

Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution

April 2020

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The CyberSunflower is a monthly publication of the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Please submit any articles or news ideas no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and inclusion is based on space and relevance. KSDAR maintains editorial control over all content. Contact Kimberly Patrick or Susan Metzger for any questions.

# A Message from the State Regent

Dear Kansas Daughters,

I hope this issue of the CyberSunflower finds you well and healthy. While our Kansas communities make plans to systematically open businesses, the COVID-19 pandemic still is having significant impacts to future events. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the President General announced the decision to cancel an inperson Continental Congress, the annual convention of the National Society. Instead, Continental Congress will be presented online, opening the opportunity for all members to experience the events. Please refer to the President General's message included in its entirety in this issue of the CyberSunflower.

Since we did not have the opportunity to celebrate in person, for the past month we have been recognizing several chapters and members virtually via Facebook. Please allow me to brag on the following chapters and members:

- Julie Crawford, Mary Draper Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> place American Heritage Contest-Music
- General Edward Hand Chapter Outstanding Report, Women's Suffrage
- Karen Schneck Kansas Outstanding Junior
- Nathan Edson Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Miscellaneous, Commemorative Events
- Arthur Barrett Chapter Outstanding Report, 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mayflower
- Pam Michaels, Quivira Crossing Chapter Outstanding State DAR Member, Honoring and Thanking Vietnam Veterans

This is just a sample of the amazing accomplishments of our KSDAR members and chapters. I look forward to the day when I can congratulate all of our winners and celebrate your successes non-virtual Wishing you wellness and health,

Welcome Home!

Susan Metzger

# Conducting the 129th Continental Congress

#### May 1, 2020

#### A message from President General Denise Doring VanBuren:

Like you, I have been moved to tears by the pandemic and its impact on our nation – and the generous response of our members to their neighbors. Like you, I have looked forward to our time together at DAR Continental Congress in order to heal and begin anew. But also like you, I have sadly come to realize that health concerns, travel complications and municipal restrictions have combined to make it impossible to stage our traditional conference at our beautiful headquarters in the heart of Washington, D.C. I am deeply sorry for this sad announcement – it is surely not the decision for which I have hoped for many long weeks.

However, I am determined that we will not let the virus stop us from recognizing the outstanding work of our membership over the past year and that we will conduct the business of the Continental Congress using the latest in technology in order to rise above this national emergency.

By an official electronic vote this week, the National Board of Management approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee that for the first time in the history of the National Society, **Continental Congress will be presented as an online virtual experience via the DAR Members' Website**. I am grateful to the members of our National Board of Management for their support in this difficult decision, which placed the health and safety of our members as the highest priority of our Society.

Please know that much research and deliberation went into the decision of how to address Continental Congress, including remaining optimistic as long as was responsibly possible; canceling the event outright; postponing the event to a later date; or utilizing technology to conduct a virtual Congress. The final choice ultimately became the only viable option because rescheduling commitments at both our official hotel and DAR Constitution Hall (in addition to restoration construction challenges) ruled out postponement.

While we will be unable to replicate the true Continental Congress experience, plans are underway to present the pertinent business and reports of the Society, as well as provide other engaging content online during the week of June 24-28, 2020. We encourage you to plan to connect with us and other members virtually during that week. Details will be developed and shared in the weeks ahead. I promise you that we will make it as impactful as possible.

#### Authority to Conduct Official Business Online

It is necessary for us to follow the laws of the District of Columbia, the Bylaws of the National Society and parliamentary authority in order to conduct the official business of the 129th Continental Congress in an online manner. The D.C. Code states, "An emergency exists for purposes of this section if a quorum of the directors cannot readily be assembled because of some catastrophic event." It also states, "Corporate action taken in good faith during an emergency to further the ordinary affairs of the nonprofit corporation binds the corporation." Although the National Society's Bylaws do not authorize electronic meetings, they do give the National Board of Management "all power and authority over the affairs of the National Society during the interim between the meetings of the National Society."

#### **Electronic Voting Policy**

Voting for the election of seven Vice Presidents General and one Honorary Vice President General, as well as other pertinent voting matters, will be conducted through an independent electronic voting platform. Please note that, per the National Bylaws, only those members who were identified as voting delegates on the Chapter Credentials Report postmarked no later than April 15 will be eligible to vote electronically. Further instructions for electronic voting will be forthcoming to them.

#### **Refund Policy**

At my request, the National Board of Management voted to **waive all registration fees for the online 129th Continental Congress**. Chapter checks sent for payment of their members' Congress pre-registration will be voided and shredded; it will be the responsibility of the chapter to refund members accordingly. As for other refunds:

- The National Society has been in communication with the official DAR conference hotel, the Grand Hyatt, and has
  come to an agreement to cancel the contracted DAR block of hotel rooms and event spaces at no financial burden
  on the National Society or members. Those members who have room reservations in the DAR block at the Grand
  Hyatt do not need to take any action, the Hyatt will be canceling all hotel room reservations in the DAR
  Continental Congress block and confirmation notifications will be sent to those individuals. Those with room
  reservations outside of the DAR block will need to cancel their reservation on their own. There will be no fees
  associated with cancellation of any of the rooms.
- Those members who have lodging reservations at hotels that are not the Grand Hyatt, will be responsible for coordinating their own cancellations.
- Members will be responsible for coordinating any alterations or cancellations for their personal travel arrangements.
- Members who purchased tickets to social events at Continental Congress should reach out to the respective event contact to inquire about the refund policy.
- Remaining questions related to National Society refunds for Continental Congress may be emailed to congress@dar.org.

#### **Historic Opportunity**

Only once has the National Society been forced to cancel Congress, when World War II preempted the 54th Continental Congress in 1945. Just as then, we accept a patriotic duty, but this time it involves protecting our fellow citizens and members by limiting travel and mass gathering. Unlike 1945, we now have the technology to bring people together from all over the world in a safe manner in order to conduct the official business of our Society. I am grateful for the opportunity to try to make the best of this difficult situation – and to evidence our National Society's embrace of technology in order to complete the business of Continental Congress.

I will admit that I am heartbroken to be unable to welcome you at your "House Beautiful" in June. But I know Daughters: we will rise above this challenging time to shine a light on the positive impact our members make in their communities. I look forward to sharing more details with you about plans for our virtual 129th Continental Congress, but I thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we begin to plan for an unprecedented endeavor for the National Society under challenging circumstances.

Hosting the 129th Continental Congress online will mark an historic event in the Society's long legacy – one we would have wished to never happen – but one that is necessary during this time of uncertainty. I ask you to join me and embrace this opportunity to come together virtually to celebrate the success of our Society – let's **Rise and Shine for the 129th Continental Congress Online!** 

Denise Doring VanBuren President General



# Service to America – Mask Making and Quarantine Service

Kansas Daughters are AMAZING!! DAR



has always answered the nation's call in times of need, and this is evident during this pandemic. Let's recognize the response and tireless hours that Kansas Daughters have delivered at this time of need.

Many are making Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). If you are making masks or other PPE, please take a quick break and log onto <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DARSTA2020</u> and complete the form. If you want to join with the others who have made over 250,000 masks please keep these things in mind:

- Contact: hospitals, first responders, medical offices, nursing homes, senior housing, civic organizations and individuals and ask if they are accepting donations of homemade masks.
- Some have special requirements for the masks they can use and may have patterns available for their needs. There are many options for other mask patterns: pleated-rectangle masks and fitted surgical style masks, with and without pockets for additional filters. Select one that meets the needs and your level of sewing skills.
- Use reliable sources for information as there are strange suggestions being posted.
- Many quilting stashes have been sacrificed for the good of the cause as Daughters have been creative in meeting this challenge with their usual resources not available. Fabric selections include tightly woven cotton which is readily available, bamboo fabric is antibacterial, flannel and t-shirt knits are soft. Tie options include elastic, bias tape, and cording. Filter recommendations include HIPPA filter vacuum bags or surgical wrap. Use what you can.

If you are participating in additional volunteer work, (food pantries, crisis centers, education or senior services...) please remember to log your volunteer hours directly to the Service to America Online Talley on the National Website <u>https://www.dar.org/members/dar-members-section</u> Thank you, Kansas Daughters, for answering the call!

#### Mask links:

Advanced skill/Cricut<sup>®</sup> with detailed instructions: https://jennifermaker.com/face-mask-patterns-cricut/ Easy Pleated Mask: https://www.usatoday.com/indepth/news/2020/04/04/coronavirus-face-mask-tips-howmake-fabric-instructions/2945209001/ Pleated-filter with no elastic: https://seekatesew.com/how-tosew-a-face-mask-with-filter-pocket-no-elastic/ No pleat-no elastic with filter pocket: https://homemadeonourhomestead.com/how-to-sew-areusable-face-mask-with-filter-pocket-batch-sew-medical-mask/

### Are You on Facebook?

Be the first to find out what is happening in KSDAR as well as NSDAR. Search for Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution and answer the two questions!



## Congratulations to Martha Vail Chapter

Martha Vail Chapter has experienced fantastic growth over the past couple of years and has ensured that the new members are engaged in the chapter and willing to take leadership roles with the chapter. They accomplished this by asking members to take the Members Course and asking their executive board to take the Members Course.

Because of this training the Martha Vail Chapter has been awarded two Members Course Training Awards.

The first is for having 25% or more of a chapter's members graduated from the Members Course. The second is for having 100% of a chapter's executive board having completed the Members Course and the Chapter Regent and at least one other board member graduated from the New Horizons Course.

**Great Job Martha Vail!** 



### KSDAR Outstanding Junior Karen Schneck



Congratulations are extended to the KSDAR 2020 Outstanding Junior, Karen Schneck. Karen is a member of the Captain Jesse Leavenworth Chapter and started paging when she was 19. When asked why she loves DAR, she stated, "DAR has allowed me to make an unbelievable amount of connections with people across the country. I have made many dear friends and am able to explore my interests in genealogy and other projects DAR works with."

Karen pages simply because she loves helping and being able to help meetings go smoothly. "When I page, I am also able to develop and make friends with people around my age through our shared experience and interests. The best thing DAR has given me is a meaningful connection to my ancestry. It is such an honor to be able to serve in the memory of my ancestors. "

"For other juniors interested in paging, I would say, please come give it a try! You will have so much fun getting to see another side of DAR and truly make memories that will last your life-time. Being a page helps you feel even more energized and excited about DAR and helps to connect you with outstanding and dedicated women."

# Celebrating KSDAR

During April, KSDAR celebrated our winners and highlights of the year on our KSDAR Facebook page.



# Protocol 101

Mary Frisch

#### **Guidelines for Wearing the DAR Insignia**

The insignia pin should be worn over the left breast and only by active members. The insignia and pins are worn with a 1 1/4 inch wide ribbon, which is the same as the ribbon used to create the State Regent's sash. The length of the official ribbon shall not exceed 14 inches. By ruling of the National Board of Management, a flag pin may be worn on the left lapel when wearing the DAR Insignia. No other jewelry is to be worn on the left side when wearing the insignia pin.

The insignia pin may be worn with attire appropriate for DAR occasions, which may include pants and jackets.

It should be worn only at functions of the National Society, state organizations, or chapters, or when representing the organization.

It may be worn during the dedication of a grave marker for a deceased Daughter and also at the funeral or calling hours of a Daughter. Daughters may sign the memorial book as DAR members. The DAR Insignia should not be worn on the street, in a restaurant, cocktail lounge, or other public places unless a DAR or allied function is taking place then and there.

# The Great Pause...Rise and Shine Your Way!

#### Denise Bullock

In this unprecedented time we are all striving to adjust to the temporary (ab)normal. Amidst the stay-at-home regulations, cancellation of events we look forward to all year and the separation from family and friends, our usual "busy" might be in a cycle of chaos. Recently, all Kansas regents received a call or email from a member of your KSDAR Board and it was obvious that Kansas Daughters are making the best of a tough situation.

#### **Chapters are:**

- $\ensuremath{^*}\xspace$  writing about the pandemic to preserve the history of their experience
- \*holding meetings via tele-conference
- \*escalating activities of their Sunshine Committees to check on members
- \*keeping up with their chapter newsletter
- \*coordinating Service at Home projects (masks, signs, notes, etc.)
- \*enrolling in DAR Leadership Training courses (Members, New Horizons, GEP)
  \*and MANY OTHERS!!

Some are just trying to manage day-to-day, even minute-by-minute, and guess what? **ALL OF IT IS OKAY!!** Below is an excerpt from a recent article by Julio Vincent Gambuto on <u>forge.com</u> that may resonate:

"Well, the treadmill you've been on for decades just stopped. Bam! And that feeling you have right now is the same as if you'd been thrown off your Peloton bike and onto the ground. I hope you might consider this: What happened is inexplicably incredible. It's the greatest gift ever unwrapped. Not the deaths, not the virus, but The Great Pause. It is, in a word, profound. What the crisis has given us is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see ourselves and our country in the plainest of views. At no other time, ever in our lives, have we gotten the opportunity to see what would happen if the world simply stopped. Here it is. We're in it.

From one citizen to another, I beg of you: take a deep breath, ignore the deafening noise, and think deeply about what you want to put back into your life. This is our chance to define a new version of normal, a rare and truly sacred (yes, sacred) opportunity. We care deeply about one another. That is clear. That can be seen in every supportive Facebook post, in every meal dropped off for a neighbor, in every Zoom birthday party. We are a good people. And as a good people, we want to define — on our own terms — what this country looks like in five, 10, 50 years. This is our chance to do that, the biggest one we have ever gotten. And the best one we'll ever get."

Do your best, Kansas Daughters, and know that your "right now" best is enough. Keep in touch with each other and anticipate the celebration we'll have together when the new normal returns!!





### Scripture for a Troubled Time

Retha Blecha

#### "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me." Psalm 23

How many of use learned that verse as a child? Many of our parents instilled in us the importance of learning Scripture because they wanted it stored deep in our souls for times of trouble. Everyone will eventually experience a dark valley in which they will be especially afraid. Is this time of Covid-19 and isolation our darkest valley? Even if it is, it's okay because we don't need to be afraid. Why? Because our Shepherd is close beside us. Let me share with you what the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm means to me.

#### 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd:"

A shepherd's job is to provide for and protect his flock: a sheep is totally dependent on the shepherd for all things – wisdom, guidance, protection, etc. <u>WE are God's flock.</u>

#### "I shall not want."

Under God's care we lack for nothing, all needs will be provided; this is what a good shepherd does. **23:2** "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."

A green pasture is constantly renewing, overflowing with good. Still waters are peaceful waters, for sheep will not go into a raging stream. He will not lead us astray.

#### 23:3 "He restoreth my soul:"

Previous tension and worries are dissolved. Restoration of the soul can occur when we "let go and let God."

"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." We can expect guidance as we follow the steps revealed to us by our shepherd, he leads and directs our path.

23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Even through the rough times, as we walk through what may temporarily

appear as our valley of death, we have the confidence and trust that our shepherd

is present. Knowing this will lessen fear, doubt or worry, providing comfort to our troubled mind. Shadows are caused by light. We must walk through some shadows in this life in order to walk into the sunshine of God's promise.

#### 23:5 "Though preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:"

No matter how deep the valley or dark the night, we have full confidence in the ability of the good shepherd to provide for us regardless of what we are experiencing.

#### "Though anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

Our shepherd will always provide more than enough to meet our need.

23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

This sums up our lives. Needs will be met, guidance will be provided and forgiveness through mercy are all because we are determined to depend on the good shepherd for the rest of our lives.

I was rewarded with the gift of my first Bible when I memorized this verse in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I still use this Bible and it gives me great comfort as it was given to me by my Daddy as Sunday School Superintendent. It was his favorite verse and is inscribed on he and Mom's tombstone. I receive great comfort when I recite it, both from our Heavenly Father and from my parents who formed the rock of my foundation and belief in God. Be patient my friends, God is near...

## DAR Book Club

Susan Newmann

What better time to read a good book than now! DAR launched a Book Club this year and selected two books to kick off this new program. It is a new way to celebrate Our Patriots and raise awareness of the men and women who achieved American independence. A great way to engage chapter members during social distancing is to start a chapter book club and have a discussion using one of the online meeting sites such as Zoom. The two books selected this year are *Rush: Revolution, Madness, and Benjamin Rush, the Visionary Doctor who Became a Founding Father* by Stephen Fried, and *Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in a Young America*, by Catherine Kerrison. Following are sample discussion questions for the books to guide your reading or to get you started with a chapter book club:

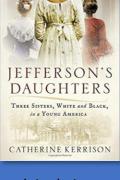
#### *Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in a Young America, by Catherine Kerrison:*

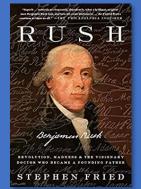
- 1. Dr. Kerrison focuses on the lives of Thomas Jefferson's daughters, while also taking a look at the position of women in the new Republic more generally. Was there anything in the book that you were surprised to learn?
- 2. Did the book help you better understand the lives of any of your own ancestors? How?
- 3. The book is based on meticulous background research in order to illuminate the aspects of the lives of Jefferson's daughters of which there are few written records, often by extrapolating from what we know about the lives of other family members or other women of the same time and social group. Are there ancestors of your own who might benefit from the same treatment? Which time and place would you need to learn about in order to do that?
- 4. Thomas Jefferson was very much the pivotal persona in the life of his family, determining much in their lives by his ideas and actions. Have there been similar persons in your family tree? In what direction did they influence other family members? How did they do that?
- 5. Dr. Kerrison used numerous different investigative methods for her book, including research in the DAR's Genealogical Research Committee (GRC) records. Are you familiar with this DAR-curated resource? Have you made any discoveries in it? Are there any research questions of your own that you could use it for?

# *Rush: Revolution, Madness, and Benjamin Rush, the Visionary Doctor Who Became a Founding Father* by Stephen Fried:

The author brings the Founding Fathers to life, painting their portraits and describing their relationships in vivid color, based on research into their writings, correspondence and memoirs.

- 1. Did you learn anything that you didn't know before? Any that you particularly with, or rooted for?
- 2. Did any of your ancestors' lives intersect with that of Dr. Rush? Did any of them live or work in the same part of the world during his lifetime? May they have interacted with Dr. Rush, and if so, when, where, and how?
- 3. The author discusses many of the events of the American Revolution from the point of view of someone intimately acquainted with all the participants, but not actively involved in the fighting himself. Did that add to or change your understanding of the events described?
- 4. Mr. Fried does not idealize Dr. Rush or other Revolutionary leaders, but presents them as fully realized, complex individuals with their likes and dislikes, friendships and animosities. Were there any characterizations that particularly intrigued you? If so, why?





# Project Patriot Assistance Needed Due to Corona Virus

#### Jan Goss

Due to the Corona Virus, some of our service members have had trouble purchasing personal items. Members of the Eisenhower Carrier Group have been at sea for almost four months with no port calls, and due to the virus, no port calls are planned in the near future. The sailors have not been able to replenish their supplies and many have run out, with the greatest needs of shampoo, deodorant, body wash and toothpaste. Any other toiletries and feminine products would also be helpful. They are requesting full size rather than travel size.

The Chaplain states that morale is low, but it greatly improves when they receive the DAR boxes. The ship is fortunate as they have had no COVID 19 cases and staying at sea is ensuring that they stay that way.

In addition to personal care items, the crew enjoys non chocolate snacks, individual mac and cheese, soups and other like items. If sending boxes, please include a letter and your or your chapter's name and return address as the ship wishes to express appreciation. The address to send care packages is:

Chaplain AJ Striffler, CHC, USN Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN 69 Unit 100236, Box 2313 FPO AE 09532





Information on what is on their wish list as well as step-by-step instructions on how to mail the packages and the necessary paperwork can be found on the members' website on the SIP tab under Project Patriot. You can go online to https://store.usps.com/store/results/military-shipping-supplies/shipping-supplies/\_/N-7685u4Z7d0v8v to order FREE shipping supplies that will be delivered to your door. Once all the paperwork is completed, you can even have your letter carrier pick the boxes up to have them shipped! Thanks for all you do to help our activeduty military!

# Wichita Advanced Learning Library

#### Julie Crawford

Many of you already know that the KSDAR Library recently moved their genealogical collection from Dodge City, Kansas to the Burns Historical Research Pavilion in the Wichita Public Library in downtown Wichita. Even though these items can only be accessed in person, the library has many other resources that you can access from your home computer.

- Ancestry Library Edition is available with a card until April 30. This was made available for home use due to libraries being closed for Covid-19. Check the library's website to see if this deadline has been extended. Normally it is available for use in the library.
- Fold3 Library Edition is always available with a card. This has military records going back to the Revolutionary War.
- Gale Genealogy Connect is available with a card.
- American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society is available in the library only.
- Become An Informed Voter and Jobs and Career Help are available online without a card.
- Foundation Directory Online is another resource that is temporarily available online while libraries are closed. It has information on grants. No card is required.
- ProQuest Coronavirus Research Database is available with a card.
- **Explora** is a search database for articles and videos available with a card.

Anyone can get a card. Non-Kansas residents have limited borrowing privileges. Some people get an E-card only, which can be obtained by calling the library at 316-261-8500 between 10am and 6pm Monday through Friday even when the library itself is temporarily closed.

For additional resources, go to www.wichitalibrary.org/Research.

### Please Welcome Home These New Kansas Daughters

Ephraim Basehor Mary Boudreaux Esther Lowrey Elizabeth Read Eunice Sterling Judith Miller Nicole Woods James Ross Brenna Howell Martha Vail

Audrey Bebermeyer

Polly Ogden Alta Edwards Katharine Neill Randolph Loving Mary Lyon Sagamore Joyce Cotter Sarah Steward Nancy Minning



# AR&P's for Purchase

Peggi Barrett

Copies of the 2018 – 2019 Annual Report & Proceedings (AR&P) are available to members for \$15, which includes mailing. Send your check made out to KSDAR State Treasurer to Janet Lake, 22603 W. 72<sup>nd</sup> St., Shawnee, KS 66227.

If you are taking the Members or New Horizons classes, this is a wonderful tool to assist you through your modules. Also, chapter vice regents should get a copy so that they have the opportunity to read and understand how KSDAR functions and gather ideas for their term as regent. Get yours before they run out!

### Reports

Reminder that chapter and state committee chair 200-word reports are due by April 20, 2020. Please send a copy to State Regent Susan Metzger and State Recording Secretary Peggi Barrett.

Don't forget: to log into the KSDAR members only website, the username is ksdar and the password is sunflower!

## **KSDAR** Digital Archives

Becky Spaulding

Part of the State Regent's project is to digitize the KSDAR AR&P's which date back to 1929 as well as other documents. VIS State Chair Becky Spaulding worked with the Executive Board to determine the best way to accomplish this. Different methods investigated were to send to an outside professional scanning service or various ways we could scan the books ourselves. It was determined, based on time and resources, to contract with Iron Mountain, a national company that has an excellent reputation for projects like this.

Iron Mountain picked up our three boxes of books and transported them to Kansas City to scan and organize so the books were searchable! Very quickly, the 30 days went by and we received our first files of scanned documents.

Once the files were validated, we uploaded them to the KSDAR members' website for all our members to access. The State Regent has even used them to research our history to help her make the difficult decision to cancel State Conference.

To look at them, go to the Archives tab on the KSDAR members' website. You will be surprised at all the valuable history that we can now access! Thank you, Regent Metzger, for making this valuable resource available!

### NSDAR Distinguished Citizen Medal



The NSDAR Distinguished Citizen Medal recognizes worthy citizens for their extraordinary service in the defense, promotion, and/or preservation of our American heritage of freedom. The NSDAR presents the Distinguished Citizen Medal to an individual who demonstrates the qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism. It is with great pride and honor that the Polly Ogden Chapter nominated General (Ret.) Richard B. Myers, President of Kansas State University and the 15<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the United States of America Joint Chiefs of Staff for the medal. With a hearty endorsement from the KSDAR and the approval of the NSDAR National Defense Committee, it was the honor and privilege of the Polly Ogden Chapter to present this award to General Myers.

Richard Bowman Myers is a retired US Air Force four-star general. A native of Merriam, Kansas, Myers graduated from Kansas State University in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and joined the Air Force through the ROTC program. He received a master's degree in business administration from Auburn University in 1977. A command pilot by training, Myers has 600 combat flight hours to his credit as well as numerous prestigious commands culminating with his appointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Bill Clinton in 2000. Myers became the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs on October 1, 2001. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council during the earliest stages of the War on Terror, including planning and execution of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. He retired on September 30, 2005. His numerous awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, French Legion of Honor, and Presidential Medal of Freedom.

### First Welcome Home Grant Awarded

Thanks to the generous contributions from the Kansas Daughters, the Welcome Home administration is pleased to announce that the first Welcome Home Grant of this administration was presented to the HUD/VASH Care Program at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center. This is a collaborative program between HUD and the VA that combines HUD Housing vouchers with VA supportive Services to help veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

The program helps their sleep, heart health and depression. It also gives them a sense of ownership and motivates them to go out and seek employment to better their lives within the community. It has served 326 homeless veterans



over the last year and 40 new veterans a year. The Flores del Sol Chapter and Karen Malcom, VAVS Representative for the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center applied for the grant with the intent of purchasing bedding for the program. The \$2,500 grant allowed them to purchase 10 queens sized mattresses and platform frames as well as 10 bed in a bag bedding and pillows. State Regent Susan Metzger stated, "Providing mattresses and bedding to homeless veterans transitioning into a home fits perfectly not only with the intent of the grants but also with the "Welcome Home" theme."

If you are interested in applying for a Welcome Home Grant, contact Kimberly Lees, Grant Coordinator and KSDAR State Corresponding Secretary for instructions, qualifications and deadlines. The Welcome Home Grant program is a part of State Regent Susan Metzger's Regent's Project and is funded through donations and the purchase of project merchandise.