



Benjamin Franklin Chapter

The Ohio Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Chartered 1889

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NEWSLETTER March 2015

Washington's birthday observance very well attended despite cold

Despite cold temperatures, the 2015 George Washington's Birthday Observance of February 20 had the highest attendance in recent memory. In addition to members of the Benjamin Franklin Chapter and their guests were members of several local DAR chapters and their guests.

Ohio Regent Sandra McCann brought greetings from the Ohio DAR Society, Lexi Mehl brought greetings from the Ohio CAR Society, and Tony Robinson represented the Ohio SAR Society.

During his remarks, Robinson encouraged the chapter to submit ideas through which the Ohio Society can generate income aside from raising dues. He also praised the Benjamin Franklin Chapter for making preliminary plans to sponsor a day in which local Boy Scouts can earn Merit Badges.

The evening's program featured Dr. Denise Riley, whose talk traced the writings from the European Enlightenment Period and earlier historic events that gave our Founders the myriad insights that enabled them to devise an unprecedented system of government that has lasted for 227 years.



Chapter President Chuck Finley presents Ed Hamblin with the Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the Benjamin Franklin Chapter as a past President and, for the past eight years, as Chapter Registrar.

Police, Fire Safety, EMS, and Heroism awards to be presented at March meeting

One of the best traditions of the Benjamin Franklin Chapter is recognizing outstanding public servants who provide essential services. Once again, the March meeting will be the venue for this memorable event.

Four awards will be presented. One award will be go to a member of the Columbus Police Division, one to a member of the Columbus Fire Division, and one to a member of the Emergency Medical Service for exemplary performance. In addition, the Heroism award will be presented to a different member of one of these three organizations.

Historically, a *Columbus Dispatch* reporter and/or a local television station film crew covers the event.

Seeing four exemplary public servants being recognized for their outstanding service as their families and colleagues look on makes the March meeting a genuine “feel good” program. For this reason, the March meeting has the highest attendance of our Friday noon meetings. So, you will want to make plans to be with us.

To make it easier for members with day jobs to attend the meetings, the program is presented before the meal is served.

This March 20 noon luncheon meeting will be at The Florentine Restaurant, 907 West Broad Street.

Compatriot Dana “Buck” Rinehart passes away

By Chuck Finley

A major Central Ohio news story was the passing of former mayor of Columbus, Dana “Buck” Rinehart who died Feb. 18 of pancreatic cancer. However, not so well known is the fact that Buck was a long-time member of the Benjamin Franklin Chapter. I do not know when he joined, but his National Number is 102509--which is lower than Joe Carvin's.

His Patriot Ancestor was Henry Wetzel, who served as a Private in Col. Benjamin Harrison's Regiment of the Virginia Militia. Wetzel died in Rockingham County, Virginia--which borders West Virginia, where Rinehart was born Jan. 29, 1944.

He retired from the U.S. Marines as a Major and was elected Mayor of Columbus at the age of 37.

As Chapter Secretary, I try make contact with members. In late 2013 I left a voice-mail message for him and then received a phone call that began, “Chuck, Buck Rinehart!” During that call Rinehart shared how important the SAR was to him. The truth of that statement was evidenced by his paying his SAR dues for 2015 despite probably knowing that his death was not far away.

The Benjamin Franklin Chapter was represented at his calling hours.



Compatriot Buck Rinehart

National Society requests biographies of members' Patriot Ancestors

The National Society of SAR is asking Compatriots to send biographies of their Patriot Ancestors to be loaded into the Patriot and Grave Index. Such a library of biographies will perpetuate the memory of the Revolutionary War and also assist the recruitment of new members.

The biography may but is not required to document information. There is no defined format for these biographies except that they not exceed 500 words and be sent in a Microsoft Word-compatible format. Page 16 of the Fall 2014 *SAR Magazine* has examples of biographies already received and also shows the e-mail address for submitting them-- patriotbios@sar.org.