



Wilmington Ladies Tea Walk Chapter, NSDAR

To the Wilmington Ladies Tea Walk Chapter, NSDAR Board of Directors
Report from Carolyn McCormick, Office of the Vice Regent
January 26, 2022

Madame Regent,

Our Annual Christmas Tea was a beautiful event attended by special guests Vice-President General Carole Weiss, Judy Caison, District VII President, Angie Cline, Honorary State CAR President, and our Guest speaker Dr. Kimberly Sherman. Our Colonial theme was evident in our decorations as well as the wreath in our silent auction items. Special thank you to Ann Moore, Sherri Cane, and Gina Thompson for their work on developing the beautiful invitations and programs. The silent auction items were donated by our Regent and Vice Regent. Special thank you to the Tea Planning committee this year who made the crafts for Tea: Autumn Leonard, Jenn Sturm, Amy Emerson, Megan Robertson, and prospective member, Jennifer Cryderman.

Dr. Kimberly Sherman was our guest speaker and shared some of her research and interesting historical facts about women in North Carolina during the American Revolution. One area of Dr. Sherman's research is on the Highland Scots of the Cape Fear, specifically following the life of Flora MacDonald. In light of her research, the chapter gifted her with a Scottish tea cup and saucer set of the McDonald family crest and a beautiful monogrammed tea towel to accompany the set. Our Chapter presented Dr. Sherman with a Women in American History Certificate.

Continuing with our goals of America 250, and festivities of the season, one wooden ornament was created for each Patriot in our chapter. The ornaments were then hung in honor on a "Patriot Tree" on display during the Christmas Tea. As we gain new members in our Chapter, ornaments will be made for the new member's Patriots. The following Portraits of a Patriot have been completed and are ready for distribution for the month of February: John Chamberlain, Jacob Shrimp, Samuel Merrill and Melchior Derr. The work of compiling the Gravesite spreadsheet of our chapter member Patriots is ongoing and will need chapter input for accuracy.

For the past two years this Wreaths Across America has either been canceled or scaled down to a simple distribution of wreaths by small volunteer groups. Finally returning to the distinctive event it is known as, Wreath Day was held as an in-person event on December 18th at the Wilmington National Cemetery. The attendance this year was a reminder of how important Wreath Day is to our community with the largest attendance ever, nearly 1300 people in attendance. The community purchased 5000 wreaths (22 of them by WLTW) to be laid on Veteran's graves and this meant there was almost one wreath for every gravesite at the cemetery. Mayor Saffo spoke, City Council members and County Commissioners were in attendance and military members remarked of dedication, service to this nation and the loss of comrades. Laney High School Air Force JROTC performed Color Guard. The cadets from the Wilmington and South Port Civil Air Patrol (CAP) chapters were hardworking and tirelessly unloaded wreaths from boxes and stacked them for distribution prior to the ceremony. WLTW volunteers were: Susan Blackburn, Autumn Linda Emmerich and Carolyn McCormick. We served coffee service to the early morning volunteers.

The overall event held more dignity this year because there was a clear message of laying the wreaths with meaning, honor and respect for the Veterans. Our Chapter members reiterated this message

with specific instructions for the community participating to lay wreaths respectfully and with honor. It was accomplished with grace and we were all honored to participate in this veterans and service to our community on behalf of DAR.

Attending this event always benefits great networking opportunities. I was able to meet Mr. Robert Doleman, Secretary from the New Hanover County Veterans Council, and Lieutenant Commander Farkas from the Wilmington Civil Air Patrol. I will pass along the contact information from these gentlemen to the Regent.

Our Chapter sent in the recommendation for Outstanding Community Service Award for the Honor Flight of Cape Fear/Ruth Ravix Smith. We are patiently await the response, and still hopeful our Chapter may present the award on April 30th at the Honor Flight.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn McCormick, Vice Regent