-764-2691

The editorial content of the VALLEY COMPATRIOT reflects the opinions of  
the Editor or the authors of the various articles and is not necessarily  
the official position of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, C.A.S.S.A.R.  
except where so stated.

~~~~~ George Washington Memorial Service ~~~~~

In this era when our National history is being re-written for social purposes, and when our true national heroes are being supplanted by pseudo-patriots it is refreshing to receive an invitation to participate in a commemoration service for *GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON*, the "Father of our Country". For years our generation, like those that came before us, had the immortal words of Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee imprinted on our brains -- "First in War; First in Peace, First in the Hearts of his Countrymen." when describing the nature of General George Washington. For members of the Sons of the American Revolution, it is a solemn duty to attend such a ceremony. For members of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R., it is an obligation not to be taken lightly. It is our immediate past-president, *Compatriot George Sutherland Van Dorn* who led the fight to re-establish General George Washington's Birthday as a separate National Holiday, a battle that still rages today.

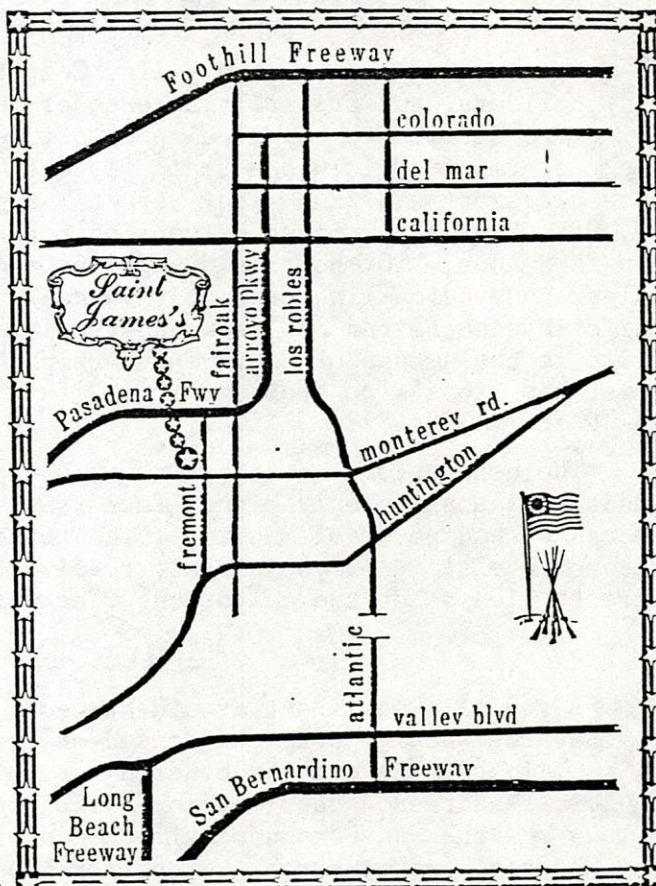


*Father Harold Knowles*, himself a member of the S.A.R., has extended an invitation to all hereditary societies to attend the GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL SERVICE, to be held at SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena, at 9:30 A.M. on February 23rd. All those that are participating, will assemble in the main hall for a processional entrance into the Church.

Our Chapter President, *Col. George A. Eckert, Jr.* will lead a delegation from our Chapter which will include our Color Guard. We understand that a full complement of State Officers from the S.A.R. and many of its Chapters will be in attendance. The Pasadena Chapter, led by *Compatriot F. Gage Biren* will be the host SAR Chapter. It is their event.

We can not over-state the need for your attending. We MUST make our presence felt-- We MUST support the principles we advocate. For, if George Washington's memory is not honored, how than will the memory of our Revolutionary War ancestors be recalled?

Please, mark your calendars! Its vital to we of the SAR and for the Country!



## Meeting Notice

When: FEBRUARY 24th, 1986 - Monday Evening  
 Where: Leon's Steak House - 10945 Victory Blvd. North Hollywood  
 Social: 6:30 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.  
 Dinner: 7:00 P.M. (From the menu)  
 Program: EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION NIGHT  
 Eagle Scout BRIAN SCOTT MARSHALL

Reservations are not required, but owing to the large turnout we have had at recent meetings, we encourage you to notify the Chapter Secretary if you are planning on attending,

## Veterans Book Drive



ompatriot Berni K. Campbell, Chairman of the Chapter's Veteran Book Drive Committee reminds all members of the Chapter that our paperback book drive for the Veteran's Hospital in Sepulveda is ongoing. In 1985 we collected and distributed over ONE THOUSAND books! We will better that this year! So, remember to bring those paper back books to the monthly meeting! Please ask your friends and relatives to participate in this very worth while effort. The need for books is very great, and our efforts are very much appreciated by the patients at the V.A. Hospital.

## Neither Wind Nor Rain - Etc. - But



he January issue of the Valley Compatriot was late, partially because of the holidays, but primarily because of the Postal Service. One hundred issues were carried to the local post office, where one was weighed and the postage determined. It was a small issue (10 pages), so the postal check advised all that was necessary was 22¢. They were all stamped and mailed on January 2nd. On January 9th, they ALL arrived at your editors home! A notice was attached which read: "Return to Sender - 10¢ postage due for nonstandard surcharge. The 22¢ stamps were cancelled, and the mailing page duly marked with the notice and cancelled stamps. A new mailer had to be run off, new address labels put on, and another set of stamps, this time in the amount of 32¢. These things happen, and people are human and will make mistakes, that's no problem. But 7 full days to return a "FIRST CLASS" item marked "DATED MATERIAL" ?

The next unfortunate part of this whole mess, is that we received back for the additional postage only eighty-four issues - Sixteen readers did not get their copies and we had no way of knowing which sixteen as the post office covered up the address to labels! If you did not receive the January 1986 issue of the Valley Compatriot, please let the editor know, he will send a replacement.

## Dues Are Due



s you all know, Past President George Sutherland Van Dorn is our new Treasurer and as such reports that based on the prompt returns of our dues notice, we will again have a one hundred per cent renewal! If you haven't sent in your self-addressed dues envelope with your check, please do. Let's make it four years in a row the San Fernando Valley Chapter has had a 100% renewal. We are a trend setting Chapter, and membership drops for non-payment of dues is a problem throughout the Society, maybe we can help reverse that negative by our example.

## The Installation Dinner



he chapter's sixth annual installation of officers banquet was held at the Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel on Saturday evening, January 25th, 1986. Our out-going president, Compatriot *George Sutherland Van Dorn* called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Our Chaplain, LtC *James Bellah, II* led the Chapter in the invocation, followed by the posting of the Colors by the San Fernando Valley, SAR / 301st Infantry Battalion, SMR, INTER-SERVICE CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD and after the posting, the Color Guard rendered a smart salute to the head table. Incoming president, Col. *George A. Eckert, Jr.* led the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance. President *Van Dorn* than introduced our honored guests -- California Society President, Compatriot *David A. Young*, and LtC *John L. West*, Commanding Officer of the 301st Infantry, and his wife.

Following a delightful dinner, Compatriot *Walter G. Turnell* displayed the United States Army sabre that he and his wife, *Glenn*, have donated to the Chapter for presentation to an Army R.O.T.C. Cadet from the graduating Class of University of Southern California. He further explained that they have established an endowment fund in the name of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, making it possible for the Chapter to make this an annual event.

President *Van Dorn* than presented the Chapter's Certificate of Recognition to *Thomas William Emrey, Jr.* the grandson of Compatriot *Robert* and *Virginia Emrey*. (See Compatriot's in the News).

In recognition of his extraordinary efforts in arranging the manning of the Color Guard with members of his Battalion, the Chapter named Col. *John L. West* "PATRIOT OF THE YEAR". President *Van Dorn* presented him with a walnut plaque on which was mounted a gold minuteman with the appropriate inscription. The Colonel was obviously moved and his acceptance speech was deeply stirring.

LtC *West* joined our President, *George Van Dorn* in decorating the six soldiers of the Color Guard; 2nd Lt. *Charles B. Callahan*, (Officer-in-Charge), Sgt. *Micheal Paulaks*, Sgt. *Waldo Silverya*, Sgt. *Richard Besu*, Sgt. *Brian Crabtree* and Pvt. *Dale Nelson*. Each received the coveted S.A.R. Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. As members of the California State Militia, these men do not receive any compensation for their efforts. Since its inception the Color Guard has preformed at least twice a month. This duty on top of their weekly meetings and monthly weekend meeting makes for a very busy schedule. The presentation was made for this demonstration of dedication and patriotism.

After a delightful address by State President *David A. Young*, the 1986 Chapter Officers were installed. President *Young* personally placed the presidential neck piece on newly installed president *George Eckert*.

Immediate Past President *George Van Dorn* recounted the many accomplishments of the year in a moving address, which has been transcribed in this issue on page 14.

Newly installed President *George Eckert*, gave his inaugural address setting the tone for 1986, which will be another banner year for the Chapter. His address is reproduced herein on page 16. As his first official act as President, Col. *Eckert* had the privilege of presenting Past President *Van Dorn* with the SAR's past president's pin; The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for outstanding leadership, a walnut plaque of appreciation and a photograph album containing a pictorial account of *George's* presidency.

Than, President *Eckert* presented our "First Lady", *Mary Van Dorn* with the SAR's Martha Washington Medal, in appreciation for all that she has done in support of the Chapter. The Color Guard retired the Colors, followed by LtC *Bellah's* inspiring benediction, thus ended the SIXTH ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

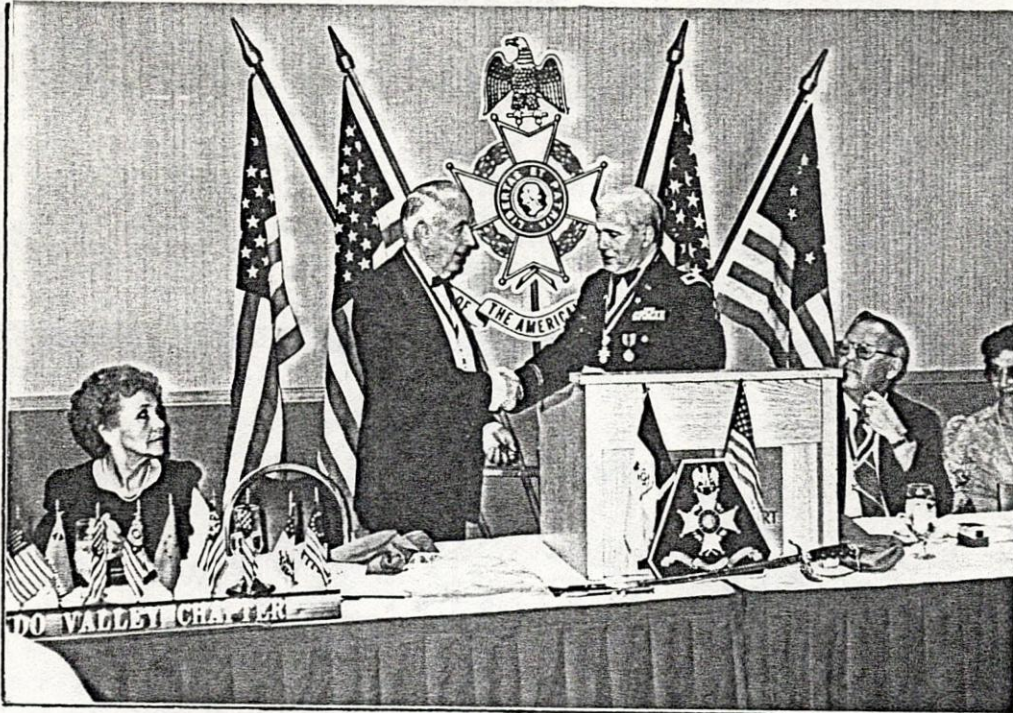


#### THE 1986 OFFICERS

Front Row: Jeffrey L. Towery (Historian), Col. George A. Eckert, Jr. (President)  
 George Sutherland Van Dorn (Treasurer), Robert C. Emrey (First Vice-President),  
 Marvin C. Hutchins (Genealogist),  
 Back Row: Bruce A. Jagger (Chancellor), Berni K. Campbell (Registrar), David Young,  
 (State President), Donald Norman Moran (Secretary), LtC James Bellah (Chaplain) and  
 D.F. "Bill" Semerau (Second Vice-President).



Mary Van Dorn, our First Lady, receiving the Martha Washington Medal from  
 President George A. Eckert



President George Sutherland Van Dorn receiving the SAR's Past President's Pin from President George Eckert

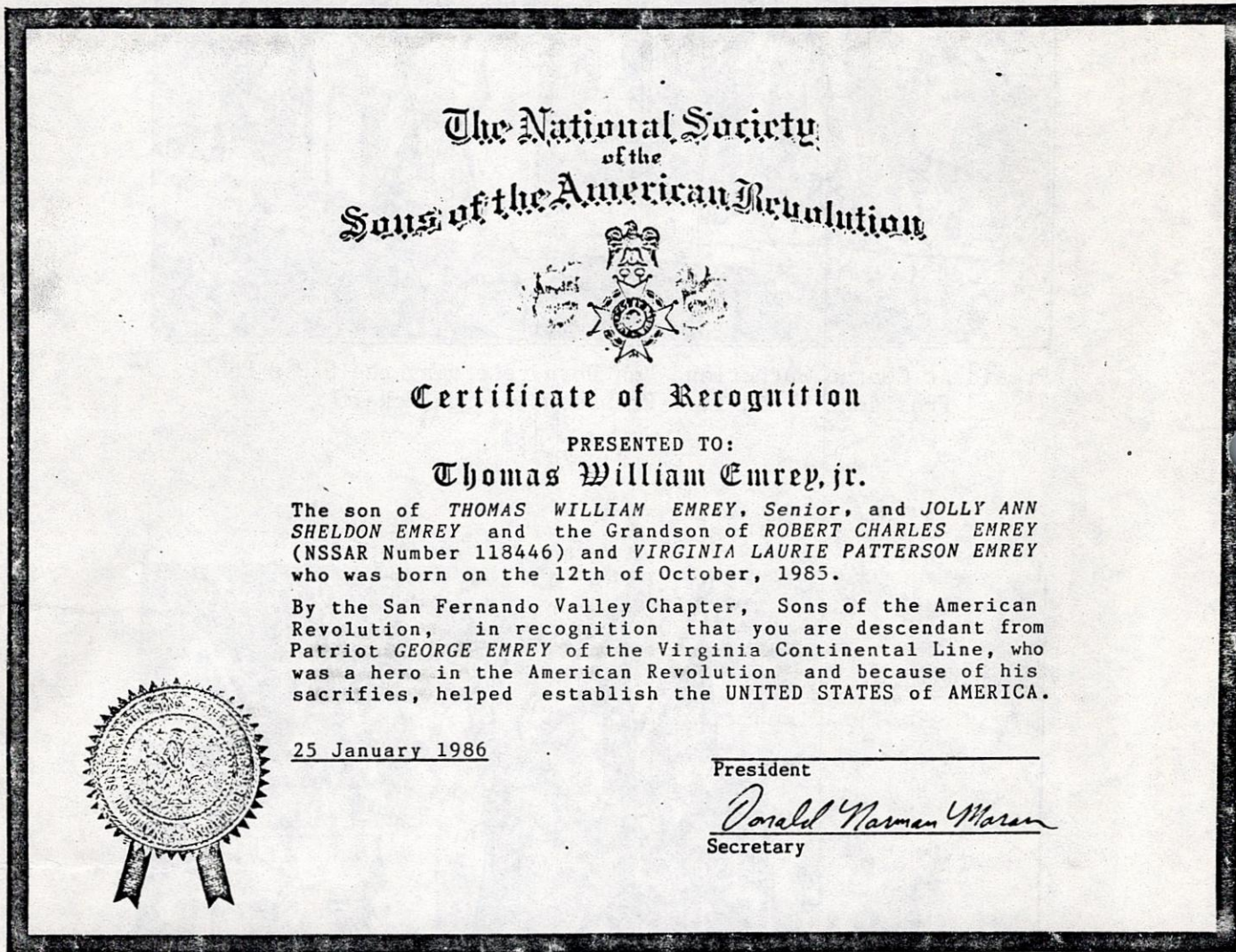


President George A. Eckert receiving the SAR's War Service Medal from President George Sutherland Van Dorn

## Compatriots in the News

**T**his past month, January, is filled with reportables on our Compatriots, some of which is related under the "1986 Installation of Officers" story, repeated here for obvious reasons. Compatriot George Sutherland Van Dorn was presented the Past-President's pin, the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, and a Plaque of Appreciation. Mary Van Dorn was presented the SAR's Martha Washington Medal. Col. George A. Eckert received his SAR War Service Medal.

Bob and Virginia Emrey are grandparents! The future SAR, Thomas William Emrey, Jr. received the Chapter's Certificate of Recognition, accepted by his proud Grandmother at the Installation Dinner. The Certificate is reproduced below.



- Compatriot **GEORGE A. ECKERT, Jr.** - - - - - February 23rd
- Compatriot **WALTER G. TURNELL** - - - - - February 9th
- Compatriot **WALTER H. WALLEY** - - - - - February 1st
  
- Compatriot **ROBERT and VIRGINIA WILEY** - - - - - February 4th
- Compatriot **ROBERT and MARIAN STEELE (50 YEARS!)** - - - - - February 25th
- Compatriot **RICHARD and MARGARET MARSTON** - - - - - February 20th

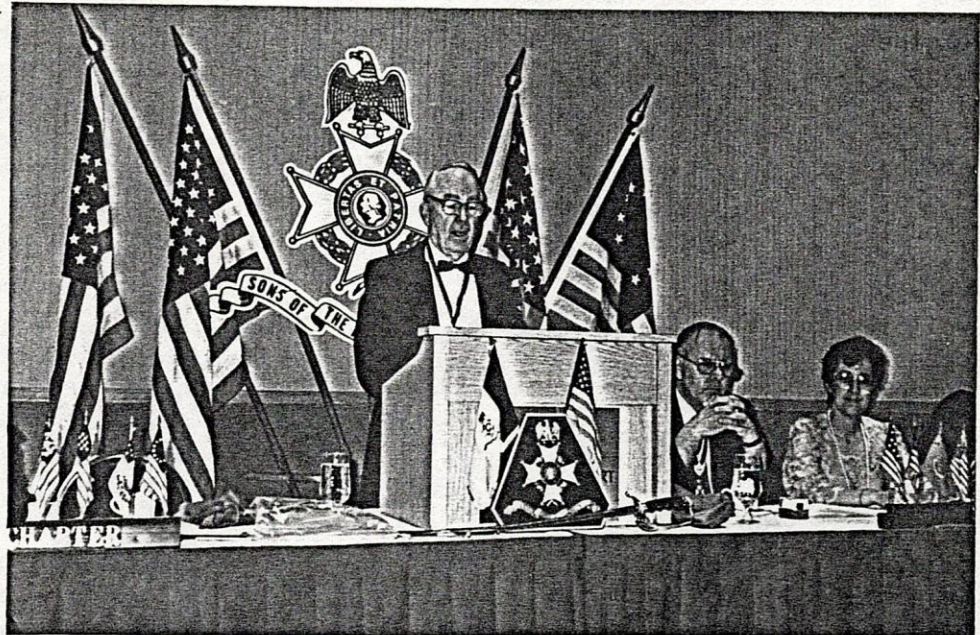
## President Van Dorn's Speech



ood evening Compatriots, Ladies and Gentlemen. I want to thank everyone here for attending our installation dinner. I especially want to thank David Young, our State President for being here to install our new officers.

The time has come for a new president to take over and lead the Chapter, this is not a farewell address as I am not about to retire from the S.A.R. or the Chapter, but I will wear a new hat from that of the President to that of the Treasurer. When I accepted the leadership of the Chapter I agreed to do my best for the Chapter, I was honored to be elected as your President and I hope I didn't let you down. It was a challenge to follow my predecessors, Donald Moran and Lt. Col. James Bellah.

I would now like to recap the some of the activities, achievements and goals we accomplished during the past year. The



PRESIDENT GEORGE SUTHERLAND VAN DORN ADDRESSING THE CHAPTER

Chapter received many recognitions from both the State and the National Societies. Our membership has increased from 35 members to 44, an increase of 28% For the third year in a row we have had 100% membership renewals.

On George Washington's birthday, a wreath was laid at the Washington Monument at Forest Lawn in honor of the Father of our Country, this was our second annual ceremony.

We sponsored Micheal Lee, an Eagle Scout and he won the CASSAR Scholarship contest, and participated at the National level.

Sixteen people from our Chapter attended the CASSAR Convention in San Diego. The highlight of the convention was winning the "Best Mid-Sized Chapter Award" and the Patriot Medal being awarded to our Roger Robertson, this is the States highest award.

Don Moran was elected State Vice-President (South) and his wife Linda Moran was elected First Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary. Congratulations from the Chapter to all three of them.

Five Law Enforcement medals for outstanding law enforcement service were awarded by the Chapter. The recipients were our own Bill Semerau, our new Vice President. Bill retired after twenty-seven years of service with the Glendale Police Department. Lee Drummond, Chief of Police for Hanford, California, Cois Byrd, Chief Deputy Sheriff for Riverside County, Daryl F. Gates, Chief of Police for Los Angeles City and Sheriff Sherman Block of Los Angeles County. Chief Gates and Sheriff Block received not only national, but international recognition for

the policing of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Not one major incident occurred at the games, even with all the terrorism in the world today.

Berni K. Campbell received the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding work as Registrar. He is also chairman of our Veteran's Committee, and has done an outstanding job on the book drive. His wife, Mary played a big part in both of these endeavors. We all thank and appreciate Mary's contributions.

Six medals were awarded to outstanding R.O.T.C. Cadets. There were presented by Walter Turnell and Colonel George Eckert. Walt Turnell our past Treasurer was presented a plaque for distinguished service to the Chapter.

Six of our Chapter members and ladies attended the National Congress at Louisville, Kentucky in June. The Chapter was runner up for the Present-General's Best Chapter Award. Our Valley Compatriot won the Carl F. Bessent Award for the Best Chapter Newsletter. Donald Moran, our Editor, State Vice-President won the Stephen Taylor Award for the best research on the American Revolution.

On July 4th the Chapter members attended the Brigade of the American Revolution celebration at Encino Park.

During the latter part of the year, our Color Guard was activated. It is manned by the 301st Infantry Battalion, of the State Military Reserve under the Command of Lt. Charles Callahan. At the State's annual meeting in Long Beach, the Color Guard posted the Colors and rendered a full salute to those attending. They were terrific and widely acclaimed by all those members present. The Color Guard represented our Chapter at the Kirkin' of the Tartans. LtC James Bellah was the Marshall in Charge at the Kirkin.

We want to thank the Color Guard for their outstanding performances at all of our events.

A resolution by our Chapter to place a bronze plaque at the site of the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, honoring those who gave their lives in battle was approved by the United States Government and the State and National Societies. The fund for the project was raised at the State's Board of Managers meeting in Long Beach.

A program of annually presenting a sword to a graduating R.O.T.C. Cadet at U.S.C. was established by Walt and Glenn Turnell. They have set up an endowment fund so the Chapter can give this Sword annually. Our Chapter owes them a debt of gratitude.

My wife, Mary started a monthly raffle. The funds from this raffle defray the expense of our meeting and also adds to the treasury.

We have established a policy for the Board of Managers to meet and discuss problems at a special meeting. This enables us to use our monthly meeting time so that we can expand on other programs and ideas. Committees have been established in the Chapter. They are: R.O.T.C., Law Enforcement, Veterans, Eagle Scout and Lineage, all have functioned well and the Committee members are to be congratulated. I hope my successor continues to expand and add to them.

I think I have fulfilled my goals as I stated in my speech when I took office as President.

In conclusion, let me thank all of our members, the Ladies and our friends for helping and cooperating in making our Chapter What it is today. We have accomplished many goals and achievements and our Chapter has done much to further the goals of the Society as a whole, namely Patriotism, History and Education.

Thank You;  
GEORGE SUTHERLAND VAN DORN.

## President Eckert's Inaugural Address



resident Young, Compatriots and Ladies. Welcome. The spirit of the courageous men and women who struggled and fought to found our great nation lives on in this room tonight. It is fitting that we who believe in and support the ideals which they created should gather here. It was 208 years ago that our forefathers in the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the national emblem of the United States of America.

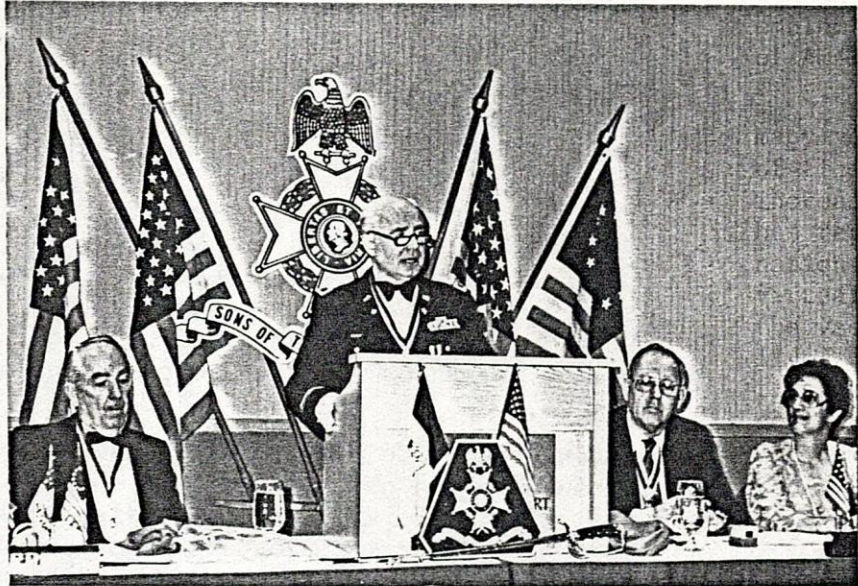
Since that day so many years ago, a multitude of flags with an ever increasing galaxy of stars, has represented this great nation here at home and in virtually every corner of the vast globe on which we live. Indeed, for the first time, in our own generation, it flies over our celestial neighbor, the Moon. And wherever it flies, it symbolizes freedom.

This freedom of which I speak did not come easily - nor has it been

easy to maintain. Many men have fought and died in its name - in the name of freedom and justice - in many parts of the world. Down through the years since our flag came to represent "a new nation conceived in liberty", a steady stream of patriots has managed to keep it flying high. BUT ours is not the first generation to have disloyal citizens. There were those who did not support General Washington, there were numerous riots during the War Between the States, World War I had its quota of draft dodgers - - and so it goes. In a country where a man is allowed the freedom to act and speak as he sees fit, it is to be expected that there should be an opposition. But it is not fitting that there should be a disloyal opposition such as exists in some areas of our society today.

While men and women serve to protect us against a foreign encroachment, whose sole aim is the total destruction of our way of life, there are people here at home who willingly support those enemies who would take away what so many men have died to preserve. All of us here find these events bewildering. We are aroused. We want to do something as citizens. And, ladies and gentlemen, we can. We can support our president and our other leaders and the Sons of the American Revolution. We can show the dissident and the disloyal that theirs is the way back to slavery - not the road forward to continued freedom.

It is our hope as the Chapter meets here tonight that all of us will continue to strive and to work toward the lasting fulfillment of the great American ideal and that our never-ending struggle against the forces of world communism - both here at home and overseas - will carry that ideal forward, so that future generations of Americans will be able to receive that wonderful birthright which it is our duty to preserve and pass on to them.



Col. GEORGE A. ECKERT DELIVERING HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS

George Washington spoke up for the veterans of the American Revolution in these words: "We must give gratitude to men who have rescued us from the jaws of danger and brought us to the honor of Independence and Peace."

Woodrow Wilson, in proclaiming the first Armistice Day in 1919 to commemorate the end of World War I, said: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

As Secretary of the Army John Marsh and Army Chief of Staff John Wickham pointed out in their joint 1985 Yorktown Day proclamation: "Of the 40 signatories of the Constitution, 23 had served in the Army. Twelve were members of the Militia, and eleven had served in the Continental Line. Yet they vested in the Congress of the United States the power to raise armies and provide a Navy, to declare War, and to levy taxes. Then, having drafted the Constitution and having helped to get it ratified, they founded the Republic. Those twenty men proceeded to hold multiple offices - 11 served in the Senate; 7 served in the House; one becoming Speaker; 2 became Cabinet Officers; four became ministers to foreign countries; eight became judges; eight became Governors; and, of course, General Washington became President of the United States.

As we look forward to commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Constitution in 1987, we can be proud of the legacy of courage handed down by our predecessors in the Continental Line at Yorktown. We can also applaud their foresight in drafting and ratifying the basic principles and laws governing the United States of America, which have been the cornerstone of our nation for almost 200 years."

And let's not forget our ancestors, who like my great-great-grandfather, Colonel John Cooke. He didn't attain high office, but he was a member of the Rhode Island legislature both before and after the Revolution, and he commanded a combat regiment of Rhode Island Militia in Continental service. I am immensely proud of that fact.

We could not in honor stand here to merely say thanks and nothing more. We now enjoy the liberties which our fathers fought to preserve. In return, we must fight as valantly as they did to ensure these same blessings for our posterity.

As the most powerful nation on earth, the recognized leader of the Free World, we now know our strength and actions exert a profound influence on world events. Conversely, we can be truly free and secure only to the extent that men everywhere enjoy freedom and security.

Those of you who served in World War II, Korea, or Vietnam have taken further steps on that journey with the long stride of men who are confident in themselves and in their country.

For the first time in our history, we have recruited, trained and deployed an Army of over 780,000 soldiers on active duty without a draft. The importance of the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve continues to grow. They are inseparable and essential partners with the Active Army. We are building toward a total Army - Active, Guard, and Reserve - of 28 divisions within that manpower figure. The enlisted men and women in today's Total Army are there because they want to serve their country. They want a challenge whereby they can develop and mature. They want leadership experience that comes from meeting the challenges of maintaining military preparedness.

These challenges were underscored by former Army Chief of Staff, the late General Creighton Abrams: "This has to be the main rule: if the nation is going to

need an Army, it had better have a good one."

The men and women who serve our country in uniform today can and do draw inspiration from the record of all Americans who have served our country before them - a record to which the veterans of today and those who have died on a hundred Battlefields, have made such a distinguished contribution. This record is one of demanding standards of performance and the inspiration to live up to those standards.

Thus, tonight, as the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. meets, is not only a commemoration of the past, but a pledge for the future, as we work together in the cause of liberty. In pursuit of this goal, the nation has to pay the price for freedom and security. Granted these are burdens which must be borne, but Americans have willingly borne them before - and they will not flinch if that task has to be faced again in the future.

Thank you

Col. GEORGE A. ECKERT, Jr.

## The Royal "Put-Down"

**B**enjamin Franklin, serving as the American Minister to France, attended a diplomatic dinner in Paris shortly after the victory at Yorktown. The French Foreign Minister, Charles Gravier, Comte de Vergennes opened the dinner with a toast to his king with champagne: "His Majesty, Louis the Sixteenth, who like the moon, fills the earth with a soft benevolent glow." The representative from England then rose and offered his toast: "To George the Third, who, like the sun at noonday, spreads his light and illumines the world." Then the aging Doctor Franklin rose and gave his toast: "I can not give you the sun nor the moon, but I give you George Washington, General of the Armies of the United States, who, like Joshua of old, commanded both the sun and the moon to stand still, and both obeyed."



DOCTOR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Statesman

From: Anecdotes related in Pennsylvania -  
German Almanacs, Part II, "The American  
German Review, VI (June 1940).



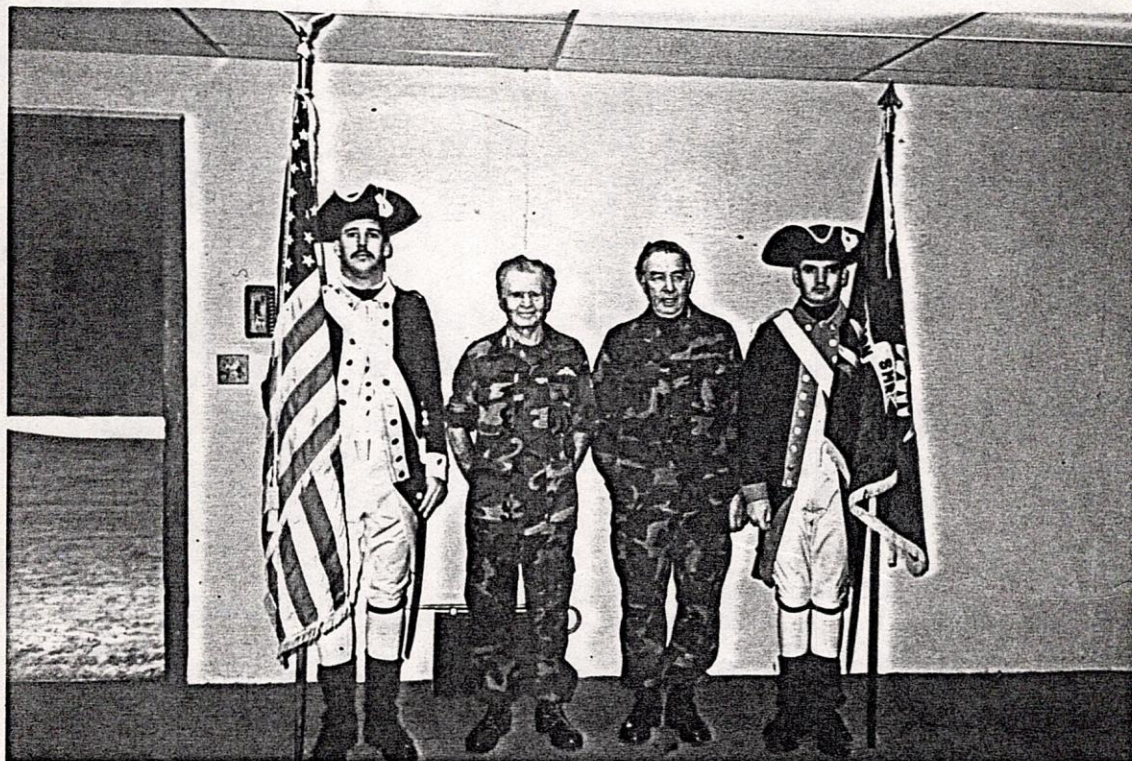
## Color Guard

**T**he San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. / 301st Infantry Battalion, S.M.R. *INTER-SERVICE CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD* has had a very busy month. The first activity was a special change of command ceremony held at the National Guard Armory in Glendale. In that ceremony, LtC John L. West, Jr. turned over Command of the 301st Infantry Battalion, California State Military Reserve to LtC Ian Gold-Stone. The Color Guard participated by Posting the Colors. Following the ceremony, refreshments were served. With all but the members of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. (we were invited guests) in uniform the contrast between the colorful uniforms of the Color Guard and the drab camouflage of today's Army was most interesting.

On the 25th of January the Color Guard posted the Colors at our Installation dinner. During a special ceremony the members of the Color Guard were decorated with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medals for their dedication and devotion to duty. Like us, they are unpaid volunteers and the giving of two or three extra days a month is quite burdensome.

February will be equally as busy for the Color Guard. They will be posting the Colors at the Installation Dinner of the Riverside Chapter on February 14th, and than on the 23rd, be representing the Chapter at the George Washington Memorial Service at Saint James Episcopal Church in Pasadena.

We owe a debt of gratitude to LtC John L. West for the extraordinary efforts it took to arrange for the manning of the Color Guard. The Chapter presented him with the "PATRIOT OF THE YEAR" plaque at the January 25th Meeting.



301st CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

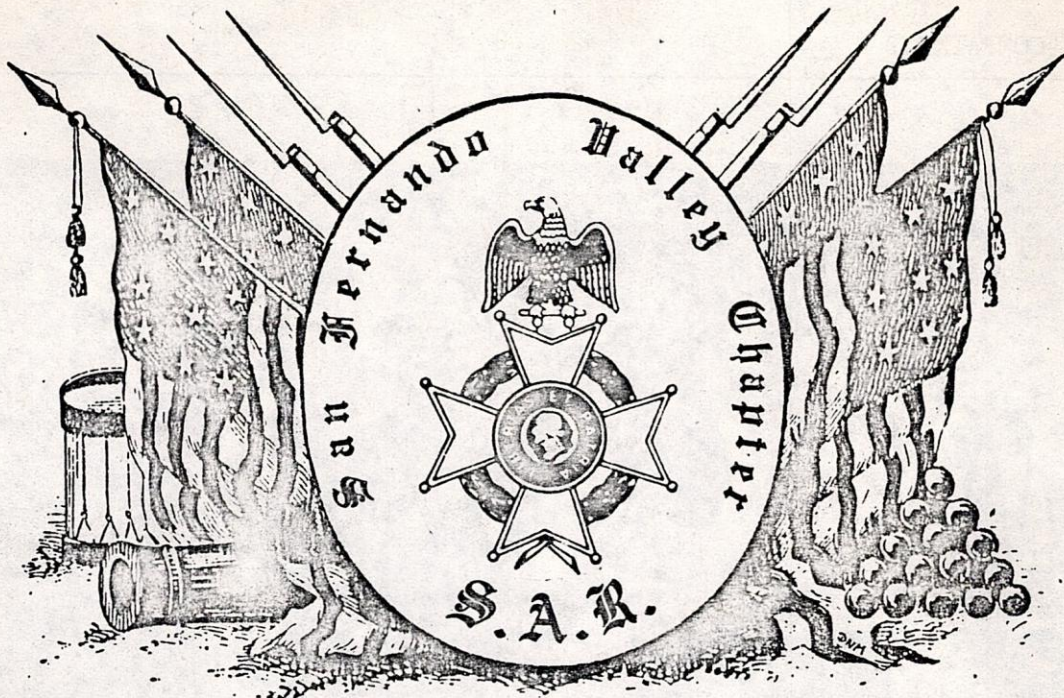
1-r: Pvt. Dale Nelson; LtC Ian Gold-Stone, LtC John L. West, Sgt. Waldo Silverya



President GEORGE SUTHERLAND VAN DORN presenting LtC JOHN L. WEST the "Patriot of the Year Plaque"



The San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. / 301st Infantry Battalion, S.M.R. INTER-SERVICE CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD having just been awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, Chapter President George Sutherland Van Dorn and the 301st Commanding Officer LtC John L. West reviewing the Guard.



San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R.  
7741 fair avenue, sun valley, ca. 91352

To:

First  
Class

Dated Material

