

Anthony Halberstadt Chapter

Fort Wayne Founder Colonel Alexander Ewing Recognition Ceremony

The Anthony Halberstadt Chapter SAR honored Colonel Alexander Ewing, a Fort Wayne founder, Revolutionary War soldier, and War of 1812 veteran with a wreath-placing ceremony at Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne Saturday, September 16, 2023

Chapter President Jeff Jones and Amber Gonzalez (General Manager of the Lindenwood Cemetery) organized the commemoration and welcomed those in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Matthew Boyd, a member of the Chapter.



Lindenwood General Manager Amber Gonzalez (Left) receives the America 250th Medal from Chapter President Jeff Jones (Right)

Others recognized and taking part in the ceremony were William Behnke, Vice President of the Indiana State SAR; Benita Steyer, Regent of the local chapter of the DAR; Steve Spinner, Senior Leader of the local CAR; T.Rex Legler, President of the War of 1812 Society; Judi Loomis, President of the General Mad Anthony Wayne Organization; Beth Toscos, Chancellor of the Ewing Family Association; and Dr. William Pond, Master of the Wayne Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons.

The American Legion Post #47 fired a ceremonious rifle salute and played Taps to commemorate Colonel Ewing. A US burial flag folding ceremony was performed by the Color Guard commander, Gary Stebbins and Chapter Treasurer, James Hamilton.



Color Guard Commander Gary Stebbins (Left) and Jim Hamilton (Right) perform a ceremonial folding of the US Burial Flag

Colonel Ewing was born New York State and arrived in Fort Wayne in 1822 after extensively trading with Native Americans in New York, Michigan, and Ohio.

As a youth, Colonel Ewing was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving for three years under the command of George Washington. Later, in the war of 1812 with England, he was in the army of General William Henry Harrison, acting as a scout and winning the military title of Colonel.

John Ewing, a current day member of Colonel Ewing's family, read aloud the biography of Alexander Ewing's service in the Revolution and his contributions to current day Fort Wayne, including the establishment of the Ewing tavern, at what is now the southwest corner of Barr and Columbia streets. The first two sessions of the circuit court for Allen County were held in the Ewing tavern. Ewing Street in downtown Fort Wayne is named for Colonel Ewing.

Beth Ewing Toscos, also of the current Ewing family, placed a commemorative wreath at the foot of the Ewing Obelisk, a thirty-eight-foot-tall Scotch Granite memorial, erected in 1870 at a cost of \$25,000.

Fort Wayne Police Captain Recognized for Exceptional Service



Captain Sophia Rosales-Scatena Receives Law Enforcement Commendation Medal from President Jeffrey Jones and Compatriot Gregory Stier

The Anthony Halberstadt Chapter SAR presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Captain Sophia Rosales – Scatena of the Fort Wayne Police Department. The medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement.

Captain Scatena has distinguished herself and brought honor to the FWPD department during her 29 years of service. She has served 19 years in the Patrol Division, the Detective Bureau, President of the Patrolman’s Benevolent Association and has served as the Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police. Captain Scatena was an integral member of the Crisis Response Team for 16 years serving as a Hostage Negotiator.

In April of 2016, Captain Scatena was seriously injured in a work-related vehicle accident while responding to a standoff involving a suicidal subject. She sustained numerous serious life-threatening injuries and endured almost a year to recover. Through raw determination Captain Scatena worked through all the physical therapy to recover the strength necessary to return to the Police Department.

In her role in Community Relations, Captain Scatena has also been successful in an informative radio show “Unholstered” co-hosted with radio Personality Kayla Blakeslee which covers

numerous topics from how the FWPD responds to active shooters, to summer programs in Fort Wayne.

Rededication of the Prairie Grove Chapel and Cemetery

On Wednesday 25 October 2023 the Anthony Halberstadt Chapter assisted the Fort Wayne Mary Penrose Wayne DAR Chapter with the rededication of the Prairie Grove Chapel and Cemetery in Waynedale, IN.



Color Guard Commander Gary Stebbins with Compatriots Jeffrey Jones, Jim Hamilton, and Dr. Tom Whiteman

The Prairie Grove Chapel & Cemetery, 6312 Old Trail Road, Fort Wayne, IN is associated with the settlement history of rural Wayne Township in what is now Waynedale. The intent was to place churches that would be serviced by a circuit rider that served several rural congregations. At the time the location was on a major highway. This was advantageous for both access to the church from the rural area and ease of access for circuit rider preachers. There is no precise record of the construction of the building, but the associated cemetery was first platted in 1858.

The Brethren Church congregation was active at Prairie Grove, and services were held there by circuit riders of the denomination until at least 1901. Among the preachers that likely visited Prairie Grove was Rev. Milton Wright. Wright became a bishop in the church and was the leader of one faction in a split of the Brethren Church in 1889. Rev. Wright was among the key people that founded nearby Huntington University. Rev. Milton Wright also had two sons, Orville and Wilbur Wright, who built the first successful aircraft in 1903.