

THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT

E PLURIBUS
UNUM



Wm. W. Woodhull, 110 Wall
The Sons of Liberty
George Washington
Francis Pickens
Lewis Morris
Arthur Middleton
Heathcliff
Richard Henry Lee
Barrington
Lippincott
W. W. Woodhull
Chas. R. Smith
Heathcliff
Benjamin Franklin
Abraham Lincoln
Bascom
Franklin D. Roosevelt
George Washington
Richard Henry Lee
Barrington
Lippincott

February
1988

1988
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1986
GEORGE SUTHERLAND
VAN DORN
1985
L&C JAMES BELLAH, II
1984
DONALD NORMAN MORAN
1981-1983

THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT
is the official publication of the
THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER,
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY.
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Donald Norman Moran
Editor

Address: 1248 Herzal Ave. Lancaster, Ca. 93535

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 of the Sons of the American Revolution, unless so stated.

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THE FRONT COVER

GEORGE WASHINGTON - This was the front cover for the first issue of the Valley Compatriot



THE GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
COMMEMORATIVE
MARCHING OF THE COLORS

14 FEBRUARY 1988

12:00 Noon

The Officers and Men of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution cordially

invite you to attend the fifth annual General George Washington Commemorative Marching of the Colors at 12:00 Noon, February 14th, at the Hall of Liberty, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Burbank, California the ceremonies will include a wreath laying at the color monument of George Washington by the Sons of the American Revolution and appropriate remarks from civic dignitaries and prominent personalities. Led by the stirring music of the drums and pipes of the Clan Donnachaidh, the color guards of numerous military, civic and hereditary organizations will march for the passing in review in tribute to the Father of our Country. This is the largest such

ceremony planned in the west for George Washington's 249th birthday, of whom Henry Lee eulogized

By saying "He was first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." The

organizations that are planning on participating will include: The Sons of the American Revolution, The Delaware Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution, The Society of Cincinnati, The Daughters of the American Revolution The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston; Units of the United States Armed Forces Various ROTC units from the Los Angeles area; The Military order of the World Wars, The Order of the Purple Heart; The Boy Scouts of America, The Civil Air Patrol; The Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, The Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Sons of Union Veterans, The Veteran's of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, The Society of Colonial Wars, The



tribute is sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

THE COMMEMORATIVE
GEORGE WASHINGTON
MASSING OF THE
COLORS



An Sunday, February 14th, 1988 the Chapter will be sponsoring the largest commemorative event in honor of George Washington's birth being held in the west. It will be held at the colossal monument to George Washington at Forest Lawn's Hall of Liberty, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Burbank.

As of publication date we have over twenty color guards confirming participation, and expect at least that many more.

In order to make this Commemoration a true media event, that will call the public's attention to George Washington, we will require the assistance of several Compatriots to act as coordinators.

Their responsibilities will include identifying the members of the various participating units, helping the units into the respective positions in mass formations, and distributing the press releases to the media.

We will need six good men to handle the above duties and any others that are good with cameras. If any member has a video camera, we would very much like to have the entire ceremony video taped for future use.

Please contact either the President or the Secretary if you be a part of this important function.

MEETING NOTICE

THE DOUGLAS HIGH
ORATION CONTEST
LUNCHEON

FEBRUARY 27TH, 1988

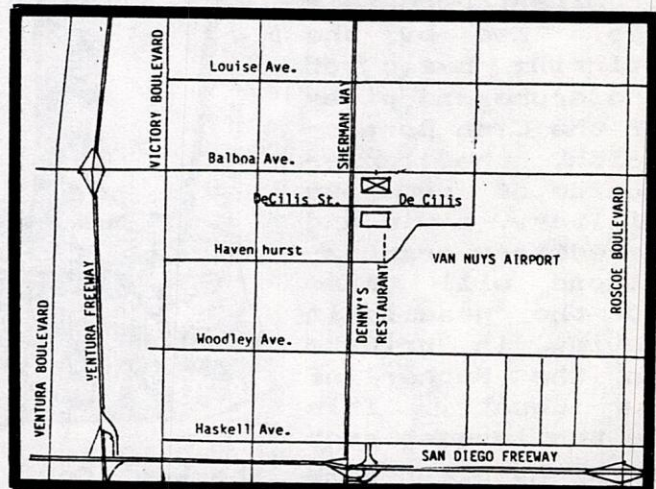
At 12:00 Noon on Saturday, February 27th, 1988 the regular monthly meeting of the San Fernando Valley Chapter will be held at a new location:

BAGE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
16605 SHERMAN WAY
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

In addition the Chapter will be holding the DOUGLAS HIGH ORATION CONTEST. This is a National Society scholarship contest with the winner of each State Society Contest (if they are deemed competitive enough) will be competing at the National Congress for a sizable scholarship in addition to the State Society providing an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C.

With thirty-two contestants being invited, it should be an exciting luncheon. Five Compatriots of the Chapter will be the judges.

Please make reservations with the Chapter's Secretary.



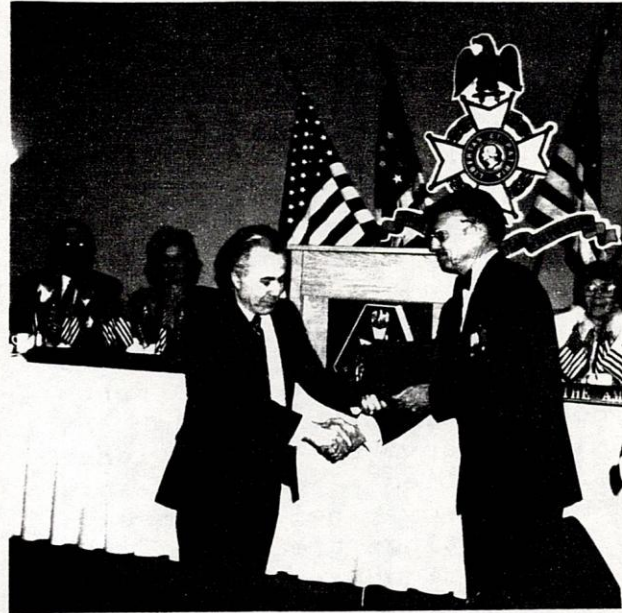
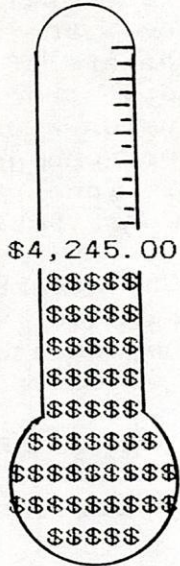
OUR CHAPTER'S
PERMANENT FUND

COMPATRIOTS
IN THE NEWS

THE DONORS

THE FUND

Anonymous
Fr. John Bartke
Berni K. Campbell
Robert C. Emrey
Col. Thomas D. Gillis
Audel H. Hicks
Donald R. McDowell
James A. McKellep
Donald Norman Moran
Norman Philip Moran
Charles M. Pitchford
Roger E. Robertson
D.F. "Bill" Semerau
Jeffery L. Towery
Walter G. Turnell
Walter H. Walley
Augustus de Zerega



BERNI K. CAMPBELL
"PATRIOT OF THE YEAR"

Contributions to the Chapter's Permanent fund are Tax Deductible and an excellent way to assist the Chapter in continuing its many programs. The interest earned on the permanent fund in 1987 was equivalent to Twenty members, without the usual membership related expenses. Please consider making a contribution to this fund and help assure the future of our Chapter.



Several Compatriots were honored by President Roger E. Robertson at the Annual Installation banquet. BERNI K. CAMPBELL was named "PATRIOT OF THE YEAR" and presented a handsome plaque. His achievements on behalf of this Chapter includes having served as Registrar for seven years, and having one of the lowest application rejection rates in the CASSAR. His Chairmanship of Our "Veteran's Book Drive Committee" has been exemplary.

1889 - 1989
A CENTURY OF
COMMITMENT



TO OUR NATION'S
HERITAGE

Compatriot ROGER ROBERTSON and Compatriot BILL SEMERAU were presented the S.A.R.'s SILVER GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL by State President Donald Norman Moran. President Moran stated that if it had not been for the outstanding support of these two Compatriots the success his C.A.S.S.A.R. Administration would not have been possible.

Compatriot ROGER ROBERTSON was awarded the "BRONZE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL" and a "PRESIDENT'S GAVEL PLAQUE" for

his service as President, leading the Chapter to new heights in accomplishments.

MARY LOU ROBERTSON our former First Lady was presented the S.A.R.'s "MARTHA WASHINGTON MEDAL" by newly installed President Bill Semerau for her support and efforts on behalf of the Chapter.

Compatriot D.F. "BILL" SEMERAU was honored with the BRONZE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL for his efforts on behalf of the Chapter by assuming several additional responsibilities during his Vice-Presidency, including serving as acting treasurer and during President Robertson's illness, as acting President.



COMPATRIOTS DEL HICKS, JAMES McKELLEP, SGT. JIM McKELLEP RECEIVING THEIR WAR SERVICE MEDALS FROM PRESIDENT ROBERTSON.

Compatriot JAMES A. McKELLEP and new members SGT. JAMES McKELLEP (James's nephew) and AUDEL H. HICKS, were presented the S.A.R.'s WAR SERVICE MEDAL for their Military service to this Country. Sgt. McKellep is leaving for an 18 month tour of duty in Korea on February 1st.

Newly installed member, Compatriot AUDEL H. HICKS became justifiably upset when he learned that the City of Burbank intended to erect a monument to our veterans, but the Mayor has titled the proposed tribute "Defenders of the Constitution" thereby precluding the proper inclusion of our founding fathers who are veterans of the Revolutionary War which predates our Constitution by four years.

On November 21st in the "Letters to the Editor" section of the Burbank Leader newspaper the following appeared:

"A VETERAN'S MEMORIAL"

To The Editor:

I fully appreciate Mayor Hastings' desire to establish a Burbank Memorial for "All Veterans" particularly in this year when we recognize the bicentennial birth of the Constitution and I laud him for his efforts. I would remind the Mayor, however, that the Revolutionary War was fought from 1775 to 1783 and that the Constitution was written in 1787 --- four years after our freedom was won from England! How then does his title "Defenders of the Constitution," recognize the thousands of patriots who died to establish a freedom that permitted the writing of an instrument such as the Constitution? Are we to ignore our Revolutionary heroes just by the poor choice of a title?

(signed) Audel H. Hicks"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- WALTER H. WALLEY - - - - - 02/01
- WALTER G. TURNELL - - - - - 02/09
- GEORGE A. ECKERT - - - - - 02/23

FEBRUARY
ANNIVERSARIES

- BOB & VIRGINIA WILEY
02/04/42
- AUDEL & BETTIE HICKS
02/09/44
- DICK & MARGARET MARSTON
02/20/60
- BOB & MARIAN STEELE
02/25/36

CORRECTION

In the December Issue of the Valley Compatriot we reported in Compatriots in the News that NORMAN and KATHRYN MORAN were married on December 31st, 1939. We were in error, They were married on January 1st, 1939.

WELCOME NEW
COMPATRIOT



President Roger E. Robertson and Registrar Berni K. Campbell presenting SGT. JAMES McKELLEP with his S.A.R. Membership.

OUR VETERAN'S
BOOK DRIVE



Chairman BERNI K. CAMPBELL reports that 1988 is off to a great start. Already paperback books are being collected and he will be making deliveries to all three Veterans hospitals - Sepulveda, Sawtelle and Wadsworth.

Your donations are needed so bring your paperback books (no hard bounds) to the next meeting.

OUR ROTC PROGRAM



Our R.O.T.C. program is still growing. We have contacted six additional Junior R.O.T.C.'s and will nodoubt be participating with them. This will bring up the number of schools we support to TWENTY High School R.O.T.C.s!

The most effective presentations are those where a representative of the Chapter gives the medal and certificate, therefore, we will need more presenters. If you are interested, please contact the Chapter Secretary.

LIVING HISTORY
SPEAKER'S BUREAU



Our recently established "Living History Speaker's Bureau" is off to a good start. We have two of these presentations already scheduled. We can greatly enhance this program that fulfills our Society's stated objectives: Patriotic, Historic and Educational by adding additional speakers. It's easy, it's fun, and it serves to fulfill a need and benefits everyone.

THE EIGHT ANNUAL
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BANQUET



OUR NINETEEN EIGHTY-EIGHT OFFICERS

l-r: D.F. "BILL" SEMERAU, President; ROBERT C. EMEREY, Vice-President; JEFFERY L. TOWERY, Second Vice-President; DONALD N. MORAN, Secretary; CHARLES M. PITCHFORD, Treasurer; BERNI K. CAMPBELL, Registrar; BRUCE A. JAGGER, Chancellor; LTC JAMES BELLAH, II, Chaplain and ROBERT B. WARWICK, Historian. STEPHEN W. GREGORY, genealogist was not present.



aturday night, January 30th was the 8th ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET of e The San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. The banquet was attended by a capacity crowd and included several C.A.S.S.A.R officers: President, Donald N. Moran, The Ladies Auxiliary President Linda Moran, V.P. (North) Jess T. Wolfe, and V.P. (South), Arthur Wm. Barrett.

President Roger Robertson called the meeting to order at which time Chaplain James Bellah gave the invocation. The Posting of the Colors was preformed by the Van Nuys R.O.T.C. uniformed in the Chapter's Inter-service Continental Color Guard uniforms Col. George A. Eckert, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by C.A.S.S.A.R. Vice President Jess T. Wolfe who led the Pledge to the S.A.R. President Robertson then introduced the head table and our guests.

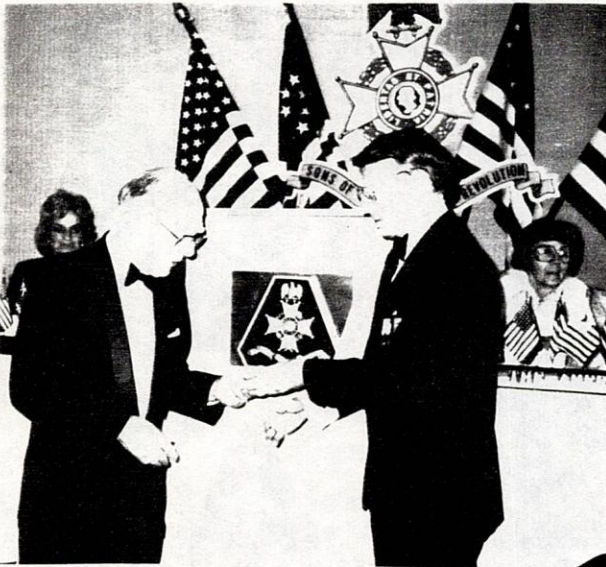
Following a delightful dinner climaxed by a flaming Cherries Jubilee, C.A.S.S.A.R Vice Presidents Jess T. Wolfe and Arthur Wm. Barrett addressed the Chapter.

The Installation Banquet is also the Chapter's Annual Awards night. Starting the awards portion of the evening, President Robertson and Registrar Berni K. Campbell presented the Certificates of Membership to Compatriots Audel H. Hicks and James McKellep.

Immediately thereafter President Robertson presented three S.A.R. war Service Medals, to James A. McKellep, who served in WWII, Audel H. Hicks, who also served in WWII and Sergeant James McKellep, who is presently serving in the United States Air Force, and is leaving for an 18 month tour of duty in Korea on Monday, February 1st, 1958.



President Bill Semerau Presenting Mary Lou Robertson the S.A.R.'s Martha Washington Medal for her support of the Chapter



James McKellep receiving his SAR War Service Medal from President Roger E. Robertson



Jackie Semerau placing the SAR neck ribbon and medal around President Semerau's neck.



The ROTC cadets from Van Nuys High receiving Certificates of Appreciation from President Robertson for services rendered.



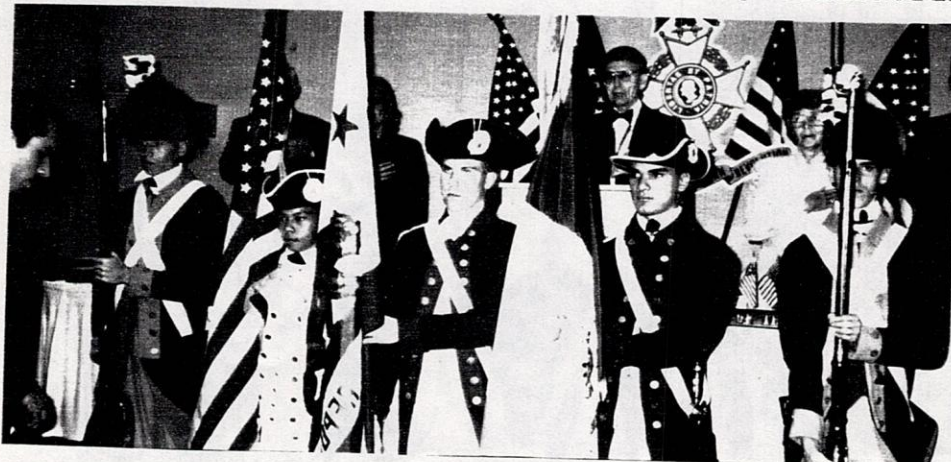
CASSAR President Donald N. Moran presenting Presidents Roger Robertson and Bill Semerau with the Silver Good Citizenship medals.



Berni Campbell & President Roger Robertson presenting Audel Hicks SAR Membership Certificate.



President Roger Robertson presenting President Bill Semerau with the presidential gavel.



The presentation of the Colors by the San Fernando Valley Chapter's Inter-Service Color Guard, manned by the Van Nuys High School ROTC

President Robertson than presented the Cadets from the Van Nuys Army ROTC unit certificates of Appreciation for their service to the SAR which included the Christmas Parade, the installation banquet and the forthcoming Massing of the Colors and Memorial Day Parade.

The next presentation was to Compatriot Berni K. Campbell for his eight years of service as Registrar. Berni was named the Patriot of the Year and presented a handsome plaque.

President Robertson than honored incoming President Bill Semerau with the SAR's Bronze Good Citizenship medal for his outstanding service to the Chapter and the SAR during the past year.

A moving Farewell address was given by President Robertson which has been transcribed in it's entirety the following pages.

State President Donald Moran than took the podium. He addressed the Chapter pointing out the many accomplishments it has achieved. Than he presented the SAR Silver Cluster to President Robertson for his Silver Good Citizenship medal. The award was made for his service to the Chapter, the State and the National Society. A Silver Good Citizenship medal was presented to incoming President Bill Semerau for his many services to the Chapter.

President Moran than installed the Officers of the Chapter: D.F. BILL SEMERAU as President, ROBERT C. EMREY, First Vice President, JEFFERY L. TOWERY, Second Vice President, CHARLES M. PITCHFORD, Treasurer, BERNI K. CAMPBELL. Registrar, BRUCE A. JAGGER, Chancellor, LtC JAMES BELLAH, II, Chaplain,

ROBERT B. WARWICK, Historian and STEPHEN W. GREGORY, Genealogist who was unable to attend because of his work.

Mrs. Jacqueline Semerau than placed the neck ribbon and medal of office around Bill Semerau's neck. President Roger Robertson surrendered the gavel of office and Bill assumed the podium.

His first act was to present to outcoming President Roger Robertson the SAR's Past President's pin and the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his exceptional service to the Chapter and a handsome President's Gavel Plaque, appropriately inscribed.

To our First Lady, Mary Lou Robertson, President Semerau presented the well deserved Martha Washington Medal for her many services to the Chapter.

President Bill Semerau than gave his inaugural address which has been transcribed and published in this issue of the Valley Compatriot.

Following his address, President Semerau had State Vice President Authur Wm. Barrett led the Chapter in the S.A.R.'s Recessional.

With much pomp and ceremony the Inter-Service Continental Color Guard retired the National Colors.

Chaplain James Bellah closed the Eighth Annual Installation Banquet with a very appropriate benediction.

A THANK YOU

Miss Vivian L. Moran is to be commended for her excellent photographic work. She took all of this issues photographs.

PRESIDENT ROGER E. ROBERTSON'S
FAREWELL ADDRESS



PRESIDENT ROGER E. ROBERTSON ADDRESSING THE CHAPTER

Honored Guests, Compatriots Ladies and Gentlemen. This has been a good year. This has not been a good year. This has not been a busy year. This has not been a busy year. Roger, make up your mind! Which was it? It all depends on your perspective, on when you view the world and from what vantage point.

Consider first the good parts. Foremost, our Chapter's Color Guard has participated in State and National S.A.R. meetings, in numerous parades, in Boy Scout activities and has truly helped this chapter contribute to the S.A.R.'s objectives, i.e. Patriotic, Historical and Educational. It was the major part of our Bicentennial Year activities. I too, enjoyed dressing 'funny' on several occasions, as part of the Color Guard.

In February, the Massing of the Colors at the George Washington Memorial was enhanced

by martial music from the Clan Donnachaidh Pipe Band. For this coming year, comitments already obtained ensure even greater participation, with additional Color Guards.

The Chapter's Junior ROTC awards program was expanded, adding more high schools. It was a great pleasure for me to take part in some of these award ceremonies and in the college ROTC awards of swords, a program initiated and perpetuated by a grant from Chapter member Walter Turnell and his wife, Glenn.

Another ongoing Chapter activity also deserves special mention. Our Registrar, Berni K. Campbell, and his wife Mary, continue to deliver paperback books in great numbers to the Veteran's Hospitals. While many of us contribute paperbacks from time to time, our Vice President, Bill Semerau, tops us all. This total effort deserves our special attention and praise.

At the S.A.R. National Congress in Valley Forge the subject matter of a keynote speaker was a reminder of an article written in our Valley Compatriot by Compatriot Donald Moran in 1984. It spawned a History Project. The History Project is looking into Anti-American history as it is now taught in our public schools, and how to change it. Research has shown the problem exists in other states too. Anti-American history in California textbooks was cleaned out as the result of efforts by the California Society, S.A.R. 40 years ago. It needs to be done again, not only for California but for other states as well. The question is how to accomplish it. We have a start, just researching the problem. Right now it looks like a tough nut to crack.

However, other difficult tasks have been accomplished with time. Culminating an effort extending over five years, new California Society Bylaws were approved during the year. Now we seek to overhaul our chapter Bylaws to conform, to be submitted for approval at the next Annual Meeting of the Society.

Furthering our objectives, i.e. Patriotic, Historical and Educational, our chapter Past President George Van Dorn successfully raised additional funds for a plaque, commemorating the Nation's was dead, to be placed at the famed Punch Bowl Cemetery in Hawaii. In addition to individual contributions from Chapter members, our chapter made a contribution, from chapter dues. Therefore every one of the chapter members has contributed to achieving these S.A.R. objectives.

On the financial side, our chapter has also grown. It now

It nows has a Permanent Fund of just over four thousand dollars, as well as special funds such as the Color Guard Fund, and an operating balance that is in the black. Such funds will help our chapter to further the S.A.R. objectives, Patriotic, Historical and Educational, in the year and years to come. Thanks are due to the many generous contributions of chapter members, over and above their dues, which made this possible.

The not very good and not very busy part of the year included my viewing the world for awhile from a hospital bed, and the months before and after. Things I might have done were not done. Suffice it to say it is great to be on the mend.

A year ago I spoke of the very capable Compatriots in our complete slate of officers to whom I could look for support, and I did when the occasion demanded. Would each of you please stand and take a bow as I call your name: First Vice President Bill Semerau, Second Vice President Bob Emrey, Secretary Don Moran, Treasurer Charles Pitchford, Registrar Berni Campbell, Chancellor Bruce Jagger, Chaplain James Bellah, Genealogist Stephen Gregory and Historian Jeff Towery.

In conclusion, I look only on the brighter side. It has been a very good year for the Chapter. May the next be even better. Thank you

Roger E. Robertson
President

THE S.A.R. MOTTO

Our Heritage is from the past
Our duty is the present
Our hope is in the future

PRESIDENT D. F. BILL SEMERAU'S
INAUGURAL ADDRESS



PRESIDENT D.F. BILL SEMERAU ADDRESSING THE CHAPTER

When I attained membership in this Chapter in 1984 the Chapter was only three years old. It was still considered a "new Chapter" within the S.A.R. - - but, it had already established a level of accomplishment that was close to unrivaled. The San Fernando Valley Chapter has consistently been recognized as a chapter that sets the standards for others to follow.

It has been named best small chapter and best medium sized chapter in the California Society on several occasions and in 1983 it was named best small chapter in the Nation by the President-General.

It participates in all of the S.A.R. programs, and if that is not enough, it has established a few of it's own. One of which, the "Veteran's Book Drive Program" is being emulated across the Nation. It has accomplished all of this with a chapter membership of less than fifty compatriots!

Our R.O.T.C. program is second to none. We have fifteen high school R.O.T.C. units in our program and three colleges. To the colleges we do not present the traditional silver ROTC medal but rather, we give swords. We are adding another six high schools to that program as well.

In 1985 our participation in the Eagle Scout program resulted in the selection of Eagle Scout Micheal Lee. He went on to win the State Society contest as well. You might find it interesting that it was the Eagle Scout program that introduced me to the Sons of the American Revolution. A member of your organization came to the Verdugo Hills Council, Boy Scouts of America and told the leadership about this new program. I was very much impressed. I knew I had the necessary lineage to meet the membership requirements of the S.A.R., and here I am. The Boy Scouts and I go back a long way. Next year I will be receiving my twenty-five year pin. I am also an Eagle Scout. I receive it

while on active duty with the United States Army in Japan.

When I started with this chapter we had a treasury of a few hundred dollars. We paid are bills, but it was a hand to mouth operation. Last year President Robertson started the permanent fund. Yesterday I made a deposit for the chapter and the combination of the permanent fund and our checking account is in excess of six thousand dollars! The growth of our operating funds will ensure the continuance of all our programs.

Tonight I assume the presidency of this Chapter. I am fully aware that to be an adaquate president of the San Fernand Valley chapter would be considered near perfection for any other. The chapter has a tradition of total commitment. Excellance in leadership is expected.

I established some goals and objectives for my administration. First, however I intend to continue all of the programs of my predecessors.

My first goal is the enhancement of our monthly meetings. Finding a new facility that will be more accommodating

to our speakers. Good programs equal better meeting attendance

I want to expand the youth programs. The Eagle Scout program, the R.O.T.C. awards program, the Douglas G. High Oration contest, and to become involved in the new S.A.R. program, the "Spirit of America Award" program. They are all good ones and need our continued support.

Our Color Guard has participated in numerous patriotic events and parades. I want to march their legs off, getting them into every event we can.

It is my earnest desire to see the year 1988 as another "Banner" year for the San Fernando Valley Chapter, but being a realist, I know that I can't do it alone - to continue or enhance the present programs and institute additional programs will require your support. I ask for your cooperation during the coming year.

I pledge to serve you and the chapter and with your assistcne, working together, I am confindent that we will be an even better S.A.R. Chapter. Thank You"

D.F. "Bill" Semerau
President

NEEDED
SPEAKERS FOR
OUR SPEAKER'S
BUREAU

HELP
WANTED:

"BOOK A VET"
BRING A PAPERBACK TO
THE NEXT MEETING FOR
THE VETERAN'S BOOK DRIVE

NEEDED
R.O.T.C.
MEDAL
PRESENTERS

GEORGE WASHINGTON, KING OF AMERICA

The 256th anniversary of birth of our greatest national hero, George Washington, will be celebrated on February 22nd. The San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. will be honoring his memory with the "GEORGE WASHINGTON COMMORATIVE MASSING OF THE COLORS" at Forest Lawn Memorial Park on February the 14th. In addition

to this planned tribute we are presenting herein a historical article which we consider to be Washington's finest moment. You will read how he was offered the crown of a kingdom, the United States of America, which only required his acceptance. He could have been GEORGE THE FIRST, KING OF AMERICA if he was so inclined.



GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS THE GREATEST AMERICAN HERO IN OUR HISTORY.
IN HIS OWN TIME HE WAS MORE REVERED THAN TODAY.

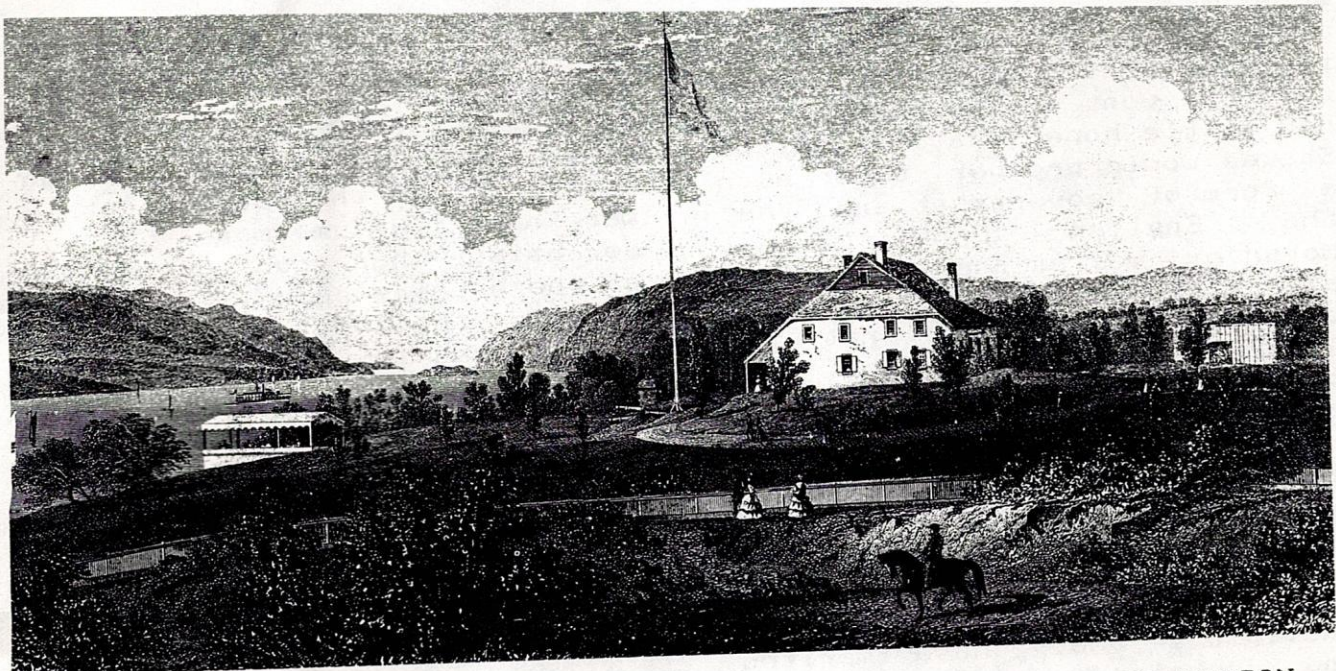
After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown on the 20th of October 1781, the Continental Army under the command of Washington was relegated to a wait-and-see position. The British still held New York City and allied forces contained them. General Washington established his headquarters in the Hasbrouck House, Newburgh, New York on April 1st, 1782. He was to stay there until August 19th, 1783. These were extremely difficult times, that are usually ignored by the historians.

George Washington had to keep the army together, ready for action, with the same supply and pay problems that plagued him during the more active years of the war. The situation was one of apprehension. Washington did not trust the British. He felt that they would finish their global war with France, than turn their undivided attention on the United State. This theory explained way the lengthy delays in the Paris negotiations. The Army after

months of inactivity awaiting the expected British breakout from New York, or the attack from a new force dispatched directly from England. In either case, the hardships of 18th Century warfare pressed hard upon the rank and file, without the benefit of troop movements or occasional action, which kept the men's spirits up.

Congress itself was having an extremely difficult time. Without an "Active War" it was unable to raise the moneys it needed to operate the makeshift government. It did not have the power to levy taxes, and was completely unable to pay back the foreign and domestic loans it had incurred, let alone meet the payroll of the Army.

As the months passed it became more and more obvious to some of the officers of the Army that there was only one man that could pull the disorganized country together - Washington. From surviving letters it is clear that many of these unpaid officers were attempting to find



THE HASBROUCK HOUSE AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, OVERLOOKING THE HUDSON. WASHINGTON LIVED HERE FROM APRIL OF 1782 THRU AUGUST OF 1783.

an honorable solution to the problem. Those that knew George Washington well knew that he would remain subordinate to the Congress and had no political ambition. Others, not so fortunate knew him as a great leader of men, and a man who had overcome impossible situations time and time again.

Colonel Lewis Nicola was of the former status. He was a competent officer and his work was respected by Washington. It is obvious that Nicola had the highest possible regard for Washington's abilities.

In May, 1782 Colonel Nicola wrote the Commander-in-Chief, General Washington. The letter started with some general remarks regarding the deplorable condition of the Army and the concern that Congress would not be able to properly compensate the officers and men. He then entered turned his attention to the political. He reviewed the different forms of government and arrived at the conclusion that republics are the least stable of all known types of governments, and the least capable of protecting the freedoms that they were fighting for. He went on to say that he had little hope that the United States would prosper under such a form of government and that the English Constitutional Monarchy was as near to perfect as any known to that time. He continued by writing that the American people would be more comfortable with that style of government, and added: "In this case it will, I believe, be uncontroverted, that the same abilities which have led us through difficulties apparently insurmountable by human power to victory and glory - these qualities, that have merited and obtained the universal esteem and veneration of an army

would be most likely to conduct and direct us in the smoother paths of peace. Some people have so connected the idea of tyranny and monarchy as to find it very difficult to separate them. It may, therefore, be requisite to give the head of such a constitution as I propose some title apparently more moderate; but, if all other things were once adjusted, I believe strong arguments might be produced for admitting the title of KING, which I conceive would be attended with some national advantage."

Nicola and his supporters, of which we know were many, and no doubt some were of higher rank than the Colonel, were sincere, Washington could do no wrong in their eyes, and would be as great a leader in peace as he had proven to be in war.

It must have come as a surprise to Nicola and his confederates when they received a prompt and severe rebuke for their efforts. Washington's response was:

"Sir, - With a mixture of great surprise and astonishment, I have read with attention the sentiments you have submitted to my perusal. Be assured, sir, no occurrence in the course of this war has given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the army as you have expressed, and which I must view with abhorrence and reprehend with severity.

For the present, the communication of them will rest in my own bosom, unless some further agitation of the matter shall make a disclosure necessary.

I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct

could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my country. If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself, you could not have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable. At the same time, in justice to my own feelings, I must add, that no man possesses a more serious wish to see ample justice done to the army than I do; and, as far as my power and influence, in a constitutional way, extend, they shall be employed to the utmost of my abilities to effect it, should there be any occasion.

Let me conjure you, then, if you have any regard for your Country, concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate, as from yourself or any one else, a sentiment of the like nature.

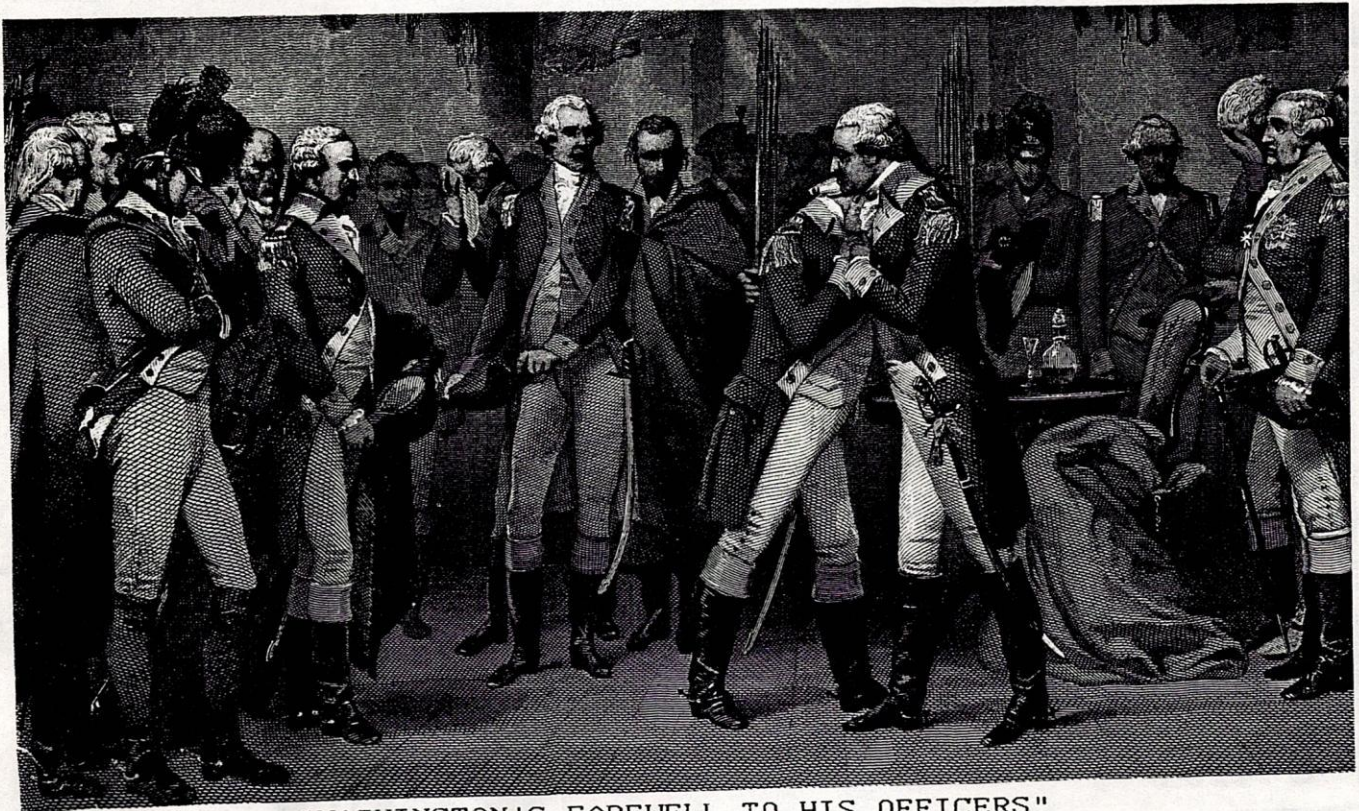
I am Etc.

George Washington"

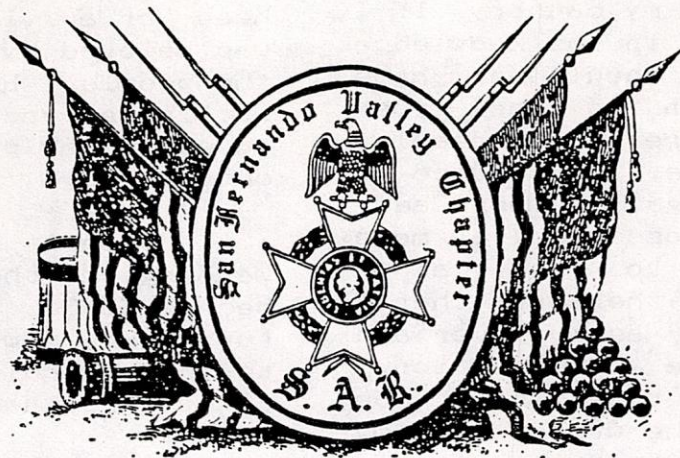
The patriotism of George Washington never shone with a brighter luster. He was the head of a victorious army; he was beloved by both the army and the people. His influence knew no limits, and he had the power to enact any political scheme he chose.

Colonel Nicola handed Washington the opportunity to become KING! Yet, without he turned it down in no uncertain terms. A truly lasting tribute to his greatness.

Inspite of Washington's strong words in his response, it appears that he did not make the letter public. Four months later, Colonel Nicola became one of twenty-six officers promoted to Brigadier General by congressional resolution on September 30th, 1783. An action Congress would not have taken had they known of his proposal to make George Washington KING GEORGE THE FIRST OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



"WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL TO HIS OFFICERS"



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