

DEAD OR ALIVE?
Missouri State Annual Convention
28 April 2007

Thank you for allowing me to be here this evening in Colleen Wilson's place. At my direction, she is attending a district meeting in Florida. I am sure in time Colleen's efforts to establish a clear direction for educational outreach will affect each of us as we strive to re-educate the public and teach to our children the many virtues on being an American.

Our society began as an historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit lineage organization, but in 2007 are we dead or alive? I ask that question to energize your thinking. Just the other day I was involved with an issue that brought me into the genealogy section of our headquarters. We were discussing Memorial Memberships when the causes of death came up. I won't bore you with the details of that discussion, but in the process of finding a solution we discovered some interesting causes of death. On an explanation given on a death certificate issued in 1854, the written cause of death was DEAD MORTIFICATION. Another one in 1902 listed the cause of death as EXHAUSTION OF VITAL FORCE. Another cause of death – this one being listed in 1929 – was just simply FELL DEAD.

Ladies and compatriots, our nation, or rather our culture, is under attack.

We see the military action abroad daily on our TV sets. We struggle to

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understand the decisions made by our elected officials. Illegal aliens are crossing our borders and, once here, demand rights as natural borne citizens. Public education as we knew it is all but gone. As law abiding peace loving citizens, our way of life will disappear if something isn't done NOW. If we die, what will be listed as the cause of the nation's death – could it be FAILURE TO ACT?

At national headquarters we are determined to push apathy aside. We are positioning ourselves to change this situation and you can be a part of the happening. The Center for Advancing America's Heritage is one step in the right direction to preserving our proud beginning as a nation. The Center as you may have heard, will house an expanded library and museum in addition to educational facilities. If Colleen had been here tonight, she would have talked about many of her educational initiatives. She has begun to use the current headquarters as a test-bed for curriculum based hands-on activity programs. These will eventually be exported to you. These programs of instruction include:

- Constitution Day
- The Road to Revolution

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- Flying America's Flag
- Hosting our Veterans
- Celebrating George Washington's Birthday
- Applauding our History with America's Newest Citizens
- Ring the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall
- ...to name a few.

In time these programs of instruction will be incorporated into a resource manual that will be supplied to every state society. This manual can be used as a tool for chapters as they develop, implement, review, and expand their outreach programs. I encourage you to contact Colleen with your comments and suggestions about the "education" aspect of our mission. Please, share with her your successful programs so that our entire membership can benefit along with the students in our nation's classrooms. Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

The society has changed its focus since being chartered one hundred years ago. No longer are we thought of as just a social group of the upper crust Americans. Thanks to the great work from the Texas Society,

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the America's Heritage Compact Disk is still in very high demand. Soon the Keyholes to History – a product of the Florida Society – will become available to our state societies. Through their efforts and the work being accomplished by our director of education, your ability to reach out to the ordinary citizen will be greatly enhanced from the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. The Center will help in the collective effort to change the current state of affairs across the land. The Center is your way of saying...I am proud to be an American – I descend from a patriot of the American Revolution.

The message I bring to you tonight is a new call to arms. We must fight for our way of life. Our nation's course is presently set on a slow suicide, but armed with the tools provided by The Center you can breathe a breath of life into the bloodstream of your country. You can, by collective energy, present outreach activities never before realized. You as members of this society can work together to ignite another revolution and once more triumph over the forces that would cause the death to freedom. Freedom allows for each of us to use our God given abilities, and those with ability have a responsibility to take action.

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I will always advocate that action begets action. The more we stand up and step out in numbers to promote the cause of patriotism the more we – the Sons of the American Revolution – act to preserve the principles of liberty. We must never forget that heroes of the American Revolution established the United States of America, and that we have solemnly pledged ourselves to defend it against every foe. Whether we live or die, the fate of the country is ours to decide.

Thanks for listening and thanks for helping to preserve the land and culture we love so much.

JH/ED

NSSAR