

WELCOMING REMARKS, JAMES O'KELLEY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL AND SOLEMN GRAVEMARKING CEREMONY.

I'M JAY STOBBS, PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GENERAL FRANCIS NASH CHAPTER.

WE ARE HERE TO HONOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICES OF PATRIOT REVEREND JAMES O'KELLEY.

AT THIS TIME, I'D LIKE THE COLOR GUARD COMMANDER TO PRESENT THE COLORS.

AGAIN WELCOME TO THIS GRAVEMARKING CEREMONY TO HONOR THE SERVICE OF PATRIOT REVEREND JAMES O'KELLY.

HE SERVED AS A MINISTER TO OUR PATRIOT SOLDIERS IN OUR WAR OF INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND.

THOMAS PAINE SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR AND I QUOTE HIM:

"THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS. THE SUMMER SOLDIER AND THE SUNSHINE PATRIOT WILL, IN THIS CRISIS, SHRINK FROM THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY; BUT HE THAT STANDS IT NOW, DESERVES THE LOVE AND THANKS OF MAN AND WOMAN."

WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY ATTESTS TO THE WISDOM AND PRESCIENCE OF PATRIOT THOMAS PAYNE.

YOU HAVE TAKEN TIME FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES TO DEMONSTRATE WITH YOUR PHYSICAL PRESENCE HERE, YOUR LOVE AND THANKS FOR PATRIOT JAMES O'KELLEY.

PATRIOT JAMES O'KELLEY, AS A MINISTER OF GOD, COULD HAVE SHRUNK FROM THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY, BUT HE DID NOT.

HE STEPPED FORWARD ALONG WITH THE MYRIAD MEN AND WOMEN LIVING IN THE THIRTEEN COLONIES TO SERVE AND SACRIFICE THROUGH EVERY SEASON, IN ALL MISERABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS, DANGERS, SUFFERINGS, AND EXPERIENCES OF THE HORROWS OF WAR, TO DO WHAT IN THEIR HEARTS WAS RIGHT: TO ESTABLISH A NEW AND INDEPENDENT AND FREE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TODAY'S GRAVEMARKING CEREMONY IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE PATRIOTISM, VOLUNTEERISM, AND PERSONAL PAYMENT OF EXPENSES BY MOST OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.

WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE HERE TODAY:

DESCENDENTS OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS INCLUDING:

-MEMBERS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

-MEMBERS OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

-MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION;
TODAY WE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RALEIGH JOEL LANE CHAPTER

OUR SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLOR GUARD MEMBERS HAVE COME FROM AS FAR AWAY AS HALIFAX, FAYETTEVILLE, CHARLOTTE, AND GREENSBORO AND AS CLOSE AS RALEIGH AND DURHAM. COMPATRIOTS THANKS FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

FROM GREENSBORO, WE HAVE THE GUILFORD COURTHOUSE FIFE AND DRUM CORPS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, UNDER THE COMMAND OF STEPHEN WARE. THEY SUPPORT PATRIOTIC ACTIVITIES STATEWIDE. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

FROM JOHNSTON COUNTY WE HAVE THE COLONIAL MILITIA UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN J. B. SMITH. THEY PERFORM IN SEVERAL LOCAL COUNTIES AND WILL PROVIDE THE MUSKET HONORS TODAY. GENTLEMEN, THANKS FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

WE ALSO HAVE THE WAKE AND DISTRICT PUBLIC SAFETY PIPES AND DRUMS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF TONY CRAWFORD. THEY PERFORM IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES. GENTLEMEN, THANKS FOR BEING HERE ALSO.

CUB SCOUTS OF AMERICA LOCAL PACK 820, SCOUT THOMAS BENSON.

WE HAVE A SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER TODAY, MR. ERNEST DOLLAR, DIRECTOR OF THE HORACE WILLIAMS HOUSE IN CHAPEL HILL. I WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT HIM LATER, BUT I WANT TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK HIM FOR SPEAKING TO US.

I OFFER A SPECIAL WELCOME TODAY TO DESCENDANTS OF PATRIOT JAMES O'KELLEY. I UNDERSTAND WE ARE HONORED BY

DESCENDENTS FROM DURHAM, CARY, AND CHARLOTTE, NC. WOULD YOU PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND SO THAT WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU.

WE ALSO HAVE MEMBERS OF NUMEROUS LOCAL CHURCHES THAT WERE ESTABLISHED BY JAMES O'KELLEY. SOME STILL STAND AND CONTINUE TO SERVE US TODAY. WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND SO THAT WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU.

ONE CHURCH, NO LONGER IN USE, IS NEAR US. THE O'KELLY CHAPEL, IS ONE MILE SOUTH ON HWY 751 AS YOU EXIT COLVARD FARMS, AND ON THE RIGHT

I THANK MS. SUE BAKER, A MEMBER OF ONE OF O'KELLEY'S EXTANT CHURCHES, AND MS. JOANN GIANNONE – BOTH HOMEOWNERS HERE- FOR COORDINATING ITS AVAILABILITY FOR US TO VISIT FOLLOWING TODAY'S CEREMONY. PARKING IS LIMITED AND CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED.

I ALSO OFFER A SPECIAL THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO THE COLVARD FARMS HOMEOWNERS AND THE BOARD IN APPROVING US TO CONDUCT THE GRAVEMARKING CEREMONY.

CHUCK FLINK, OUR PAST PRESIDENT, WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN COORDINATING THIS EVENT. WE THANK CHUCK FOR HIS TIME AND EFFORT. BY THE WAY, CHUCK WILL SOON BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND WE WILL REFER TO HIM AS COMPATRIOT CHUCK FLINK.

LASTLY, I WANT TO RECOGNIZE A SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL, WHO HAS TAKEN A KEEN INTEREST IN PRESERVING THIS CEMETERY.

OVER THE COURSE OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS, IT HAD STARTED TO DETERIORATE, TO BECOME OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS, AND TO FALL INTO A STATE OF DISREPAIR.

THE ROCKS CREATING THE PROTECTING WALL HERE HAD ALSO BEGUN TO VANISH.

THE DEVELOPER OF COLVARD FARMS, MR. NEAL HUNTER, THRU HIS INITIATIVE, EFFORTS, AND FINANCING, RESTORED THE SANCTITY OF THE CEMETERY BY ERECTING THIS BLACK FENCE TO INSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE CEMETERY, TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE, AND TO PRESERVE THIS HONOR AND LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

FOLLOWING TODAY'S ACTIVITIES, AND PRIOR TO VISITING O'KELLY CHAPEL, YOU ARE INVITED TO STOP AT THE END OF THIS BIKE PATH AND

HAVE SOME REFRESHMENTS CURTESY OF SEVERAL COLVARD FARMS HOMEOWNERS.

THEY ARE MS. LYNN OGBURN, MS ALICE HONG, MS LESLIE BROOKMAN, AND DR. M J HALL.

AT THIS TIME, I ASK OUR NORTH CAROLINA PRESIDENT, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, DR. SAM POWELL, TO PROVIDE AN INTRODUCTION TO SAR GRAVE MARKINGS.