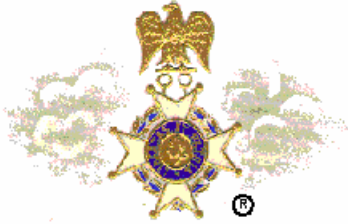


Sons of the American Revolution



Tennessee Society

SAR/CAR Patriot Ancestor Essay Contest

Compatriots of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

The implicit mission of the SAR, DAR and CAR is the sharing of the **ideals and values** of those valiant men and women who gave us “AMERICA” with our fellow citizens and most **particularly, with the next generation**. Unfortunately, the prescribed curricula in our public schools not only places less and less emphasis on those ideals and values, but actually seems to promote open hostility toward them. Thus it is that we in SAR and DAR need to find ways to strengthen our natural bond with our young CAR Compatriots. To that end, we have established a program to encourage these young people to explore our shared heritage of liberty, through the lens of their own Patriot Ancestors’ involvement in that epic struggle to give us “AMERICA. “ That gift to us has perhaps never been in greater jeopardy than it is today.

The idea is for our TSSAR chapters to sponsor an essay contest among the members of the Tennessee CAR Society (or Societies) in their vicinity and then hold a competition between the various chapter winners at the state level. The response has been wonderful. The entries, ranging from six year old’s block lettering on their lined tablets to fairly polished papers from older children, leave no doubt that the future of this great county is in good hands. But they need our encouragement and to know that we take pride in their devotion to our shared ideals.

Let me suggest that you and your members contact a CAR Society near you (see attached list of contacts) and encourage them to participate in the contest. You might also explore joining Dar in the general support of your local CAR Society. I think you will find that they will be delighted at the opportunity to partner with you. The SAR Chapters that have done so have found working with “our” kids to be an experience that enhances their sense of “Mission”. We have sent a letter similar to this one to the TNCAR leaders, suggesting that they contact you.

As an adjunct to this program, we have added “Granma Said” award to the parents, grandparents, etc. who helped the CAR member with their essays. Most of us had our earliest interest in our heritage kindeled family stories about our heritage. We want to encourage that dialog.

I remember when I was a little kid in the midst of the depression my “Granma” came to our house for Christmas. She brought me Lt. Andrew Crockett’s long rifle that he had used in the Revolution and had brought with him when he came here to “The Cumberland Communities” as a Virginia Militiaman in 1779. She told me that she was sorry that she didn’t have enough money to buy me a “Real” present. I’ve wondered ever since then what on earth she thought she could have gotten me, even if she’d had all the money in the world, that would have meant as much to me as that old rifle and all her wonderful stories about my ancestors. Recently when we had a break-in in which they took the old rifle. My greatest consolation was, they can take my ancestor’s long rifle and they can take what little money we have but they can’t take my ‘Grandma’s” wonderful stories which told me about the ideals and values for which my ancestor risked their lives, their fortunes and their Sacred Honor.

We would hope that we can use this essay contest as a means of leaving at least some of today's American children with their "Granma's" stories about who they are, that can not be taken away from them. However, we must realize that there are those in our media, in our educational system and in our government who wish to do exactly that – to take "Granma's" wonderful stories and the ideals and values they represent, away from our children.

In the words from Psalm 78:

*"that which we have heard and known
and what our forefathers have told us
we will not hide from our children.*

*That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn
in their turn might tell it to their children".*

Compatriots -

We have no more important obligation !!!

Please share this with others in your Chapter members.

Questions? Please contact me.

Fount T. Smothers, SAR/DAR-CAR Liaison
2708 Buckner Rd.
Thompson's Station, TN 37179
(615) 794 3546
Fount99@aol.com

SAR/CAR Patriot Ancestor Essay Contest

Rules:

We want to keep the rules as simple and as flexible as possible so as to make it as easy as we can for everyone to take part.

1. Age Groups: In order to encourage our younger CAR Compatriots to participate, we have established two age groups:

- Those 12 years of age and younger and,
- Those over 12 years of age.

The contestant should indicate their age on the submission.

2. Family. We wish to strongly encourage these young people to express their own thoughts and understanding of our history and the ideals and values which led their Patriot Ancestor to risk everything give us our country. However, we also hope that work on this essay will offer an opportunity for the CAR contestant to strengthen the bonds of their family's and their community's shared heritage. We believe that invaluable knowledge of their personal connection to the ideals and values that underlie AMERICA can best be achieved by young people in a strong connection with their own family and community. Therefore, parents, other family members, teachers, etc., are not only "allowed" to work with the CAR contestant on this essay, but they are strongly encouraged to do so. The contestant should acknowledge those family members (and/or others) who assisted them with the essay.

Most of us started out in our understanding of the ideals and values for which our Patriot ancestors stood on the basis of something like, "Grandma Said". With that in mind, there will also be a "Grandma Said Award" to the family member who helped the winning contestant.

3. Information Sources. We also hope that work on this essay will encourage these young people to avail themselves of all the wonderful sources of information they have available to them today. Therefore they are not only "allowed" to get information off the Internet, from the libraries, etc., but are strongly encouraged to do so. However, they should incorporate that information into an expression of their own thoughts and understanding of our heritage, rather than simply copy the information source. The contestant should include a listing (bibliography) of the information sources used in the essay.
4. Format. We have elected to leave the details of the format to be used, open to the discretion of the contestant. Obviously, it is essential that the submitted essays be easily legible, to facilitate judging. To that end, we would suggest (but not require) that the essays be typed and double-spaced, but hand written (a/or hand printed) submissions will be accepted provided they are legible. The length of the essay will be left to the discretion of the contestant.

Cover Page: Please fill out the attached COVER PAGE and attach it to the front of the essay.

5. Dates.
 - Contest entries should contact their sponsoring TNSSAR Chapter for their contest closing date.
 - TSSAR Chapter winners should be submitted to me by **April 1, 2010**
 - TSSAR state level winners of this contest will be presented at the Youth Awards Luncheon of the Annual TSSAR Meeting, Saturday afternoon, **April 10, 2010.**
6. Awards and Recognition.
 - We have elected to leave the chapter level awards to the discretion of the TSSAR Chapters sponsoring the contest at the local level. These "awards" are only tokens of SAR's recognition of the CAR participant's devotion to the ideals and values that led their Patriot Ancestors to risk everything to help give us AMERICA. The real "Award" will be the CAR's satisfaction of having researched and set forth their heritage of those ideals and values.
 - TSSAR recommends that each of the sponsoring TSSAR Chapters pay the expenses of their winners and a family member to attend the TSSAR State Level Youth Awards Luncheon.
 - TSSAR will present State Level Awards to the State Winners and recognize all Chapter winning entries at the TSSAR State Level Youth Awards Luncheon, April 10, 2010.

SAR/CAR Patriot Ancestor Essay Cover Page

DATE: _____

CAR NAME: _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CAR SOCIETY: _____

CAR SENIOR CONTACT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SAR SPONSORING CHAPTER: _____

SAR CHAPTER CONTACT: _____

ANCESTOR'S NAME: _____

ASSISTED BY: _____

CAR Society Cotacts

2009-2010 SOCIETY PRESIDENTS AND SENIOR SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

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