



**Benjamin Franklin Chapter
The Ohio Society
Sons of the American Revolution**
Chartered 1889

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NEWSLETTER April 2019

April meeting

Author returns with history of the Revolutionary War in Ohio Valley

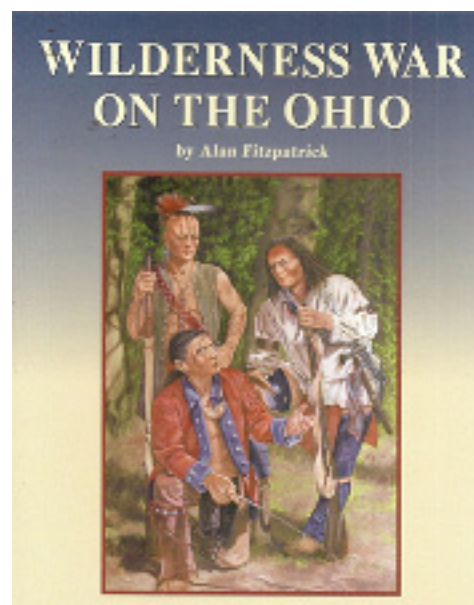
Back by popular demand, historian and author Alan Fitzpatrick will discuss the portion of the Revolutionary War that was fought in the Ohio River Valley and western Pennsylvania.

After General Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown in 1781, the British essentially ceased hostilities in the colonies on the Atlantic.

However, they merely shifted their efforts to prevent Americans from settling in western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Operating out of Fort Niagara and Fort Detroit in 1782, British troops joined forces with Canadian militia, and Indian tribes in the region to wage a vicious war against the Continental Army and American militia in an effort to maintain control of the Northwest Territory.

Unlike the set-piece battles fought in the east between two armies, the Wilderness War was



fought in a most unconventional and brutal manner.

Fitzpatrick chose to tell this story from the perspective of the Indians; however, because they left no written records, he traveled to London and the British Library to access the records of their British allies to learn the tribal leaders' views, motives and strategies.

**Saturday noon April 20
Kingsdale MCL**

Exemplary first responders honored at March meeting

As is a BFC tradition, the March program was the annual recognition of outstanding first responders within the City of Columbus.

Receiving the Fire Science Award was Lt. Brian Fowler who was recognized for going the extra mile in improving his professional knowledge and solving problems.

The Law Enforcement Award was presented to Officer Michael L. Shannon, who on March of 2010, was pursuing a male suspect on foot and was shot in the leg, losing 1.5 inches of his femur.

He then endured nine surgeries and extensive physical therapy, so that seven years later he was able to return to full duty and also provide leadership to junior officers.

The Heroism Award went to four Fire Fighters, Capt. Richard Blancone, Lt. Michael Phipps, Lt. Larry Jones and XX XXXX who entered a burning home where they rescued an unconscious woman.

Compatriot Randy Walker was presented with a Law Enforcement award for overcoming being shot and paralyzed.



ABOVE: Three of the four Heroism Award Recipients: From left: Capt. Richard Blancone, Lt. Michael Phipps, and Lt. Larry James.



Lt. Brian Fowler received the Fire Safety Award.



STANDING: Law Enforcement Award recipient Officer Michael Shannon with Compatriot Randy Walker who also received an award.

WW II veteran Compatriot Hiram Van Buren dies at age 101

The Benjamin Franklin Chapter lost a long-time member, respected gentleman, and war hero with the death of Hiram Van Buren on Dec. 29.

A man of many parts, Hiram was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1917; ran track and cross country at Georgia Tech, where he graduated with a degree in architectural engineering; just

a few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He then flew four-engine B-24 Liberators in Europe and later flew two-engine Catalinas in the Pacific.

Although he did not talk much about his time in the war, records show that he won the Distinguished Flying Cross with a gold star, an Air Medal with four bronze stars,

and a commendation letter from Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz.

After the war, he had a very successful career as an architect, joined the SAR in 1955, and paid his dues for 50 straight years.

In November, 2016, he was awarded the SAR's 60-year pin along with fellow WWII pilot and BFC member DeLloyd Roush.