

Remembering Our Patriots

As Veterans Day approaches each year, we find ourselves thinking about the GJB SAR Chapter Veterans that have passed away in recent years and the significant difference they made in their families, our communities, our SAR Chapter and our Country. They are individuals that we would be well served to emulate for their Service and Dedication to the democratic principles that we hold most dearly.

The following Veterans were members of the General Joseph Bartholomew Sons of the American Revolution:

Listed chronologically by date of passing

David K. Ashbrook

3/26/1932–8/9/2020,
Army, Korea
Ancestor Levi Ashbrook

W. Kelly Gray, Jr.

10/6/1936–11/16/2020
Air Force, Vietnam
Ancestor Richard McKay

William R. Miller

8/20/1925–1/11/2021
Navy, WW II
Ancestor Henry Enoch II

Harry E. Hoit

6/29/1921–8/26/2022
Navy, WW II
Ancestors John Hoit, Elisha Beall

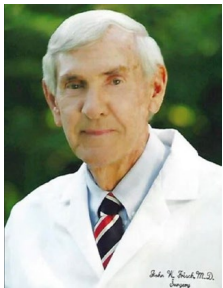
Dr. John W. Frisch

9/21/1926–10/19/2022 (see obituary below)
Navy, WW II
Ancestor Christian Huffman

We honor their memory and Service as well as that of their Patriot Ancestors on Veterans Day 2022. ★

John W. Frisch

September 9, 1926–October 19, 2022



Obituary was published in The Pantagraph on 10/24/22.

John W. Frisch, a Bloomington surgeon, died on October 19, 2022, at his home in Bloomington, IL. He was 96. Betty, his wife of sixty-five years, was by his side.

Dr. Frisch was born on September 21, 1926, at Brokaw Hospital with Dr. Lester Cavins attending his mother, Helen Charity Frisch. His father was John Jacob Frisch, an accountant and WWI Spad Pilot in France.

Dr. Frisch grew up in Bloomington and graduated with the Bloomington High School Class of 1944. Young Frisch volunteered for the US Navy and was assigned after evaluation and testing to a special one-year intensive educational project for the study of electronic warfare. He was assigned to multiple Navy facilities in Chicago and to the US Navy Research Laboratory in Washington, DC.

He learned much later that his RT3c (radio, radar, and sonar) assignment was a part of the planned November 1945 invasion of the islands of Japan. That invasion never materialized because of the dropping of the atomic bombs that resulted in the surrender of Japan.

Young Frisch was discharged and returned to Bloomington and played baseball in the new and forming County League. He enjoyed the privileges of the 52/20 Club for returning veterans.

That fall he obtained a scholarship to the University of Illinois in Champaign and spent three years of pre-medical studies before graduating in 1949 and being accepted to the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago.

Following medical school, he was honored to accept the Warren H. Cole Residency in Surgery at the University of Illinois Research and Education Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Cole was a renowned mentor and professor of surgery. It was there that he met his wife Betty, a surgical RN.

Following a four-year residency, Dr. Frisch returned to Bloomington and established a private practice in the Unity Building. Dr. Benjamin Hoopes at that

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time was Bloomington's leading surgeon by seniority and experience. He was Yale trained and the first Board Certified surgeon in downstate Illinois and had military combat experience as a US Naval Commander. The two surgeons combined their private practices after two years and that partnership still exists today with other surgeons as members. Dr. Hoopes became a mentor for the younger Frisch.

Dr. Frisch performed major surgery for forty years at the three local hospitals, Brokaw, St. Joseph, and Mennonite. He served as President of Brokaw and St. Joseph Hospital's medical staff and was also Chief of Surgery at all three hospitals. During his early career, he was on the faculty in the Surgical Department at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He also served as the President of the Warren H. Cole Society and as the head of the nominating committee for the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Frisch was the Medical Director of the State Farm Insurance Companies for 35 years. He considered it an honor and privilege to be associated with an insurance company directed by Edward J. Rust with a reputation of class for employees and policyholders.

Dr. Frisch's office was open to all patients without discrimination. No patient was ever turned over to a collection agency for non-payment.

John Frisch had a long retirement. He stayed current on continuing medical education and was, at the time of his death, a licensed physician in Illinois. He was an active member of many medical, historical, and political clubs, including, the Sons of the American Revolution. He was a life-long Cardinals fan and a pilot who enjoyed flying his antique bi-plane with his son. One of his greatest pleasures was golf at Bloomington Country Club and Quail West in Naples, FL. The friendship of his many golf partners was of much importance to him.

In addition to his wife Betty; he is survived by his children: Jill Frisch (John Rioux), a trial attorney in New York City, Kim Winters (Ken), a real estate attorney in Dallas, and Jack Frisch (Aneta), a Captain for United Airlines in Chicago. He is also survived by his six grandchildren: Charles Rioux, Johnny (Laura) Rioux, Hope Winters, Paige Winters, Agatha Frisch and Beata Frisch.

Dr. Frisch has requested no visitation, funeral, or memorial. Carmody-Flynn is handling arrangements. Memorials may be made to a charity of your choice. ★

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Most descriptive, he tells of a wife who observed: "I know your body. The scars didn't come from chopping onions. I can feel the scars in your head only you can see. You don't talk about it, it will kill

you." The motto of all who served is "All gave some. Some gave all."

Dave's message was that of a warrior who reflected on the magnificent but at the same time normal "friends and neighbors"

who answered the call. They were the same type people who are the current member of the SAR and their ancestors, proud to be called "American Patriots". ★



As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, the SAR will be providing event news and educational resources, including videos covering various aspects of the Revolutionary War. Visit their site at america250sar.com.

The SAR Education Committee also has a dedicated website at education.sar.org.

NSSAR Great Lakes District Meeting

October 28-29, 2022

Submitted by Gordon Bidner

October 28

The Great Lakes District includes the states of Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. The 2022-23 Vice President General is Toby Chamberlain, Past ILSSAR President and member of the Springfield SAR Chapter.

The meeting began on Friday, October 28 at 3:30 p.m. with a wreath ceremony at the Springfield Oak Ridge Cemetery and the Abraham Lincoln Tomb. The Color Guard with members from Illinois,



Wreath laying at the Lincoln Tomb. Color Guard Commander Ken Goodson of Michigan, GL VPG Toby Chamberlain, PG C. Bruce Pickette making his remarks at the wreath ceremony.

Michigan and Wisconsin presented the Colors with remarks from PG C. Bruce Pickette of Alabama. The banquet started with a social hour, followed by the meal at 6:45p.m. at the Wyndham City Center Hotel in Springfield.

The program included remarks from the following:

- David Terrinoni LTC, AF (Retired) of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the US
- PG C. Bruce Pickette
- PPG and President of the SAR Foundation Joe Dooley

- Elle Hohmeier, Illinois CAR State President—“Her Story”
- Program by Dr. Samuel Wheeler—“Lincoln and His Legacy”
- Awards by PG C. Bruce Pickette and VPG Toby Chamberlain. We were pleased that Bill and Jean Hammitt attended when Bill received the highest ILSSAR Award—The Patriot Medal for his contributions to ILSSAR, NSSAR, the GJB SAR Chapter, and the communities of Bloomington-Normal during his 34 years as a member of the SAR. His Revolutionary Ancestors are Benjamin Hammitt and William Hamilton. This award and recognition was well deserved.
- Other awards were presented to members from Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin societies.

October 29

On Saturday morning, October 29 the Annual Great Lakes District meeting was held with 30 SAR attendees. The agenda included:

- Approval of the October 30, 2021 minutes of the Madison, Wisconsin meeting.
- Reports from the three state presidents—Richard Ruedin (Illinois), Mickey McGuire (Michigan), and Sam Keith (Wisconsin). They reported on their activities and membership. Illinois has 15 chapters and 1,080 members, Michigan has 14 chapters and 658 members, and Wisconsin has 5 chapters and 209 members. Each state has similar challenges namely, recruiting and maintaining active memberships and attendance at meetings following Covid 19.
- PG Pickette in his report indicated that NSSAR has a new Executive Director as of that week, Todd Bale, that has experience working with non-profit groups. After an eight-year hiatus, NSSAR is looking at raising dues, possibly by \$5.00/year. The next Congress will be held in Orlando, Florida. The SAR Foundation Museum Project is projected to cost \$15 million with \$1.5 million in cash with another \$500,000 in pledges. He also reported that improvements are being made to NSSAR computers and databases to make them more user friendly and compatible within the total system.

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GJB SAR Members Honored at ILSSAR BOM Awards Banquet and Meeting

December 9-10, 2022

Submitted by Gordon Bidner

ILSSAR held a BOM awards banquet on Friday, December 9 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL. There were 22 attendees that included Susan and Steve Kern, Ray Owens, Jay Cummins and J. Gordon Bidner. This was Jay Cummins first ILSSAR meeting, and he will receive an ILSSAR Rosette.

Awards received:

- The ILSSAR Flag Award Certificate for 2022.
- Steve Kern, Lance McCormick and Ray Owens received the 2022 ILSSAR Good Citizenship Certificate and Medal.
- Previously Bill Hammitt received the ILSSAR Patriot Award.

On Saturday, December 10, the ILSSAR held their BOM meeting at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield. GJB SAR attendees were Ray Owens, Steve Kern and J. Gordon Bidner. This meeting started at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 11:45 a.m.

Items covered:

- Nineteen SAR members were in attendance (four first-time attendees from Zeally Moss, Fox Valley, Springfield and Kiswaukee SAR Chapters). Eight of the 15 ILSSAR Chapters had representatives in attendance.

- ILSSAR has 1,085 members and 22 pending applications.
- ILSSAR checking account balance is \$8,933.58. Investment balance is \$27,183.75 (5/3 Bank) and \$328,029.55 (TIAA).
- Audit of ILSSAR Treasurers books will be completed by the February 2023 meeting.
- Drew Robinson will continue as Secretary/Treasurer, with a determination of possibly separating these duties after the audit. The audit involves the treasurer's books of previous Treasurer Lee Braden.
- The 2022-23 budget has been submitted by Drew Robinson and includes \$1,500 donations of \$500 each for the three Veteran Homes in Illinois—Danville, Quincy and Anna.
- Trustee Tom Ashby reported on NSSAR activities and the push for donations for the NSSAR Museum in Louisville.
- Discussion of ILSSAR Committee chairs.
- Motion made and passed to waive ILSSAR dues for all members 18 years of age and younger (there are presently 31 members in this category).
- Motion made and passed to make Bill White and Ed Proctor Emeritus Members (dues waived

for NSSAR/ILSSAR/GJB SAR dues in 2023 and beyond).

- Tentative dates and locations for 2023 ILSSAR BOM Meetings announced (specific meeting venues/locations TBD):
 - ♦ **February 10-11** at VFW in Springfield (a virtual and in-person meeting).
 - ♦ **May 12-13** in Bloomington. Dates might be changed due to graduations.
 - ♦ **August 11-12** in Effingham.
 - ♦ **November 10-11** in Peoria.
- Need an ILSSAR Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Historian officers.
- President Ruedin will be sending out dates for the various youth contests and History Teacher programs.
- Considerable discussion regarding programming for future ILSSAR BOM meetings (training, fellowship, business, etc.).
- Mike Campagnolo talked about ILSSAR Grave Markings and had a handout for guidelines. Toby Chamberlain, encouraged Chapters to submit requests for support from the NSSAR George Washington Committee.
- I think Pres. Ruedin will be sending out to the ILSSAR Chapter Presidents the document that Steve Kern prepared for our Chapter regarding Duties and Responsibilities of Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs.
- The ILSSAR President and Senior Vice President want to reach more members with greater attendance at the future BOM meetings.

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- Edmon McKinley of Alabama reported on the GW Fund—the endowment is \$55 million with only the interest being used by the GW Distribution Committee—and reported the market hasn’t been very friendly of late!!
- The uncontested NSSAR officers positions for 2023-24 was approved, as well as a vote on the one contested office of the SAR Foundation Board, Jeff Thomas of Virginia and Sam Powell of North Carolina. The vote was 23-3 in favor of Powell.
- David Van Hoof, former Michigan State SAR President, was elected as the 2023-24 Great Lakes VPG. In his comments he indicated that he has put together a Strategic Planning Committee consisting of the three state presidents, Toby Chamberlain and Van Hoof serving as ex officio.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.



L to R: Steve Kern, Gordon Bidner, Jean Hammitt, Bill Hammitt, Ray Owens.

The General Joseph Bartholomew SAR Chapter had the following in attendance; Ray Owens (ILSSAR and GJB SAR Chapter Chaplain), Steve Kern (Central Region ILSSAR VP and GJB SAR member and committee chair) and his wife Susan, Bill and Jean Hammitt (Bill is the GJB SAR Genealogist), and J. Gordon Bidner (GJB SAR President, past ILSSAR President, and Great Lakes VPG). ★

- Encouraged ILSSAR Chapters to have a committee for the 250th anniversary program for 2026. As you are aware, a 250th Flag has been developed for this event.
- There were two ILSSAR Chapter reports submitted from Long Knives and GGRC. I was not aware that chapter reports were asked for, thinking that our GJB SAR Newsletter submitted on October 10, 2022 would suffice. ★



President Richard Ruedin awarded Ray Owens with the ILSSAR Good Citizenship Certificate and Medal for 2022.



Steve Kern receives the ILSSAR Good Citizenship Certificate and Medal for 2022 from President Ruedin.

Lance McCormick was also honored but not in attendance.

Iroquois County DAR-SAR Citizenship Awards Presented

The Iroquois County DAR-SAR Citizenship awards were presented on Friday, December 9, 2022 at the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gilman. The GJB SAR Chapter was represented by Albert Day and Robert Flesher. They presented SAR Good Citizenship

Certificates, pins and a pocket copy of the US Constitution to the following students:

Ethan Huse, Christ Lutheran High School

Paiton Morgan Lareau, Donovan High School

Owen Halpin, Milford High School

Brett Walder, Cissna Park High School

Kylie Smith, Central High School

Timothy Anderson, Watseka High School

Riley Klump, Iroquois West High School

Special thanks to Al and Robert for filling in for Bill White during his illness. From the beginning of this cooperative effort with Joanne Clauss and the Watseka DAR, Bill has served as the GJB SAR Representative and Presenter. ★

2023 Programs/Events

Jan 18 • The General's Newsletter

Feb. 8 • 6:00 pm • Location TBD

PROGRAM: "The 1824 Hijacked Election of the President" by Dan Leifel

HOST: Jay Cummins

Feb. 10-11 • ILSSAR BOM Meeting, VFW 10302, 3281 Northfield Dr, Springfield

March 1 • Deadline for GJB Outstanding Good Citizenship/Scholarship Applications (for McLean and Woodford County HS Students)

March 2-4 • NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY

March 8 • 6:00 pm • Location TBD

PROGRAM: "Derick Amerman: From Private to Captain" by Rob Jones; GJB SAR Eagle Scout Presentation by Steve Kern to John William Bruemmer

HOST: Lance McCormick

April 6 • 11:30 am • 24th Annual GJB SAR Outstanding Good Citizenship/Scholarship Luncheon, Bloomington CC

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Terri Goss Kinzy, President, Illinois State University

HOST: Gordon Bidner

April 17 • 7:00 am • Patriot's Day, Bob Evans Restaurant, IAA Drive, Bloomington

PROGRAM: "Open Discussion"

HOST: Gordon Bidner

May 5-6 • ILSSAR BOM Meeting, DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington

May 17 • The General's Newsletter

May 29 • 7:00 am • Memorial Day, Bob Evans Restaurant, IAA Drive, Bloomington

EVENT: Bloomington Parade 9:00 am

HOST: Gordon Bidner

June 14 • 7:30 am • Flag Day, Grace Church Fireside Room, 1311 W Hovey, Normal, IL.

PROGRAM: Flag Awards; "Simpkins Military History Museum" by Gary Simpkins

HOST: Steve Kern

July 4 • Independence Day

July 15 • 133rd NSSAR Congress, Orlando, FL

Aug 11-12 • ILSSAR BOM Meeting, Effingham

Sept. 15 • 1:00 pm • SAR-DAR Constitution Week and First Responders Awards Program, Grace Church Activity Center, 1311 W Hovey, Normal

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Robert Irons, Associate Professor & Chair of Accounting & Finance, Illinois Wesleyan University: "The Promise of the Preamble and the Path to Fulfillment"

HOSTS: Steve Kern, GJB SAR and LGS DAR Regent Jamie Atchison

Sept 21-23 • NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY

Sept. 22 • The General's Newsletter

Oct. 11 • 6:00 pm • Location TBD

PROGRAM: TBA; Nominate the 2024 GJB SAR Leadership Team

HOST: Ray Owens

Nov. 10 • 12 pm • Veterans Day, Location TBD

PROGRAM: TBD by Dan Leifel; Elect and Install the 2024 GJB SAR Leadership Team

HOST: Sonny Rudsinski

Nov. 10-11 • ILSSAR BOM Meeting, Peoria

Nov. 17 • The General's Newsletter

Dec. ? • 1:00 pm • The Iroquois County DAR-SAR Citizenship Program, Location TBD

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, Ray Owens, Steve Runyan

PATRIOT GRAVES: Chairs 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)

NOMINATING AND PROGRAM LEADERSHIP:

2023 Leadership Team/Board of Managers

The chapter is using the “Duties and Responsibilities of Officers and Committees” prepared by member Steve Kern to make sure everyone is engaged.

If any GJB SAR Member would like to serve on any of the committees, PLEASE let Gordon Bidner know which committee you would like to serve on.

We will be adding a SAR 250th Anniversary Committee 1776-2026. If you wish to serve on this committee or CHAIR this committee PLEASE let Gordon Bidner know.



Due to the closure of The Ozark House, we are challenged with finding a new location for some of our meetings. Scheduled meetings in the calendar on page 7 with no current location are marked as “TBD”.

We are researching the Holiday Airport Inn, Eastland Suites, and Avanti’s on Route 9. Lakeside Country Club was also considered, but it was determined that location will not work. If anyone has another location to recommend (especially for upcoming February 8 meeting), please contact Gordon Bidner as soon as possible.

We are also looking to fill the program for our October 11 meeting. Contact Gordon if you have an idea for a speaker/topic.

