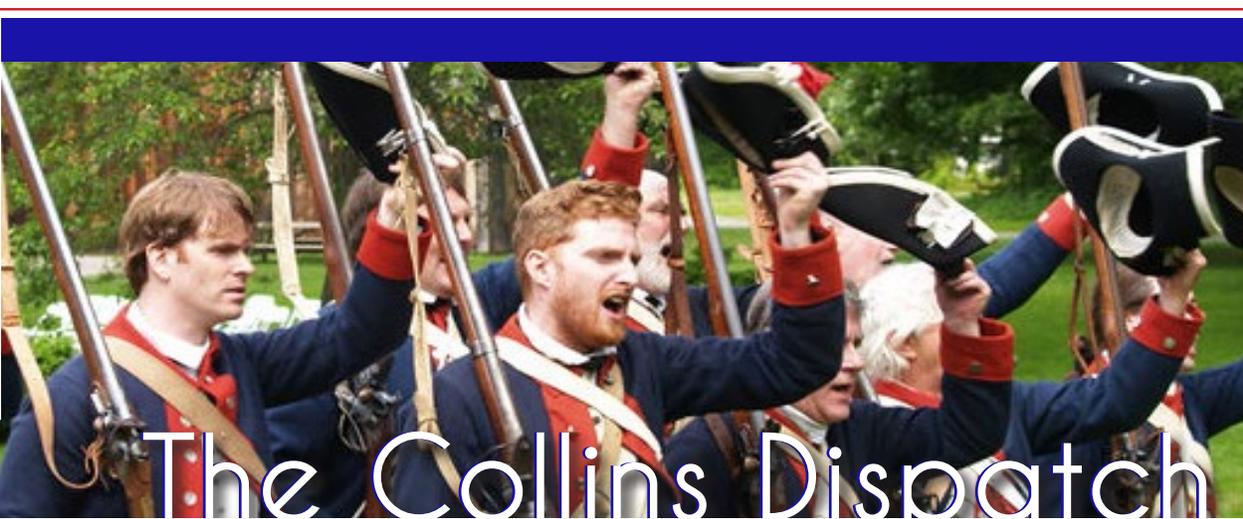


CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution



The Collins Dispatch

Winner of the Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award 2011 & 2013

March 2020

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Chapter meeting starts at 7PM the third Tuesday every month. We gather at the Cherokee Cattle Co., 2710 Canton Hwy., 6PM for dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Family and friends are welcome.

- March 17. John Collins Chapter Meeting
- April 4. 3 Patriot Grave Dedication
- April 21. John Collins Chapter Meeting
- April 26. 5 Patriots Grave Dedication
- May 2. 3 Patriot Grave Dedications

Additional events and activities, see the GA SAR website www.gasocietysar.org

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THE BATTLE AT HANNAH'S COWPENS

The defeat of Major General Horatio Gates at Camden, South Carolina in August 1780 brought about the Continental Congress's authorization for General George Washington to appoint a new commander of the Southern armies. Washington's choice to fill this important position was Major General Nathanael Greene.

Upon his arrival, Greene made the decision to split his small army, and sent Brigadier General Daniel Morgan with half of his forces into western South Carolina to harass the British troops and threaten the British Post at Ninety-Six. Greene's unusual and risky maneuver created a predicament for British Lt. General Charles Lord Cornwallis. If Cornwallis pursued Morgan in the West, Charlestown would be left unprotected to attack by Greene. Should he go after Greene, Morgan would take Ninety-Six?

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Officers and Committees

President - Gary Hoyt

Immediate Past-President - Earl Cagle Sr.

Vice President - E. Stallings Howell, Jr.

Secretary - Michael Fletcher

Treasurer - Wayne L. Brown

Registrar - Randall Huber

Chancellor - Joseph L. Vancura, Jr.

Chaplain - Lloyd Blackwell

Sergeant-at-Arms - Rodney Pritchett

Historian - Earl Cagle Sr.

Editor - Drew Burr

Americanism/Fire/Law/EMS - Wayne L. Brown

Flags and Knight Essay - Terry A. Gibbs

Cemetery - Vacant

JROTC - Earl Cagle Sr.

Eagle Scouts / Education - Bill Coffeen

Veterans - Gary Hoyt / Patrick Reese

DAR Liaison - Earl Cagle Sr.

Membership / Welcome - Bill Coffeen & Lee Hulsey

Chapter Directory - Gary J. Hoyt

President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

Our officers and the staff at the Marietta Country Club worked hard to make this year's Annual Banquet a great success. Folks have said repeatedly that we should go there again next year. It was quite an honor to have the Chapter's officers sworn in by GASSAR President Kenneth Scott Collins, and we are all grateful for the opportunity to serve.

The year 2020 promises to be busy and vibrant. Our membership is growing – and this year the pace will pick up even more. Please be prepared to welcome and support as many as 15 new members to our growing roster of Compatriots in their first year of membership. Their growth and participation in Chapter life will depend upon the support we give them.

The leadership of the Captain John Collins Chapter is exceptionally talented, and as we learn more about the abilities and interests of our new members let's do everything we can to find roles that make them feel they are making meaningful contributions to our Chapter and to the mission of our Society.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Hoyt, President





2020 Color Guard at the Brigadier General Daniel Morgan Monument

Cornwallis was one of the best British field commanders in North America when he succeeded Henry Clinton in command of the southern British forces. He was fearless in battle and a forceful leader. He had been abruptly stymied when a force composed largely of Tories sent into North Carolina under Lt. Colonel Patrick Ferguson got British tail feathers clipped by the “over mountain men” at King’s Mountain. Ferguson’s boast that “God Almighty could not remove him from King’s Mountain” was prophetic in that he was killed, and his remains are still there. The entire surviving British force was captured. After this debacle

BRITISH FORCES	
LIEUTENANT COLONEL BANASTRE TARLETON	COMMANDANT
TARLETON'S LEGION	550 MEN
7 TH REGIMENT MAJ. NEWMARSH	200 MEN
1 ST BATTALION OF THE 71 ST REGIMENT MAJ. M ^C ARTHUR	200 MEN
DETACHMENT OF THE 17 TH REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS	50 MEN
DETACHMENT OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY	50 MEN
TOTAL BRITISH	1050 MEN

Cornwallis withdrew from Charlotte, North Carolina to Winnsboro, South Carolina. Cornwallis made the decision to deal with Morgan by sending Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton with a force of about 1000 to Ninety-Six. He ordered General Leslie to hold Camden against attack by Sumter and Marion or from Greene.

In late December 1780, Major Richard Winn had met with Morgan at Grindel Shoals and analyzed Tarleton’s battle tactics. “Tarleton never brings on the attack to himself. His mode of fighting is surprise. By doing this he sends two or three troops of horse and, if he can throw the party into confusion, with his reserve he falls on and will cut them to pieces.”

Upon his arrival at Ninety-Six Tarleton took up pursuit of Morgan, no doubt with the thought of making an example of dealing with the up-country Patriot forces. There is an area in the northwest corner of what was the Ninety Six District in the mid-1700s that was known as Hannah’s Cowpens, where the local inhabitants wintered their cattle. Today, this site is found in Cherokee County, South Carolina near the North Carolina border.

Wednesday, January 17, 1781 dawned, extremely cold in the Cowpens, possibly below freezing. No doubt the impending engagement of two military forces generated just as many shivers as the weather. This time and place had been chosen by Brigadier General Daniel Morgan, the commander of the American Revolutionary forces, for the purpose of engaging the pursuit of British Loyalist forces under the command of Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton.

Morgan had spent much of the night moving among his men, offering encouragement and reassurance for their success in the imminent engagement.

Tarleton's forces broke camp at 4:00 a.m. and Morgan was duly notified. First contact was made before dawn by a ten-man unit sent out from Lt. Col. Washington's dragoons.

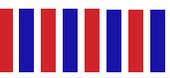
Morgan had 600 Continental soldiers and seasoned Virginia militia, along with 500 untrained militia. Many of the militia had fought at King's Mountain and were no longer afraid of the British bayonets. The Continentals with Morgan had been survivors of Charleston, the Waxhaws and Camden, and they had their own score to settle with Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton.

As the morning light was breaking, Tarleton's cavalry closed on the southern edge of the field, promptly drawing fire from the Patriot sharpshooters, which retarded the advance. Tarleton moved forward and assessed the situation and ordered his infantry and artillery pieces to deploy on the edge of the field. Tarleton ordered his dragoons forward to determine if this was a battalion holding the road or a rear guard sent to delay him. A scattering of rifle fire was directed at the Loyalists dragoons as they advanced. As the reports of gunfire announced the approach of the British forces, the Patriot militia soon saw the redcoats of the British forces streaming toward them.

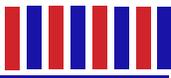
A column led by a gaily dressed officer on horseback marched in front of the first line. The word passed along the sharpshooter line, "who can bring him down?" John Savage looked Colonel Farr in the eye and received the nod. He eased forward a few paces, laid his rifle against a sapling, as the plume of gun smoke wafted above Savage's head, the sharp crack of his rifle echoed across the battlefield and a horse without a rider wheeled from the front of the advancing column.

Morgan had established well planned lines of defense. He knew Tarleton had one maneuver, a head on frontal assault. Morgan placed his men in three lines, in what is referred to as a defense in depth. Basically, each line of defense would be stronger than the one preceding it.

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VETERANS DONATIONS:



Toiletries (but not small bar soap), blankets, and socks are needed at Veteran care facilities. Bring items to be donated to the chapter meetings and report your visits to Vets and other activities.

The first line consisted of 120 picked marksmen led by Major McDowell and Major Cunningham. They were partially concealed in tall grass and trees. Their orders were to fire two volleys and retreat to the second line, firing as they fell back, fighting in groups of three, with two riflemen reserving their fire.

The second line one hundred fifty yards up the hill consisted of 300 Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina militia, led by Andrew Pickens. They were positioned at the tree line behind the crest of the hill. Their orders were to fire until the enemy was close enough for a bayonet charge, then to fall back to the third line.

The third line was one hundred fifty yards behind the second line where the Continentals under Colonel John Eager Howard positioned his battalion in the center of the Mill Gap Road.

On the Continentals left were 100 Augusta riflemen led by Captains Tate and Buchanan. To Howard's right were Major Triplett's Virginia and Captain Beatty's South Carolina.



Lt. Colonel William Washington's dragoons were in reserve behind a low ridge.

As his infantry formed for the assault, Tarleton beefed up each flank with a troop of cavalry, placing a fifty-man troop of the 17th Light Dragoons on his right and a troop of British Legion Dragoons on the left while holding the remaining two hundred Legion Dragoons in reserve.

The riflemen that met the first onslaught of the British force basically served as a skirmish line. With deadly accuracy they took out officers and other key combatants. The British absorbed the losses and rapidly pressed forward, which did not allow some of the American first line to get off their second volley before they had to execute the plan to drop back to the second line of defense.

Tarleton's infantry advanced until they came within range of Morgan's second line of defense. It was then that Pickens' militia lay down a lethal volley which stunned the British, but they dressed their ranks with cool professionalism and moved forward, allowing only one company of militia to get off a second volley before they started to withdraw.

Tarleton saw the militia withdrawing to the American left and directed Lt. Henry Nettles' troop of 17th Light Dragoons to seize the moment and charge the retreating militia.

To envision the charge of the British Dragoons, forget about a large group of horsemen riding wildly, wielding sabers. Think more of an accelerated infantry making a bayonet charge. Horse and rider in disciplined ranks moving forward as a unit to deliver a solid blow, reaching a gallop in the final yards. More than anything this maneuver is to break up the enemy's formation and create a route. And that is what Nettles' men did, cutting through the American militia, creating panic in the American left rear as the militia fell back several hundred yards to where their horses were picketed. The British 17th threatened to turn what had begun as an orderly withdrawal into an all-out rout. Lt. Col. Washington attacked the British 17th with his 3rd Dragoons while holding the militia cavalry in reserve. It was reported that Washington's cavalry was among them like a whirlwind, the shock was sudden and violent, with the British taking flight.

The 3rd Dragoons pursued the 17th all the way past Howard's line of Continentals, with Howard's left-hand company even firing a parting volley at the 17th as they fled past. Washington's charge was crucial to the success of the battle as it secured the American left and allowed the militia to rally and reform in the American rear as per Morgan's plan.

As the 3rd Dragoons rallied back, the infantry fight was rapidly heating up before Col. Howard's main line. Tarleton's infantry swept into the void after the American militia fell back and quickly encountered Howard's Continentals. There was an exchange of volleys and Tarleton brought up the 71st Highlanders to flank the American right. Leading the 71st attack was a single troop of British Legion Dragoons who cut through the North Carolina riflemen posted on Howard's flank. The riflemen withdrew, continuing to fire on the British Dragoons, with the Highlanders gaining Howard's flank. Howard ordered his right-hand company to swing back and refuse the flank. However, a mix up of orders caused the right-hand company to turn 180 degrees instead of 90 degrees and march to the rear. Howard ordered his remaining companies to fall back as well.



With the main line retreating and the British cavalry running unopposed on the American right, Washington responded again, sending forward the mounted militia under Lt. Col. McCall. This attack sent the British troop reeling back in disorder beyond the Highlanders and cleared the American right rear.

From his vantage point General Morgan was clearly alarmed and rode to Howard who assured Morgan his men were not beat and in fact were under orders. Morgan then directed Howard to reform his line in front of Washington who was in the rear of the main line atop a small rise.

At this time Washington noted the ragged pursuit of the Highlanders and sent word to Howard, "they are coming on like a mob. Give them one fire and I'll charge them." The Highlanders closed to within thirty yards, Howard ordered the line to turn and fire. The volley stopped the Highlanders cold and Howard's Continentals began fixing bayonets.

Washington, now facing a dazed enemy, seized the opportunity and committed his entire force. Sweeping around the American left, Washington's force slammed into the British right flank. In this action Washington was attacking Tarleton's mounted reserves, posted on the British right, as Howard's line swept forward, basically covering the American counterattack. These combined maneuvers produced a classic military victory, one of the most famous of the Revolutionary War, referred to as a double envelopment.

At this point Tarleton turned to his two hundred Legion Dragoons and directed a counter charge, but the vaunted "green jacketed dragoons" were having none of it.

As Washington's men moved forward, Pickens' militia rallied and came up to the main line firing at targets of opportunity. The British infantry fled for the rear beyond their guns. The artillery horses were shot down and Howard's men captured the two pieces. With no further mounted resistance, Washington's men swung into the fleeing British foot soldiers.

Tarleton finally rallied some forty men who made a charge that temporarily checked Washington's scattered ranks. Washington was leading the pursuit of this force when a small party of trailing

British officers that included Cornet James Patterson of the 17th Light Dragoons. The two opposing forces stopped and dared the other to advance. Patterson ended the stalemate and charged Lt. Col. Washington. When Patterson swung his sword, he was cut down by a Negro boy with a pistol that was on Washington's staff as a waiter.

At his point Tarleton realized the battle was lost and fled the field as did his cavalry reserve, giving the American's one of their greatest victories. The British forces suffered 110 killed, 229 wounded and 600 captured. American forces experienced 24 killed and 104 wounded.

Morgan knew Cornwallis would soon be in pursuit to recover his captured men and commenced to withdraw to North Carolina.

With two decisively consecutive victories against the most powerful nation in existence, the American military forces still had much to do and a short time to accomplish it. Several more significant engagements were to be met and numerous skirmishes to be dealt with; The Race to the Dan, Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, sieges of Forts Granby and Ninety-Six and Parker's Ferry. These history making events would culminate in September 1781 in a decision rending battle at Eutaw Springs. Lt. Col. Earl Charles Lord Cornwallis would surrender the British forces in North America at Yorktown in October 1781.

-- by Earl Cagle

COLLINS DISPATCH is published every other month. May 12th will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Drew Burr at andrewdburr@gmail.com. If you have new member leads, contact Registrar Van Blackwell at rblackwell1001@comcast.net

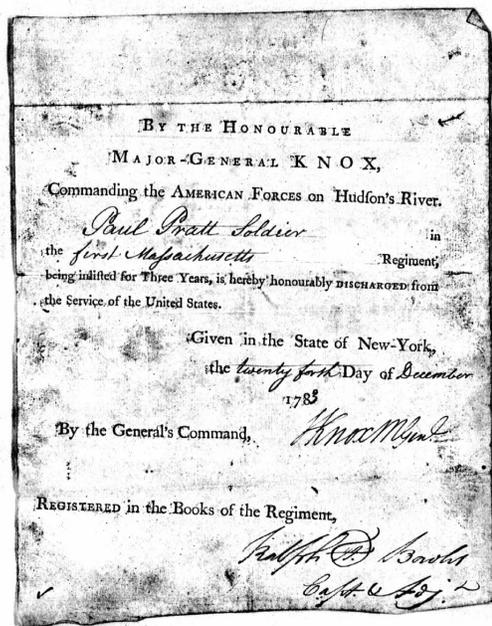
Paul Pratt

My patriot was Paul Pratt, my 5th great grandfather. Paul Pratt was the eldest of 7 children to Paul and Marcia (Hoskins) Pratt 25 October 1756 in Taunton, Bristol County, Massachusetts. On 15 July 1779 in Taunton, Bristol County, Massachusetts he married Caroline Crossman, daughter of Simeon and Olive (Harvey) Crossman. They had 9 children, one before he began his service in the war. Massachusetts colonists were the first to fight in the Revolutionary War and they also made up the majority of the soldiers in the war. They served as militiamen, minutemen and soldiers in the Continental Army. The first minutemen of the American Revolution were organized in Worcester county, Mass in September of 1774 when officials at the Worcester County Convention decided to weed out loyalists in the militia by requiring the resignation of all officers and then reconstituting the militia into seven regiments with new officers.

Officials then called for each regiment to put aside one-third of its regiment to form into new, special companies called minutemen. These men were expected to keep their arms and equipment with them at all times and be ready to march at a minute's warning. A handful of other counties voluntarily adopted this policy and when the Massachusetts Provincial

Congress met in Salem in October of 1774 it urged all counties to adopt the policy. The minuteman units were later abandoned when the Continental Army was established in June of 1775 but the state militia continued.

When the Continental Army was first established, out of the 37,363 soldiers who enlisted in the first year, about 16,449 were from Massachusetts. This is not that surprising though since the American Revolution began in Massachusetts and it was the first colony to be occupied by the British. However, in almost every year of the Revolutionary War, the majority of soldiers in the Continental Army were from Massachusetts.



Paul Pratt began his service of three years as a Private in the Revolutionary War in Dec 1780 in the company commanded by Capt John Mills of Colonel Joseph Vose's regiment of the Massachusetts line of the army. The Massachusetts Line was the name given to those units within the Continental Army that were assigned to Massachusetts at various times by the Continental Congress during the American Revolutionary War. These, together with similar contingents from the other twelve states, formed the Continental Line. Line regiments were assigned to a particular state, which was then financially responsible for the maintenance (staffing and supplying) of the regiment.

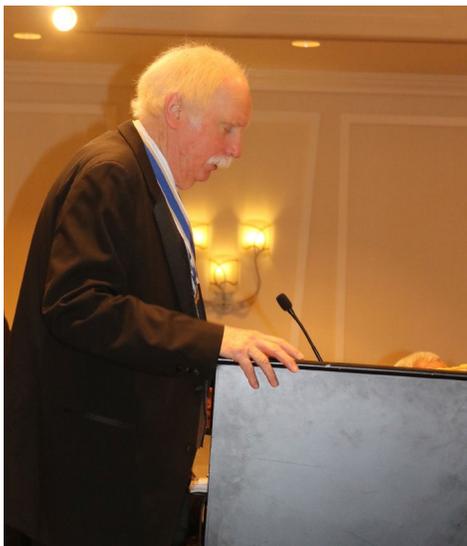
The size of the Massachusetts Line varied from as many as 27 active regiments (at the outset of the war) to four (at its end). For most of the war after the Siege of Boston (April 1775 to March 1776) almost all of these units were deployed outside Massachusetts, serving as far north as Quebec City, as far west as present-day central Upstate New York, and as far south as Yorktown, Virginia. Massachusetts line troops were involved in most of the war's major battles north of Chesapeake Bay, and were present at the decisive Siege of Yorktown in 1781.

Paul Pratt was discharged 24 December 1783 in New York. In April 1818 he applied for a military pension while he was living in Weston, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. In June 1819 he was granted a pension of \$8 per month. He died 23 September 1839 in Deerfield, Oneida County, New York. Buried in Deerfield-Schuyler Cemetery in Utica, New York. His was probated 30 September 1839.

-- by Michael Fletcher

My Patriot Ancestor

If you have done research on your Patriot Ancestor, share the information with us through a short story for an upcoming edition of *The Collins Dispatch*.



President General Jack Manning brings greetings. Georgia State DAR Regent Melody Brown brings greetings.

Wayne Brown addresses the meeting

GASSAR ANNUAL MEETING 2020

The GASSAR Annual Conference was held January 24-25, 2020 at Sonesta Gwinnett Place, Duluth, Georgia. As usual the turn out was impressive with attendees representing Chapter, State and National levels present. In addition, various associated organizations were in attendance.

Activities included: Informative training sessions targeting research facilities and their holdings, specifically the Atlanta History Center and the Georgia State Archives. The training sessions were followed by the South Atlantic District Meeting with the Awards Banquet being held in the evening.

On Saturday, the twenty-fifth a memorial service was observed followed by the Winter Board of Managers Meeting followed by the Georgia Society Election of Officers. Simultaneously, the Ladies Auxiliary held its Annual Meeting. The morning activities were followed by the Chapter and Youth Awards Luncheon and Installation of 2020 Officers.

Among the new officers are, President William “Bill” Dobbs of the George Walton Chapter, Vice-President David Jessel of the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter. The Capt. John Collins Chapter retains VP Terry Gibbs for the Northwest Region, Chancellor Joe Vancura and Leland Hulsey BOM at Large.

From the Annual Meeting the Capt. John Collins Chapter was recognized with streamers for Membership Committee Award, Distinguished Chapter Award, President General Chapter of Distinction Award and a Patriot Grave Marking Certificate with Gold Star.



SPEAKER & GUESTS



CHAPTER MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2020

The Capt. John Collins SAR Chapter kicked off the 2020 Chapter meetings with a total attendance of thirty-four. Two additional Compatriots were inducted:

William Thomas Boyd whose Patriot ancestor was Benjamin Hamilton of Virginia. Thomas Marshall Stewart whose Patriot ancestor was James Ross of Virginia. Accepting for Compatriot Boyd were his sponsor, Brenda King (Kennesaw Mountain DAR) and his grandson, Capt. John Collins member, Compatriot Devon Upton.



Compatriot George Thurman, well known and longtime leader, member of the Piedmont SAR Chapter was the featured speaker. His outstanding presentation of "George Washington and His Generals" held the attention of the attendees as he related in detail, each general's contributions to the Revolution.

With new officers in place and based on the various Committee Reports, 2020 appears to be in for a promising year in several areas. You are encouraged to support the new Officers and Committee Chairs as they endeavor to lead the Chapter. Past President, Earl Cagle.



Annual 2020 Banquet Meeting



2020 Captain John Collins Officers being sworn in



Wayne Brown presenting Earl Cagle with the GASSAR Silver Medal for Outstanding Citizenship with pinning by Marguerite Cagle



Marguerite Cagle awarded Martha Washington Medal



Bill Coffeen receiving Certificate of Appreciation



David Chastain, Cobb County Board of Education, Presented Outstanding Citizenship Award

Annual 2020 Banquet Meeting



Harry Hagan receiving Certificate of Appreciation



Annual 2020 Banquet Setup



Jim Castle and Joe Vancura receiving Certificates of Appreciation



Terry Gibbs receiving Certificate of Appreciation and President Gary Hoyt and Connie Johnson

Annual 2020 Banquet Meeting



Wayne Brown being presented a framed picture of Francis Marion



Brenda King (DAR) receiving Certificate of Appreciation



Perfect Attendance



GASSAR President Collins Receives Certificate of Appreciation



Bill Teasley Receiving 50 year Certificate