

★ Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution

Summer 2008 Newsletter

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Society Sons of the American Revolution



Our Mission

The mission of the Hawaii Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is to preserve and perpetuate the memory of those men and women whose service and sacrifice during the American Revolution secured independence for the American people and established the United States of America; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; inspire them and their communities with a more profound reverence for the principles of the representative government; to encourage historical research and the dissemination of knowledge about the American Revolution; maintain and expand the institutions of American freedom; promote the purposes expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the preamble of the Constitution; and to foster patriotism.

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The Hawaii Society of the Sons of the American Revolution publishes the newsletter quarterly, Inc. Jeffrey Bingham Mead is the editor. Contact him by email at history@aloha.net or phone at (808) 721-0306. Printed materials should be sent to P.O. Box 183, Honolulu, HI 96810-0183. Submissions pertaining to news and events to the Hawaii Society and other SAR societies elsewhere are welcomed. Visit us on the Internet at www.hawaiisar.org where we provide visitors with ready-access to information about the Hawaii Society, joining our ranks, getting involved, news, and educational resources about the American Revolution and the War of Independence.

*Honolulu Mayor's Annual Memorial Day
Ceremony at National Cemetery of the Pacific*

The Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony was held on May 26, 2008 at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Compatriots Elwin Spray and Jeffrey Bingham Mead represented the Hawaii Society. Each grave in the National Cemetery –and other veteran gravesites throughout Hawaii- was marked with a flag and a lei. Boy Scouts traditionally place a lei and flag at each grave to honor the memory and sacrifice of fallen veterans and service members.

"Today we honor the men and women in uniform who gave their lives in service to their nation and made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and freedom of their fellow Americans," stated Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann. *"We pray for these great patriots and for the loved ones they left behind, as we will be forever indebted for their unrelenting courage unwavering loyalty."*

View our Hawaii Society photo album of this event at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/HawaiiSARPhotos/MayorS2008MemorialDayCeremony>

*Announcement of New Officers and Directors 2008-
2009*

The following individuals will serve as officers and directors of the Hawaii SAR for 2008-2009:

President and Vice President General, Western District: Elwin Spray
Vice-President: Bill Settle

Secretary & Chaplain: Jeffrey Bingham Mead
Treasurer & Registrar: Elbridge W. Smith
Directors: Bill Settle; Cameron Wahineokai; Erik Stavlund; Chris Tourtellot; Jack Miller.
Trustee/Director: Lou Torraca
Alternate Trustee/Director: Alan McCullough
Past Presidents/Director: Lou Torraca & Ray Woodstock

From the Editor's Desk: A Salute to Lou Torraca for 10 Years of Service

For ten years Compatriot Col. Lou Torraca, Ret., has tirelessly led the Hawaii Society as its leader and president. After the 2008 National Congress Lou stepped aside. In the years that the Hawaii Society has existed since 1895 no individual has served as president as long and continuously as Compatriot Torraca. It is only fitting that Hawaii Society Compatriots and friends around the country salute him and wish him well. Lou will be staying onboard as a trustee and director while we welcome Elwin Spray as our new Hawaii Society President. Thank you, Lou!

Patriotically yours,

Jeffrey Bingham Mead

Jeffrey Bingham Mead, Secretary and Chaplain

Notable & Quotable

MOUNT VERNON RECORD. By the last mail, we have received a monthly sheet, (just the size of the *Friend*) published in Philadelphia, and "*devoted to the purchase of the home and grave of Washington.*" As our readers are doubtless aware, an enterprise has been started among the ladies of the United States, to raise two hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of "Mount Vernon," where Washington lived and died. It is designed to fit up the establishment as nearly as possible in the style in which it was left by the Father of his country. The Hon. E. Everett, it is well known, has become deeply engaged in the enterprise. In behalf of the Fund, he has raised \$40,000 by the sale of tickets to hear his Oration upon Washington's character. He has delivered his oration *seventy* times, and promises to repeat it *seven hundred and seventy* times more if the people will pay their money for the purchase of *Washington Domain*. We could wish Mr. Everett would visit California, and just make a trip to the Sandwich Islands, and we are confident the people of Honolulu would give a \$1000 to hear him deliver his oration! Report says the ladies of Honolulu are collecting subscriptions to add their quota to the General Fund. We have not heard how they succeed; but we say, success ladies, to your enterprise. No doubt success will crown your efforts. The name of Washington is very popular in Honolulu,

for we have our “Washington Place,” and portraits of him who was “first in war, first in peace,” &c., hang in almost every dwelling.

The Friend, Honolulu, Hawaii: October 1858; page 14.

News Briefs

- **New photo galleries!** Go to our photo galleries page: http://www.hawaiiisar.org/for_members/photo_galleries/index.html. Do you have digital photos? Send them HawaiiSARPhotos@gmail.com. We also accept old print photos! Mail those with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Jeffrey Bingham Mead, HISSAR Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 183, Honolulu HI 96810-0183.
- On Saturday, April 19 the Aloha Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution hosted a successful Genealogy Workshop. Attendees learned about the basics of genealogical research, focusing on the SAR application worksheet and the SAR supplemental form. Genealogists Edna Smith of the New York State DAR and Kathy DeForest, the Aloha Chapter DAR librarian led the workshop. Richard Souther reviewed genealogy software, recommending the program called ‘The Master Genealogist.’
- Hawaii SAR Trustee Elwin Spray and Chaplain/Secretary Jeffrey Bingham Mead attended the Honolulu Mayor’s Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Pacific on May 26. The Governor’s Memorial Day Service was held at the Hawaii State Veteran’s Cemetery in Kaneohe, attended by Treasurer/Registrar Elbridge W. Smith.
- On May 28 Hawaii Society Chaplain/Secretary Jeffrey Bingham Mead attended a presentation at the Pacific Club by Dr. Mark Skousen, (www.mskousen.com) author of The Completed Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. Dr. Skousen –a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin- finished Franklin’s autobiography. The book was released in time for the 300th anniversary of Franklin’s birth.
- Compatriots Elwin Spray and Charles Phebus represented the Hawaii Society at the 118th National Congress in Sacramento, California. Elwin Spray was elected Vice-President General of the Western District (California, Nevada, and Hawaii), serving an important service as intermediaries between the national and state societies. SAR dignitaries attended from across the USA and beyond. National Officers were elected for the 2008-2009 year. National prizes were awarded. The SAR Color Guard performed. Several gala dinners were held.
- God Bless America! Residents and visitors celebrated with picnics, parades, fireworks displays and the ringing of bells. Spectators packed the beaches of Oahu for ten fireworks displays and others throughout the neighbor islands. Thousands packed Ala Moana Beach

Park near Waikiki to enjoy the fireworks. The 62nd Annual 4th of July Parade Festival and Fireworks in Kailua.

- Hawaii Reporter published an American Independence Day article by Compatriot Jeffrey Bingham Mead: <http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?fb1f2908-7b68-41ec-b824-a63b02c2f5af>
- The annual July 4 Bell Ringing Ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center, Pearl Harbor was held in conjunction with 'Let Freedom Ring.' Members of the Aloha Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association rang the ship's bell 13 times at precisely 8:00 a.m. HST, synchronized with over 10,000 bells across the USA, including the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

Calendar

The board meets every other month starting in February at Old Spaghetti Factory at Ward Warehouse, Honolulu. **The following are tentative dates for the remainder of this year: August 13; October 1; and December 3, 2008.**

God Bless America! Independence Day! Friday, July 4, 2008.

118th Annual Congress: Sacramento, California. July 5-9, 2008. Hyatt Regency Sacramento.

Treaty of Paris 225th Anniversary. Wednesday, September 3, 2008. Representatives of the USA, Britain, France, Spain and the Netherlands ended the Revolutionary War with the signing of this historic treaty. Visit: <http://www.americanrevolution.com/TreatyofParis1783.htm>

Constitution Day. On September 17, 1787, delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the American Constitution and sent it to the states for ratification. Visit these links: <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html>

National SAR Fall Leadership/Trustee Meeting, September 25-27, 2008. Brown Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.

Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2008. This annual day is set aside to honor our living veterans.

Annual November Patriotic Meeting. Chair: Alan McCullough. November 2008.
Details to be announced.

**General George Washington Resigns His Commission in the Continental Army:
225th Anniversary.** Tuesday, December 23, 2008

Visit this link to the Library of Congress:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/commission.html>