

PATRIOTIC SCHOOL BOXES TO BE DELIVERED AROUND MONTANA BY DAR

Contact: Jane Lee Hamman, 406-933-8203, janeleehamman@aol.com
Montana State Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution

Susan Campbell Reneau, 719-661-4037, bluemountain@montana.com
Member, Bitter Root Chapter, DAR in Missoula

This spring and through the fall, descendants of men that fought in the American Revolution who are members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will deliver patriotic education boxes of materials to 240 one-room and small schools throughout Montana as the brainchild of DAR State Regent and Clancy resident Jane Lee Hamman. Montana is the first state in the U.S.A. to begin the patriotic education box program!

The media is invited as the FIRST box in the U.S.A. will be delivered at 9 a.m. April 26 at Valley Christian School at 2525 Sunset Lane off Reserve Street in Missoula, presented by Hamman herself and Susan Campbell Reneau representing the Bitter Root Chapter DAR. Principal Cheryl Nurse and the students of Valley Christian Elementary School will receive the box and learn from Hamman and Reneau how the boxes were created.

The media is also invited to watch as DAR delegates and friends assemble the rest of the 250 patriotic education boxes at their state convention at the Courtyard by Marriott at 4559 N. Reserve Street in Missoula on Friday, April 27 starting at 3:15 p.m. in assembly-line fashion. From there, DAR ladies will distribute boxes around the state.

Billing's DAR Shining Mountain Chapter will deliver 30; Bozeman's DAR Mount Hyalite Chapter - 24; Butte's DAR Silver Bow Chapter - 23; Glasgow's DAR Milk River Chapter - 23; Great Falls' DAR Black Eagle-Assinniboine Chapter - 50; Helena's DAR Oro Fino Chapter - 28; Kalispell's DAR Chief Ignace Chapter - 7; Lewistown's DAR Julia Hancock Chapter - 24; Missoula's DAR Bitter Root Chapter - 18; and St. Ignatius's DAR Kulix Chapter - 16. Each chapter will retain an additional box as a resource for their Program Chair and committees.

Each box contains a massive 313 page three-ring binder packed with American history information, two copies of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, a CD of Kate Duncan Smith DAR 4th Graders singing their favorite songs and a second CD named Songs of Liberty by DAR member Charmaine Lindgren and Clancy musician Rick Wine, a portrait print of George Washington suitable for framing, and information about self-governance of The People of the Long House and the Magna Carta signed in 1215, both of which contributed to informing founders of our nation. A fascinating inclusion is a thumb nail calendar listing of significant historic dates that occur each year for a quick reference to motivate students and teachers to Google search for more information.

The ten Montana DAR chapters and their individual members are contributing more than \$9,000 and thousands of hours to create and deliver these boxes to small schools throughout Montana, and Opportunity Bank of Montana with its 13 branches contributed \$500.

The goal of the boxes is to help each student accumulate broad knowledge as a foundation for educational advancement and living happy, productive lives. The second goal is to provide supplemental teaching resources, lesson plans and information on early American history, the 13 colonies, and foundation principles of the U.S.A.

"I visited our DAR school in Alabama named the Kate Duncan Smith DAR K-12 School and saw their executive director Heather Green use a similar patriotic education binder with her K-12 students. The KDS 4th

Grade students introduced and performed six of their favorite songs in an assembly for hundreds of officers and officials. The students knew so much about American history that I was truly inspired, and determined to replicate some of their fabulous teaching resources for schoolhouses throughout Montana,” exclaimed Hamman. Hamman will be the regent or top leader of Montana’s DAR now until July 2019, and her patriotic education box project will be continuing until then. Green will be keynote speaker at the state convention in Missoula and will help assemble the Montana boxes!

For further information, attached to this press release is the actual letter Hamman sent to each small school around Montana. Hamman created spread sheets on Excel to monitor which schools wanted the boxes and who from DAR will deliver them. “What a delightful and inspirational project!” said Reneau.

Note to Media Not for Broadcast or Publication: If you want the detailed list of schools in your area, email Susan Campbell Reneau at bluemountain@montana.com and she’ll send it to you. If you want Hamman or Reneau to be a guest on a show or to be interviewed, please call, text, or email Susan Campbell Reneau at (719) 661-4037 or bluemountain@montana.com.