



Feb  
2007

Vol 38  
No. 1

# The Ohio Valley Arsenal

Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Chapter,  
Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution

## New Officers Sworn in for 2007



INSSAR President, Garry Eckard, left, swears in the new Ohio Valley Chapter Officers.



New Chapter President, Don Counts, presides over the remainder of the Chapter's meeting.

Indiana State Society SAR President, Garry Eckard, attended our chapter's meeting in November to give a presentation and to swear in the officers for 2006-2007. The new officers are:

**President:** Don Counts; **Vice President:** J. D. Strouth;  
**2nd Vice President:** Wil Teague; **Secretary:** John West;  
**Registrar:** John Van Zandt; **Treasurer:** Tom Adamson;  
**Chancellor:** James R. Son; **Genealogist:** William Cook;  
**Chaplain:** J. D. Strouth; **Webmaster:** Ken Gilkey;  
**Historian:** John West; **Newsletter Editor:** Chris Myers;  
and **Captain of the Guard:** Ken Gilkey.

## OVC Awards Banquet Schedule

This year's Awards Banquet will be held March 3, 2007 at the Sirloin Stockade on Bellemeade Avenue in Evansville.

Keep the date open!

## Meeting Notice

The next meeting will be held at 10 AM on February 3, 2007 in the Bayard Room, 2nd Floor of Willard Library, Evansville, IN. The program will be "Misconceptions About The Revolutionary War Uniforms" presented by Compatriot Ken Gilkey.



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## CHAPTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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The third quarterly meeting of the Ohio Valley Chapter was held November 4th in the Bayard Room, Willard Library, Evansville, Indiana. The meeting was called to order at 10 AM by President J. D. Strouth. Don Counts gave the invocation. The Color Guard consisted of Ken Gilkey, Don Counts, and John West. In attendance were nine members and two guests.

**Chapter Business** Secretary John Van Zandt read the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were amended and approved. Treasurer Tom Adamson reported the balance on hand in August was \$262.09, deposits were \$223.00, expenses were \$190.00 leaving a balance on hand of \$255.09 for November 4, 2006. Five funds have been created for donations: Liberty Eagle Adoption Fund, Color Guard Fund, Flag Fund, Awards Fund, and Newsletter Fund.

John West announced that enough donations were received to proceed with the adoption of "Liberty" the Eagle. Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Registrar Bob Hall reported two new applications are ready to be sent in and four prospective members are still working on their applications.

In addition to swearing in the new chapter officers, INSSAR President Garry Eckard gave an excellent presentation titled "Justification of the American Revolution."

If you have something you would like to share during the next Around the Campfire segment of the meeting, please let Don Counts know in advance.



J. D. Strouth listens as John West displays newspaper coverage of the OVC Color Guard.



John Van Zandt and Tom Adamson devote their full attention as John West speaks.

The next chapter meeting will be held February 3, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 1 PM.



## AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

**In Memoriam** Former member, J. Vance Foster, 89, passed away January 14, 2007. Vance was a retired engineer after a long career with Potter and Brumfield in Princeton, Ind. He was an active participant in the Gibson County Historical Society, a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, an ardent hobbyist, and an Elder and a Deacon of the Fort Branch First Presbyterian Church. Our condolences goes out to his family.



### Adopting "Liberty" by John G. West

The Ohio Valley Chapter INSSAR now has an official Certificate of Adoption for Liberty (Mesker Park Zoo's Bald Eagle.)

We received a nice Adoption Certificate with a fact sheet and photo of "Liberty" - plus we will be listed as a "friend" of the zoo on the sign just inside of the entry gate for all to see for one year!

Becky and I want to thank all that donated toward this project. This was Becky's idea and she is so proud of the chapter. At least eight members contributed along with many from the

Tri-State Genealogical Society's Annual Seminar. We collected enough money to adopt "Liberty" again the next year and a start for 2009. If you have not given and would like to jump on the "ox & cart," when you pay your dues add another dollar or whatever and tell Tom to add it to the "Adopt an Eagle" account.

One of the ladies that works in the zoo office is a member of the genealogical society and was at the seminar and she gave a dollar for our project - I did not know that she worked at the zoo. So, we have zoo workers helping us adopt Liberty, too!

Adopting "Liberty" is an excellent Community Service project to assist the Zoo and help in preserving a threatened bald eagle. This adoption falls in line with the NSSAR objectives to preserve our American Heritage since the bald eagle is our nation's national symbol and this species was in danger of extinction and is still just on the edge of improvement.

*John & Becky West*

**Ohio Valley Chapter Awards Banquet March 3rd at the Sirloin Stockade**

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## SAR NEWS, MEETINGS & EVENTS

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**Gerald R. Ford** (July 14, 1913 – December 26, 2006)

To all Compatriots,

As has been announced several times on SARTalk, we have lost a most distinguished member of the NSSAR (# 105000) and the Michigan Society (# 2429), former President of the United States Gerald R. Ford. Bill Allerton, secretary of the Louisiana Society and a member of Pres. Ford's administration, will be attending the funeral and will be our representative there. Of course, condolences will be sent to the family, but it is most appropriate to make contributions to the SARFoundation, the Eagle Scout Endowment Fund [Ford is the only Eagle Scout to become President] or any other Fund of the SAR in memory of Compatriot Ford. His life and example of public service were emblematic of the high purposes of the SAR.

Nathan White,  
President General

From Don Pennell, former NSSAR Historian General:

I had the privilege and honor to present President Ford with our Gold Good Citizenship medal to President Ford on Friday, December 4, 1987 at the Detroit Athletic Club. It was covered with photos and an article in the Detroit Free Press and in the SAR Magazine.

It took several months to schedule this presentation as he had an extremely busy schedule. Arrangements were made through his Chief of Staff, Penny Circle, who was still his Chief of Staff at the time of his death.

President Ford did not present the medal to his Museum, but was extremely proud of it and had it framed and kept it on the wall of his office.

He was a wonderful and friendly man, without any pretense who made you feel very comfortable during and after the presentation. The only thing that made you aware of who he was the Secret Service men who stood on each side of him and were seemingly a bit uneasy when I pinned the medal on the President.

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## SAR NEWS, MEETINGS & EVENTS

### 4-H INSSAR Outstanding Citizenship

**Awards** The Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (INSSAR) announced Indiana's first recipient of the INSSAR Outstanding Citizenship Award for 4-H Youth was Jerry Weber.

Compatriot John West of the Ohio Valley Chapter awarded 17-year-old Jerry Weber with the specially designed SAR Lapel Pin for Outstanding Citizenship. The award was presented November 3, 2006 at the 65th Vanderburgh County 4-H Achievement Banquet at Salem Church of Darmstadt, Indiana before an estimated crowd of 400.



Samantha DeKemper (R) smiles along with John and Becky West.

INSSAR State 4-H Awards Chairman, John G. West, was accompanied by his wife Becky West. Chairman West made the presentation wearing a Revolutionary War uniform, and his wife, was dressed in colonial attire. West said that Jerry Weber was active in many community service projects and the county 4-H Junior Leader Organization. Young Weber is also Indiana's first youth appointment to a county level Agriculture Extension Board. Weber plans to attend Purdue University to study agriculture.

John and Becky also attended the Dubois County Cooperative Extension Service Annual Dinner November 27, 2006 to present the INSSAR Outstanding Citizenship Award for 4-H Youth to Samantha DeKemper.

The criteria for award selection is based on Citizenship, Leadership, and Community involvement.

**NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting** February 22 - 25, 2007 Louisville, Kentucky.

**Indiana Society SAR Spring Meeting** April 21, 2007 The Spring Meeting will be held April 21, 2007 at Spring Mill State Park near Mitchell, Indiana.

**NSSAR 117th National Congress** July 7-11, 2007 Williamsburg, Virginia.

**Upcoming Chapter Meetings** February 3rd, May 19th & August 25th

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## OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER COLOR GUARD

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The Color Guard in Madisonville, Kentucky

### Madisonville Veterans Day Parade

**November 4, 2006** Dee Doane, Ed Hitchcock, Don Counts, John West, Ruth Hall, Ken & Peggy Gilkey, and Bob Hall kept looking up at the skies, hoping the sprinkles wouldn't ruin their parade.



A blustery day in Owensboro, Kentucky

### Owensboro Veterans Day Parade

**November 11, 2006** John West, Peggy & Ken Gilkey, and Don Counts encountered a little bit colder temperatures and a strong breeze for the OVC Color Guard's second excursion south of the Ohio River.



All in step for the Evansville Holiday Parade

### Evansville Holiday Parade

**November 19, 2006** The Color Guard helped kick in the holiday spirit in the Evansville Holiday Parade. The OVC Color Guard consisted of J. D. Strouth, John West, Ken Gilkey, Don Counts, Bob Hall, and Peggy Gilkey.

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## OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER COLOR GUARD

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Waiting for the start of the Henderson Holiday Parade

### Henderson Holiday Parade

**December 2, 2006** With the sun shining, temps near 40 and no chilly breeze, the Color Guard had a much better experience for their third trip across the Ohio River. Those participating were John West, Chris Myers, Bob Hall, Ken & Peggy Gilkey.

### Boonville Holiday Parade

**December 3, 2006** Boy! How the weather can change from one day to another. After a nice day in Henderson, Ken Gilkey, John West, Bob Hall, Don Counts, Ruth Hall, and Peggy Gilkey braved a wind chill of 16 degrees during the Boonville Holiday Parade.



A chilly Boonville Holiday Parade



### Special Thanks

We would like to convey a special thanks to Ruth Hall, Peggy Gilkey, and Becky West for marching along with the OVC Color Guard this past year. Peggy was the only person to march in all the parades the OVC Color Guard entered!


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## About the Ohio Valley Chapter

**Ohio Valley Chapter's 1st Quarter Meeting** Saturday, February 3, 2007  
Keep the date open for the Chapter's 1st Quarter meeting. The program will be "Misconceptions About The Revolutionary War Uniforms" given by Compatriot Ken Gilkey. Come join us in the Bayard Room of Willard Library at 10 AM. Afterwards come along for lunch at Grandy's on First Avenue. Don't forget to bring a friend!

**Ohio Valley Chapter's 2nd Quarter Meeting** Saturday, May 19, 2007  
Keep the date open for the Chapter's 2nd Quarter meeting. Come join us in the Bayard Room of Willard Library at 10 AM. Afterwards come along for lunch at Grandy's on First Avenue. Don't forget to bring a friend!



<p><i>The Ohio Valley Arfenal</i> is published quarterly by the Ohio Valley Chapter, Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution.</p> <p>Send any submissions for the newsletter to :</p> <p>Newsletter Editor c/o Chris Myers 1701 S. Fairlawn Ave. Evansville, IN 47714 &lt;cdmyers@sigecom.net&gt;</p>	<p>The Posey/Vanderburgh Chapter of the Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution conducted its organizational meeting in Evansville, Indiana on May 6, 1969. Alfred A. Kiltz was elected as the first President and Gordon S. "Bish" Thompson was elected as the first Secretary.</p> <p>On June 21, 2003, the Chapter amended the Constitution and changed its name to the Ohio Valley Chapter.</p> <p>The Current Officers are:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>President</b> Don Counts</td> <td><b>Vice President</b> J. D. Strouth</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Secretary</b> John West</td> <td><b>2nd Vice President</b> Wil Teague</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Registrar</b> John Van Zandt</td> <td><b>Treasurer</b> Tom Adamson</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Chancellor</b> James R. Son</td> <td><b>Genealogist</b> William Cook</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Chaplain</b> J. D. Strouth</td> <td><b>Historian</b> John West</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Webmaster</b> Ken Gilkey</td> <td><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Chris Myers</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Capt. of the Guard</b> Ken Gilkey</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>President</b> Don Counts	<b>Vice President</b> J. D. Strouth	<b>Secretary</b> John West	<b>2nd Vice President</b> Wil Teague	<b>Registrar</b> John Van Zandt	<b>Treasurer</b> Tom Adamson	<b>Chancellor</b> James R. Son	<b>Genealogist</b> William Cook	<b>Chaplain</b> J. D. Strouth	<b>Historian</b> John West	<b>Webmaster</b> Ken Gilkey	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Chris Myers	<b>Capt. of the Guard</b> Ken Gilkey	
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	<p>Contact the Ohio Valley Chapter by writing or e-mailing: DON COUNTS 549 E. PARKLAND AVE EVANSVILLE, IN. 47711 &lt;dcounts@insightbb.com&gt;</p> <p>Visit the Chapter's website at: <a href="http://www.rootsweb.com/~inovcsar">http://www.rootsweb.com/~inovcsar</a></p>														