

# Hocking Valley Chapter



Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution



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Fife & Drum Newsletter

Issue 3

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Dual member John Neth of Johnson City, Tennessee and a member of the Kings Mountain Chapter, again presented a wreath on behalf of the Hocking Valley Chapter, this time at the 240th Anniversary of the Gathering at Sycamore Shoals. The event occurred on Saturday, September 12th, and was a "live" event. John had earlier presented a wreath for our chapter on June 20th in a virtual event via Zoom for the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, NC. Thanks to John, the Chapter earned a nice ribbon for the Sycamore Shoals event which commemorates the gathering of patriot frontiersmen and militias who organized and marched to Kings Mountain, SC and annihilated the Loyalist Army under British Major Patrick Ferguson on October 7th, 1780.



The Hocking Valley Chapter wreath, second from left, at Sycamore Shoals.



John Neth, third from the right, comes to "Presents Arms" with other compatriots, at Sycamore Shoals.

Several members of the Hocking Valley Chapter drove to Allen County in northwest Ohio for a triple Patriot Grave Marking event on Saturday, September 12th.

Chapter members Al Gummere, Bob Davis, Paul Irwin, Bob Hill, and plural member Don Miller joined other chapters in the combined Ohio Society Color Guard. Al and Don also helped in the musket salute at each event. Chapter Vice President Joe McCrady was there to present a wreath on behalf of the chapter. This was Bob Hill's first event serving in the capacity of State Color Guard Commander. The temperature was hot, in the high 80's, and partly cloudy. The countryside is flat, making the sky and fields seem vast, and lovely.

The Northwest Territory Chapter hosted the events and was organized by Northwest District Chairman David Lupien. Ohio Society SAR President Lee Wilkerson was also present, as were other Ohio Society officers, the DAR, and Township officials. The event began at 10:00 AM in Bluffton, Ohio at the Shannon Cemetery in Richland Township. The OHSSAR Color Guard was joined by the Bluffton American Legion Post Honor Guard in this first event, which honored patriot Joseph DeFord, a private in the 5th Maryland Regiment. Joseph enlisted for three years service in 1777. He fought at Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Camden, and Guilford Courthouse. He was also at Valley Forge in 1778.

The next event was a 25-minute drive distant at the Logan (Tussing) Cemetery in Perry Township. Here was honored patriot William Rodgers, who enlisted in 1780 as a private in Captain John Reid's Company of the North Carolina Line, and a part of Colonel William Washington's 3rd Continental Dragoons.

William was seriously wounded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781 and this ended his military service. At this event compatriot Hill gave a 10-minute reading on the Battle of Guilford Courthouse as part of the program. At this event the musket detail fired the first two volleys as one, and in the third volley fired at intervals, then going to "Mourn Muskets" during the playing of Taps. It worked well enough they did it again at the next event, also a 25-minute drive away.

The third ceremony at Ash Grove Cemetery in American Township, honored patriot Simon Cochrun.

Simon served in Lord Dunmore's War of 1774. He enlisted for three years in 1777 as a private in Captain David Scott's Company of the 13th Virginia Regiment. He would see action at Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. He served at Ohio's only Revolutionary War era fort, Fort Laurens in 1778 - 1779. He achieved the rank of sergeant.



Group photo at the grave of patriot Joseph DeFord at Shannon Cemetery in Bluffton.



Color Guard picture at the grave of patriot William Rodgers at Logan (Tussing) Cemetery.



Group photo at the grave of patriot Simon Cochrun at Ash Grove Cemetery.



Compatriots "Mourn Muskets" after firing a salute.

2020

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On Wednesday, Sept. 23, the Hocking Valley S.A.R. presented an American Flag to the Licking Heights Central Intermediate School in Pataskala. The chapter has had a working relationship with Licking Heights for over 8 years and this presentation is a continuation of the relationship.



L to R is Chuck Bundy, Hocking Valley Registrar, Brian Wilkinson, Licking Heights teacher and Angel King, Central Intermediate Principal.

## *Compatriot Patrick Kelly Laid To Rest With Honors*

Four Hocking Valley compatriots car-pooled on Monday, October 5th to a Cardington, Ohio Funeral Home to sadly fulfill the wishes of compatriot Patrick Norman Kelly, who passed away on Sept. 28th. The day started out foggy and chilly, but by noon the fog lifted, and the temperature began to rise to a nice 65 degrees, and the sun came out revealing a lovely landscape of changing colors.

Bob Hill, Bob Davis, Paul Irwin, and Al Gummere were met at Gompf Funeral Home by Matt and Sharon Hardman, Ohio Society President Lee Wilkerson, his wife Shari, and five (5) more compatriots from the Cincinnati Chapter, including Ohio Society Chaplain Ed Bonniwell.

The compatriots stood vigil over Patrick's casket, two at a time, during the hour of visitation. The Colors were posted and the guards rotated every 10 minutes. At the cemetery in Lexington (near Mansfield), the Honor Guard came to Present Arms, and after prayers and eulogies, a seven (7) musket, three volley salute was fired. Bob Davis "played" the bugle (a hidden tape recorder inside sounded "Taps" perfectly) as the Honor Guard went to "Mourn Muskets." Then a bagpiper played Amazing Grace.

Compatriot Pastor Patrick Kelly would have been pleased. As the Color Guard Commander, I can never say enough good things about the guys from the Cincinnati Chapter and my own Hocking Valley boys. I'm proud of their dedication to our country, the SAR, and our Revolutionary ancestors. The guys from Cincinnati drove a good three hours to give an honorable ceremony of farewell to our Compatriot Kelly.

Chaplain Ed Bonniwell's never failing eloquence and booming voice echoed across the grounds as if the Lord himself was speaking to us from the heavens. And I guess he was, using Ed as his instrument.

Afterwards, the compatriots enjoyed lunch with the family and friends of Patrick at the church where he last pastored, St. John's Lutheran Church outside Mount Gilead, a beautiful little country church built around 1870. There were pictures displayed of happy times in Patrick's 86 years of life. It was nice we were able to award him the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal before he passed away. It meant much to him and his family. It was an honor to fulfill his wishes for an SAR vigil and ceremony.



Cincinnati compatriots Mike Gunn (L) and Dan Schmitz (R) standing watch over compatriot Kelly's casket at the Gompf Funeral Home in Cardington.



Ohio Society President Lee Wilkerson, center, prepares to give his eulogy as Associate State Chaplain Matt Hardman (L) and State Chaplain Ed Bonniwell (R) look on.



Compatriot Bob Davis practices with the bugle.



Compatriot group photo, L to R: Al Gummere, Jack Bredenfoerder, Dan Schmitz, Mike Gunn, Bob Bowers, Paul Irwin, Ed Bonniwell, Bob Hill, Matt Hardman, Lee Wilkerson.



The Honor Guard fires a volley.



***Paul Alan Irwin*** was approved for the SAR Von Steuben Color Guard Medal by the National Color Guard Commander, Lou Raborg, on October 22nd. Paul received his Bronze CG Medal in November, 2012, and his Silver GG Medal in April, 2013. Paul's participation in the Color Guard has been exceptional since 2013, and he only started slowing down, but never stopping, in 2019 due to his wife's and his own health concerns. Paul has been present at 43 National and District events since 2013, far exceeding the minimum 25 National / District events needed over a 5 year period after earning the Silver CG Medal. Paul is the first to earn this award from the Hocking Valley Chapter. Congratulations to compatriot Paul Irwin for earning this distinction. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the Color Guard.



Covid-19 has certainly affected how things are done this year, and some Color Guard events have adapted to the situation by allowing virtual participation. On October 10th, the Hocking Valley Chapter Color Guard participated in the 246th Anniversary Point Pleasant Battle Days event, meeting at compatriot Al Gummere's home near Lancaster. Al's scenic homestead provided a picnic shelter with tables near a pond, and plenty of grassy area to post the Colors and present a wreath. Al's wife, Janet, and Chapter President Matt Hardman's wife, Sharon, gave technical assistance by holding smart phones as the Color Guard performed.



Chuck Bundy explains his weapons, equipment, and uniform as teacher Brian Wilkinson films him for a Veterans Day School Presentation. Other compatriots stand by and will do the same.

Brian Wilkinson, a teacher at Licking Heights Central Intermediate School in Pataskala, joined the compatriots after the Point Pleasant event ended. He filmed the compatriots for a Veterans Day presentation for his students to be held in November. The Hocking Valley Chapter has visited the Licking Heights South Elementary School for its Veterans Day program every year for the past 8 years. Usually the compatriots post the Colors and speak with the students in their auditorium, then visit a classroom. Due to the pandemic this cannot be done this year, so Brian decided to film the Color Guard and veterans for this year's presentation.

For the video, the Color Guard posted the Colors and Janet, a DAR member, led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Color Guard members then spoke about the SAR, their ancestors, and their personal military service. Commander Hill also held a large copy of the Declaration of Independence and gave a summary of the document and its signers.

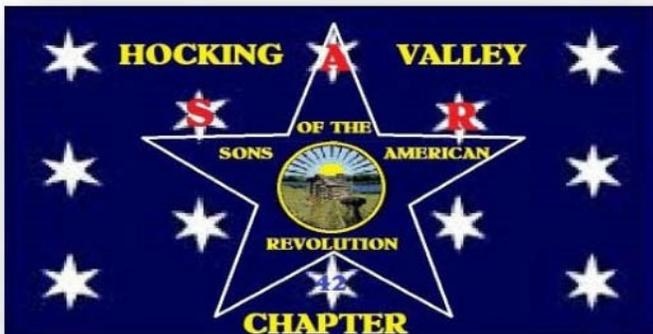
Lastly, the compatriots spoke about their flintlock rifles and muskets, then fired a musket salute. This was an extra treat for the kids since the compatriots must normally visit the school without their weapons. Afterwards, the group enjoyed sandwiches, pie, cookies, chips, and refreshments as they relaxed in the pretty country setting. Many thanks to Al and Janet for hosting this event on their property.



L to R: Bob Davis, Paul Irwin, Al Gummere, Matt Hardman stand by the Colors as Al speaks about his ancestor.



A picnic table was laid out with goodies after the events were finished.



# Chapter

# Activities

Prior to the October 17th Chapter Meeting, compatriot Bob Davis participated in the virtual segment of the Yorktown (VA) Days Ceremony. He was assisted by Lady Auxiliary member Janet Gummere, who linked to the ceremony via her smartphone and held the camera as Bob's name was called and he presented a wreath on behalf of the Hocking Valley Chapter. Thank you to Bob and Janet.





Compatriots Bob Hill and Paul Irwin drove up to Fort Laurens in Bolivar, Ohio on Saturday, Oct. 24th for a Uniform Exchange event scheduled by John Opre, Color Guard Commander of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, OHSSAR. John was there with his wife Melanie in one of the picnic shelters not far from the museum. It was a bit chilly and overcast, but pleasant. On picnic tables and a coat hanging rod were used and new reproduction Revolutionary War uniform coats, weskits, shirts, hats, and equipment for sale at a good price.

The sale began at 10:00 AM and lasted until 2:30 PM. Bob and Paul arrived before noon. Several visitors from the SAR, DAR, and general public browsed and purchased

items. Bob ended up buying a blue wool watch coat, normally over \$300, for \$90. Bob also purchased on behalf of prospective member Jim Hiles a light linen shirt, 2 wool felt round hats, and new half gaiters, all for \$70. Bob and Paul also bought deer buck tails at the museum. Next year John will try and organize another Uniform Exchange at a warmer time and in conjunction with other SAR events.



John Opre holds the blue watch coat Bob would eventually buy. Next to him is Lance Bebee's wife, a DAR member holding a shirt she will purchase.

L to R: Melanie Opre, Bob Hill, Paul Irwin, John Opre.

# GRAVE MARKING

The Cincinnati Chapter hosted a Patriot Grave Marking event in Fairfield, Ohio just north of Cincinnati on Sunday, November 1st. Honored was patriot Joseph Catterline, a First Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Somerset County, New Jersey Militia. Joseph also served as a recruiting officer for the Continental Army in New Jersey. He was born in 1741 and died in 1822.

The weather was partly sunny, cool, and quite windy. Al Gummere and Bob Hill drove down to lend a hand in the Color Guard, musket salute, and wreath presentation. It was a well-attended event by SAR compatriots and city officials, including the mayor of Fairfield, Steve Miller. Covid-19 recommendations were followed in the wearing of face masks and social distancing. Brad Jarard of the Cincinnati Chapter was Color Guard Commander, Mike Gunn the Program Emcee, and OHSSAR President Lee Wilkerson gave greetings and remarks.



Emcee Mike Gunn guides the program by the grave of patriot Joseph Catterline. A new SAR marker was unveiled.



Group photo of SAR compatriots.



"Make Ready!... Present!... Fire!"

On Sunday, November 8th, several compatriots drove down to Logan, Ohio in expectation to take part in a "Veteran's Rally." The formal annual parade had been cancelled weeks ago due to Covid-19 restrictions. But on arrival, the compatriots found the starting point at the fairgrounds empty and were told by folks nearby that the rally had been cancelled as well. A few phone calls later, the compatriots were told of another starting location and event being planned. They drove about a mile into the center of town to the parking lot of Logan's Central High School and met others there planning to wish a World War Two Navy veteran a "Happy Birthday." It was a beautiful, sunny day and a very warm 80 degrees! The veteran was Mr. Charles Gasin, age 95, and a veteran of the war in the South Pacific. The compatriots decorated Al Gummere's pick-up truck with flags and patriotic bunting. They were placed third in line behind a police car and fire department EMT vehicle. About a dozen cars were behind Al's truck. The procession drove down residential streets to the Gasin's home where the family had set up a canopy and were seated underneath to greet everyone. Matt Hardman was selected by town officials to present Mr. Gasin with a gift from the city of Logan. As Matt got out of the vehicle to do the presentation, the Hocking Valley saluted Mr. Gasin, yelling "Happy Birthday" and thanked him for his service. The family was appreciative and that was it, short and sweet. Afterwards, the compatriots headed over to a busy Dairy Queen nearby to enjoy sundaes and watched in amazement as Tom Hankins virtually inhaled a large banana split.



Chapter President Matt Hardman greets Mr. Charles Gasin, seated, with a gift from the city of Logan on his 95th birthday and service in World War Two.



Compatriots at Logan, L to R: Al Gummere, Bob Davis, Paul Irwin, Tom Hankins, Bob Hill, Matt Hardman.



# Carpenter-Koontz Cemetery



The restoration project at Carpenter-Koontz Cemetery is a continual work in-progress. Broken pieces of tombstone lay on pallets until these can be put back together and returned upright. Many will never be restored as there are too many missing pieces.

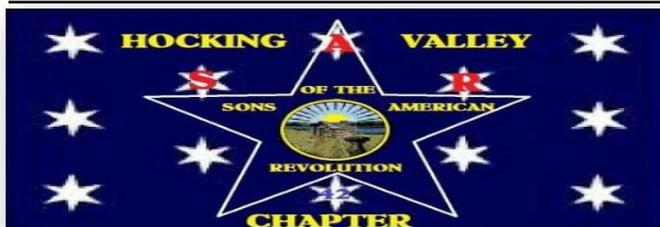
Compatriots took advantage of an unusually beautiful, dry, warm, and sunny day to work at the Carpenter-Koontz Cemetery on Saturday, November 7th. The forest floor was thick with fallen leaves, but other than that, the place looked good. The work of collecting dead wood into a pile went quickly as Chuck Bundy did a little weed-whacking around the tombstones. Bob Hill sprayed the stones with some D2 Biological Solution he brought. Property owner Steve Moore lent his leaf-blower to the group and Al Gummere blew the leaves into nice long piles for Steve to mulch later. The compatriots then probed a bit for any undiscovered tombstone pieces. Two small new pieces were found. Later, Matt Hardman brought some lunch of homemade vittles for the boys, and they enjoyed a picnic on the hillside near the cemetery entrance.



The cemetery work detail poses for a photo on a beautiful day, L to R: Paul Irwin, Joe McCrady, Bob Hill, Al Gummere, Chuck Bundy.



President / Chaplain Matt Hardman spent hours cooking up a nice lunch for the guys on the cemetery work detail and drove it up when the work was finished. The guys enjoyed a picnic of roasted beef & cheese dogs, pasta with sauteed and cooked onion with green and red bell peppers, chips, and homemade bread pudding taken from Matt's grandmother's recipe.



# Chapter Meeting

## Activities

This year's Awards Luncheon was held at the Olde Dutch Restaurant in Logan, Ohio on Saturday, December 12th. Although attendance was light due to illnesses and Covid-19 concerns, many awards were presented or announced by Awards Chairman Al Gummere and Matt Hardman President.

### The following is a list of the 2020 Awards:

**Medal for Heroism:** Casey Poling, Bob Cook, Julie Sinnott.

**Life Saving Medal:** Linn Warthman.  
**SAR Military Service Medal:** Ryan Arthur Cooper.

**Chapter Distinguished Service Medal:** Alan Thomas Gummere.

**Bronze Roger Sherman Award (Oakleaf):** Charles Stanton Bundy, William Robert Hill.

**Bronze Good Citizenship Award (Oakleaf):** Mark Thomas Darnell.

**Bronze Good Citizenship Medal:** Jeffrey Glen Hardman.

**Lydia Darragh Medal:** Sharon Hardman.

**Silver Color Guard Medal:** Jeffrey Nelson Walt, Charles Stanton Bundy, Alan Thomas Gummere.

**Von Steuben Color Guard Medal:** Paul Alan Irwin (To be awarded by State Society at a future date).

**5-Year Tenure Award:** Jeffrey Nelson Walt, Robert Lee Strother.

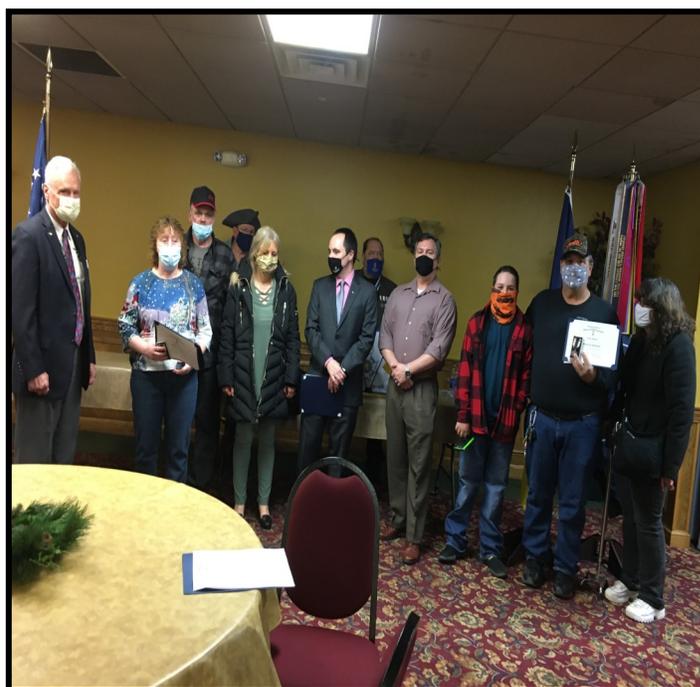
**10-Year Tenure Award:** Todd Alan Briggs, John Michael Clum, Michael John Clum, Thomas Nelson Moe, Bryan Michael Watson, Chase Allen Watson.

**Certificate of Appreciation:** Terri Garrett, John W. Neth III, William Morris Lyman.

**Flag Certificate:** Robert Warren Davis, James Hiles, AlanThomas Gummere.



Colonel Tom Moe is presented his 10-year Tenure certificate and pin by President Matt Hardman.





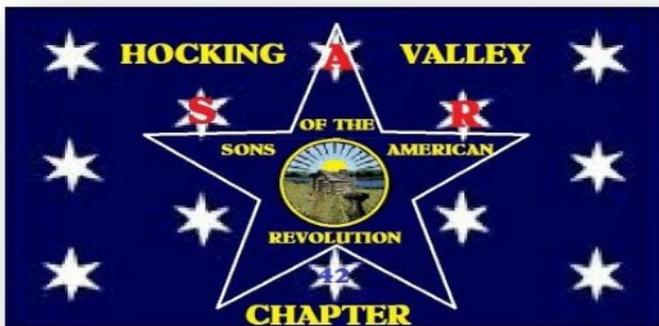
**Chapter Color Guard members participated in a combined Color Guard for Wreaths Across America with the American Legion and Scouts BSA at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Granville, Ohio on Saturday, December 19th. The event was hosted by the Granville Chapter DAR. A wreath was presented on behalf of the Chapter by Tom Hankins.**



Chapter members at Wreaths Across America, L to R: Chuck Bundy, Tom Hankins, Al Gummere.



Chapter members Al Gummere and Chuck Bundy in the combined Color Guard.



# Chapter

# Activities

Color Guard Adjutant Al Gummere represented the Hocking Valley Chapter at the Battle of Trenton commemoration on Saturday, December 26th. The New Jersey Society SAR sent out a last minute notice for registration only a few days before. Al was able to register in time and presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter that commemorates the 244th Anniversary of the crucial patriot victory. To get proper credit for virtual participation in National Color Guard events, one must be registered and then be recognized during the virtual portion of the ceremony.



Al can be seen with other registered compatriots, in the upper left-hand corner.



Al gives the Continental salute to the HVC wreath as his name is called. Al will also present a wreath on behalf of the Chapter on January 3rd to commemorate the Battle of Princeton.

In early fall, compatriot Jeff Walt and his wife, Deborah, moved to Bidwell, in southern Ohio near the Ohio River. We wish them well at their new location and we will miss them at our Chapter events. Jeff joined our Chapter in early 2015 and was very active in the Chapter Color Guard. He earned his Bronze Color Guard medal in 2018 and earned his Silver Color Guard medal in 2020. Deborah was very active in the Women's Auxiliary. The Walts will live only several miles from Point Pleasant, West Virginia and will look forward to seeing our members there each year. Thank you, Jeff and Deb, for your dedication to our Chapter.



Dear Compatriots,

It is with sadness that I must tell you this will be our last Newsletter until a replacement can be found for the Graphics Editor.

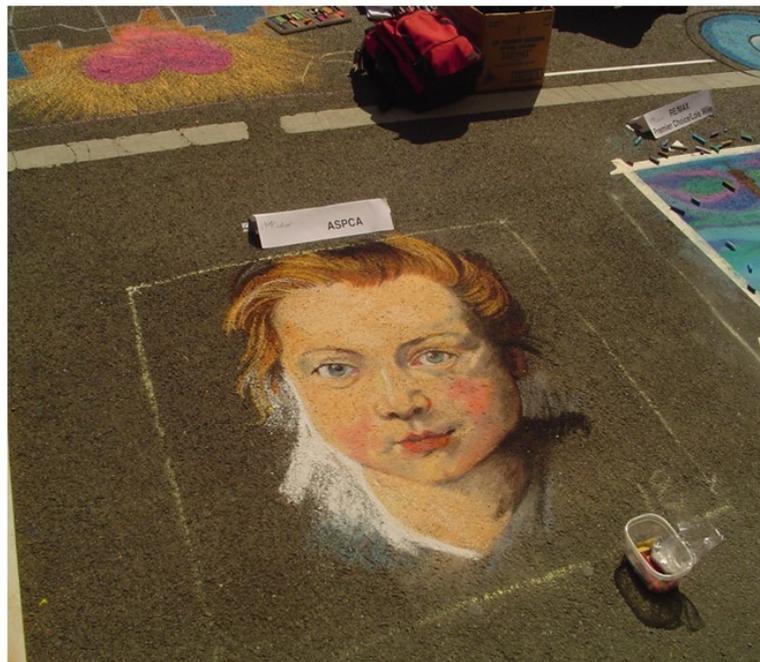
Unfortunately, Bill Lyman is resigning as Graphics Editor so he and his wife can enjoy their recent retirement. I completely understand. I want to thank Bill for working with me to give us a beautiful newsletter these past two years. Yes, I did most of the writing and grammatical editing, but it was his creative artistic talents and technical knowledge of computer graphics and layout that gave us a beautiful newsletter of which to be proud. As I will soon be Chapter Secretary, and will continue as both the State and Chapter Color Guard Commander, I will not have the time to try and learn computer graphics. So, this will be the last official newsletter until we can find a new Graphics Editor, or until which time I have fewer responsibilities and can devote more time to a newsletter. It has been a pleasure to provide this newsletter to the Chapter. I pray the coming year will be healthier and happier for all of us.

**Patriotically Yours, Bob Hill Chief Editor**

**Sharing a little about myself :**  
I am a charter Via Colori Artist ( Street Artist ) and over the years I have created many pastel street artworks to raise needed chartable funds for our community. We as street artist do not receive any form monetary rewards, we simply do it for the sake of artmaking and for our community.



After much deliberation, I have decided to give up my Chief Graphic Editor's position. The two years that I have spent composing our Chapter Newsletter has left me with this unquestionable sense of comradery pride in our accomplishments over these past two years. It's my hope that this sense of comradery pride will continue to carry on by keeping our Chapter Newsletter readers well informed of these many chapter events and activities in this upcoming year.  
William Lyman



*From Our House to Yours*

*Happy  
New  
Year!*