



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

## Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 8

November, 2008



### Next Luncheon Will be Held on 8 November

The next meeting of the George Washington Chapter, SAR, will be held on November 8, 2008, at the Belle Haven Country Club. The second Saturday of the month occurs very early this month, so don't wait to mark your calendar and make a reservation. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Christina Keyser. Ms. Keyser was born in Charleston, SC, and grew up in the suburbs of Jacksonville, Florida. She spent her summers haunting the Ashley River plantations outside of Charleston and drinking in the history of the Lowcountry. Her passion for history led her to the College of William and Mary to pursue an undergraduate degree. With Tidewater Virginia serving as a backdrop, Christina spent four years studying the history of the United States with a special focus on the history of the American South. Her internships at Colonial Williamsburg and the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, DC, gave her a taste of the life of a museum curator. It was, however, the workshops of Williamsburg's craftsmen that spawned her interest in material culture.

After completing a BA in History at William and Mary, Christina entered the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the Winterthur Museum and Gardens, outside of Wilmington, Delaware. The two-year Master's program allowed Christina to delve into the connoisseurship of "things." Her specialty is silver – a taste acquired after years of polishing her mother's flatware as punishment. She completed her thesis on a German-born silversmith, Anthony Rasch, who immigrated to Philadelphia and later moved to New Orleans. Christina also enjoyed studying tablewares while at Winterthur, benefitting from the museum's large collection of fine ceramics. With a Master's

Degree in hand, Christina spent the summer of 2007 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts. She participated in their Summer Institute, which focused on the folkways of the Chesapeake. This immersion in the material culture and history of the Chesapeake made Christina's transition to George Washington's Mount Vernon virtually seamless.

Christina now serves as an Assistant Curator at Mount Vernon. In her short tenure, she has worked on a large number of projects at George Washington's home. She helped complete the renovation of the Gardener's House, the last eighteenth-century structure on the estate to be returned to its eighteenth-century function. That structure, reopened in March of 2008, portrays the life of William Spence, George Washington's Scottish gardener. Christina also led the reinterpretation of George Washington's Study, his inner sanctum and a room that "none entered without express permission" – even Martha Washington. This room represents the real George Washington – the man behind the public facade – and it reopened to the public on October 11, 2008.

Christina's talk will focus on *Setting the President's Table: The Robert L. McNeil Collection at the Philadelphia Museum of Art* which opened at Mount Vernon in February 2008. The preparation of that exhibition consumed most of Christina's energy during the fall and winter of 2007. This exhibition showcases a sampling of the porcelains from the Robert L. McNeil, Jr. Collection at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. All were used by American presidents—from George Washington to Ronald Reagan—as they entertained guests and visitors during their respective administrations. The table settings displayed transition from direct European imports by early presidents to an increasing focus on American symbolism in decoration—and eventually—American-made

porcelains. Most were used on the presidential dining table. As times and technology changed, a select few were designed for use aboard presidential boats and planes. All provide a window into the importance and type of entertaining that has defined the presidency since George Washington took office over two hundred years ago. Washington was careful in his selections for the presidential dining table, and his successors have followed his lead in identifying porcelains that represent America and the presidency.

Don't miss this interesting presentation. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to make your reservation.

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## OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Guest Speaker Dr. Daniel Mulhollan

Dr. Mulhollan's thorough knowledge of the proceedings of the First Federal Congress was clearly evident in the very interesting discussion which followed his presentation. As he said, the ultimate success of the American Revolution depended upon the actions taken by the members of that first Congress. In their first sessions, they defined the Executive and Judicial Branches of our government. The rules of practice of the House and Senate were also developed. Madison, Jefferson and Hamilton were strong leaders in the impressive achievements of our First Congress.



Guest Speaker Dr. Mulhollan is introduced by Chapter Vice President Walker

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## Presentation of Flag Certificate to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital



Chief Nurse Patricia Mook accepts a Flag Certificate from President Torrans

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital was recognized for properly and prominently displaying the United States Flag each day on the Hospital's grounds. Patricia Mook, Associate Vice President of Operations and Chief Nurse Executive of the Hospital accepted a Flag Certificate on behalf of the Hospital.

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## Annual Law Enforcement Award

At this meeting our Chapter's Law Enforcement Commendation Medal was presented to Detective Stacey Herzlinger of the Alexandria Police Department. The many significant accomplishments which resulted in her selection for this award were described by Detective Herzlinger's commander, Captain Bill Johnson. Her significant contributions to the mission of the Alexandria Police Department include her exceptional work in the Domestic Violence Unit, where she has been assigned since April 2006. Fluent in Spanish, she has been assigned all cases that involve Spanish-speaking victims. She developed a pamphlet, printed in both English and Spanish, that provides Alexandria residents information about domestic violence and includes important telephone numbers for reporting incidents. That pamphlet has been widely distributed to apartment complexes where many Spanish-speaking citizens reside.

An eight-hour class on domestic violence prepared by Detective Herzlinger is now part of the in-service curriculum for the Northern Virginia Criminal



Detective Stacey Herzlinger and Captain Bill Johnson admire her Law Enforcement Commendation Medal

Justice Academy. She has generously volunteered her own time to important activities such as the Rape Aggression Defense Course. She regularly participates in teaching this self-defense class to Alexandria residents.

Detective Herzlinger's selection for this award is clearly well deserved.

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### **Herbert Robbins Joins Our Chapter**

During the October luncheon we welcomed Herbert Robbins to our Chapter. The eldest of four children, Mike was born in Del Rio, Texas, in 1959 to Dr. Herbert C. and Patricia G. (Chitwood) Robbins. His father was a career member of the United States Air Force followed by a career in higher education. His mother, Patricia, is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Because of his father's career, Mike spent his youth moving from place to place, including Japan, Germany, and six locations in the United States. In 1972, the Robbins family moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, which Mike considers his hometown. After high school, he attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, subsequently completing his BS in Business at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Upon graduating from Southern Miss, Compatriot Robbins was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, in which

he served twenty-years, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



Herbert Robbins is welcomed to our Chapter by President Torrans

Transitioning from uniform in 2002, Mike was hired by Battelle, where he is currently a Regional Manager. While employed at Battelle, he attended The College of William and Mary, earning a Masters in Business Administration.

Compatriot Robbins membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot James Chitwood, who assisted in establishing American independence while acting in the capacity of a Private in the Light Dragoon, South Carolina Line, serving under Captain Levi Johnson, Col Thomas and General Thomas Sumter.

Mike and his high school sweetheart, Denice, live in Dumfries Virginia, and will celebrate their twenty-sixth wedding anniversary next month. They have two children, Jennifer and Sean, who also live in northern Virginia.

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### **Notes from the Chapter President**

#### **I. Election of Chapter Officers for 2009**

At the November meeting, Chapter members will elect officers for the calendar year 2009. A nominating committee has presented the following slate of nominees, who have agreed to serve if elected:

For President: Dave Walker



For Vice-President: Vern McHargue

For Treasurer: Paul Briggs

For Secretary: Mike Elston

VASSAR President Art Batten will formally induct the newly elected officers during the December meeting.

## II: GW Chapter Website

As we initially discussed at our October luncheon, the Board of Governors recognized the need to establish a George Washington Chapter website. We are still seeking volunteers for an ad hoc committee to explore various options in connection with all aspects of establishing such a site, e.g., web design, hosting, maintenance, and updating. Any persons interested in serving on the ad hoc Website Committee or in sharing their ideas about the project should contact Chapter Secretary Paul Briggs.

## III: Luke's Wings Gala

Please note that the gala event with Luke's Wings at the Corcoran Museum of Art originally scheduled for November 22 **has been cancelled**. Nevertheless, Chapter members are still encouraged to donate to the foundation. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Established just one year ago, "Luke's Wings" provides valuable assistance to families of service personnel now recovering from war wounds in Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital. Fletcher Gill, the organization's co-founder, spoke to us during the business session of our luncheon meeting. During a hospital visit, Fletcher observed how much the mere presence of family members supported and accelerated a wounded soldier's physical and psychological recovery. Recognizing that for some families, the expense of travel to Washington is prohibitive, Fletcher and some colleagues co-founded Luke's Wings with the objective of raising money to purchase airline tickets for families of wounded service members.

Individuals wishing to make contributions to Luke's Wings should send their donations to our Chapter Treasurer, Vern McHargue, at: 6846 Ericka Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22310. Checks should be made out directly to Luke's Wings, and we will forward them to the foundation on behalf of the George Washington Chapter. Remember that Luke's Wings is an organization of volunteers, with extremely low

operating expenses—so nearly every penny raised is used to help the families of our wounded service members make the trip to Washington.

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## Upcoming Events

On **Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11**, we will join the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, DAR, at a ceremony held at General Washington's Tomb. Compatriots should assemble at the Tomb on the grounds of Mount Vernon at 2:00 pm. Remarks will be made by Nancy Valley, Regent of Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, and by Chapter President Torrans. We hope the Fifes and Drums of Prince William III will be available to participate in this ceremony. Following the presentation of the wreaths, service veterans, active duty personnel and other guests will be invited to place a red carnation at the Tomb's entrance.

Please plan to attend this traditional ceremony which honors our namesake General Washington and all those who have served or are still serving in our armed forces.

**At the October meeting, a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery was announced. That ceremony, previously scheduled for November 15, has been postponed.**

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## Registrar's Report

### Membership

Our Chapter continues to grow with the addition of new members, transfers and reinstatements. Since my report last month, we have in process at NASSAR one transfer, five new members and two supplemental applications. There are four new members awaiting induction when they are able to attend our monthly meeting.

Of the five new applications pending at National, three applications have been "Pended" by NASSAR for additional information. One, and possibly the other two applications, were "Pended" as a result of the recent announcement by NASSAR discussed below in Application Notes.

Compatriots with names of prospective members should send Bob Carr the prospective member's telephone number and home address. Bob can be reached by phone at 703-780-3066 or e-mail [capt7cs@aol.com](mailto:capt7cs@aol.com). 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 a packet up from Bob at the next meeting.

#### Application Notes

On September 29, 2008, on the SAR-Talk web page, NASSAR Genealogist General Joseph Dooley announced NASSAR's new policy regarding the use of Record Copies of DAR applications in support of SAR New Member and supplemental applications. The following is a quote of the announcement:

"The Genealogy Department and the Genealogy Committee also want to make compatriots aware of recent procedural changes in the DAR's use of verification marks. Whenever the DAR is reviewing a new application which refers to one of their previously approved applications, the DAR staff genealogist now places a single large check mark down the middle of the page or on the margin, rather than marking each genealogical fact as verified.

"The SAR needs to verify specific facts, and the current DAR practice does not convey which facts are verifiable. If you cite an approved DAR application on a new or supplemental SAR application, be sure that the facts you need to prove on your application are verified on the DAR application, as evidenced by a discreet check mark after each genealogical fact. If the needed facts are not individually check-marked, please find another approved DAR application, or try to find the documents the DAR relied on to verify the genealogical facts in question."

Needless to say this announcement has generated significant discussion on the SAR-Talk web site. In a nut shell there have been several interpretations of this announcement. The first is that there is no change to previous SAR policy and this announcement was to make sure all members, genealogists and registrars were aware of the change in DAR's use of verification marks and that the new procedure of using a single check mark on a generation is not acceptable to NASSAR.

The second position is that this announcement is a change in SAR policy and will affect future SAR recruitment efforts. There are others who believe that this announcement is a move in the right direction to strengthen SAR membership requirements by requiring more original documentation – not relying on some other organization's accepted proof.

Throughout the continuing discussion, Genealogist General Dooley has been open to all comments and suggestions. He has indicated a willingness to change back to what it was before if sufficient evidence is provided to the Genealogical Committee at the next Trustee Meeting that DAR's practice is not new. If there are persuasive arguments why the new policy should be retained, it will not be changed.

I encourage all of you that are interested to join the SAR-Talk web page and participate in this discussion. You may do so by signing on to [SAR-Talk@rootsweb.com](mailto:SAR-Talk@rootsweb.com). There are other very interesting discussions as well as a daily e-mail about what occurred on that day during the Revolutionary period. Registrars also use this site as a tool to request assistance in locating documentation/proof for ancestors in member applications.

Bob Carr

Registrar

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#### **Care Packages for Deployed Service Personnel**

Over the past few months, Compatriot Dick Kusserow sent the following Care Packages:

Two packages to named soldiers in Iraq;  
One package to a Navy Seal in Afghanistan;  
Two packages to Air Force units in Kandahar and Saudi Arabia; and  
Four packages to named Marines in Iraq.

Mailing addresses of military men or women now serving in Afghanistan or Iraq are still needed. If you have current addresses of senior NCOs or company grade officers who can distribute the goodies, please forward that information to Dick.

His e-mail is [rkusserow@strategicm.com](mailto:rkusserow@strategicm.com); phone is 703-683-9600, ext 411.

Care packages normally contain toiletries, snack bars, beef jerky, wipes, cookies and similar items. A list of suitable care package items was appended to the September newsletter. If you would like to participate in this project, Dick will happily accept your contributions at our monthly meetings. In the event that Dick is unable to attend, Don Kraft will ensure that your contributions are delivered to Dick.

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**November 8, 2008**  
**Luncheon 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 Monday, November 3rd.***

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](mailto:vern.mchargue@heritage.org).

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

**Valet parking is available.**