

SANDY SPRINGS CHAPTER

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution®

May 2013

“God, Home, and Country”

Lynn Brackey, Regent



Cherokee Rose
Georgia's State Flower

Welcome to summer!



Dear Daughters,

The April meeting of the Sandy Springs Chapter, NSDAR, was attended by 47 members and guests. Evelyn Hendry prepared a beautiful display with information regarding



the cherry blossoms in D.C. and the new commemorative stamp. As always Mary Ann Costin prepared a wonderful Women's Issues display honoring Sarah Larson who won first place in the state for her essay. She also took third place in the Southeastern Division. Sandy Briggs, Project Patriot Chairman, collected \$192 for shipping

packages to our soldier, Travis Hawley, in Afghanistan. Lee Porter, Flag Chairman, sold voices on a flag pin won by Carol Anderson. Sixty five dollars were raised for purchasing 9/11 flags, which will be donated next year. Susan Oder won the door prize provided by Ouida Lanier, Membership Chairman.

Judy Parker, Treasurer, gave her report and presented the chapter budget for 2013 - 2014. Sadly, she announced

that she will transfer to the Pulaski Chapter in Griffin where she is now employed. Her resignation as Treasurer will be effective May 15th. The Board has approved the appointment of Bonnie Bailey to serve as Treasurer beginning May 15th until the annual meeting in 2014.

Connie Sparks, Public Relations Specialist, Tamassee DAR School, presented the program. We learned that the South Carolina school was established in 1919 and today houses 48 children in five cottages. The capacity is 50. Deborah Holcomb, DAR Schools Chairman, will plan a field trip to Tamassee in the fall.

Members with perfect attendance for the year were honored by Bonnie Bailey, Hospitality Chairman. Those honored were Gene Wood, Renee Rux, Pat Bradford, Deborah Holcomb, Lynn Brackey, Nancy Nutter, Dee Redkevitch, and Mimi Roberts.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, 26 September 2013.

In DAR Service and Love,

Lynn

Meeting Venue Update

The Ravinia Club is no longer an option for a meeting venue as it closed effective 30 April 2013. Torn between the closeness of the votes cast for Heritage Sandy Springs and Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, we agreed to obtain more information and let the Board make a recommendation to the chapter. The Board has recommended that we meet at Holy Innocents. The cost is less, a caterer is on site, the room is adequate, and parking should not be a problem. The information was sent to the membership, and the Board's recommendation was accepted.

Lunch costs will remain at \$12. The caterer will be paid \$10 and \$2 will be used to defray the cost of the facility (\$150 per meeting). The balance of the facility fee will be paid out of chapter dues.

I hope that all of you are pleased with the plan. Directions to Holy Innocents will be sent to you prior to the meeting in September.

Cover photo: The Cherokee Rose was named the Georgia State Flower in 1916. Graphics from The Graphics Fairy.

THE 2010-2013 NATIONAL THEME:

"Preserve the Past, Enhance the Present, Invest in the Future."

May Lunch Bunch

On Thursday, 23 May 2013 at 11:00 AM, we will visit **Veterans Memorial Park** in Alpharetta and have the opportunity to see the Sandy Springs Chapter, NSDAR, brick on the Walk of Memories. The Walk of Memories contains 8,000 bricks honoring Georgia veterans killed in action from WWII onward. Following a tour of the site, we will enjoy lunch at Anna Lee's. **If you are interested in participating, please, contact me no later than Monday, 20 May 2013.** We can carpool from Applebee's at the corner of Roswell and Abernathy Roads leaving at 10:30 AM. We will meet our fellow member and guide, Gaye Boardman, at 11:00 at the American Legion Post, 201 Wills Road, Alpharetta, GA 30009, (770) 475-9023. ~ Lynn Brackey (770-458-4016)

Genealogy Workshop

On Thursday, 15 August 2013 a genie workshop will be held in Atlanta at District Workshop. However, if you are interested in attending, please, send in the enclosed registration form as soon as possible. The number of participants are limited and it fills up fast! I would like for the Sandy Springs Chapter members to have priority.

~ Dee Redkevitch, State Registrar/Chapter Registrar
deezee97@comcast.net or 404-255-0233

Support for DAR Schools

Just a reminder to save your box tops and soup labels over the summer. We will collect them in September and October. They will be sent in October so that our chapter will get credit for our donation. Also, we hope to put together a fall trip to the Tammassee DAR School. More about that later this summer.

~Deborah Holcomb, DAR Schools Chairman

Officer & Committee Chairmen Planning Meeting

On Thursday, 22 August 2013 at 10:00 AM, chapter officers will meet at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church for a Board Meeting. Chapter chairmen will arrive at 11:00 AM. Information from the Chapter Information Packet (CIP) and National Information Packet (NIP) will be distributed. Lunch (\$12 per person) will be served at noon.

Dates to Remember

Thursday, 23 May 2013
Lunch Bunch at Veterans Memorial Park

Monday, 27 May 2013
Memorial Day

Thursday, 13 June 2013
Lunch Bunch at Jimmy Carter Museum



Wednesday, 26 June 2013 - Sunday, 30 June 2013
122nd Continental Congress

Thursday, 25 July 2013
Lunch Bunch at Booth/Tellus Museums

Thursday, 15 August 2013
District Workshop & Genealogy Workshop, Atlanta

Thursday, 22 August 2013
Officer and Committee Chairmen Meeting

Thursday, 26 September 2013
Chapter Meeting
Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs

State Scriptural Theme

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” ~ I Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Dues Forms Delay

Ordinarily this issue would include the form for you to complete and submit with your annual NSDAR dues, which are already payable for the 2013-2014 year and due by September 1, 2013. However, we have received the following notice regarding NSDAR proposed Bylaw changes for this year's Continental Congress in June.

"Since there is a proposed increase in dues, which if approved will take effect immediately, it is suggested that you wait to prepare and send out your dues notices until after Continental Congress."

Consequently, we will delay publishing and e-mailing dues forms until July. At present, the proposed national increase is from \$30 to \$37 per year, but you will be notified of the final decision in July's newsletter.

~ Bonnie Bailey, Treasurer

American Indian Minute: The Nez Perce Tribe



Nez Perce means "Pierced Nose." In this famous photograph in the Smithsonian, Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph stares sadly and defiantly into space. His 1877 statement, "I will fight no more forever," has come to symbolize the crushing of Indian military power in the 19th century.

~ Submitted by Lynn Tullis



Summer Lunch Bunches

On Thursday, 13 June 2013, we will visit the **Jimmy Carter Museum** to see George Washington's copy of Acts of Congress. His personal notes are in the margins. The book was purchased by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association for millions of dollars! Afterwards we will make our way to Mary Mac's for lunch.

On Thursday, 25 July 2013, we will travel to Cartersville and visit the **Booth Museum** or the **Tellus Museum**. Those who have been to Booth may go to Tellus if they so choose. Afterwards we will have lunch at the Fruit Jar Café! You'll love it.

Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Gene Wood, Chaplain

Our prayers continue especially for Travis Hawley, who is serving in Afghanistan.

Prayers for healing are being answered for the following: Sloan, Blaine, Beadie, Annabel, Catherine, Sharon, Lee, and Jenny.

With so many needs for prayer, would you like to be a link in a prayer chain? Please contact Gene Wood if you would like to participate.

Share your news, joys, or sorrows with us.

*Please, contact Chaplain Gene Wood
at (404) 237-4374 or geneandcharlie@comcast.net.*

Happy Birthday!

May

1	Susan Dunn
2	Ann Montague
4	Susan Lemesis
17	Virginia Robirds
21	Gaye Boardman
23	Jessie Hillard
27	Fannie Lou Butler
28	Sally Carpenter
28	Brooke Grondzik
31	Beadie Cambardella

June

6	Lisa Smith
8	Patsy McLeod
15	Grier Payne
16	Marjorie Homlar
18	Annabel Card
19	Renee Rux
21	Anna Shapiro
23	Sherridan Santivanez
25	Susan Bradshaw
25	Susan Frenzel
29	Penny Musgrove

Historic Preservation Recognition Award

On Saturday, 04 May 2013 Mr. Carling Brackey was presented the Historic Preservation Award by Chairman Judy Parker. This is a national award that recognizes individuals for outstanding achievements in all areas of historic preservation. The service rendered must be accomplished in an outstanding volunteer manner. Over the past two



years Mr. Brackey has invested both time and money to restore the 176 year old church that sits beside his family cemetery. The presentation took place in Putnam County, Georgia in the old Baptist Church of Christ at Ramoth. A rededication service was held in the church and Sarah Larson was the vocalist. A barbeque lunch followed the service. Sixty-eight family members, DAR members, and guests attended.



The church has recently been approved by National as a historic site. Lynn Tullis, Historian/Librarian, is ordering the DAR marker which will be installed on Saturday, 14 September 2013. The Brackey family will pay for the marker but credit will be given to our chapter. Two DAR chapters in the area have offered to provide a light lunch and beverages following the unveiling of the marker.

An article related to the event will be published in the *American Spirit* magazine, "With the Daughters" section in the July/August issue.



Above: Chapter Regent Lynn Brackey and Mr. Carling Brackey.

Left: Chairman Judy Parker presents Mr. Brackey with the Historic Preservation Award. Left to right: Debbie Spikes, Pulaski Chapter; Bonnie Bailey; Beth Spears, Henry Walton Chapter; Lynn Brackey, Carling Brackey, Dee Redkevitch, Judy Parker, Sarah Larson, Patsy McLeod, Lisa Smith, Lee Porter, and Maggie Erlich, Atlanta Chapter.

NSDAR State Theme 2012-2014:

"Find your gift and use it in service to God, Home and Country."



George Washington's personal copy of the "Acts of Congress" coming to Atlanta on its national tour

George Washington's personal copy of the "Acts Passed at a Congress of the United States of America" is traveling the country from March 1 through September 21 and visiting the thirteen Presidential Libraries through a special partnership between Washington's home, Mount Vernon, and the National Archives.

The remarkably well-preserved book includes Washington's copy of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other legislation passed by the first session of Congress, complete with his personal annotations penciled in the margins, bookplate, and bold signature. Washington received the book in 1789, his first year in office as U.S. president, and brought it with him to Mount Vernon upon his retirement from public office in 1797. One of the early customs for the Congress' official printer was to prepare bound copies of the acts passed by the legislative branch which would be presented as permanent keepsakes for the country's leaders. Prominent recipients included Thomas Jefferson, John Jay, and our first president, George Washington, who all received these beautifully bound versions of the book, which were almost as artful to the eye as they were delicate to the touch.

The tour began at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Simi Valley, California, and will continue on to other libraries, until it makes its final stop at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri.

A Lunch Bunch is planned for Thursday, 13 June 2013 at 11:00 to view this historical book. Those interested in carpooling will meet at Applebee's at the corner of Roswell and Abernathy Roads at 10:30 AM. The book was purchased for 9.8 million dollars by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Following the event, we will go to Mary Mac's Tea Room for lunch. I hope many of you will want to join us. Please, let me know! lynnbrackey@comcast.net or 770-458-4016

June 07 – June 21: Jimmy Carter Library, Atlanta, Georgia
www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov

For more information about this book, please visit
www.mountvernon.org/educational-resources/library/documents-collections/acts-of-congress.

Alpharetta Walk of Memories at Veterans Memorial Park

Encouraged by Gaye Boardman, chapter member, the Sandy Springs Chapter, NSDAR, purchased a brick in honor of those who served in the military. We will visit the Walk of Memories and Park on Thursday, 23 May 2013 as a Lunch Bunch event arriving at 11:00 AM.

In honor of every Georgian killed in combat since Pearl Harbor, the Walk of Memories created by American Legion Post 201 in Veterans Memorial Park (near downtown Alpharetta), displays 7,220 bricks with the name of a Georgia serviceman or servicewoman engraved on it. There are also 132 bricks to date, with the names of those servicemen and women from Georgia that have died in the Iraqi War.



Funded in part by city and state grants - after seventeen years of hard work and commitments made by American Legion Post 201, the city of Alpharetta, and the state of Georgia - the Walk of Memories is a tribute to Georgia's dedicated servicemen

and women and as Post 201 Commander Jack Harrison states, "a reminder to the community about the price of freedom."

Alpharetta's Walk of Memories also includes a display of military equipment, featuring a 96-ton Korean War Abrams tank, a 40mm 1,600 ton anti-aircraft gun saved from the LST (WWII Landing Ship, Tank) Polk County, and a Huey helicopter that survived a mission that earned the pilot the first Medal of Honor Award from the Vietnam War.

Community members may purchase bricks in honor or in memory of their loved ones who served in the military. For additional information, please visit:

www.legion201.org/membricks.htm

or

www.waymarking.com/waymarks

[WM3XK0_WALK_OF_MEMORIES_American_Legion_201_Alpharetta_GA](#)

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formally known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women, who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season.

It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half-mast from dawn until noon. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Memorial Day has become less of an occasion of remembrance. Many people choose to hold

picnics, sports events and family gatherings on this weekend. This day is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season for cultural events.

For the fashion conscious, it is seen as acceptable to wear white clothing, particularly white shoes from Memorial Day until Labor Day. However, fewer and fewer people follow this rule and many wear white clothing throughout the year.

Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers, who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women, who died in any war or military action.

2013 Genealogy Workshops

This year the GENEALOGY SUMMER WORKSHOPS will be on Thursday, 15 August 2013, at the Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Friday, 16 August 2013 at the First Episcopal Church in Albany. These sessions are scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m..

Subject matter will cover such important items as:

- Citing sources
- Documentation guidelines
- Tips on preparing applications
- Documenting generations
- How to prepare an Analysis (preponderance of evidence)
- Internet research
- Revolutionary War service
- Other pertinent factors

The Workshop Syllabus is especially geared to help Registrars in the preparation of applications for prospective members and to members who would like to submit supplementals. Previous attendees have indicated the workshop was quite helpful in alleviating the frustration of filling out the NSDAR forms. You will receive a Genealogy Booklet. You will also receive the current changes from the Registrar General's Office.

The subject material will be presented and discussed by Rachel Colbert, State Chairman Volunteer Genealogists, and Dee Redkevitch, State Registrar. We shall be available to answer questions. Please join us. I promise you will learn something new. I find that I still do!

There will be a \$10.00 charge to help defray the cost of the Booklets. Please REGISTER by sending your check made out to me before June. After then, make your check out to GSSDAR.

Dee Redkevitch
520 Cutwater Trail
Sandy Springs, GA 30328-1818
deezee97@comcast.net or 404-255-0233

Your check is your registration. The three last years we were full! REGISTER EARLY as there is limited space. The cutoff date is 28 July 2013.

I would like to attend the 2013 GENEALOGY WORKSHOP in Atlanta _____ or Albany._____.
Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 (payable to Dee Redkevitch if mailed before June 1.)

Name _____ National # _____

Chapter _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

"Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord."

Psalm 33:12

Thursday May 2, 2013 is the 62nd anniversary of the National Day of Prayer

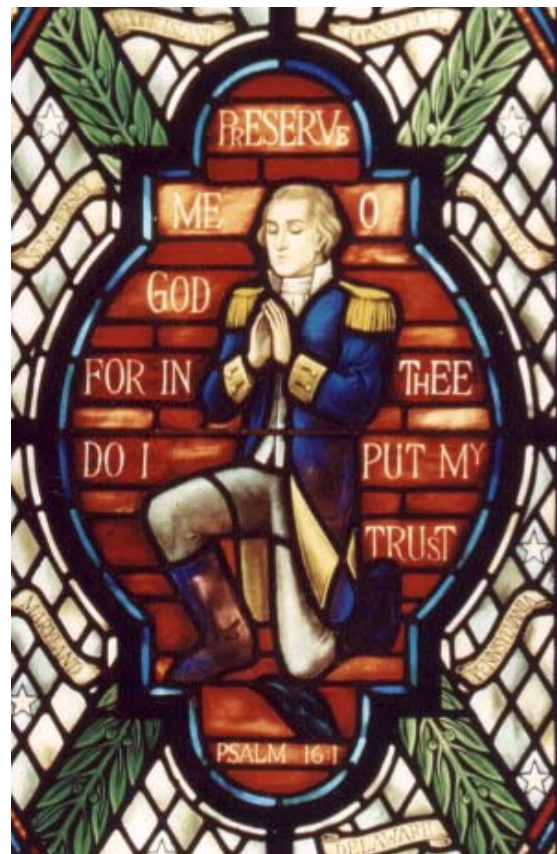
Please join me in prayer for our great Nation!

The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a Day of Prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual National Day of Prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

from George Washington's field notebook, written in his own hand:

"Let my heart therefore gracious God be so affected with the glory and majesty of it, that I may not do mine own works but wait on Thee, and discharge those weighty duties Thou required of me: and since Thou art a God of pure eyes, and will be sanctified in all who draw nearer to Thee, who dost not regard the sacrifice of fools, nor hear sinners who tread in Thy courts, pardon I beseech Thee, my sins, remove them from Thy presence, as far as the east is from the west, and accept of me for the merits of Thy son Jesus Christ, that when I come into Thy temple and compass Thine altar, my prayer may come before Thee as incense, and as I desire Thou wouldst bear me calling upon Thee in my prayers, so give me peace to hear the calling on me in Thy word, that it may be wisdom, righteousness, reconciliation and peace to the saving of my soul in the day of the Lord Jesus."

Right: The stained-glass window of George Washington at prayer is in the Congressional Prayer Room, near the Rotunda at the Capitol in Washington, D.C.



This year's theme, ***"Pray for America,"*** is based on Matthew 12:21 which reminds us that
"In His name the nations will put their hope."

"Father in Heaven, we thank You for Your mercy and grace toward our America. We thank you for protecting us in the midst of strife and for comforting our Nation as we recover from the wounds of terrorism and war.

We thank You for keeping Your precepts and principles before us as we seek individually and nationally to follow You, remembering 'only in the Lord can we live in safety and blessing.'

"Thank You for our Founding Fathers and Mothers who gave everything to establish our great country. May we follow their examples of wisdom and grace as we pursue peace and blessing which comes from Your Hand, and through Your Name, In Jesus, joining my prayers with yours,

"Blessings!"

Brenda Davison Jessel

GSS State Chaplain 2012-2014

". . .to serve the Lord with Gladness."

~ Psalm 100

DAR Good Citizenship Awards presented by the Sandy Springs Chapter, NSDAR

The DAR Good Citizenship Awards are offered to both boy and girl students at the elementary, middle school and high school levels with winners receiving handsome engraved bronze medals and certificates. These awards are presented to students who best exemplify five qualities of good citizenship: Honor, Service, Courage, Leadership and Patriotism.

The Sandy Springs Chapter, NSDAR presented Good Citizenship Awards to students of Dunwoody High School, Sandy Springs Middle School and Pace Academy.

At the Pace Academy Middle School Awards Assembly on May 7, 2013, the awards were presented by Marlene Voight (*center*) to eighth grade students Annie Nottingham (*left*) and Seth Swiecichowski (*right*.)

Annie enjoys participating in both drama and musical theater, the Latin Singing Chorus and playing soccer as a defender. She hopes to be a teacher.

Seth wants to investigate many areas of learning but right now hopes to be a software designer. His favorite activity is taking flight lessons!



Leslie Apseloff and Andrew Weatherly were the recipients at the Dunwoody High School Honors Day Ceremony on May 10.

Leslie is President of the Jewish Student Union and the Book Club and Vice President of the Key Club and the Dunwoody Leadership Team. She is a Varsity Cheerleader and was Captain of Junior Varsity Soccer. Leslie is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, National English Honor Society and Class Cabinet. She spent summers as a camp counselor for Marcus Jewish Community Center.

Andrew Weatherly is Captain of the Debate Team, Team Captain of the Robotics Club, and Vice President of the Tech Student Association and of the Jewish Student Union. He is in the Math Honor Society and is a tutor for SAT/ACT. He enjoys time as a golf caddie.

At Sandy Springs Charter Middle School Honors Program, Oscar Zumiga and Rhianna Farley will be recognized as students best modeling the traits of DAR Good Citizenship. Both are honor students who show these traits as leaders in the middle school.

~ Submitted by Marlene Voight and Jennie Springer

DAR ROTC Medals awarded by the Sandy Springs Chapter, NSDAR

Submitted by Marlene Voight, National Defense Chairman, and Lisa Smith

The DAR ROTC Awards are presented to students who are in the top 25% of their classes in ROTC and academic subjects and have shown qualities of dependability and good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership ability, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of ROTC training.

ROTC Gold Medal Recipients

The DAR ROTC Gold Medal Awards are presented to College and University level graduating ROTC students who are being commissioned into the military service. Our Chapter presented two Gold Medals this year. The Georgia Tech recipient was Air Force Cadet Matthew Bohannon. His degree is in Electrical Engineering with a focus on computers. He will be going into the Cyberspace Operations at Keesler Air Force Base. The Georgia State recipient was Army Cadet Phylesha Kemp. She will be going into the Army Nurse Corps and hopes to get a Masters in Nursing. She loves running in half marathons! Her father is an Army major stationed in Texas.



CDT Matthew J. Bohannon, Georgia Tech



*CDT Phylesha Loraine Kemp,
Georgia State University*



*CDT Chacon accepts the medal from
Marlene Voight on behalf of CDT Kemp*

JROTC Bronze Medal Recipients

The DARJROTC Bronze Medal Awards are presented to either a junior or senior in a high school or a junior college student in the Junior ROTC Program. This year our Chapter presented five Bronze Medals. Also, my daughter Lisa Smith and I attended the Military Department Atlanta Public Schools 2013 Annual Citywide Awards Ceremony at the invitation of the Director of Army instruction, LTC Robert Rooker. Our Carver HS recipient, APS Brigade Commander C/COL Elonte Porter, presented an overview of the Brigade's amazing accomplishments for the year which included \$28,891.43 collected for the Empty Stocking Fund, Color Guard service of 2,000 hours and public service of 17,000 hours to mention a few. Other interesting facts are that this year 54% of the cadets are female and that 21 scholarships ranging from \$22,000 to \$400,000 were awarded – 3 were Gates Millennium Scholarships. The major themes in talking with our recipients were that they devoted most of their spare time to ROTC projects and helping others and they all planned to pursue careers in the medical field.



*C/COL Elonte Porter
APS Brigade Commander
Carver High School*



*C/LTC Patricia Randolph
Battalion Commander
North Atlanta High School*



*C/CPT Dana Mathis
Douglass High School*



*C/MAJ Summer Winbisch
Battalion Executive Officer
Therrell High School*



*C/MAJ Jasmine Glover
South Atlanta High School*

American History Teacher of the Year

Joshua Williams, an American History teacher at Riverwood International Charter School in Sandy Springs, is the recipient of this year's Outstanding American History Teacher Award for the Sandy Springs Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. His lifelong interest in and dedication to American History, as well as his own outstanding teachers, inspired him to become a teacher of American History. He earned a



*Back Row: Phoebe Jones, Joshua Williams, Cathy Blodgett, Ron Tesch.
Front Row: Lynn Brackey, Lynn Tullis.*

Entertainment, and Hospitality from Mount Vernon edited by Stephen A. McLeod, to the Riverwood library in his honor. Mr. Ron Tesch, Principal and Ms. Cathy Blodgett, Media Specialist accepted the donation on behalf of the school.

The Outstanding Teacher of American History Contest honors notable full-time teachers of history in public, private, and parochial schools, grades 5-12. Phoebe Jones, a junior at Riverwood International Charter School, nominated Joshua to participate in the annual contest. Her reasons are many. According to Phoebe, "Mr. Williams works really well with his students and tries to make learning an exciting and memorable experience. He creates a relaxed learning environment with lessons presented in an informal, casual conversation about American History. Learning feels more natural and has a bigger impact on students. Mr. Williams genuinely cares about all of his students, past and present. He challenges people to be the best students and human beings they can be, encouraging us to always do the right thing."

Joshua is well on his way to fulfilling his goal of being an influential teacher of American History to his students just as his teachers influenced him.

Bachelors in American History and a Master's in Education at Georgia State University. In addition to his work in the classroom, Joshua has written chapters for the American Book Company's 7th and 8th grade CRCT review textbooks covering East Asian history and Georgia in the American Revolution. He has also been involved with Fulton County Schools Teaching American History Grant for the past five years. This grant enables teachers to work side by side with university professors to develop lessons and best practices for high school United States History classes.

Lynn Brackey, Regent and Lynn Tullis, Historian of the Sandy Springs Chapter, NSDAR, presented Joshua with a certificate and a gift from the chapter on May 13, 2013. The chapter also donated the book, *Dining with the Washingtons: Historic Recipes,*



Phoebe Jones, Joshua Williams, Lynn Tullis, Lynn Brackey.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The Soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.
'Step forward now, Marine,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?'

The Marine squared his shoulders and said,
'No, Lord, I guess I have not.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint
I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.
But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.
And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear..
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.
I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears
If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.
There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the Marine waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.
'Step forward now, Marine,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell.'

~ Author Unknown ~