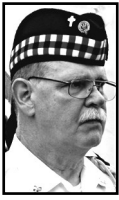


# Commander's Call

## From the Commander



Greetings to all. Let me begin by saying “Thank You” to Howard Farquharson for his leadership and guidance these last seven years. A huge Thank You to our members for taking time to cast your vote in our recent elections. I feel honored and humbled to know that I’ve been entrusted with your confidence and support to help usher SAMS into a new era. I’d like to take this moment to recognize and thank Nominating Chair, Ralph Wallace, and his committee for their due diligence of the elections.

Now the work begins for us to grow our organization and discover what changes, and improvements we need to make to build a stronger, more diversified organization and educate the public about who we are, and what we represent. It’s not just about Games, Parades, or Events. Let’s take an honest look and approach of our Objectives of the Society and let’s step it up a level. It’s about what we can do to give back to our local communities, by networking with other Veteran organizations, building bridges with community organizations; including schools, colleges, and universities to bring focus on our local Veterans across the US and stationed abroad, and to educate our current members on how to access ways to share their proud Scottish heritage and military traditions, services, contributions, and origins. Together as a *whole*, we *can* make it work, we *must* make it work if we are going to survive among other Veteran organizations. No one gets to sit back and say how things should be done. The mindset of thinking we fail because it’s ‘one person’s fault’ needs to change. People should step forward to help get things done. As a *team*, either *we all* put in the work and the effort to succeed, or *we all* fail.

As the Holidays are nearing, we need to think about what freedoms we are thankful for and why. How much of those freedoms have we as Americans taken for granted? Do we sit stagnated waiting for someone else to give us what we need or feel we deserve? As we look forward to 2023, I’d like to see SAMS being the type of organization that is the leader in giving back to each other, to their communities, to less fortunate and to those who have served and are forgotten. Start by volunteering to lay wreaths in local cemeteries, work a food pantry, take food to shut-ins, visit the local VA hospitals, and take a hospitalized Veteran a Christmas card and sit alongside the hospital bed and visit. Start in your own Post, inquire if a member is struggling to make ends meet or just needs help with something around their home. Some won’t ask for help due to pride or feeling ashamed. Take an active role and make a difference.

As most of us already know; the statistic for Veteran Suicide is *high*. During the holidays its even *higher* due to the loneliness and isolation. Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die by suicide than nonveteran

adults. Share this number: 1-800-273-8255 or write it down and place it on your refrigerator so you see it daily. If you see someone struggling give it to them, you never know; you could save a life.

From our home to yours, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

—*Kenneth Lloyd, NC elect*