

## Sandy Springs Flag Certificate Presentation

December 19, 2023

Mayor Paul and Sandy Springs Council Members,

My name is David Wellons, and I'm President of the local Mount Vernon Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution – SAR – and which serves the Sandy Springs and Dunwoody areas. We are one of 35 SAR chapters in Georgia.

SAR's primary mission is promoting patriotism and keeping the constitutional history of America in focus.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR or SAR) was chartered by the US Congress and founded in 1889, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's taking the presidential oath of office. SAR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to our future generations about the founding principles of America.

SAR members volunteer untold hours of service each year in their local communities. SAR is very active in assisting veterans. We proudly assist teachers with living history interpreters, lesson planning materials and reenactment events for school aged youth to attend. Membership is open to any male whose ancestor either fought in the American Revolution or provided support for the American side, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background.

As one example of service, our Chapter in coordination with the Sandy Springs chapter of the DAR – Daughters of the American Revolution – funded the "Liberty Tree", a Trident Maple that was recently planted in Sandy Spring's Veteran's Triangle Park just across the street.

And - - Sandy Springs has at least one such Revolutionary Patriot buried less than one half mile from where we stand. Private James Hooper, born October 25 1746, served in the sixth Virginia regiment in 1778 under General Daniel Morgan and Captain John Stokes, a part of Major Massey's Battalion of the Virginia Continental Line. He fought in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse (located in today's city of

Greensboro North Carolina), a battle that was instrumental in turning back the British from Georgia and the Carolinas. Surviving the war, Private Hooper won a land grant in the 1827 Georgia land lottery. He died April 28, 1836 at age 89 and is buried in Arlington Memorial Park next to The Sandy Springs Methodist Church on Mount Vernon Road.

SAR Patriotic activities include the commendation on the proper display of the American Flag. And we are here today to present two such certificates to Sandy Springs. One for the City itself and the other for the Flags at Veterans Triangle park. They will complement a similar certificate we presented on November 7, 2023 to Fire Chief Keith Sanders and Fire Station Number 2 for their exemplary flag etiquette.

This certificate reads: In Recognition of Exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America. Signed by me and our flag chairman Shep Hammack.

The second certificate made out to Veterans Triangle Park with the same inscription.

It is our honor to present to the City of Sandy Springs and to the Veteran's Triangle Park these certificates of Commendation.