



# HOOSIER PATRIOT



VOLUME XL, No. 1

JULY 19, 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Compatriots,

When I was elected President of the Indiana Society at the annual meeting this past April, I decided to visit as many chapters as possible during my term in office and plan on doing so. I consider it a privilege to serve as President of this patriotic organization that celebrates and promotes our country's heritage.

You wouldn't be a member of the SAR if you did not share the same pride in our country and our ancestors as I do. I believe it is an obligation of every member of the SAR to encourage and assist others to join. Increasing membership is the best way to ensure the SAR will continue the work of keeping our nation's history alive and well. I am available to each and every INSSAR member and will support you any way I can.

In addition to attending INSSAR Chapter meetings, I hope to read articles from various chapters in the Hoosier Patriot this year. We have a capable, young Compatriot, Mike Oberlin, who "stepped up to the plate" by accepting the position of editor of the Patriot. However, it is not his responsibility to write or produce the entire contents of each edition. Rather, it is up to each chapter to submit informational articles to Mike for inclusion in the publication.

It also is an excellent way for each of us to keep up with the activities and events of other chapters around our state. So, at your next chapter meeting or sooner, please designate someone to get an article to Mike for use in an issue of the Hoosier Patriot this year.

His e-mail is: [msoberlin@inssar.org](mailto:msoberlin@inssar.org)

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our next state meeting in Warsaw, IN on July 19, 2008.

Compatriot G. Tom Schnuck, President  
INSSAR

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## HOOSIER PATRIOT - XL STYLE

If my knowledge of roman numerals serves me correctly, we have reached volume forty of the INSSAR Hoosier Patriot! It is an honor to continue this media tradition, and I encourage your further suggestions. Our presence around the State of Indiana is becoming much more prevalent through parades, veteran's events and memorial dedications. Let us continue in our endeavors to extend the pride of American freedom and an appreciation for true patriotism.

- Compatriot Mike Oberlin, Editor

The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Indiana exists to honor the memory of those who fought or worked to establish the British Colonies in North America. Membership is open to gentleman over the age of 18 who directly descend from an individual who served in the colonial militia or British army and/or navy or held high civilian office between the founding of Jamestown in 1607 and the Battle of Lexington in 1775 within the area that became the United States.



**Inquiries relating to membership may be directed to Rick Gann: [rgann46201@aol.com](mailto:rgann46201@aol.com)**

## NOTICE

Any Chapter of the INSSAR who requires a copy of our Liability Insurance for a **sanctioned event**, should contact:

Bill Sharp, INSSAR Secretary

Phone: (260) 471-4716

E-mail: [wesharp3@aol.com](mailto:wesharp3@aol.com)

You will need to furnish Bill the name, date and place of the event, as well as the name and address of the person or organization that is requesting proof of insurance.



(Indianapolis - 15 June 2008) Compatriots from the Clarence A. Cook Chapter stacked their arms (left) at the American Legion Vet Fest 2008, hosted by Post 500 located directly across the street from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The annual event was attended by about 100 veterans and their families. The presentation included explanations of the soldiers attire and accoutrement, weapons and tactics, and the origin of popular sayings from the Revolutionary War. The event was concluded by a musket loading and firing demonstration which included a "mourn arms" salute.

(Oaktown - 21 June 2008) Members from the Ohio Valley Chapter, sponsor, Daniel Guthrie Chapter, George Rogers Clark Chapter, Indiana Society DAR Francis Vigo Chapter and Captain Henry Vanderburgh Chapter (right) conducted a grave marking ceremony for Patriot Charles Polk. Polk was a Captain in the Maryland Militia born 02 February 1745 in Maryland and died 11 September 1823 in Knox County, Indiana. Special guest was Ms. Beth Ruby-Benefactress and Widow of John Ruby, Descendant of Captain Charles Polk.





(Indianapolis - 26 May 2008) As representatives of the Revolutionary War Militia, America's first national guard, the Indiana Society Color Guard lead a wreath laying ceremony at the Washington Park East Cemetery National Guard Memorial (left). Several hundred people attended the annual event which received considerable media attention.

(Muncie - 19 April 2008) At its annual meeting, the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution elected [officers](#) to serve during the next twelve months (below). Central District Vice President General, Roger Barnhart, is pictured delivering the oath of office to (L-R) Steven Oberlin, Vice President; Wade Harshman, 3rd District Director; Mark Kreps, Genealogist; John West, Historian; Donald Counts, Chaplain; William Sharp, Secretary; Noel Reen, Registrar; Carlton Brumfield, Chancellor; G. Thomas Schnuck, President; Charles Peters, Treasurer; and James Arnold, 2nd District Director.



In an effort to make the National Website a more useful resource, the National Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee maintains an event calendar Webpage that SAR members may access on a frequent basis to find out what SAR activities may be happening in their area. This list is closely coordinated with events listed in *The SAR Magazine*, but may include events not listed in that publication. This is because the Committee can update the event calendar on a more frequent basis than the quarterly publication schedule of *The SAR Magazine*. As of today, the events calendar shows events that extend throughout the summer and into early fall and winter. It will be updated on a regular basis as new events become known.

The Webpage can be found at:

[www.sar.org/committee/history/celebrations.html](http://www.sar.org/committee/history/celebrations.html)

You will note that some of the listings are underlined in blue. That indicates there is more information available by clicking on a hyperlink that will open a new webpage which defines the event in more detail.

## QUARTERLY MEETINGS

19 July 2008, INSSAR Summer Meeting, Warsaw

11 October 2008, INSSAR Fall Meeting, Salem

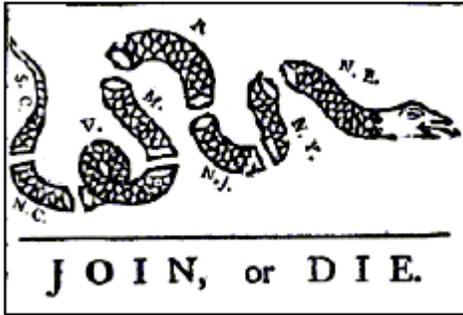
17 January 2009, INSSAR Winter Meeting, Greencastle

18 April 2009, INSSAR Annual Meeting, Indianapolis



### **Flags of our Fathers**

The Grand Union Flag, also known as the Congress flag, the First Navy Ensign, the Cambridge Flag, and the Continental Colors, is considered to be one of the first flags to represent the American colonies. The flag consisted of 13 red and white stripes with the British Union Flag of the time (prior to the inclusion of St. Patrick's cross of Ireland) in the canton. The flag was first flown on December 3, 1775 by John Paul Jones (then a Continental Navy lieutenant) on the ship *Alfred* in Philadelphia.



You may have seen the famous cartoon by Benjamin Franklin showing a snake cut into pieces and the words "Join or Die." This was a call to unite the British Colonies in America against the French in 1754. When the colonies rebelled against Parliament, the cartoon was adapted and reused by others.

The snake appeared whole once the colonies united, this time with a warning to the British: **Don't Tread on Me!**

"It occurred to me that the Rattle-Snake is found in no other quarter of the world besides America, and may therefore have been chosen, on that account, to represent her. ... I recollected that her eye excelled in brightness, that of any other animal, and that she has no eye-lids. She may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance. She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders: She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage. As if anxious to prevent all pretensions of quarreling with her, the weapons with which nature has furnished her, she conceals in the roof of her mouth, so that, to those who are unacquainted with her, she appears to be a most defenseless animal; and even when those weapons are shown and extended for her defense, they appear weak and contemptible; but their wounds however small, are decisive and fatal. Conscious of this, she never wounds 'till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of treading on her."

- The "American Guesser" (later identified as Benjamin Franklin)

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