

**The M. Graham Clark Chapter
Missouri Society
The Sons of the American Revolution
15 October 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 8:41 a.m. by President Chance. As there was no color guard present, President Chance asked Chaplain Merrill to give the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by COM Morreau and the SAR Pledge by COM Coutts.

There were 10 members and 11 visitors present. Visitors of note were: Waylene Hiles, wife of new member Alan Hiles; Lorna Jones, cousin of new member Alan Hiles, and DAR member; prospective member Randall Meyer; Prospective member Michael Breedlove; Jeanne Pfender, daughter of COM Alfred Jones; Paula McMurtry, wife of new member John McMurtry; and John and Emma Lee McMurtry, parents of new member John McMurtry.

President Chance asked if there were any birthdays this month and there were none. President Chance asked if there were reports about members not able to attend. COM Kerr mentioned that COM Woodward is still not doing well and we need to remember him in our thoughts and prayers. COM DeVenney stated he called COM Cunningham recently and wished him a Happy Anniversary of the United States Navy.

The meeting was adjourned for breakfast at 8:50 a.m.

Reconvened: The meeting reconvened at 9:14 a.m.

Presentation: President Chance stated the scheduled speaker for the day, Tim Oliver, was ill and not able to be present so COM J Y Miller gave a very interesting and moving talk about the recent Honor Flight we went on to Washington, D.C. COM Miller stated he is a Vietnam veteran and the veterans from that era were not treated well and he had waited until 1970 for this type of experience.

The total experience was 24 hours. First there was an orientation meeting where attendees received t-shirts and name tags and were told what to expect. The group consisted of 75 veterans and several guardians for a total of 110 people. They had a big breakfast in Columbia and then were driven in two buses to St. Louis airport. They had a police escort along the way and the airport announced there was an honor flight in the building whereupon all the people applauded the group.

COM Miller stated to his seat mate that people who did not know this was an Honor Flight must be thinking this is the biggest drug bust in history being transported. One veteran became ill and was not able to make the flight so there were actually 74 veterans who made the trip. The organizers had wheelchairs, walkers and canes available for all who needed these aides.

The group was the first to board the Southwestern flight plane, and there were approximately 15 additional travelers on the plane. The plane then flew to Washington, D. C., and people in that airport also applauded the group. The group was driven around the capitol where they stopped to see the World War II Memorial, the Korean War memorial, the Vietnam War Wall memorial and then to Arlington National Cemetery where they observed the changing of the guard. They also saw the Air Force Memorial. They then returned to Washington, D. C. airport and again everyone there applauded the group.

The flight then came back to St. Louis and they received a Highway Patrol escort back to Columbia, along with a 260 motorcycle escort. Along the way, they read a proclamation by the Commandant of the Missouri Highway Patrol that said today I-70 belonged to the veterans. On and off ramps along the route were closed as the escort came through.

COM Miller said he remembered when he was first commissioned and was awaiting a flight while in his dress uniform and a young woman came up to him and asked how it felt being a baby killer and a murderer. This was the way the Vietnam veterans were treated and illustrated why COM Miller said he had waited since 1970 for the type of treatment he and others received on Honor Flight 43. He said the majority of the veterans were Vietnam veterans, some were Korean War veterans and a few were World War II veterans. He recommended this highly for anyone eligible to go on an Honor Flight.

COM Miller said his guardian was Corporal Mathew Broniec of the Missouri Highway Patrol and he did a stellar job, making sure all his and other veteran's needs were met and yet giving them enough freedom to enjoy the trip. COM Miller sent a letter to the Missouri Highway Patrol stating this for Corporal Broniec's file.

COM Miller said anyone interested in going on an Honor flight can go to centralmissourihonorflight.com and there is an application there to complete. He did this and was not able to go the first two times they contacted him about going but was so glad he could go this time. The program started when a man who was a pilot had a father who was a veteran who said he would love to go to Washington, D.C., and so he flew him and a friend of his father there for the experience. Now there are Honor Flight "hubs" all over the country.

This was truly a fine presentation and the Honor Flight program is one of which we should all be proud.

New Member Inductions: After the presentation, President Chance called Alan Hiles and John McMurtry forward to be inducted as new members. They took the Oath and then each made individual statements. COM McMurtry stated he never realized until looking into this just how important it is to remember those who fought for our freedom and prop us up. Emma Lee McMurtry, his mother, placed the Rosette upon his lapel and she stated their patriot was with George Washington.

COM Hiles stated that his patriot left the military so he could make guns for the cause. This helps illustrate the variety of ways patriots assisted in the cause of freedom.

At this time COM Miller read the welcome to the new members and discussed the history of the Sons of the American Revolution and the M Graham Clark Chapter.

Reports: President Chance then called upon Secretary Kerr to give the Secretary's Report. It was reviewed with the attendees and approved as written.

President Chance then called upon Treasurer Dietzel to give the Treasurer's Report. COM Dietzel that as of 15 October 2016, the balance in the Central Bank Account was \$1,707.13. This does not reflect the need to send dues moneys to Missouri SAR, which is \$390.00. The School Book Library Fund balance is \$483.67, which is also a part of the \$1,707.13 amount. The M. Graham Clark Endowment Fund is \$12,839.64, of which \$63.46 is in available funds. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read

50/50 Drawing: In today's 50/50 drawing, \$50 was collected. COM Miller pulled the winning ticket out and COM Dietzel was the winner, meaning he received \$25 and the chapter received \$25.00.

Americanism/FOGG: COM Kerr stated there is no report to be made.

Genealogy Report: COM Kerr gave the Genealogy Report since COM and Mrs. Thomas were not present.

Jake Krause's new application was approved on 12 October 2016.

Michael Breedlove's and Bruce Hillis's new applications are at National awaiting decision

COM Chance has nine supplemental applications at National awaiting decision.

COM Strader has three supplemental applications at National awaiting decision.

Com Bartlett has a supplemental application at National awaiting decision.

COM DeVenney sent in a new application for a Memorial certificate for his son. It is awaiting decision at National.

COM DeVenney sent in a new application for his grandson who is transitioning from CAR to SAR. It is awaiting decision at National.

COM DeVenney has completed several applications for grandchildren for CAR.

One of COM Strader's supplemental applications needs to be retyped by Nancy Thomas. This is in addition to the three listed above.

Randall Meyer's new application will be mailed to the State Genealogist on Monday, 17 October 2016.

Brad Harriman's new application is typed and needs to be printed.

Gil Stone's new application is typed—may be best to wait until one of COM Chance's supplemental applications is approved to help ensure Mr. Stone's application is approved.

Flag Certificate: COM DeVenney printed a Flag Certificate for the New Franklin School District. COM Kerr will present this in the next week or so. COM Miller stated we need to make sure to get this school some more books since they were promised them before it was found necessary to momentarily halt the program last spring. This will be done before the end of the year, pending the committee's action.

Closing: There being no further business, President Chance called on COM Dietzel to lead the SAR Recessional and Chaplain Merrill to give the benediction and COM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold H. Kerr II, Secretary
M Graham Clark Chapter
Missouri SAR