



# San Francisco Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Libertas et Patria

INSTITUTED JULY 4, 1876



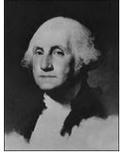
WWW.SAR.ORG

E PLURIBUS UNUM



FROM THE FOUNDING CHAPTER OF THE SAR ESTABLISHED JULY 4, 1876

## June 2013 Newsletter



### THURSDAY JUNE 27 2013

11:30 A.M. SOCIAL, 12:00 NOON LUNCH  
SINBAD'S RESTAURANT, PIER 2

SFSAR Compatriots Marston Watson and Bob Ebert presented memorial wreaths at the Presidio of San Francisco on Memorial Day, May 27. Chapter President Tony Bothwell read a proclamation from NSSAR President General Stephen Leishman, honoring all who have served our nation in uniform. The Army Reserve 75th Pacific Division's cannons sounded multi-gun salutes. The pipes, horns, drums and symbols of the 191st Army Band of the Wild West played martial music. Fog horns sounded across the bay as the consul general of France stepped to the podium.

#### FRENCH ENVOY LAUDS AMERICAN HEROES

"When **Lafayette** first met **George Washington**, Lafayette told him, 'I have come here to learn, not to teach.'" French Consul General Romain Serman said, alluding to lessons of "liberty, justice and freedom...our common values." As a child, Serman heard his parents recall 1917 when U.S.

troops came to the defense of France. And in 1944 "I heard my parents talk about the American GIs returning to France once again." So when an American soldier dies, Serman explained, "the French people feel like they have lost a member of their family." Noting that thousands of American heroes "rest on



French soil," he added: "You saved France and Europe from hell. France will never forget. We the French people know exactly what we owe to the American people." Then, saying he was doing so at the direction of the President of the French Republic **Francois Hollande**, the consul general called forth seven veterans of D-Day and made a presentation to each, declaring, "I now make you Knight of the Legion of Honor," an order established by **Napoleon** in 1802.

#### Registrar Report

For the first six months of the year 14 applications have been approved. Congratulations to seven new members: Charles Cruff, Todd Cruff, Joseph Kresse, David Kresse, Michael Kresse, Alexander Brown (son of Rob Brown) and Bob Burnett.

To be approved by June 13<sup>th</sup>: Donald Bent, Nathan Bent, Richard Bruce and Jared Gonzales (grand-son of Joseph Cuff). Presently the San Francisco Registrar is processing 7 other applications. A few applicants still needs additional documentation.

## **ROTC AND JROTC AWARDS**

Compatriot Ed Seabee, awards chairman, made arrangements for the ROTC Silver Medals to be awarded to Cadet Timothy Barnell (Army ROTC) University of San Francisco on May 3, 2013 and Cadet Christina Barajas (Air Force ROTC) University of California Berkeley on May 10, 2013. Seven JROTC Medals were awarded to cadets of the San Francisco Brigade at the Annual Drill and Awards at Lincoln High School, San Francisco on May 11, 2013.

## **Compatriot Grant Noah, Registrar of the San Francisco Chapter, Conducted Military Honors on May 20, 2013**

Three volleys of gunfire echoed. A lone bugler played taps. An expertly folded flag was presented on behalf of a grateful nation. It looked like a military funerals seen on TV or in the movies. But in important ways, this one was very different. Thirty-five veterans from [Sonoma County](#) who were laid to rest had been waiting, some for a very long time. One who died in 1962 was among eight who served during World War I, nearly a century ago. After their deaths, their bodies were never claimed. Their cremated remains were put in storage. They, and their service to our country, were long forgotten. The service at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon was California's largest so far for these unclaimed veterans. Compatriot Grant Noah was appointed by Lt. Colonel Chris Bingham, Veterans Service Officer of Sonoma County to conduct the military honors of transferring the remains of the thirty-five unclaimed veterans to the waiting hearse at the Santa Rosa Memorial Park, Santa Rosa California. More than 200 veterans and supporters stood in for missing family members at the service. About 120 rode their motorcycles to escort the remains on the 75-mile trip from Santa Rosa to the cemetery. At the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Compatriot Grant Noah, presented to the veterans the small boxes containing the veteran's remains. They solemnly carried the remains from the single silver hearse to the table where they were arranged for the ceremony. In the 90-degree heat, others saluted as the pallbearers strode past. Still others held flags that flapped in the stiff breeze, forming a semicircle around the service. After almost everyone had left, cemetery staff placed 10 veterans in adjoining niches in the columbarium. The rest were interred in the following days, some buried side by side amid the rows upon rows of white gravestones. Finally, the forgotten veterans found their eternal rest, in the embrace of 16,000 comrades.

## **MAX CLELAND QUOTES ARCHIBALD MacLEISH; GENERAL SHARP AND LEADER PELOSI RECALL KOREA**

At the Presidio on Memorial Day, Vietnam war hero and triple amputee Max Cleland was greeted by a standing ovation. "I will not forget this day," said the former V.A. secretary and one-time U.S. senator from Georgia, visibly moved by the French consul general's presentation. Now head of the Paris-based American Battle Monuments Commission, in charge of America's overseas cemeteries and memorials, Cleland recited from Archibald MacLeish's *The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak*. "Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say, it is you who must say this." Gen. Walter L. Sharp, USA ret., who commanded U.N. and U.S. forces in Korea 2008-2011, noted that President Truman had offered the Presidio of San Francisco as the site for the United Nations headquarters (which went to Rockefeller land on Manhattan instead). U.S. House Leader Nancy Pelosi announced the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice will be observed on July 27 at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. Sharp and Pelosi both lamented the oppression in North Korean people.

## **FREE SPACE FESTIVAL JUNE 28**

Compatriot Ken Winans reports that the 2013 Novato Space Festival will be free and open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat., June 29 at the Space Station Museum and Pacheco Plaza's Center Stage, 464 Ignacio Blvd., Novato. See NASA and *USS Hornet* exhibits and meet Astronaut Dan Bursch, a veteran of 227 days in space and 12 hours of spacewalks.