



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2

February, 2008

An Outstanding Guest Speaker Lineup

As we move forward in the new year, chapter members and guests will continue to enjoy luncheon speakers with impressive biographies and timely topics. At our February 9 luncheon, we will meet Governor Frank Keating — more about him later. On March 8, Congressman Tom Davis has accepted an invitation to speak at our luncheon. Mr. James Rees, Executive Director of Mount Vernon, will occupy the speaker's podium when we meet on April 12. We hope to have a good turn-out on each of these monthly meetings. Kudos to Chapter Vice President Dave Walker for making these arrangements.

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Introducing Governor Keating

Governor Keating, the guest speaker for our February luncheon, grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He earned an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from the University of Oklahoma. His 30-year career in law enforcement and public service included stints as an FBI agent; U.S. Attorney and state prosecutor; and Oklahoma House and Senate member. Keating served Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush in the Treasury, Justice, and Housing departments. In Treasury and Justice, he was responsible for all federal criminal prosecutions in the nation and oversight over such agencies as the Secret Service, U.S. Customs, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Marshals, the Bureau of Prisons, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In 1993, he returned to Oklahoma to run for Governor and won a three-way race by a landslide. Easily reelected in 1998, Keating became only the second governor in Oklahoma history to serve two consecutive terms.

Governor Keating won national acclaim in 1995 for his compassionate and professional handling of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City. In the aftermath of the tragedy, he raised more than six million dollars to fund scholarships for the nearly 200 children left with only one or no parents. His accomplishments as Governor include winning a public vote on right-to-work, tort reform, tax cuts, major road building, and education reform.

Governor Keating now serves as president and CEO of the American Council of Life Insurers. In that position, he is the chief representative and spokesman for the life insurance industry in Washington, DC, and all 50 state capitals. He and his staff work as advocates for nearly 400 life insurance companies that account for 93 percent of total industry assets, 91 percent of the life insurance premiums, and 95 percent of annuity considerations in the United States.

Governor Keating has played a leading role in promoting public policies to boost Americans' retirement security and long-term savings. He regularly advocates on Capitol Hill and to the Bush administration on the need to make Americans' retirement security a national priority.

A very busy executive, Governor Keating also serves on the boards of the National

Archives Foundation and Mount Vernon and is President of the Federal City Council, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improvement of the nation's capital. He is seen frequently on the Fox News Channel as a commentator on a wide variety of topics. Governor Keating has written two award-winning children's books, biographies of Will Rogers and Theodore Roosevelt. He is the recipient of five honorary degrees.

Frank Keating and his wife Cathy live in McLean, Virginia. They have three children and five grandchildren.

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Highlights of the January Luncheon

Last month's meeting featured two speakers. The first was Rohit Dasgupta, the chapter's candidate for the Rumbaugh Historical Oration contest. Rohit is a senior at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, where he is active in debate, forensics and track and field.



Oration Contest chairman Mike Elston congratulates Rohit Dasgupta, winner of our chapter's Rumbaugh Historical Oration

The topic of his oration was "taxation without representation" and the impact of that rallying cry on the Revolution and the Constitution as well as on the current debate surrounding the status of residents of the District of Columbia. Dasgupta will represent the chapter in the state

competition at the VASSAR Annual Meeting which will be held in Richmond on February 16.

The second speaker was our own Chapter President, Kenan Torrans. Kenan, who presently serves as Chief of Investigations and International Compliance for the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' employment and Training Service (VETS), gave a very interesting presentation on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). This important law protects the employment rights of Reserve and National Guard members as they return to the civilian jobs they held before being mobilized for active service. As part of his responsibilities with VETS, Kenan serves as Program Manager for USERRA, and lectures extensively on the law and related military employment issues before a number of professional organizations including the American Bar Association, various State Bar Associations, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General School, military units, industry representatives, and many others.

Kenan and his staff of USERRA investigators conduct a great deal of outreach activities to help service members, employees, and employers understand their rights and obligations under the law. The law is primarily intended to encourage non-career service in the armed forces, and has greatly increased in national prominence with the nearly unprecedented military mobilizations occurring since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Essentially, USERRA provides that employers may not take adverse action against their employees based in any part on their past, current, or future military status or obligations. The law also provides that returning service members be promptly reinstated in the same positions of status, salary, and pay they otherwise would have attained had they not left civilian employment to serve on active duty. Kenan offered that while USERRA presents a number of challenges to employers, particularly small businesses, employers generally remain

supportive of our service men and women, and most disputes that arise result from a lack of understanding about the respective rights and duties afforded under the law. The good news is that while the actual number of employment-related complaints has risen, owing largely to the sheer number of reservists mobilized to serve in the Global War on Terror, on a per-capita basis they are far below the volume of complaints that arose following the last comparable mobilizations during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Kenan attributes that trend to the implementation of the USERRA law itself as well as its implementing regulations, as well as the extensive outreach his office conducts.

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George Washington Chapter Continues to Grow

Stephen Gardner Floyd was inducted at the January luncheon. He was born in Washington, DC, and has spent most of his life in this area. He and his wife Elizabeth Ann now live in Alexandria. Steve holds a B.S. in



President Torrans welcomes Compatriot Stephen Floyd, our chapter's newest member.

Aerospace Engineering and an M.S. in Systems Engineering. He is employed at the Missile Defense Agency.

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Registrar's Report

Membership

Our Chapter continues to grow with the addition of new members, transfers and reinstatements. Compatriot Edward Waring Karppi was approved for membership in January and hopefully will be inducted at our February meeting. Two applications have been sent to the State Registrar for forwarding to National for approval. Five new member applications have been completed and provided to the candidates for signature. One supplemental application has also been sent to the applicant for signature. Twelve new applications need additional documentation or are awaiting copies of proof.

Supplementals

As we move into the New Year, I have been able to work on the backlog of supplemental applications. Hopefully this will continue as new applications are received. Please continue to submit your supplemental applications so you will be in the queue.

Application Notes

Compatriots with names of prospective members should contact Bob Carr at 703-780-3066 or e-mail capt7cs@aol.com the prospective member's telephone number and home address. A New Member packet with application instructions and membership benefits information will be provided. If you would like a New Member packet to give to a prospective member, pick up a packet from Bob at the meeting.

DNA Use As Proof in Applications

A communication to Chapter Registrars from State Registrar Dick Bidwell noted the recent significant increase in the use of DNA testing in genealogical research. He forecast that some future applicant will present DNA proof for a bloodline relative. This is the first of two newsletter articles regarding the use of DNA: the first, SAR's policy regarding the use of DNA, and the second, an article discussing the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation DNA data base.

The following is the SAR policy on the use of DNA in the application process. This policy was approved by the Genealogy Committee at the 2006 Spring Leadership Meeting.

GR051229

DNA Test results are best used to locate others researching the same male surname line, in order to solicit conventional documentation for completing an SAR application. DNA test results also have limited application in proving that an applicant is genetically descended from a particular patriot ancestor. DNA results will be allowed to prove that an applicant is descended from a patriot ancestor when there is a 90 percent probability that the most recent common ancestor of the applicant and another male descended from a known patriot ancestor was no further back than eight generations, as shown by their closely matching y-chromosome results.

This is possible under the following circumstances:

- a. DNA results may be used in the SAR application process as one piece of supporting evidence in a “preponderance of evidence” case or as one of the additional pieces of evidence required when the applicant is relying on an old DAR Record Copy
- b. An applicant’s DNA test results shows a match for at least 36 of 37 markers with another male who has an accepted documented paper trail back to the patriot ancestor, providing high assurance that their common ancestor is no further back than the documented patriot.

DNA test of the y-chromosome (passed only from father to son) would be useful only for an applicant who is attempting to prove that he is a descendant of a patriot ancestor with his surname or a variation of his surname. A 37-marker test is expensive, currently exceeding \$200. As forensics improves, SAR policy may be modified to permit greater use of DNA.

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Future Events

VASSAR Annual Meeting

The Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution will hold its annual meeting in Richmond on February 15-16 at the Sheraton Park South Hotel. The meeting doesn’t really get underway until 8:30 am on Saturday, February 16, when the General Membership Meeting will be called to order. This will be followed by the Rumbaugh Historic Orations Contest at 10:30, where our chapter will be represented by Rohit Dasgupta.

Several members plan to attend only the Saturday activities and return that same evening. It may be possible to make up a car pool. Note that the General Membership Meeting starts at 08:30, so an early morning start will be required.

Washington Birthday Parade

Compatriots will again honor our namesake when we march in Alexandria’s annual Washington Birthday Parade. The parade will take place in Olde Town Alexandria starting at 1:00 pm on Monday, February 18th. Details of our participation will be available at the February 9 luncheon. As in past years, a wreath-laying ceremony will be conducted at the Tomb of the Revolutionary War Unknown. Many chapter members are familiar with that grave site which is located behind the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 South Fairfax Street. The wreath-laying ceremony will begin at 11:00 am, so there is time to participate in that event before we assemble for the parade.

The parade’s official web site, www.washingtonbirthdayparade.net, is a convenient source of information for all Washington Birthday events.

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The Washington Birthday Parade has a long history. Before his death, General Washington personally attended these celebrations. The General never used much ink to record personal notes in his diary. Here is his diary entry for February 11, 1799:

“[February] 11. A little lowering — W. in the Morning — Wind Southerly and Mer. at 27. Went up to Alexandria to the celebration of my birth day. Many Manoeuvres were performed by the Uniform Corps and an elegant Ball & Supper at Night.”

The local newspaper provided a more detailed description on that event — the last the General Washington lived to see:

**Excerpts from the February 1799 Issues of
the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria
Gazette***

February 9, 1799:

ATTENTION!

SILVER GRAYS

You are desired to meet at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, at the Court House, to arrange matters for the celebration of Lieutenant General WASHINGTON's Birth-Day, which happens on Monday next. It is expected that every man belonging to the Company will attend at the appointed time and place.

P. MARSTELLER, Lt. S.G.

February 5.

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The gentlemen of Alexandria and its vicinity are informed, that there will be a BALL at Gadsby's Tavern on Monday the 11th February in commemoration of the birth of our illustrious and justly esteemed fellow citizen, Lieut. General GEORGE WASHINGTON.

JOHN FITZGERALD,

BENJAMIN DULANY,

JONATHAN SWIFT,

GEORGE DENEALE,

MIC. FLANNERY,

GEORGE W. CHAK,

Managers

February 11, 1799:

Washington's Birthday Celebration

This day is justly dear to all true Americans, was celebrated in this town in a style heretofore unprecedented. The Editor regrets that he does not possess talents to describe the proceedings in the manner which they deserve. The Public will, however, pass by any defects in style; and do him the justice to believe, that, did he possess the chaste language of Addison, combined with the creative imagination of a Shakespeare, he would feel himself honored and happy in using them on this occasion.

Aurora rose with more than common splendor, as if wishing to assist in the tribute of respect paid to our hoary chief. She was ushered in by a discharge from the Alexandria artillery, and a federal salute from the armed schooner *Neptune*, under the command of Capt. Abel Willis. About 10 o'clock the following corps meeting at the market square was formed. . . . George Deneale was the Officer of the Day and Mr. John Winterbury, Adjutant.

[The Alexandria Artillery; four companies of Militia; the Silver Greys; the Alexandria Blues; and a company of Riflemen participated in an elaborate drill.]

After going through the manual exercise, etc. at 11 o'clock the line was formed in Fairfax street, where they were joined by the following troops of horse, who had escorted the general into town.

Alexandria Dragoons, Capt. R. Young; Fairfax Dragoons, Capt. John Simpson; and Volunteer Dragoons, Capt. John Fitzgerald

Shortly after the General came into town, he passed the Line in review, accompanied by several gentlemen. Agreeable to arrangements previously made, three companies of infantry were embarked on board the *Neptune*, *The Trial*, and *Mercury*, in order to act as an invading enemy. The remaining troop marched to the Mall, when the Riflemen and a detachment of Artillery were dispatched to protect the fort and act against the foe. When the *Neptune* came abreast of the Fort, she received three rounds, which she returned, silenced the guns, and passed

up the river in order to effect a landing. — the Riflemen in the meantime running along the shore, endeavouring to pick the men off the shrouds, and the artillery keeping up a fire at her. When she came opposite to Keith's wharf, the troops were landed on it, the *Neptune* covering the debarkation, where they were opposed by those on shore, and were eventually obliged to take to their boats. A landing was afterwards effected on Ramsey's wharf and the supposed enemy marched up King street, in which street, at the intersection of Fairfax street, they were again opposed and a heavy and continued street firing kept up; until by an excellent manoeuvre of the Horse, who came upon their rear they were obliged to surrender.

The editor does not conceive it necessary for him to praise the performances of the day it is quite sufficient to say, that they met the entire approbation of the man, whom they were intended to honor, who attended solely to every Evolution and when they were closed referred to all the parties engaged in them and said that they had far surpassed his expectations.

The Companies then adjourned to dinner. The marine officers and several respectable citizens at Mr. Hilton's. The artillery company at Mr. MacLeod's — Capt. Deneale's, Capt. M'Knight's — Capt. Young's troop of horse and Capt. Rogerson's company of infantry at Mr. Renoe's and the Silver Greys at Mr. George Rutter's — The dinners and wines were such as did honor to the preparers and were perfectly satisfactory to the guests — The toast which follow are evidence of the spirit of the day; and form a criterion whereby the Northern States may judge of the federalship of the town of Alexandria

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The style of the Washington Birthday Parade has changed, but it is still a very popular event. Please join your compatriots on February 18th when the George Washington Chapter proudly marches in the parade. Everyone who participates has a good time.

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February 9, 2008

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please use this form to make a reservation for the chapter's lunch at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. The lunch cost is \$35.00 per person. Check in and social time begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon. Feel free to invite your wife and friends as your guests. **RSVP no later than February 4th.**

Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but note that to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of \$37.00 is required.

Name: _____

A check for ____ persons in the amount of \$_____ payable to **G. W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form with your check to:

Vern McHargue, Treasurer

6846 Ericka Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22310

You may also phone (703) 313-0671 and leave a message or e-mail vern.mchargue@heritage.org.

It is important to provide advance notice of attendance to be sure you get a seat.

Valet parking is available.