



NSSAR Massed Color Guard a focal point at Annual Congress



NSSAR Massed Color Guard with President General David Sympson and C.A.R. Pages.

Photo by: Compatriots Steve Blackwell and Don Wilder (SC)

Additional photographs of the Color Guard a the 121st Annual Congress can be found on the North Carolina Society website.

www.ncssar.com/121stNational-Congress/PhotoMenu.htm

10 July 2011

By: Adjutant Mark C Anthony

Winston-Salem, NC - The Massed Color Guard of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution once again provided a colorful focal point during the 121st Annual Congress.

Under the command of National Color Guard Commander Joe Dooley (VA), nearly seventy-five members from across the nation participated in the events of Congress.

The Color Guard began the week's events by presenting colors at the Winston-Salem Dash baseball game on Friday night.

The main event for the Color Guard was the annual inspection by the President General on Sunday. President General David Sympson (KY) inspected the Color Guard in the lobby of the Embassy Suites.

Following the inspection, the Color

Guard moved outside to form up for the two block parade to First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem where the annual Memorial Service was conducted.

Leading the parade was President General David Sympson flanked by Commander Joe Dooley, Vice Commander Mike Tomme (GA) and Adjutant Mike Ratcliff (TX).

Within the church, the Color Guard provided an impressive display for the gathered worshippers with color bearers carrying nearly every state flag ringed the sanctuary while the honor guard and militia marched down the center aisle. Following the service, the Color Guard retired the colors and then gathered on the front steps of the church for photographs.

The Color Guard also presented colors at the initial Congress business session, at the Tuesday night banquet and retired the colors at the conclusion of the General Officer's Installation banquet at the close of the Congress.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Commander's Dispatch</i>	2
<i>From the Editor</i>	2
<i>Vigil at Washington's Tomb</i>	3
<i>Reports from the Field</i>	4
<i>State Color Guard Commander Information</i>	7
<i>South Central District Meeting</i>	8
<i>Lee's Legion - A Decade of Service</i>	9
<i>Color Guard at Tomb of the Unknowns</i>	10



THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO PROVIDE INTERESTING ARTICLES ABOUT THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR CHAPTER AND/OR STATE COLOR GUARDS

THE SAR COLORGUARDSMAN

The SAR Colorguardsman is published four times a year by the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard Committee © 2011.

Subscriptions are sent automatically to all state society color guard commanders.

Commander: J Michael Tomme (GA)

Vice-Commander: Michael Radcliff (TX)

Adjutants: Dave Hoover (MD) Mark C Anthony (SC)

January Issue: December 31st

April Issue: March 31st

July Issue: June 30th

October Issue: September 30th

Commander's Dispatch



NSSAR COLOR GUARD COMMANDER J MICHAEL TOMME

I would like to welcome you to the new format of the SAR Colorguardsman. This newsletter will be web based so that everyone will be able to view and enjoy it on-line.

The purpose of this newsletter is to have interesting articles about the Revolutionary War and information regarding the activities of your chapter and/or state color guards.

The SAR Colorguardsman will include feature articles and also include contact information for

the state color guard commanders. The contact information will include their email address and phone numbers. We hope that this type of information will be of assistance to you when you may need additional guardsmen for an activity or need details regarding a specific event. We also plan to include some upcoming national, state and even local events. These events might include the marking of a new patriot grave, the marking of a compatriot grave or the re-dedication of a grave or monument.

As some of you might remember, our society produced a hard copy newsletter that required a subscription and was costly to produce and mail. In talking with my guardsman staff, we felt that the majority of our members use a computer and that an on-line version of the newsletter was the easiest and most cost effective way to provide this type of communication. I have asked Adjutant Mark Anthony of the South Carolina Society to serve as the editor and he graciously accepted.

For those of you who did not attend the Congress in Winston-Salem, NC this past July, we had a change in commanders. Commander Joe Dooley of the Virginia Society turned over command to me. I would like to thank Joe for his faithful service to the NSSAR Color Guard.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to my staff:

- Mike Radcliff - Vice Commander from the Texas Society
• Dave Hoover - Adjutant from the Maryland Society
• Mark Anthony - Adjutant from the South Carolina Society.

These compatriots are ready and willing to serve both the Color Guard and you.

Yours in Patriotism,

J. Michael Tomme
Commander
NSSAR Color Guard

From the Editor



EDITOR MARK C ANTHONY

Welcome to the initial issue of the SAR Colorguardsman in its new electronic format.

My thanks to those editors and publishers who produced the

previous versions of this newsletter:

- Captain David J Gray
Garrett F Jackson
Donald N Moran
Robert F Jackson
David T Mann
Virginia Emrey
Chuck Lampman
Peter Goebbels
Larry Perkins

My apologies if I left out a name.

This newsletter will focus on arti-

cles of interest to the Color Guard. This includes articles on (1) History, (2) "How To", (3) Events, and (4) Announcements.

Please send all submissions to the following contact points:

12 Misty Oaks Dr
Greer, SC 29651

manthony.psy90@gtalumni.org

Pictures should list those in the picture and who took it.

Thank you for your help.



Vigil held in Honor of General George Washington



Members of the NSSAR Color Guard Honor Guard at Mount Vernon

Pictured left to right:

Bruce Maney (GA), Gerald Burkland (MI), Thomas Bubr (WI), Russ Bubr (WI), Dr Robert Spragut (MI), Jerry Reed Sr (MI), William Vette (MI), William Sharp (IN), Joe Dooley (VA), Allen Brabin (NC), and Walker Chewning (GA)

Photo by: Michael Ouellette (MD)

17 September 2011

By: William Vette, George Washington Vigil Steering Committee Chairman

Mount Vernon, VA - On Constitution Day, the NSSAR held a noon to midnight candle light vigil to honor George Washington at his tomb located at Mount Vernon.

Color Guard members from ten states and guests gathered early Saturday morning in preparation for the event in a field just north of Washington's home. After orders of the day were read, a special vintage candle lantern was presented to NSSAR Treasurer General Joe Dooley (VA) for his leadership as a steering committee member in helping make this special vigil happen.

At noon, shift captains posted the first two state color guardsmen as hundreds of guests to Mount Vernon visited Washington's tomb that day.

The vigil had its roots some twelve months ago when members of the Great Lakes District began discussing the possibilities of a such an event in honor of our first president. Soon after, National Color Guard Commander Mike Tomme

sanctioned the vigil as a national color guard event.

Representing their respective state Color Guards were Russ and Thomas Bubr, brothers from the Wisconsin Society, N Walker Chewning and M Bruce Maney of the Georgia Society, William Sharp of the Indiana Society, Allen Brabin of the North Carolina Society, David Embrey of the Maryland Society, Steve Perkins of the Massachusetts Society, Joe Dooley of the Virginia Society, and Gerald Burkland, Bill Vette, Joe Conger, Jerry Reed Sr and Dr Robert Sprague all of the Michigan Society. The official photographer of the event was Michael Ouellette from the Maryland Society.

In the solace of the moments of guard duty, one could reflect on the great accomplishments of the Commander-in-Chief.

What a high honor it was to guard his tomb, for no one else was in admittance on the estate in the evening. Special permission was obtained from the Ladies of Mount Vernon for this

vigil.

We were all sure our collective patriot ancestors were smiling.

As the peaceful evening moved towards a moon lit midnight, guardsmen paid individual respects to the General and silently removed the colors and blew out the candles that flickered light on his tomb.

Climbing the hill from the tomb, volunteer guardsmen made their way from the dark hues around the tomb to the light of the moon and house, ever respectful of the accomplishments of this great man and proud to have had the opportunity to honor him on Constitution Day.

In saying farewell to the new nation he helped create, Washington stated that *"...the name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism..."*

To the great statesman and leader of his country... no tribute this day could be more fitting.

The NSSAR Color Guard was first formed in 1989 by President General James Westlake (GA) as the Color Guard Committee. Initial co-chairmen were David J Gray (MA) and Donald N Moran (CA).

The first color guard consisted of six compatriots from five states.

The initial purposes of the Color Guard were:

- (1) To provide guidance to and coordination of the activities of the various state color guards at national Congress and Trustee meetings, and
- (2) To provide assistance in establishing color guards on the state and chapter level.



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

NAVAL ROTC COLOR GUARD WITH MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY COLOR GUARD ON THE STEPS OF ST FRANCES DE SALES CHURCH, BUNKER HILL

SOUTH CAROLINA

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE SC SOCIETY'S COLOR GUARD HAS GROWN FROM FIVE MEMBERS TO OVER TWENTY MEMBERS.

THIS GROWTH HAS ALLOWED THE SC SOCIETY TO HAVE

COLOR GUARD

PARTICIPATE IN

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

ON THE SAME DAY FOR

THE FIRST TIME IN ITS

EIGHT YEAR HISTORY.

THE MAJORITY OF THE

SC SOCIETY COLOR

GUARD PARTICIPATE IN

EVENTS IN MILITIA

ATTIRE AND ARE

MEMBERS OF THE

DANIEL MORGAN AND

COLONEL ROBERT

ANDERSON CHAPTERS.



L-R): COMMANDER STEVE PERKINS, PAST PRESIDENT GENERAL HANK MCCARL, STEPHEN WATTS AND HENRY CURTIS II NOT PICTURED: EXECUTIVE OFFICER JERRY HAZELDINE

PHOTO BY: JAMES KLIM

30 September 2011

By: Steve Perkins, Massachusetts Society Color Guard Commander

Charlestown, MA - On 17 June 2011 the Massachusetts Society Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard attended the Bunker Hill Celebration in Charlestown. This annual event, always held on 17 June, began with an ecumenical service at St Frances de Sales Catholic Church, which itself sits at the top of Bunker Hill.

The service began with the Armed Services bearing colors to the front of the church and Color Guard concurrently marching in the left aisle of the church and other patriotic organizations marching in the right aisle.

Afterwards, all organizations mustered for a 2/3rds mile parade to Breeds Hill, the site of the monument and public celebration.

Local schools presented patriotic songs, and a series of speakers and an author presented speeches. These were necessarily brief due to light showers that began to fall as the ceremonies began.

Another consequence of the showers was the cancellation of a three volley musket salute by the Connecticut Line and other re-enactors from nearby states.

198th Anniversary of the Battle of Medina

By: Tom Green, Former TXSSAR President

The Texas Society recently celebrated the 12th annual memorial ceremony honoring the men who fought and died in the Battle of Medina, the bloodiest battle in Texas history on 18 August 1813. There were at least five Patriots of the American Revolution involved in the Guitierrez-Magee Expedition which ended at the battle.

The annual ceremony was started to honor Peter Sides, the only Revolutionary War Patriot who has been proven to have died at the battle. Peter Sides was the Patriot Ancestor of my son-in-law Brian A Childs.

The site has been dedicated by the SAR, DAR, CAR, DRT, Society of 1812, Mayflower Society and the State of Texas.

This year's ceremony featured a musket salute followed by Taps to conclude the ceremony.



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD



Photo above: Members of the Utah Society Color Guard at the Clearfield Parade.

Photo by: Sharon Patterson, wife of Compatriot Layton Patterson

Photo to left: Utah Society Color Guard Commander Lyle Gingrey

Photo by: Barbara Gingery

The Utah Society began forming a Color Guard in September 2010. Its first event was a parade in late June 2010 followed by a July 4th parade and a National Bell Ringing Ceremony held at Hill Air Force Base. On September 17th of this year, the Color Guard presented Colors at a Utah Constitution Day Committee Conference at which David Barton spoke. The Utah Board of Managers hopes that the Color Guard will spark interest in those who may want to join the SAR and serve as a way to let the citizens of Utah know that the SAR exists.

By: Lyle Gingrey, Utah Society Color Guard Commander



Members of Georgia Society Color Guard participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the monument honoring Colonel William Few Jr, signer of the Constitution, on 15 September. The Ceremony was conducted at St Paul's Church in Augusta, GA.

Members of the SAR, DAR and C.A.R. were present with local television showing the placement of the C.A.R. wreath on the newscast that evening.

Pictured with the GA Society Color Guard is Meadow Garden Society C.A.R. bugler Kenny Glaze.

Picture by: uncredited

Story submitted by Mike Tomme with contributions by DAR member Patsy Ray.



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD



Members of the Florida Society Color Guard at the 2011 Annual State Meeting in Kissimmee, FL

Photo: uncredited

By: Phillip H Tarpley, Florida Society Color Guard Commander

Jacksonville Chapter: Made a Flag Presentation to 250 fifth graders at Yulee Elementary School.

Thomas Paine Camp, Miami Chapter: Presented Colors at the Miami Springs City Memorial Day Celebration

Nathaniel Green Camp #8, Saramana Chapter: Presented Colors and formed the Honor Guard for the Wounded Warriors being honored with the Wounded Warrior Medal and the Congressional Special Recognition Award during the George Washington Birthday Luncheon jointly held with the SAR, DAR and Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Brevard Chapter: Participated in the Last Navel Battle Ceremonies on March 5th and the Melbourne, FL St Patrick's Day Parade with Judy Creamer of the Abigail W Chamberlin Chapter, DAR.

General Light horse Harry Lee Camp, Caloosa Chapter: Every member of the Camp marched in the Edison Festival of Lights Grand parade - the largest nighttime parade in the Southeastern US - on February 19th. Guardsmen Earl Kennedy and Philip Moody were awarded the SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal at the chapter's Annual Awards Luncheon on April 13th.

Nathan Hale Camp #7, Pensacola Chapter: Four members provided the Color Guard and a Musket Salute at the Annual Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA) Memorial Service. Four members provided Color Guard for the Pensacola Chapter DAR's Annual George Washington Tea. Five Compatriots provided the Color Guard and a Musket Salute at the 230th Battle of Pensacola Commemoration Service.

Withlacoochee Chapter: Guardsmen took part in the Purple Hear Program at the Crystal River, FL National Guard Armory on February 12th. Posted Colors at the Lakes Regional Library in Inverness, FL. Participated in the St Patrick's Day Parade at Clover Leaf Farms in Brooksville, FL.

Samuel Adams Camp #4, Clearwater Chapter: Presented Colors and participated in the Memorial Day Service at St Dunstan's Anglican Church. Compatriot David Kitchen was presented the SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal by Regional Vice President Nelson Jantzen.

Yorktown Camp #5, St Lucie River Chapter: Participated in Memorial Day Services at the Fernhill Memorial Cemetery in Stuart, FL on May 29th with the St Lucie Veterans Council on May 30th in Port St Lucie. Presented a Flag Program on American Flags used from the Revolution to the Present with an Elks Club and JROTC unit on June 12th. Presented Colors at a local affiliate of the NY Mets baseball club on July 4th.



State Society Color Guard Commander Contact Information

The following is the current listing of state society color guard commanders. Those that are confirmed are in **BOLD TEXT**.

Those state societies that are not confirmed are asked to send updated information to the editor.

No Color Guards: Alaska, Dakotas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Rhode island, and Wyoming

Alabama	Dr Rick Price	krpj (at) earthlink.net	205-621-1376	205-531-1060	
Arizona	Richard T Perry, MD	boset (at) aol.com	602-212-0030		Phoenix, AZ
Arkansas	Danny Honnoll	danny (at) honnoll.com	870-935-9830	870-926-2985	
California	James C Fosdyck	colorguard (at) californiasar.org	714-530-0767	714-932-4097	Garden Grove, CA
Colorado	Dave Mann	dtmann (at) mesanetworks.net	719-698-9169	719-235-3985	
Connecticut	Todd Gerlander	eleventh.ct.reg.t.sar (at) snet.net	860-872-0438		Tolland, CT
Florida	Philip Tarpley	mp18pht (at) verizon.net	941-497-2704		Venice, FL
Georgia	Dr Ed Rigel Sr	compatriotrigel (at) charter.net	770-534-7043	678-617-4331	Gainesville, GA
Idaho	John Freeman	johnfreeman2 (at) msn.com	208-383-0394		
Illinois	John Druyd	suzyjohn (at) aol.com			
Indiana	Stuart Hart	sar.stuart (at) gmail.com	317-849-0882		Indianapolis, IN
Iowa	Mike Rowley	mjr1825 (at) gmail.com		515-975-0498	
Kansas	Robert Capps	bobcapps (at) msn.com	816-838-5500		Lee's Summit, MO
Kentucky	Dennis Scott	garand_guy (at) junio.com	502-349-0308		Bardstown, KY
Maine	Vincent Dwyer	CDwyer (at) NEMoves.com	781-684-6341		
Maryland	David Hoover	toky (at) aol.com	410-893-0856		
Massachusetts	Steven G Perkins	patriotmarcher (at) gmail.com	508-877-0073	781-891-0230	Framingham, MA
Minnesota	Paul K Theisen	psstheis36 (at) mainstreet.com	320-351-6221		
Mississippi	John R Taylor Jr	taylorjr1947 (at) yahoo.com	601-733-9475	601-941-2977	Mize, MS
Missouri	Robert L Grover	GroverSAR (at) aol.com	816-373-5309	816-803-5215	
Nevada	Rev Anthony A Perry	clonnadgh (at) embarqmail.com	702-228-1438		
New Hampshire	Hans E Jackson	hansejack (at) comcast.net	603-548-5746		Derry, NH
New Jersey	Richard Blundin	richardswb (at) msn.com	908-755-1589		
New Mexico	George Biles PhD	biles (at) 1956.usna.com	575-521-3143	575-312-1721	Las Cruces, NM
New York	Peter K Goebel	goebelpk (at) gmail.com	518-774-9740		
North Carolina	Richard Bishop	decadel (at) embarqmail.com	910-864-1279		Fayetteville, NC
Ohio	John H Franklin Jr	jhfbmwm5 (at) aol.com	330-656-9066		
Oklahoma	Glenn K Fast	glennandpaula (at) suddenlink.net	580-234-1480		
Oregon	B A Smith	basmithiii (at) hotmail.com	541-528-3389		
Pennsylvania	MG Donald J Tressler	djt2 (at) psu.edu	814-466-7143		State College, PA
South Carolina	Robert (Bob) Krause	b_krause (at) bellsouth.net	864-878-1379	864-430-3055	Pickens, SC
Tennessee	Ronnie L Lail	rllblail (at) comcast.net	423-743-6623		Unicoi, TN
Texas	Marvin B Morgan	marvin (at) mbmepa.com	972-985-7644	214-729-5432	Austin, TX
Utah	Lyle Gingery	bltging (at) msn.com	801-487-6809		Salt Lake City, UT
Vermont	Geoffrey Gunther	colbydrypowder (at) hotmail.com	617-669-8141		
Virginia	Robert B Andrews	rbais (at) rbais.com	540-465-8809		Strasburg, VA
Washington	Bob O'Neal	wroneal (at) aol.com	253-752-8242		Tacoma, WA
West Virginia	John H Sauer	sweetsauer (at) suddenlink.net	304-675-2703		Point Pleasant, WV
Wisconsin	Aaron Krebs	lmkack (at) charter.net	608-663-1652		Madison, WI



South Central District Region Meeting - Change in Command



KS Society recognizes MA Society

By Bob Capps

At the 2011 Congress, KS Society Commander Bob Capps presented a Bennington Flag to MA Society Commander Steve Perkins.

Compatriot Capps had traveled to Concord, MA for the Patriot's Day Weekend the last two years.

The flag was presented in appreciation for the fun, friendship and service through all the activities associated with this annual event.

Special thanks were also extended to Compatriots Jay Bailey and Bill Battles.

6 September 2011

By: Bob Capps, Kansas Society Color Guard Commander

Overland Park, KS - The South Central District Meeting was convened by Vice President General Dennis Boyer on August 26th in Overland Park, KS.

Presenting Colors during the weekend was the South Central District Color Guard comprised of members from the Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma Societies.

There was a record turnout of twenty-three Guardsmen at the banquet held on the Friday the 26th.

As part of this banquet, District Color Guard Commander Glenn Fast (OK) turned over command to Compatriot Bob Capps (KS) after three years of service.

Witnessing the ceremony were President General Larry Magerkurth (CA) and National Color Guard Commander Mike Tomme (GA).

Picture above:

Back Row (l-r): Chris Sizemore, MO Society President Denis Craft, MS Society Color Guard Commander Robert L Grover, Jesse Lybarger, James L. Scott, Dirk A Stapleton, and Larry Guzy (GA)

Front Row (l-r): Alvin L Paris, Stephen M Balwin, Russell F DeVenney, Wayne Merrill, Former President General David Appleby and Bob Capps.

~~~~~

*Picture below:*

*South Central District Change of Command Ceremony*

*Photos by: David Comer*







## *Lee's Legion - A Decade of Service in California*

By: Kent Gregory, President - Orange County (CA) Chapter

Colorful and historic color guards are one of the most effective ways to attract public attention to the SAR and its goals. President General Larry Magerkurth recognized this potential while he was president of the chapter. A quick survey of potential chapter members who wanted to form the unit revealed a majority having ancestors in Virginia.

After much research into a variety of uniforms, the decision was made to select the uniform of the infantry unit that accompanied "Light Horse" Harry Lee's famous light dragoons. Their regimental coats were blue with red facings and the hat was a military tri-corn. A local seamstress experience in historical uniforms sewed the uniforms for the new unit.

The first members of the Orange County Chapter's Lee's Legion Color Guard were Compatriots James Blauer, Louis V Carlson, Walter Davis, Karl Jacobs, Larry Magerkurth and Jim Shadwick. The first uniformed activity was the 2001 Huntington Beach Independence Day Parade, the largest parade on July 4th west of the Mississippi River.

Through the years since its formation, the Lee's Legion Color Guard has faced the problems of all Color Guards: scheduling events, recruiting new members, health issues, and rising uniform costs. However, the group has endured.

Today, the unit still includes two original members: James Blauer, the current commander, and Karl Jacobs. Other members are Compatriots Larry Wood, Kent Gregory, Jim Fosdyck and Dan McKelvie.

Compatriot Fosdyck, a retired LA County Sheriff's Deputy, has brought helpful experience to the group from his service in the US Army Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery in the 1960s.

During 2011, Lee's Legion Color Guard has a schedule that includes fifteen appearances through the Southern California area.



*Lee's Legion (2001). Photo by: Helen Davis (deceased)*



*Lee's Legion (2011) . Photo by: Un Hui Yi.*

*Photo to right:*

*California Color Guard at 2011 Congress*

*(l-r): Jim Fosdyck, Jim Blauer, Kent Gregory, Ron Barker, Joe Dooley, Jim Faulkinberry and Bob Ebert*

*Photo: uncredited*



## THE SAR COLORGUARDSMAN

Primary Business Address  
12 Misty Oaks Drive  
Greer, SC 29651

Phone: 864-255-7442  
Fax: 864-255-7664  
E-mail:  
manthony.psy90@gtalumni.org

**The SAR Colorguardsman**

**The online magazine of the  
NSSAR Color Guard.**



*The National Society  
SAR Wreath on the  
plaza at the Tomb of  
the Unknowns*

*Photographs to the  
left and below:  
uncredited*

### *National SAR Color Guard at Arlington Cemetery*

By: J Michael Tomme Sr

Arlington, VA—Members of the NSSAR Color Guard assembled at 5:45 pm at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Memorial Cemetery in Washington, DC.

Before the group lined up to present the NSSAR wreath, Robert D Maxwell, a WWII veteran from Oregon, presented a wreath in honor of those who served during WWII. Mr Maxwell is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Following this presentation, color guard members from Georgia, Virginia and Maryland assembled under the command of NSSAR Color Guard Commander Joe Dooley and National Vice Commander Mike Tomme.

President General J David Simpson, Commander Dooley, Virginia Society President Mark Brennan, Lt Col Greg Bodge (a member of the Piedmont (GA) Chapter), and members of the George Washington (VA) Chapter walked down to the Tomb Plaza.

Technician Fifth Grade, US Army, 7th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division  
Near Besancon, France, 7 September 1944

Technician Maxwell and 3 other soldiers armed only with .45 caliber automatic pistols, defended the battalion observation post against an overwhelming onslaught by enemy infantrymen in approximately platoon strength, supported by 20mm flak and machinegun fire who had infiltrated through the battalion's forward companies and were attacking the observation post with machinegun, machine pistol and grenade fire at ranges as close as 10 yards. Despite a hail of fire from automatic weapons and grenade launchers, Technician Maxwell aggressively fought off advancing enemy elements and by his calmness, tenacity and fortitude, inspired his fellows to continue the unequal struggle. When an enemy hand grenade was thrown in the midst of his squad, he unhesitatingly hurled himself squarely upon it using his blanket and unprotected body to absorb the full force of the explosion. This act of heroism permanently maimed Technician Maxwell but saved the lives of his comrades and facilitated the maintenance of vital military communications during the temporary withdrawal of the battalion's forward headquarters.

Source: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/wwII-m-s.html>

President General Simpson made the formal presentation of the NSSAR wreath.

After the presentation, the Color Guard had a picture made with Medal of Honor recipient Robert Maxwell. What an honor for the group.

Excerpts of Mr Maxwell's Medal of Honor citation are provided above.



President Carr, Peter Davenport and Commander Mike Tomme at Arlington