



Gordon Bidner (left) officially presented Steve Kern the ILSSAR Patriot Award Certificate and Medal.

Steve recognized a “friend of the GJB SAR Chapter”, Steve Robinson, reporter for *The Normalite*. Robinson has dutifully reported on notable Chapter activities the last several years, and it is greatly appreciated.



Steve Robinson, reporter for *The Normalite* (left), was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Steve Kern for his dedicated reporting on Chapter activities.

We officially welcomed our newest Chapter member David B. Williams with his NSSAR-approved membership certificate (09/15/2023). His ancestor is Isaac Clason. This dovetailed nicely with a great report on our Chapter membership recruitment follow-up by Steve Kern and Bob Harshbarger.

Steve shared an update on plans for a Cemetery Marking at Stout’s Grove Cemetery, west of Danvers, IL—the final resting place for three Revolutionary Soldiers. We will schedule a marking in 2024.



ABOVE: Welcome to our newest member, David B. Williams! Presenting his membership certificate is Steve Kern.

BELOW: Dave delivered a great program on music during the Revolutionary War.

Shortly after being welcomed into the Chapter, we enjoyed a great program by Dave about music during the American Revolutionary War. Thank you, Dave!

An update on next year's Citizenship/Scholarship program (scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024 was sent to the 20 McLean and Woodford County high

schools. Also, the Iroquois county DAR/SAR Citizenship program will be held on Friday, December 8, 2023, 1:00 p.m., at St. John Evangelical Church in Milford.

Nominations by Jay for the 2024 Officer/Leadership Team were accepted unanimously. They include*:

- President: **Jay L. Cummins** (Jay)
- Vice President: **J. Gordon Bidner**, 1-year term, (Gordon)
- President Emeritus: **J. Gordon Bidner**
- Secretary/Historian: Jay L. Cummins
- Assistant Secretary: **Alvin R. Abbott, Jr.** (Al)
- Registrar: **Stephen R. Kern** (Steve)
- Treasurer: **Robert E. Jones** (Rob)

- Genealogist: **Stephen R. Kern**
- Chaplain: Rev. Raymond P. Owens (Ray)
- Chaplain Emeritus: Dr. Virgil D. Short (Dr. Short or Virgil)
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Richard L. Milner (Rick)
- Editor, *The General's News*: J. Gordon Bidner
- 2024 Members at Large:
Milton G. Rudsinski (Sonny)
Alan C. Washburn (Alan)
Steven E. Runyan (Steve)

Many thanks to the ladies of St. Luke Union Church, led by Margaret Hawkins, for the great meal they provided. ★

**Names in boldface are new positions to be held in 2024. The name each individual prefers to go by is in parentheses.*

Next publication of The General's News: February 27, 2024

Please send submissions and calendar additions/corrections to Publisher Dena McDonald by February 18 at cre8.denamcdonald@gmail.com

Remembering Edward L. Proctor

June 27, 1932 – November 8, 2023

Submitted by J. Gordon Bidner

Ed joined the SAR on October 12, 1999. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Korean Conflict. His Revolutionary Ancestor was John Edward Proctor. Ed was born in Cullison, Kansas to Walter Harry and Beulah Mae (Holmes) Proctor on June 27, 1932. He was a child of the Dust Bowl and spent the first four years of his life living in a basement house where his father farmed in Stanton County, Kansas.



Ed was an active member of the GJB SAR Chapter serving as Secretary in 2001-02 then Registrar in 2004 and Chair of the Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, EMS and Heroism Committee in 2005-2007 and as a member of this committee from 2008-2021. He

was named as an Emeritus member of the GJB SAR Chapter in 2022.

Ed graduated from the Cullison, Kansas High School and received his BS Degree in Botany and Agriculture from Kansas State University in Hays Kansas. He worked at the State Farm Insurance Company for 30 years.

He married Nancy (Mohney) Proctor on October 5, 1955 in Haviland, Kansas and recently celebrated 68 years of marriage. They had one son Aaron who passed away on August 8, 2012. Ed is survived by his wife Nancy, his sister Lois (Proctor) Tuttle and his brother Marvin (Eunice) Proctor, three sisters-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

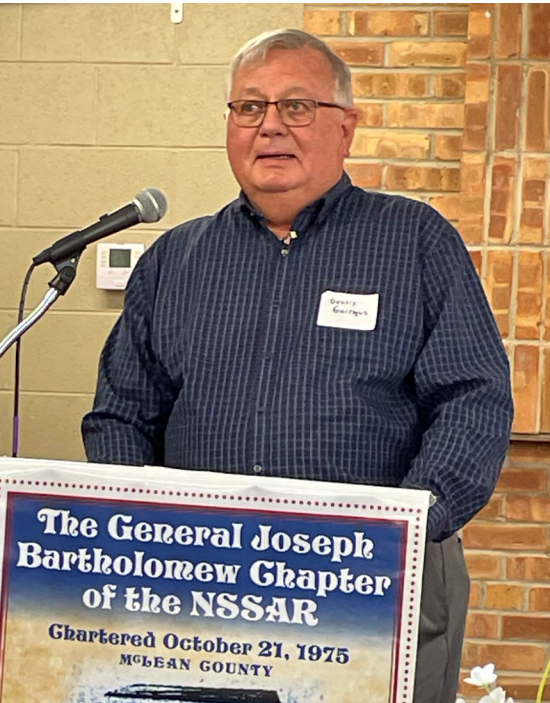
His memorial service was held on November 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Luke Union Church in Bloomington, IL and was attended by GJB SAR Members Steve Kern, Lance McCormick, Sonny Rudsinski, Phares O'Daffer and Gordon Bidner. The GJB SAR Chapter made a donation in Ed's name to the Parklands Foundation.

Thank you, Ed, for your SAR Membership and Service to the GJB SAR Chapter. ★

Veterans' Day Meeting

November 10, 2023

It is always a privilege to remember our Veterans (both living and deceased), and our annual Veterans' Day Meeting was a wonderful opportunity to recognize these individuals.



Keynote Speaker Dennis Garrigus, Vietnam combat veteran.

The GJB SAR Chapter met on November 10, 12:00 p.m., at St. Luke Union Church, welcomed by President Gordon Bidner. Forty-five individuals were in attendance, ten of whom are Chapter members. Franklin "Bud" Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance, Jeff Kretlow led the SAR Pledge, and Rev. Ray Owens delivered the Invocation.

Following lunch, the Secretary's, Treasurer's, and Investment Reports were provided by Jay Cummins, Lance McCormick, and Steve Kern, respectively.

We proudly and humbly remembered our deceased GJB SAR Veterans, including:

- **David K. Ashbrook**
US Army/Korea
(August 8, 2020)
- **Kelly Gray Jr.**
USAF/Vietnam
(November 16, 2020)
- **William R. Miller**
USN/WWII
(January 11, 2021)
- **Harry H. Hoit**
USN/WWII
(August 26, 2022)
- **John Frisch, MD**
USN/WWII
(October 19, 2022)

Gordon then recognized our Veterans in attendance—we are grateful for your service! See [page 7](#) for the listing of all of our Veterans, published in the November 9, 2023 issue of *The Normalite*.



Duane Tackitt (left) installing incoming 2024 President Jay Cummins.

The keynote address was presented by Vietnam Veteran Dennis Garrigus, "Reflections of a Vietnam Veteran". For those unable to attend, Steve Robinson with *The Normalite* published an article covering the highlights of Garrigus' presentation in the November 16 issue.

VETERANS continued on next page



Incoming President Jay Cummins (left) looks on as President Emeritus and 2024 VP Gordon Bidner (center) is presented with the Past President Certificate by 2024 Registrar/Genealogist Steve Kern (right). Gordon served for 22 years as President of the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter.

Following the keynote address was the election and installation of 2024 GJB Officers, led by R. Duane Tackitt. The last page of this issue of *The General's News* still lists the current-year officers and committees, but the listing of 2024 committee chairs can be found at the conclusion of this

article. 2024 officers are listed in the October Meeting article.

Gordon shared a few concluding remarks, and there was an exchange of gifts. This included a Book of Letters presented to Gordon in appreciation for his many years of unwavering service to the GJB SAR Chapter, which include 22 years as President.

President Elect Jay shared his future plans and goals with the group, followed by the SAR Recessional and Benediction, led by Sonny Rudsinski and Rev. Ray, respectively.

Thank you to Rick Milner for the setup of flags and banners.

Donations were also accepted for the VA Illiana Healthcare System in Danville, IL. ★

2024 Committee Chairs

- **Citizenship:** Gordon Bidner
- **Color Guard/Parade:** Milton "Sonny" Rudsinski
- **Eagle Scout:** Stephen Kern
- **Education:** Dan Leifel
- **Finance:** Stephen Kern
- **Flag Day:** Stephen Kern
- **Public Service & Heroism:** Stephen Kern
- **Membership/Mentoring:** Rick Milner
- **Patriot Graves:** Stephen Kern
- **Public Relations:** Gordon Bidner
- **The General's News Editor:** Gordon Bidner
- **Veterans/ROTC Affairs:** Jeff Kretlow
- **ILSSAR Poster/Knight Essay/Rumbaugh Orations/Schweizer History:** Gordon Bidner
- **Information Technology:** Bob Harshbarger
- **Nominating and Program Leadership:** 2024 Leadership Team/Board of Managers
- **GJB SAR 50th (1975-2025)/NSSAR 250th (1776-2026) Anniversaries Committee:** Jay Cummins

Full listings of 2024 officers and committee members will appear in the February issue of *The General's News*.

2024 GJB SAR Officers (in attendance at the Veterans' Day Meeting) include L to R: Asst. Registrar Robert Harshbarger, Duane Tackitt: Installing Officer, Member-at-Large Milton Rudsinski, Registrar/Genealogist Steve Kern, Treasurer Rob Jones, Chaplain Rev. Ray Owens, Sergeant-at-Arms Rick Milner, President Jay Cummins, President Emeritus/VP Gordon Bidner.





First thank you for the letters. I had to read some of the letters twice to make sure you were writing to me! Thank you for your friendship and encouragement and support over these years. I recall hearing a cliché—paraphrased—that when a man is awarded praise for a job well done the wife is often surprised and the Mother pleased. In my case Sandi is pleased and has been one of the main reasons I have been able to dedicate so much time to service activities. Her support and encouragement has been unwavering over our 63 years of our marriage.

I became the winner in the activities I have been involved with over the years through lasting friendships and many new acquaintanceships and experiences. As I reflect on my activities in agricultural education--the ILCAE and ICAE, Rotary at the Club and District level, The SAR at the Chapter, State and National levels, our NDMC, Extension, 4-H, FFA, BroMenn Hospital Board often times I was juggling 2-3 responsibilities along with work. The involvement made me focus, stay organized and depend on people that had a similar view and passion for each effort for assistance and support.

It has been a rewarding ride for me and I pray it has been for the organizations/groups that I provided leadership for over the years.

Thank you for your very kind comments regarding my SAR involvement and your friendships. Every success we enjoyed belongs to the team members that were engaged in the activity—I was just one member of the team!

*Best Wishes,
Gordon Bidner
President Emeritus, GJB SAR Chapter*

Book of Letters

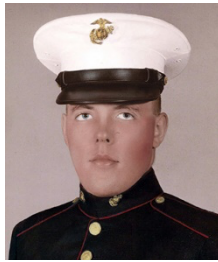
In gratitude for 22 years of service as the GJB SAR president, a Book of Letters was presented to Gordon Bidner at the Veterans' Day Meeting.



The General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter Salutes Its Veterans



Alvin Abbott
USN/Desert Shield



David Edwards
USMC



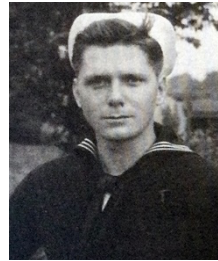
Stephen Kern
US Army/Vietnam



Jeffrey Kretlow
USMC/Desert Storm



Dan Leifel
US Army



Franklin "Bud" Lewis
USN/WWII



Lance McCormick
US Army/Vietnam



Phares O'Daffer
US Army/Vietnam



William Owens
US Army/Active Duty



Edward Proctor
US Army/Korea



Milton Rudsinski
USAF/Vietnam



Alan Washburn
USAF/Vietnam



William White
US Army/Korea

Not Pictured:

Albert Day (USN/Korea), **Donald Evans** (USN), **Robert Flesher** (US Army/Vietnam),
Duane Harms (US Army/Vietnam), **Rodney Lush** (US Army/Vietnam), **Virgil Short MD** (US Army/Vietnam),
Robert Starrett (USN/WWII/Korea)

More photos from the Veterans' Day Meeting can be found on the following pages.



Top row left: Cherie Valentine and Regent Jamie Atchison of the Letitia Green Stevenson DAR Chapter.

Top row right: Gordon Bidner visits with members of Jay Cummins' family.

Second row left: Dan Leifel and Bud Lewis.

Second row right: Jay Cummins, Rob Jones and Gordon Bidner finish final preparations for the Veterans' Day Meeting.

Third row: GJB SAR members and guests visit while last-minute touches are completed for the meeting.

Immediate left: Gordon Bidner, Sonny Rudsinski and Jay Cummins (Dan Leifel and Lance McCormick in the background).



Top row left: Bob Harshbarger.

Top row center: Rick Milner receiving congratulations and thanks from Ray Owens.

Top row right: Duane Tackitt and Dan Leifel, Veterans comparing notes and stories.

Second row right: Installing Officer Duane Tackitt (Retired Navy Captain and past Vice President General of the Mid-Atlantic NSSAR District in 2012-13) sharing thoughts before the installation of GJB SAR 2024 Officers as Jay, Gordon and Steve listen.

Second row center: Steve Kern with Christian Thomas, a prospective member and veteran.

Second row right: Jay Cummins newly elected GJB SAR President with his Gavel and Uncle Duane Tackitt.

Third row: Duane Tackitt installs the 2024 GJB SAR Officers (L-R) Jay Cummins, Gordon Bidner, Steve Kern, Rob Jones, Rick Milner, Ray Owens, Bob Harshbarger and Sonny Rudsinski.



Top row left: The Bidner Family (L to R) of Lisa and Brent Bidner (Monticello, IL), Gordon and Sandi, and Craig and Joy Bidner (Wildwood, MO). Not pictured is oldest son Scott (Champaign), a fifth generation farmer at Five Gen Farms, had to depart immediately after the meeting.

Top row right: Gordon and Sandi with flowers given by Jay Cummins for her many years supporting Gordon's SAR activities.

Second row: The Cummins family (L-R) including aunt Marina Tackitt, mother Carolyn Cummins, daughter Natalie DiCicco, daughter Elisabeth Beck, wife Cindy Cummins, and Uncle Butch Tackitt. Not pictured is daughter Emily Rivera, who had to leave before the photo was taken.

**Many thanks to Susan Kern
for taking photos during the
Veterans' Day Meeting!**



Veterans who attended the November 10 Veterans Day meeting pictured L to R: Gary Beck, Milton Rudsinski, Christian Thomas, Dan Leifel Steve Kern, Lance McCormick, Jeff Kretlow, Michael Gray, Bud Lewis, Dennis Garrigus.

GENERAL JOSEPH BARTHOLOMEW CHAPTER

GJB Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution



[Home](#) [Membership](#) [Programs](#) [Newsletters](#) [Gallery](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)

Website Enhancements!

David Williams, our new webmaster, has added a Newsletter tab to our www.GJBSAR.org website. The current and recent past publications of *The General's News* can now be viewed on our website.

Dave has some other enhancements in mind as well, such as a front-page side bar indicating upcoming events.

If you have any ideas for enhancements, please contact Dave. ★

2023 Committees

CITIZENSHIP: Chair Gordon Bidner

Robert Flesher, Bill Hammitt, Rob Jones, Dan Leifel, Phares O'Daffer, Dr. Virgil Short, Bill White (Iroquois/Livingston Co.)

COLOR GUARD/PARADE: Chair Al Abbott

Gordon Bidner (ex officio), Don Hyland, Stephen Kern, Don Lush, Rodney Lush, Milton Rudsinski, Dr. Virgil Short

EAGLE SCOUT: Chair Stephen Kern

Al Abbott, Lance McCormick, Bill White

EDUCATION: Chair Dan Leifel

Charles Erickson, Dr. Virgil Short, Alan Washburn

FINANCE: Chair Stephen Kern

Charles Erickson, Bill Hammitt, Lance McCormick, Lee Wilder

FLAG DAY: Chair Stephen Kern

Albert Day, Ed Proctor

PUBLIC SERVICE & HEROISM: Chair Stephen Kern

David Dougall, Bill Hammitt, Ray Owens, Dr. Virgil Short

MEMBERSHIP/MENTORING: Chair Gordon Bidner

Jay Cummins, David Dougall, Bob Harshbarger, Rob Jones, Lance McCormick, Rick Milner, Ray Owens, Steve Runyan

PATRIOT GRAVES: Chair Jay Cummins

Gordon Bidner, Albert Day, Roger Hollis, Dan Leifel, Milton Rudsinski, Bill White

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chair Gordon Bidner

Jay Cummins, Bob Harshbarger (Zoom coordinator), Ray Owens, Dr. Virgil Short

THE GENERAL'S NEWS: Editor Gordon Bidner

Editorial Board includes Jay Cummins, Stephen Kern, Dan Leifel, Dr. Virgil Short

VETERANS/ROTC AFFAIRS: Chair Milton Rudsinski, Vice Chair Dan Leifel

Albert Day, Dave Edwards, Jeff Kretlow, Bud Lewis, Rodney Lush, Dr. Virgil Short, Bill White

ILSSAR POSTER/KNIGHT ESSAY/RUMBAUGH ORATIONS/ SCHWEIZER HISTORY: Chair Gordon Bidner

Charles Erickson, Rob Jones, Dr. Virgil Short

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Chair Bob Harshbarger

Jay Cummins, David Dougall, Stephen Kern (GJB Webmaster)

NSSAR 250TH ANNIVERSARY: Chair Jay Cummins

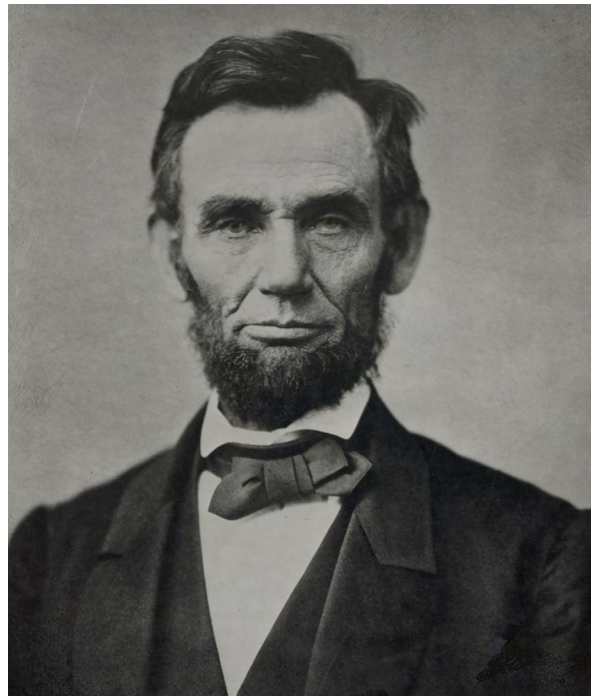
Gordon Bidner, Stephen Kern, Dan Leifel, Lance McCormick, Ray Owens

NOMINATING AND PROGRAM LEADERSHIP:

2023 Leadership Team/Board of Managers

2023 Remaining Programs/Events

**DEC. 8 • 1:00 pm • The Iroquois County DAR-SAR
Citizenship Program for Iroquois County High Schools,
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milford**



“I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.”

Abraham Lincoln

