



Heading by Megan Sanford

January, 2024

Happy New Year!!!



As we all know, this is a time of reflection on how we did in 2023, and making our goals for 2024. How did you do? If you were like me, the "get in shape and lose weight" resolution was a biggie. I didn't stay with that one too long. I renewed it again this year. It's kind of like that bad habit that won't go away. I just hope in the years I have left that I won't be making that resolution, either because I finally did it or because I don't care anymore!

One I did manage to keep was to read my Bible all the way through. Even Leviticus, which is a great sleep inducer. I learned not to read that before bedtime! Anyway, I decided that the one goal I want to make and keep for 2024 is to be a better person. Yeah, I know, real broad and generic. It's really hard to quantify this one. I want to be nicer to people, be less self interested and focused more on doing what I can for others. You all helped me with that for sure this last year! Many of you have become great friends and mentors to me. Even in your own times of duress.

▪ For **membership** inquiries, contact Craig Crow at CCROW6@gmail.com, Mark Reichardt at vette413@gmail.com, or Phil Cook, at 4cooksinoke@cox.net, who can assist you in locating the necessary documents.

▪ For **website** (<http://okssar.com>) inquiries, contact Glenn Lee at 405.313.9947 or gleedmond@gmail.com.

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Going to the VA Hospital last month to deliver Christmas cards to vets, and just talking with them also helped. Some of the admitted Vets cried when they heard "Merry Christmas and thank you for your service". One guy just looked at me and handed the card back, not saying a word. I think he was getting ready to see his proctologist. (Haha)

Over Christmas I gave a Wounded Warrior Coin to the self-defense drill instructor my son had while in basic training. I knew Robert before then, and knew that he had suffered a heart attack during a training session that ended up causing him to retire. He felt unworthy of the Coin and was speechless. He teared up when I told him I appreciated all he did getting my son ready to serve these last 17 years, and thanked him for his service.

I also saw one of our own compatriots in the hospital yesterday. It meant as much to me to be there as I hoped it was for him to have a visitor from OKC SAR. I stayed for about an hour and just made small talk. Nothing huge, but I wouldn't have thought about doing this four or five years ago. The VA Hospital, giving the wounded warrior coin to a vet, and a hospital visitation...all three outside of my norm. It is a choice I am making to be a difference with others, to invest in others.

We are all free to choose how we go through our lives. I have started this year choosing to start my days with the following by one of my favorite authors, Max Lucado;

"I CHOOSE LOVE...No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.
I CHOOSE JOY...I will invite my God to be the

at thandley1@me.com.

▪ Join the **Color Guard** by contacting Commander Joe Sieber at 405.720.1757 or sieberjl@hotmail.com.

▪ **SAR Sentinel** is published monthly except June, July, and August. Article suggestions should be sent to Craig Crow at (405) 834 9401 or CCROW6@gmail.com.

▪ Chapter **meetings** are held on the second Monday of every month except June, July, and August.



GOD of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...the tool of a lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I CHOOSE PEACE...I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I CHOOSE PATIENCE...I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

I CHOOSE KINDNESS...I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God treats me.

I CHOOSE GOODNESS...I will go without a dollar before I choose to take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will boast. I will confess before I will accuse.

I CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS...Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

I CHOOSE GENTLENESS...Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only for myself.

I CHOOSE SELF-CONTROL...I am a spiritual being...After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest."

May you have a blessed and fruitful 2024!

Reminder: Our chapter's 100th anniversary celebration will be April 27, 2024, held at the event center for OCPA at 415 NE 13th. Dinner will be catered by Running Wild Catering. We will have a silent auction during the event, so bring your checkbooks! Before then, we are raffling a Replica Kentucky Rifle called the Minute Man. Tickets are \$5 each, or 5 tickets for \$20. We are making big plans for this event, you won't want to miss!

Reminder: John Schaller, our Veterans Committee chairman has asked: "If Anyone has any additional activity that might qualify for the Stark Veteran Service medal, please email the information to me before January 10th at Jwschaller@cox.net . Also, if you are coming to the January chapter meeting, please bring at least one paperback book, either new or in very good condition. If you want individual credit on the 2024 Stark application, put your name on a slip of paper and stick it in the book.

Calendar

January 8, 2024 at 6:45pm, Johnnie's Hamburgers, 33 East 33rd in Edmond, our January chapter meeting. Our guest speaker has not been firmed up at this time, but I understand the potential guest will be phenomenal! Make plans to come and participate! We start to gather at 6pm for food and fellowship!

January 26, 2024, Colonial Day at the Capitol. We have been passive participants in the past until last January. The color guard did a demonstration of Baron Von Steuben's training steps to fire a musket. The kids loved it! The Director was so impressed she asked us back to do the same demonstration, PLUS opening and closing the event with the presentation and retrieval of colors, PLUS a block on flag history and etiquette. It will be a great time!

Finally, to those of you that didn't get your dues in before December 31. It isn't too late to get your dues in and keep your membership active. There is a late fee of \$12 you will need to add to the dues now, though. Your membership keeps our chapter viable and makes a difference!

Craig Crow
President
Oklahoma City Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution



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