

Liberty Tree Award

October 20, 2022



Wayne Bequette was awarded a Meritorious Service Award and Certificate and Barb Bequette was awarded the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate. Both gave great service to the SAR this past summer when they hauled the SAR float to parades and installed braces and ropes to display copies of historical flags.

Liberty Tree Officers

2021-2022



L-R: Register-Bruce Taylor, President-Don Murphy, Vice President-Ron Hamilton, Secretary-Jim Hutcheson, and Treasurer Jim Jasperson (not pictured).

April 20, 2021

*Liberty Tree Chapter Members at Meeting
(Back together again)*



February 23 2021

George Washington Birthday Dinner

Chapter members and guests from as far north as Ronan and as far south as Hamilton gathered at the Missoula Country Club to wish our Founding Father a happy 289th birthday. Liberty Tree Chapter Secretary, Jim Hutcheson, organized and hosted the evening's event. Chapter Historian Francis Weigand entertained the attendees with three videos he had created over the past year — "The Greatness of Washington", "Concord Hymn" and "LTC's 2020 Independence Day Observance".



September 15, 2020

Pictures shown below are those of SAR State President awarding Presidential Coin of Excellence to Warren Little for delivering the SAR Float to the Ennis and Dillon Parades. Larry Mylnechuk had previously received the medal from Warren at an earlier date.



Warren presenting the medal to Warren Little at the Liberty Tree regular monthly meeting.



Warren congratulating Larry in person for his work on the project.

July 4, 2020

Fort Missoula Independence Day Celebration



(Left) Compatriots of the Liberty Tree Chapter stand at attention as the American Flag is raised to start the July 4th Celebration. (Right) The art of throwing a Tomahawk is demonstrated by a Liberty Tree Compatriot Bruce Taylor. (photos by Francis Weigand)



(Left) Compatriots stay in harmony as the singing of Revolutionary Song begins. (Right) A display of Colonial weapons and attire is displayed by Bruce Taylor. (photos by Francis Weigand)



Revolutionary War Replica weapons and the necessary equipment for a Colonial Soldier on display. (photo by Francis Weigand)



DAR members Jane Rectenwald, Louisa Richardson and two volunteers from the public reading the Declaration of Independence. One of the members signing a replica of the Declaration. (photos by Francis Weigand)



DAR member Janet Loren Regiant of the Bitterroot Chapter stands in besides the DAR information exhibit. (photo by Francis Weigand)

June 1, 2020



The Liberty Tree Chapter, through the generous donation of Warren Little (pictured), has placed the mannequin display of a Continental Soldier, complete with a replica musket, in a plexiglas case at the Fort Missoula Military Museum. Through his efforts, children and adults will now be able to fully grasp the appearance of a soldier of the American Revolution.

March 13, 2020

The Liberty Tree awarded Veterans Citations to 19 Veterans at the Missoula Manor, a Missoula Senior Living Center. Those receiving the recognition were a combination of WWII, Korea and Vietnam Wars, and those that served during peace time. The Liberty Tree Chapter has now honored 130 veterans. (Photos by Jim Hutcheson)



March 6, 2020

The Liberty Tree awarded Veterans Citations of Recognition to 4 Veterans at the Riverside, a Missoula Senior Living Center. Those receiving the recognition were a combination of, Korea and Vietnam Wars, and those that served during peace time. (Photos by Jim Hutcheson)



February 22, 2020

Liberty Tree Chapter celebrated George Washington's Birthday by having a dinner in his honor with chapter members and their guests. The celebration was the second time the young chapter has honored the life of Washington. Tate Jones, the Executive Director for the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History at Fort Missoula, gave a presentation entitled "Making Washington", which provided the attendees an insight of Washington's path from childhood through his Presidency to retirement. (Pictured below are the 23 attendees of the dinner and Tate Jones during his presentation. Not pictured Larry Mylnechuk and his wife Sandy.)



Hawthorne Patriots



On February 20th, 300 children gathered in the gymnasium of Hawthorne Elementary School in Missoula for a Patriotic Sing-a-long. Liberty Tree Chapter member, Francis Weigand was invited to attend and present a program on the Historic Flags of the American Revolution.



State of the Liberty Tree Chapter

2020

As we leave 2019 the year proved to be an interesting year for the chapter with the number of new chapter members that were inducted, and the events it was involved in. Regular chapter meetings that are held each month, except for July and August, always had a contingent of members present. The meetings were filled with lively discussions about upcoming events or, what was going on with the SAR.

The year was filled with events, which included the following:

In April, the Chapter finalized the Revolutionary War display at the Fort Missoula Museum, which included a full-sized mannequin completely dressed in a Revolutionary Uniform. Two members of the Chapter donated the uniform and mannequin. The Chapter provided other replica Revolutionary articles on display.

In May, the Chapter had their first large presentation of Veteran Recognition Citations to 29 Veterans at a Senior Living Center in Missoula.

The July 4th encampment at the Fort Missoula Military Museum proved to be very successful. Everything from the early morning raising of the American flag to Colonial games being played, poster sized reader boards, and the interactive display of what a Continental Soldier had to carry with them were all on display.

The first weekend of August the Chapter participated in the 107th Annual Creamery Picnic in Stevensville. The Chapter was able to use the Montana State SAR/DAR 125th Anniversary float and had four members, in uniform, riding the float. The reception of the crowd was overwhelming as the float made its way down the route.

October brought the annual fall picnic for the chapter, which was attended by many of the chapter members and their guests.

November was a busy month. At the Chapter meeting, it was decided that due to the increase in the number of Veterans being recognized in different facilities, the Chapter needed to have a Veterans Committee to oversee the pursuit of the Veterans in the area. All the Veterans of the chapter volunteered to be on the committee. Veteran's Day took the chapter to the Springs Senior Living center where 39 Veterans were honored in front of a crowd of approximately 200 people. This large of presentation, made the Chapter members look at the presentations themselves and how they are to be presented. Members of the Veterans Committee attended the University of Montana ROTC Awards Ceremony where they presented the Montana State Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Silver Medal Award.

To finish 2019 the Chapter awarded 15 Veterans citations at the Grizzly Peak Senior living center.

To date, including the 15 Veterans recognized on January 9, 2020, at the Auberge Senior living center, the chapter has recognized and awarded citations to 107 Veterans.

In conclusion, the Liberty Tree Chapter is trying to stay busy without trying to burn out the members. With that said, the Chapters members know they must stay the course in order to find the older Veterans who are quickly disappearing.

Remember,

The Sons of the American Revolution was instituted to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in the Continental Army, Navy, Militia and civil services of the colonies and of the Continental Congress by their acts or counsel, achieve the Independence of this great Nation.

January 9, 2020

The Liberty Tree awarded Veterans Citations of Recognition to 15 Veterans at the Auberge, a Missoula Senior Living Center. Those receiving the recognition were a combination of World War II, Korea and Vietnam Wars, and those that served during peace time.



December 17, 2019
Clayton Taylor Induction



Clayton Taylor receives a Revolutionary Wars Soliders payment of 1 schilling as he is inducted into the Liberty Tree Chapter as his father Bruce Taylor, a current Chapter member looks on.

Pictured from left to right are: President Don Murphy, Paymaster Francis Weigand, Clayton Taylor and Bruce Taylor. (Photo by Jim Hutcheson Chapter Secretary))

December 14, 2019



The Liberty Tree awarded Veterans Certificates of Recognition to 15 Veterans at a Missoula Senior Living Center. Those receiving the recognition were a combination of World War II, Korea and Vietnam Wars, and those that served during peace time. (Pictures taken by Jim Hutcheson)

November 20, 2019



ROTC Award



The Liberty Tree Chapter presented the Montana State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Silver Medal Award to Caleb Forsberg at the ROTC Award Ceremony. The Ceremony was held at the University of Montana on November 20, 2019. Pictured left to right are Larry Mylnechuk, ROTC Commander LTC Christopher Wellman, Caleb Forsberg, and TC Richardson.

(Picture taken by Jim Hutcheson)

ROTC Event Program

<p>THE ARMY SONG</p> <p>"March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free. Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory. We're the Army and proud of our name. We're the Army and proudly proclaim.</p> <p>First to fight for the right, and to build the Nation's might, and The Army Goes Rolling Along. Proud of all we have done, fighting till the battle's won, and the Army Goes Rolling Along.</p> <p>Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong. For where e'er we go, you will always know, that The Army Goes Rolling Along."</p> 	<p>GRIZZLY BATTALION U.S. ARMY RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS</p> <p>FALL 2019 AWARDS CEREMONY</p>  <p>GRIZZLY STRONG!</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019 THOMPSON AUDITORIUM, GILKEY BUILDING UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA MISSOULA, MONTANA</p>
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November 11, 2019

Veteran's Day



Members of the Liberty Tree Chapter were at The Springs Senior Living Center honoring Veteran's who were in service beginning with World War II. The event was attended by over 100 people celebrating Veteran's Day. At present the Chapter has awarded 73 Veterans' Certificates to the men and women who have served their country.

(Picture provided by the staff of The Springs)

August 3, 2019

Stevensville Creamery Picnic Parade





Liberty Tree Chapter members Francis Weigand, TC Richardson, Wayne Bequette and Don Murphy are on board the Montana SAR/DAR 125th Anniversary Float during the 107th Annual Creamery Picnic Parade held in Stevensville, Montana. As you can tell by the pictures, the members were having a great time interacting with the crowd during the parade.

(Photos taken by Michael Murphy and Kristin Asa.)

July 4, 2019

Fort Missoula Independence Day Celebration



Compatriots of the Liberty Tree Chapter stand at attention as the American Flag is raised to start the July 4th Celebration.



Left: Flip Wilson playing Back to Boston with one of many trying to win a Colonial game. Right: Francis Weigand showing what a Colonial Soldier carried with him during the Revolutionary War.

(Jim Hutcheson photos)



(Photos by Terry J Cyr Photography)

During 4 July Celebration, the newest member was inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution, Liberty Tree Chapter. Douglas Little is shown being inducted by Liberty Tree President Don Murphy. Douglas' father Warren is shown proudly pinning the SAR Rosette on his son's lapel.

May 6, 2019



The Liberty Tree Chapter presented War Service Recognition Certificates to 29 Veterans that participated in World War II, Korea, Vietnam or the Cold War conflicts. The presentations were made at a local senior living center, with over 60 people attending the ceremony. It should be noted that the Veterans that were honored were very appreciative of being recognized and not forgotten. The oldest veteran attending was 101 years old. (As requested, due to privacy issues no pictures of the recipients were taken. Pictured left to right are: Don Murphy, Wayne Bequette, TC Richardson, Jim Hutcheson, Francis Weigand and Ron Hamilton.)

April 16, 2019



The Liberty Tree Chapter installed a Revolutionary War display at Fort Missoula Military Museum. The display incorporates some facts of the Revolutionary War, from the battle of Lexington - Concord, to the final battle at Yorktown. The Declaration of Independence is displayed as well as replicas, which included currency, signal whistle, wooden dice and a flintlock pistol. The mannequin and uniform were donated by three different members of the chapter.

State of the Liberty Tree Chapter

January 15, 2019

With the addition of nine new members, the Liberty Tree Chapter has grown over the last year to 32 paid members, with eight more prospective members in the wings. The attendance at the chapter meetings has grown to where there are at least 10 members present at each meeting, and that number appears to be increasing. The chapter has been active over the past year with the Color Guard appearing in twelve different events including: Military Service Medals/Certificate presentations, DAR Conference Color Guard, Independence Day at Fort Missoula, Western Campaign of the Revolutionary War at Fort Missoula during October, and George Rogers Clark Day at Fort Missoula.

Our Chapter presented nine Military Service Medals and Certificates to Veterans from World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War during the year to those living in assisted living centers, as well as to those still living in their homes.

The Chapter presented the SAR's highest Service Medal to Jane Rectenwald, a member of the Daughters of American Revolution in appreciation for her assistance with helping the chapter when it was in its' infancy. She has offered continuing support of the chapter during its evolution.

During 2018 members of the Chapter made their first trip into the school system by providing a presentation about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, which was well received by the students.

The Chapter participated in the Fourth of July Celebration at Fort Missoula by having replica Colonial artifacts at various tables, firing of a black powder rifle, playing colonial games, and the reading aloud of the Declaration of Independence.

In October, the Color Guard was invited back to Fort Missoula where the Museum Curator presented a narrative of what was taking place in the Ohio and Pennsylvania areas during the Revolutionary War. At the end of the presentation the members of the Color Guard spoke about the Sons of the American Revolution and who their ancestors were during the war.

Liberty Tree did have some fun during the year as shown by the number of members that showed up at the first annual Washington Birthday Dinner, which also included a History Professor from the University of Montana, who spoke on "The Genius of George Washington". A few months later the chapter celebrated the end of summer with the inaugural fall picnic, where fried chicken was in abundance and the members and their guests engaged in a variety of stories.

A look ahead to 2019 shows the addition of new members to the chapter, different venues already being planned that will include placing a Revolutionary era exhibit at the Fort Missoula Museum, finding and honoring veterans of foreign wars, and a Fourth of July event, just to name a few.

The Liberty Tree Chapter is proud of what it has accomplished in three short years due to the commitment of all the chapter members. With members encompassing the area from Polson to Hamilton, and Seeley Lake to Deer Lodge, they are making the trips to support the foundations of the Sons of the American Revolution through the meetings and functions of the Liberty Tree Chapter. With our Chapter's 2019 membership renewal rate of 100%, our members have already voted their approval of our progress.

November 14, 2018



The Liberty Tree Chapter presented the Montana State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Silver Medal Award to Christopher Blaser at the ROTC Award Ceremony. The Ceremony was held at the University of Montana on November 14, 2018. Pictured from left to right are Liberty Tree Chaplain T C Richardson, Christopher Blaser, and Liberty Tree President Don Murphy.

November 12, 2018

Veterans Day



Veterans Day was a day to honor the veterans of our country. Visiting a local rest home, the SAR members paid tribute to the veterans who served our country in the World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars by giving them framed commemorative certificates to thank them for their service. *(Photos by Jim Hutcheson)*

October 16, 2018



DAR member Jane Rectenwald was presented with the SAR Daughters of Liberty Medal and Certificate. The award is the highest tribute that can be made to a DAR member. The award was in recognition of her past years of service to the Liberty Tree Chapter. Pictured Left to Right are: T C Richardson, Francis Weigand and Jane Rectenwald. *(Photo by Jim Hutcheson)*

September 30, 2018

Fort Missoula Western Campaigns in the Revolution Event



The Liberty Tree Chapter provided a Color Guard, and Sons of the American Revolution information for the Western Campaigns in the Revolution event at Fort Missoula. Pictured from left to right are: Francis Weigand, Chapter Secretary; Don Murphy, Chapter President, and T C Richardson, Chapter Chaplain.

Photo by Jim Hutcheson

September 29, 2018

Picnic Time



Liberty Tree Chapter held their first annual Fall Event which included a picnic at Larry's who is a chapter member and State SAR President. The food was great and so was the social conversations of the members that attended.

September 27, 2018



On September 27, 2018, Liberty Tree Chapter presented WWII Military Service Award to Staff Sgt. Kenneth Gardner who served in the US Army Pacific Theater. Sgt. Gardner arrived in Pearl Harbor shortly after the surprise attack on December 7, 1941. Pictured from left to right are Liberty Tree Chaplain, T C Richardson; Don Murphy, Liberty Tree President; Sgt. Gardner, and Liberty Tree Secretary Francis Weigand.

September 25, 2018



On September 25, 2018, Liberty Tree Chapter presented WWII Military Service Award to Captain Robert W. (Bob) Schottelkorb who served with the US Army Air Corps in the European Theater flying 36 missions in a B-24 Bomber. Pictured from left to right are Don Murphy, Liberty Tree President; Liberty Tree Secretary Francis Weigand; Captain Schottelkorb; Liberty Tree Chaplain, T C Richardson, and Liberty Tree Vice President Ron Hamilton.

September 18, 2018
Liberty Tree Chapter Meeting



Liberty Chapter held it's monthly meeting at the Missoula Country Club with the largest number of members, and two prospective members. In all 19 people attended the meeting that included the induction of two new members into the SAR, John Troxel Hamilton and Robert Franklin Green.

July 4, 2018

Fort Missoula Independence Day Celebration



The Liberty Tree Chapter established an encampment at Fort Missoula where Warren Little (pictured with long frock and bayoneted Charleville rifle) was inducted into the SAR. Several replica Colonial items and weapons were available for public viewing. The Declaration of Independence was read twice during the celebration to the many people who visited the Colonial era.

DAR Annual Meeting Color Guard

April 27 & 28, 2018



The Liberty Tree Chapter Color Guard presented the Colors at the Daughters of American Revolution Annual Meeting that was held in Missoula. Pictured Left to Right: Francis Weigand, T C Richardson & Don Murphy.

March 8, 2018



New Liberty Tree member Robert Green had the pleasure of President General Larry Guzy presenting him with his SAR membership certificate at dinner in Missoula, MT. President General Guzy was visiting Montana and members from Chapters across the state were in attendance.

February 28, 2018



The Liberty Tree Chapter presented the Montana State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Silver Medal Award at the ROTC Award Ceremony. The Ceremony was held at the University of Montana on February 28, 2018. State Secretary and Liberty Tree Secretary Francis Weigand and Liberty Tree Chaplain TC Richardson are pictured with the recipient.

February 22, 2018 Washington's Birthday



On February 22, 2018, the Liberty Tree Chapter celebrated Washington's Birthday by hosting a dinner at the Missoula Country Club.

January 25, 2018



On January 25, 2018, Liberty Tree Chapter presented WWII Military Service Award to Ty Robinson who served in the US Navy as a Lieutenant on Admiral Nimitz's staff in the Pacific Theater. The Award and Medal were presented to Ty on his 102nd birthday. (Pictured from left to right are Francis Weigand Liberty Tree Secretary, T C Richardson Liberty Tree Chaplain, Ty Robinson and James Powell, Liberty Tree Registrar.

January 16, 2018



On January 16, 2018, Liberty Tree Chapter presented WWII Military Service Award to Jack Stevenson who served with the US Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1946 in the Pacific and European Theaters. Pictured from left to right are Jack Stevenson, Liberty Tree Vice President, and Francis Weigand, Liberty Tree Secretary.

October 17, 2017



World War II Military Service Award was presented to Ron (Rondo) Scharfe. Rondo was a survivor of the assault on Iwo Jima. Rondo also spoke of serving in the Chicago Fire Department until he retired. Pictured from Left to Right are: Don Murphy - Chapter President, Ron Scharfe, Francis Weigand – Chapter Secretary, and State SAR President Larry Mylnechuk.

October 15, 2017

Ft Missoula Battle of Saratoga Commemoration



Battle of Saratoga event held at Fort Missoula. Members participated in the event by having replica artifacts and weapons of the Revolutionary War. The Battle of Saratoga ended on October 7, 1777

Pictured Left to Right are: Flip Jennings, James Powell and Don Murphy.



On October 8, 2017, Liberty Tree Chapter presented WWII award to 95 year old Vince Werner. Werner was a B-17 navigator who flew over 50 missions over Germany in the war. Pictured are Vince, his daughter and Chapter Member and State President Larry Mylnechuk



Liberty Tree Chapter marching in the 105th Celebration of the Creamery Picnic Parade in Stevensville, Montana. Those participating were: James Powell, T.C. Richardson, Don Murphy, Larry Mylnechuk and Francis Weigand from the Liberty Tree Chapter and Steve Armstrong from the Glacier Chapter.



4th of July Celebration at Fort Missoula

Liberty Tree Compatriots dressed in Revolutionary era clothing read the Declaration of Independence twice during the day to crowds that were attending the 4th celebration. A replica encampment and many replica colonial artifacts were on display where people could ask questions and be informed of what life was like during that time period. July 4, 2017



World War II Commemorative Certificate & Medal presented to Mrs. Frank (Bobbi) McCauly. Frank, who recently passed away, was an American Ace Pilot flying 46 missions in the European theater and was credited with 5 ½ planes shot down. Frank was awarded several medals for his outstanding heroism. 06/22/17



World War II Commemorative Certificate & Medal presented to Raymond (Si) Gonzalez. Raymond , a carrier pilot aboard the USS Yorktown, flew 49 combat missions and was credited with shooting down 3 1/2 enemy planes. Raymond was awarded several medals for his outstanding heroism. 06/22/17



March 29, 2017

2017 Silver Medal Presentation to the top University of Montana Graduating ROTC Student



SAR Certificate Award presented to Warm Springs Production of the TV Series “Legends and Lies of the American Revolution”. Pictured is DAR Jane Rectenwald, Jason Broome (Executive Producer), Francis Weigand, Sam Dolan(Supervising Producer) , and Larry Mylnechuk. 12/13/16



DAR Jane Rectenwald awarded the Martha Washington Medal by Liberty Tree President Larry Mylnechuk, for her help in establishing the Liberty Tree Chapter in Missoula. 11/22/2016



New American Citizen from Ghana, with her son, and Francis Weigand the Secretary of the Liberty Tree Chapter. The Naturalization Ceremony took place at the U.S. District Courthouse in Missoula, Montana on November 19,2016.



SAR Liberty Tree Chapter Induction of
Doolittle Raider Sgt. David Thatcher on June 5, 2016