



# THE WASHINGTON CHAPTER CHRONICLE

KANSAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
VOLUME III No. 4 NOVEMBER 2009

## MEDAL FOR HEROISM PRESENTATION

President Douglas Brady presented Odies Horner the Medal for Heroism at our September 12th meeting for saving 3 lives over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend. He was assisted in his efforts by De Lorean D. King and Josh Kennedy who received the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.



President Douglas Brady presents from right to left to Odies Horner the Medal for Heroism, De Lorean D. King and Josh Kennedy the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

## A RANSOMED YANKEE

Our October 10<sup>th</sup> program was by Frank Sisson, West Point graduate of the Class of '51, veteran of World War II, Korean and Vietnam Air Force service, student of history and a good communicator. His Power Point presentation was based upon his fascinating book entitled, "A Ransomed Yankee." It is about an ancestor of his who was skipper of a New England Whaler during the Civil War. Frank spent thirty years researching the story and published his book this past year. It is a jaw-dropper! Copies of his book were for sale if anyone wanted to buy them.



Frank Sisson's presentation A Ransomed Yankee

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The speaker for our next meeting is: Mr. David Dibble. He will present a Power Point Program on his experiences while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. This Luncheon Meeting will be held at Hometown Buffet, 6820 West Central on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM. Cost for the buffet meal will be \$8.00, this includes tax and tip. Let's show our support for soldiers serving in harms way.

Our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will support Law Enforcement. On January 9, 2010 we will hold an Election of Officers for 2010-2012. Our George Washington Birthday Dinner will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Scottish Rite Temple in Wichita. This will support the JROTC programs in Wichita and Derby.

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The Washington Chapter Chronicle is published quarterly: February, May, August and November.

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### NEW COORDINATING AGENCY



Entrance to Veteran's Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park of Wichita, a function of your Washington Chapter, has been designated by the City of Wichita to act as the planning and coordinating agency for additional veterans' memorials to be placed in Veterans' Memorial Park. This was approved by a unanimous vote of the City Council on August 21, 2009.

### RESTORATION OF CIVIL WAR GRAVES IN HIGHLAND CEMETERY PROCEEDING

In view of the upcoming Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011, Operation Ensign has collaborated with the James P. Coyne Post No. 1 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil

War (SUVCW) to restore the grave markers of Civil War graves in the Eggleston Post No. 244 GAR Section of Highland Cemetery so that they are in presentable condition for the event. Volunteer workers from the SUVCW have worked on Saturdays during the summer of 2009 to clean and reset the tombstones of deceased veterans as needed. Under the direction of Philip Blake, Operation Ensign Project Manager, and SAR Chapter President Douglas Brady, the volunteer work crews have cleaned the surfaces of more than two dozen stones and reset fourteen that had subsided or tilted during the past century.

The Eggleston Section, otherwise known as Section 2 of the cemetery, consists of graves of some 53 Civil War veterans and numerous family members. Many of the stones were unreadable with accumulated moss and corrosion. The photograph below illustrates a newly cleaned stone.



Newly cleaned stone of Allen Crubb

The second photo depicts the home-made chain hoisting

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device built by the SUVCW being used to extract a stone from the soil of the cemetery.



Home-made chain hoisting device

In addition to cleaning and resetting of stones, nine additional stones that were damaged beyond repair are being replaced with new stones furnished by the Federal Government and obtained via the Disabled American Veterans. It is anticipated that those new markers will not be available until early spring of 2010, and will be installed during the spring and summer of next year.

Highland Cemetery, now owned by the City of Wichita, is located at 1001 N Hillside Ave, across from Maple Grove Cemetery, the site of the Garfield Post No. 25 GAR Civil War Memorial. Extensive research by Operation Ensign was necessary to construct accurate records of burials. Updated records of the Eggleston Section will be provided to the Park Department of the City as well as the Wichita State University archives.