



GENERAL JOSEPH BARTHOLOMEW CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
CHARTERED OCTOBER 21, 1975

June 14, 2025 Chapter Minutes & Flag Day Executive Summary

FLAG DAY CHAIR, Steve Kern, executive summary

On June 14 (Saturday) the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met to celebrate Flag Day plus the 250th birthday of the United States Army. The 8:00am meeting was held at the Grace Church Activity Center in Normal, Illinois.

Steve Kern, Chairman of the Flag Day meeting gave an opening welcome along with an introduction of the those receiving awards and being honored. After those attending recited the Pledge of Allegiance an invocation was given by President Emeritus J. Gordon Bidner with breakfast following.

After breakfast a secretary's report and finance report were given to those in attendance.

The first award given was to Robert Null II, son of Robert and Angela Null, who was the GJB Chapter Arthur and Berdena King Eagle Scout winner. Robert received a SAR Eagle Scout medal, a patch suitable for wearing on his uniform, a pocket US Constitution plus a monetary award of \$750. His Troop is #918 of the WD Boyce BSA Council. In addition, Robert recited his 500-word patriotic essay, required of the King application, which was titled Jack Jouett's Ride which was enjoyed by those attending the meeting.

William and Marlene Landstrom of Bloomington, IL were recognized as our 2025 Flag Day Award winner. Each year the GJBSAR Chapter selects a private residence in our community who proudly, properly and persistently displays the American flag. Mr. and Mrs. Landstrom were presented with an Outstanding Citizen certificate and each were presented with SAR Outstanding Citizen pins along with a pocket US Constitution.

Next, Carolyn Castellon, of the Alliance DAR Chapter in Champaign-Urbana delighted the audience with her presentation of "Flags of our Fathers" which was a display that highlighted a number of flags significant to our countries past.

After closing comments, the SAR Processional was recited and the meeting adjourned.



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Chapter Meeting Minutes:

8:00am, Grace Church, Activity Center, 1311 W. Hovey Ave., Normal, Illinois

Attendees: [27] Members and Guests:

Members: Andrew Argo, J Gordon Bidner, Bob Harshbarger, Steve Jiles, Steve Kern, Jeff Kretlow, Danny Leifel, Calvin Lunny, Rick Milner, Kevin Roberts, Sonny Rudsinski, Steve Runyan, Alan Washburn, Hadley Welsch, and David Williams.

Guests: Sandra Bidner (DAR), Susan Kern (DAR), Carol Castellon (DAR), Katie Stout (DAR), Lucinda Lawrence (DAR), Edith Lunny (DAR), Marlene Landstrom (DAR & Flag Day Award), Bill Landstoom (Flag Day Award), Robert Null II (Eagle Scout Award), Robert Null, and Angela Null.

List members dressed in uniform: **[1] – Steve Kern**

List Awards Given/Received and the recipients:

Eagle Scout Award 2024 – Robert Null

Flag Day Award 2024 – William & Marlene Landstrom

Welcome/Introductions	Steve Kern, Flag Day Chairman
Pledge of Allegiance	Kevin Roberts, GJB Member
SAR Pledge	David Williams, GJB Web Master
Invocation	J. Gordan Bidner, President Emeritus
BREAKFAST catered by Bob Evans	
Summary of key topics:	

1. Secretary's Report Rick Milner, Secretary
 - a. 11 Mar 2025 Meeting Minutes Summary
 - b. Current membership status:

	14 Jun 2025	11 Mar 2025
Active	57 (+1)	56
Applicants	5 (+2)	3
Associate	1	1
Emeritus	4	4
Honorary	1	1
Military	1	1
At Large	1	1
Total	70 (+3)	67

2. Treasurer Report & Financial Investments Report Steve Kern, Chairman, Finance Committee



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- a. Checking Account is in the positive
 - b. Money Market/Total Stock Market Index Equity Mutual Fund reported
3. Liberty Tree Planting Dale Simpson, Finance Committee

GJBSAR purchased a Princeton Elm (same species as the original Liberty Tree). Normal Parks and Rec planted the tree in a agreed location near Constitution Trail near Connie Link Amphitheater in Normal, IL. The photo shoot originally planned for today has been delayed due to wet conditions and other logistics.

4. Recitation of Patriotic Theme, "Jack Jouett's Ride" Robert Null, Eagle Scout Award Winner

"Robert grew up reading the children's book "Jack Jouett's Ride", because his father was from Virginia, and it was a story he was taught as a youth. Robert was inspired to write his Patriotic piece about Jack Jouett because he had read the story so many times as a youth.

Jack Jouett's ride in Virginia is not as well-known because it was overshadowed by the popular poem "Paul Revere's Ride" made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

"Jack Jouett's Ride" is a children's book written and illustrated by Gail E. Haley, published in 1973. It tells the story of Jack Jouett, a real-life figure who rode to warn Thomas Jefferson and other Virginia legislators of the approach of British troops during the American Revolution.

Note: Perhaps we could add this title to the GJBSAR website recommended reading list."

--Dale Simson

5. Eagle Scout GJB Award Presentation Steve Kern, Past Chairman, Eagle Scout Committee
To Robert Null
6. NSSAR New Member Certificate Presentation Rick Milner, Chairman,
to Andrew Argo Membership/Mentoring Committee

Andrew is a member of the Stout's Grove Cemetery Board. They and the Danver's IL Historical Society assisted GJBSAR in the Patriot Grave marking ceremony there in 2024. In appreciation, Steve Kern presented Andrew with two (2) reproduction photos of the bronze memorial marker. Andrew will display the photos at the Historical Society's museum.

7. June 14th Flag Day Recipient Steve Kern, Chairman, Flag Day Committee
- a. Flag Day Award winner requirements (4 P's):
 - i. Private residence
 - ii. Prominently displayed
 - iii. Properly displayed



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- iv. Persistently displayed
- b. Presentation of the GRB 2024 Flag Day Certificate to William and Marlene Landstrom
- c. Comments from Award Recipient:

Marlene is a long time DAR member and supports all efforts to promote Patriotism, this includes properly displaying our flag of the United States of America every day. She and Bill are honored to be recognized for this Award. And hopes that we begin to see a resurgence of Patriotism in this Country.

- 8. PROGRAM: "Flags of Our Fathers" Carol Castellon, Alliance DAR Chapter, Champaign-Urbanna

Carol, with assistance from fellow DAR members Katie Stout and Lucinda Lawrence, talked about most of the flags in there collection before, during, and after the American Revolutionary War. The flag collection was originally displayed in 2011 as a backdrop for naturalization ceremonies at Lincoln Square in Urbana, IL.

- 9. Closing Comments Steve Kern, Chairman, Flag Day Committee
- 10. SAR Recessional Robert Harshbarger, Chairman, IT Committee
- 11. MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Milner

Secretary, Rick Milner