Wishing you all a great celebration of Independence Day. This day has a very special meeting to those of us in the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, as we can identify with it though one or more of our ancestors which made this day possible. With humble respect I salute all Patriots who gave us this great Republic through their sacrifices and those brave Patriots who followed, and made possible the continuance of our Independence!

The first of this month I sent out the TNSSAR Goals & Objectives, which were posted on the TNSSAR website. I do hope that each of you will take some of your time to read them and assist me in the accomplishment of these rather aggressive and ambitious goals and objectives, for the betterment of our State Society.

Starting out this month, I traveled to Clarksville, TN and attended the Valentine Sevier Chapter meeting on Thursday 5th. Valentine Sevier Chapter President, Herbert Gould, requested our Southern District V.P. General nominee Rick Hollis, to introduce me, and he did, in his most eloquent fashion. It was a great evening, as I got to renew acquaintances and make several new acquaintances of the Chapter's members. I gave my presentation on the TNSSAR Goals & Objectives for the State Society this year. For dinner, I was treated to a most delicious country fried chicken stake dinner, after which, I had the honor of inducting their newest member, Colin F. Crowley, a young man just out of military service. His Mother, Mrs. Crowley Mills was also in attendance, so after
I swore him into the NSSAR, I asked his Mother to pin on his Rosette. After the meeting that evening I was the overnight houseguest of fellow Compatriot, Rick Hollis. It was a most enlightening and interesting evening, as every picture, artifact and furniture piece was a continuum of history and especially of Clarksville, TN history, where Rick was once the City Mayor.

The following day, Friday 6th, Rick and I meet Cleo Hogan, Valentine Sevier Chapter, Attorney, and State Chancellor, and Clint Reynolds, Valentine Sevier Chapter, Attorney and Insurance Agent. We met to discuss the insurance coverage the TNSSAR has in regards to the three properties we own; the Lytle Cemetery in Murfreesboro, TN, the Brainerd Mission Cemetery, Chattanooga, TN which is a shared ownership between 5 DAR Chapters and the TNSSAR John Sevier Chapter. Also, the TNSSAR Historical Marker on Lookout Mountain, TN that is located on the property of Ruby Falls. In addition, we discussed the liability issues with Grave Marking events and involvement of our TNSSAR Color Guard. The contents of this discussion will be summarized and passed on to the other two Ad Hoc Insurance Committee Members, Charles Dammann and John McCutchen. A summary presentation will be presented by this Ad Hoc Committee at our August 2nd, BOG Meeting.

On Wednesday 11th, I went to the Brainerd Mission Cemetery Flag Raising Ceremony, which is on the backside of East Gate Mall off Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, TN. This annual event is presented by the DAR Regents Council of Chattanooga and the John Sevier Chapter of Chattanooga, who jointly own this cemetery. The East Ridge High School JROTC unit did the exchange of the U.S. Flag, a flag which had flown over the State's Capitol. During the program I was called upon to bring greetings on behalf of the TNSSAR members and Society. Our State Society had several Chapters represented with members from the Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter, Hiwassee Chapter and of course the John Sevier Chapter.
The next day, *Thursday 12th*, James Stone of the Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter, Medals & Awards Chair, and my designated Ade de Camp, at the invitation of the Kings Mountain Chapter President, Dr. John Wakefield, traveled to the Olive Garden Restaurant in Johnson City, TN to attend the Kings Mountain Chapter Meeting which was "An Evening in Honor of Dr. Sam and Carolee McKinstry." Sam and his wife Carolee are relocating to Charlotte, NC to be closer to family. Sam was a professor at East TN State University, a 47 year member of the NSSAR and a 24 year member of the Kings Mountain Chapter. He has held many Chapter Officer positions and has been the State Chaplin for the past 4 years. I brought greetings to the Kings Mountain Chapter and I presented the Roger Sherman Silver Medal to Sam for his years of dedicated service to the TNSSAR. Dr. Joe Chambers presented Sam with the Silver Good Citizanship Medal which I approved as State President to present to Sam, for his long and outstanding contributions in the field of Education and Community Service. Dr. Chambers also presented Sam's wife Carolee with the Lydia Darragh Medal for her years of support to the TNSSAR. Rick Hollis who is the Southern District V.P. General nominee, presented Sam with an Oak Leaf Cluster for his existing Silver Meritorious Service Medal, for this service to the SAR and Community. James Stone and I appreciated the most generous hospitality of President Dr. John Wakefield and Chapter members.

*Saturday the 14th* was Flag Day and I proudly displayed the United States of America Flag at my house. In 2012 I received a Flag Certificate from the Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter President, James Stone, for proper and consistent display of our United States Flag.

*Sunday 15th*, was Father's Day. I well remember my father and grandfather..both were special men in my life. It was a day also to reflect up our Founding Fathers, who gave so much of their lives to give us this pursuit of happiness.
Tuesday 24th, my wife Helen and I celebrated our 53rd Wedding Anniversary. We have been blessed with two daughters, two sons and 11 Grandchildren.

On Sunday, June 29th I traveled with James Stone to the Eusebia Presbyterian Church in Seymour, TN for services of "Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Nation" in a memorial service for the 15 American Revolutionary War Patriots buried in the Church's beautiful cemetery. This cemetery I believe contains more Revolutionary War Patriot's graves than any other in Tennessee, of which all have been marked by the DAR and only one by the SAR! I was pleased to see Chapter Members from the John Sevier, Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Stephen Holston, and the Kings Mountain Chapter. In addition, a member of the Campbell Chapter of Abington, VA, Compatriot Bill Grayveal, attended in period dress portraying Rev. Charles Cummings. There were many DAR Chapters Ladies of the local Chapters in attendance, a number of which were in period dress. The service was opened on the doorsteps of the Church with a moving prayer by Compatriot Dr. John Wakefield, President of the Kings Mountain Chapter. Then the congregation moved inside the Church, where Interim Pastor and Dr. Dwyn M. Mounger of the Eusebia Presbyterian Church, gave a very moving sermon. After the services, all were treated to punch and sweets. I had the opportunity to talk with Dr. and Pastor Mounger, whom I found was a Professor of American History and a person, who at an advanced age like myself, had an amazing skill of remembering names, details of conversations and knowledge of American History events and dates. We then took a walk through the cemetery and took some pictures. While there I was able to purchase a book which was published by the TN DAR of all the DAR marked grave sites in TN. And as a memento of appreciation for attending the service and representing the TNSSAR, I was given, by a Church member, a slice of a Maple Tree limb from the grounds of the Church, with a small bronze metal plate attached, which stated, Eusebia Church "Since 1786" 225th, From the branches of our maple trees. The gift was greatly appreciated and I shall place it upon my Color Guard plaque.
In these first three months as State President I have enjoyed attending a number of different Chapter's meetings and attending an array of events and activities. Each being a learning experience and the enjoyment of renewing friendships and meeting new and very interesting fellow Compatriots and other associated people. I encourage each of you to attend your Chapter's meetings and enjoy the very interesting program presentations that are being made at these Chapter meetings, also venture forth to other Chapters and experience the different approaches each Chapter takes with their meetings and use that experience to enhance your own Chapter's meetings. In addition, to enjoy the SAR experience, attend as many TNSSAR and TN DAR events as you can possibly schedule, as you will enjoy the living history of our American Revolutionary War Patriots, the lives they lived, the sacrifices they made, and the colonial history of this great Republic. I encourage each of you to become more involved, to reach out, to learn and make possible greater growth and development of our State Society.

In Patriotic Service,

*Claude T. Hardison, Jr.*

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