

TN SAR Acceptance Speech

Good evening Compatriots,

I would like to start by thanking each of you for honoring me by allowing me to serve as your president of the Tennessee Sons of the American Revolution in this very important year.

In a little over 100 days, we will begin welcoming compatriots, from all over the US and the world, to Knoxville for the Sons of the American Revolution's National Congress. We have a great opportunity to showcase all that is great about Tennessee and our State Society. I know many in this room are already deeply involved in our planning and execution of this wonderful event, especially the Welcome Reception at James White Fort. I ask that each of you continue your efforts and, if you are not already involved, to step forward and assist us in showing our guests what it means to be a Tennessee volunteer.

As we move through the coming year, I ask that each of you lead your chapters, lead your committees, and lead this Society in accomplishing the goals set before us. Whether it be membership retention, patriot grave identification and marking, service to veterans, service in and to the Color Guard, or growing each of our youth recognition programs, I ask that you be the driver in helping us be successful in all the things we do to honor our patriot ancestors and those who followed.

As we complete our obligations to making the National Congress an event to remember, I hope to lead the Society in growing participation in our Youth Programs. Whether it be ROTC/JROTC, Eagle Scout, Essay, Oration or Poster Contests, I ask that each of you step up to help your local chapter identify worthy candidates for each of these programs. I challenge each committee chair and district director to ensure the

chapters are aware, not only of each program's specifics, but of the details for candidate submissions and due dates. I have asked Johnny Head, our new Vice-President, to work with me in assisting the youth committee chairs in their campaigns to secure more participation. As soon as the July BOG is over and Tennessee schools are back in session, I would hope to see our local chapters aggressively involved in seeking out those outstanding young men and women who will be the leaders of our next generation of great Americans and challenging them to become a candidate in one of our contests.

And, last but certainly not least, I ask that you support our Color Guard in whatever way you can. The Color Guard is the public face of our Society and has grown substantially throughout the past few years under great leadership. Whether it be for grave markings, Patriots Day, Veterans Day parades, July Fourth celebrations, Wreaths Across America, or historic site celebrations such as Sycamore Shoals, our Color Guard is there in strength. The public awareness, not to mention the honor, our Color Guard brings to the Society is beyond measure. Please participate where you can.

In closing, I'd like to paraphrase a couple lines from our past-president, David Eagan's, acceptance speech....

Let us be united in our efforts to further the mission of the SAR and may we work together with cooperation and committed effort to achieve our goals.

I look forward to serving the Society and you in the upcoming year. Let us make it one to remember!

Thank you!!!