

## CAHABA-COOSA CHAPTER CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY



Gov. Robert J. Bentley [right] accepts the Membership Certificate into the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution from current Alabama Society President Marvin K. Vickers, during the chapter's 10th anniversary celebration on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at The American Village in Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama.



Gov. Robert J. Bentley [left] accepts from the Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate presented by Bobby Joe Seales, current Alabama Society Sr. Vice-President and past founding president of the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter, Alabama Society, SAR, during the chapter's 10th anniversary celebration on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at The American Village in Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama.

**Written by Bobby Joe Seales**

Alabama Governor Robert Julian Bentley on August 22, 2013 became the newest member of the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution during the chapter's 10th anniversary celebration at The American Village. Compatriot Bobby Joe Seales, founding past president of the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter and current Alabama Society Sr. Vice-President, told the approximate 150 Compatriots and guests in Liberty Hall that he and Gov. Bentley share the same fourth-great-grandfather, John Horton, who served in the South Carolina Militia during the Revolutionary War.



[Left to Right] Roger Massey, Danny Joe Massey, David L. Nolen, Gov. Robert J. Bentley, Bobby Joe Seales, David Michael "Mike" Seales and Terry Massey

Five of Horton's fifth-great-grandsons were recognized at this celebration. Four of which were charter members of the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter. Seales introduced Gov. Bentley as the 53<sup>rd</sup> Governor of the State of Alabama and the chapter's newest member.

Compatriot Tom Walker, founder of The American Village, addressed the crowd that consisted of members of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution and others from throughout the state. He noted The American Village will debut its National Veterans Shrine on November 10. The Shrine will allow people to submit information about veterans. "This will be the first place in the country where you can enter that kind of information on veterans into the shrine for the public to access."

Compatriot Walker commended Gov. Bentley for his actions as governor, comparing his decision to not accept a salary as the state's leader to George Washington's similar rejection of compensation to lead the Revolutionary Army. "Governor, you follow in some fine footsteps," Walker said.

A founding supporter and organizer of the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter, Compatriot Rod Hildreth, recalled the organizational meetings for the Shelby County Alabama group that took place in Pelham. "We encouraged a surprising amount of interest in local history, family history," Compatriot Hildreth said. "We made more and more contacts and got more and more interest resulting in the formation of this chapter." Honor was paid to Compatriots that were charter members from this chapter that are now deceased. Mention was made to deceased past 2012 chapter president Compatriot Richard B. "Rick" Booth.

The Cahaba-Coosa Chapter was sponsored by the Birmingham Chapter and on May 3, 2003 was approved at the Alabama Society Board of Managers Meeting as the 15th chapter to be chartered into the Alabama Society.

The Cahaba-Coosa Chapter Institution Ceremony and Charter Banquet was held on Friday, August 22, 2003, at the Pelham Civic Complex.

Compatriot Marvin K. Vickers, current president of the Alabama Society, presented Gov. Bentley with his Cahaba-Coosa Chapter membership certificate. He also pinned a rosette to Bentley's lapel. "It's done in the color of George Washington's uniform," Vickers told Bentley, with a portrait of America's first president behind them.

As featured speaker for the night, Gov. Bentley called his membership and the induction into the Sons of the American Revolution "a real honor for me – and to think that your ancestors really did participate in securing our freedoms."

Bentley recalled a story about President Harry Truman rejecting offers to join corporate boards of directors and other similar positions. Truman had said people wanted the president of the United States on their board, not Truman himself, the governor said.

"He said the presidency is not for sale. That is the way I feel about being governor. The governorship is not for sale," Bentley said, generating applause from the audience. "The government is the people and we need to truly be servant leaders and make sure everything we do represents the people with honesty and integrity," he said.

The governor also received a special presentation of the Sons of the American Revolution Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate. Compatriot Seales noted that the award is given to a person of prominence in the areas of government, military service, religion, education, business or other similar professions.

Other Alabama Society Compatriots that were participants or instrumental in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration were C.W. Posey, Jr., Rev. John Killian, Michael C. Wells, Bruce Buehler, Tom Smith and the ALSSAR Color Guard, Fred Olive, Lee Swart, Glenn Nivens, John R. Walker, Ron Bearden, Walter Dockery and John W. Thomas.

