



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



## Newsletter

[Visit us online at www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org)

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January, 2010

\* \* \* NOW HEAR THIS \* \* \*

The George Washington Chapter will host a special Award Ceremony and Gala Dinner on the evening of Saturday, January 9, 2010, to present the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Award to The Honorable Eric Shinseki. This special event will be held at the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, Virginia. Check in and social time will begin at 6:00 p.m. The Award Ceremony and an address by Mr. Shinseki will begin at 7:00 in the Smith Auditorium followed by dinner in the restaurant. Black tie dress for gentlemen is optional. Free parking is conveniently available.

Seating is limited. If you have not yet reserved a place, please do so immediately. A reservation form is provided at the end of this newsletter.

Note that this event takes the place of our normal January meeting.

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## Highlights of the December Meeting

At the December meeting, Compatriots elected the following officers to lead our chapter in 2010.

President:	Bob Carr
Vice President:	Paul Briggs
Treasurer:	Michael Elston
Secretary:	Don Kellerman

Following the election, the new officers were installed in a ceremony conducted by VASSAR President Bill Simpson.



### Installation of Officers for 2010

From the left: VASSAR President Simpson; retiring Chapter President Walker; President Bob Carr; Vice President Paul Briggs; Treasurer Mike Elton; and Secretary Don Kellerman

We were honored to have VASSAR President Simpson and his lady join us at the December meeting - not only for his service in conducting the installation of our new officers, but also for his interesting talk about the important role privateers played in the Revolutionary War. In a fact-filled, slide-illustrated talk, we learned how Washington's "informal" navy of privateers harassed the British navy, captured desperately needed supplies and munitions, and even carried the war to Britain by raiding English coastal villages.

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### **A Message from Our New Chapter President**

Fellow Compatriots of the George Washington Chapter, I am pleased and excited to have been elected President of the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution for the year 2010. To have the opportunity to lead the Sons of the American Revolution Chapter named for the founding father of this great nation - George Washington - is an honor beyond my wildest dreams.

Fortunately for me, the chapter has been in good hands over the years and our Past President, Dave Walker and his team set some pretty high standards for those of us following his presidency. We will strive to further their accomplishments over the next 12 months.

As your chapter President, I would like to continue to focus on two of the key issues Dave set out in his message to you at the beginning of his term last year; to activate our existing membership and to expand our base - i.e. - get more members involved in chapter activities; and to increase the amount of engagement that our chapter has with VASSAR and NSSAR.

Second, I would like to review, revise and update the Chapter By-Laws. One of my first acts will be to appoint a team to begin this process immediately.

Third, to produce an up to date chapter handbook by no later than April 10, 2010, that will include the updated By-Laws. Information reflected in our current handbook on each chapter member will include the names of spouses or significant other and membership status of all

members - Life, General Membership or dual membership.

Fourth, increase the chapter's interaction with the local SAR chapters, our sister DAR chapters and local patriotic organizations.

Fifth, implement those recommendations received on the recent chapter questionnaire that will further the goals of the Sons of the American Revolution as outlined in NSSAR, VASSAR and Chapter By-Laws.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year. We will have a lot of challenges and if we approach these challenges with the spirit our Patriots displayed during the American Revolution to give us a free nation, we, too, can succeed.

Happy New Year to you and your family and I hope to see you at our Gala event at Mount Vernon on January 9, 2010, starting at 6:00 p.m. Do not miss it. Make your reservations right away. Contact Paul Briggs at [gnpbriggs@cox.net](mailto:gnpbriggs@cox.net) or [briggs.fergus@dol.gov](mailto:briggs.fergus@dol.gov) or call him at 202-693-4713 or 703-768-6910. This is our big event for the year.

Bob Carr  
Chapter President

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### **Retiring President's Message**

Dear Compatriots,

The year 2009 is drawing to a close and with it comes the end of my term as Chapter President. After almost two years of commuting weekly to Manhattan for my job, Mary and I have decided to relocate to Black Rock, CT in the spring. While we are relocating, I have retained my membership in the George Washington Chapter and plan to continue to do so in the future.

The year 2009 went by very fast. When I assumed office as Chapter President, I set out three goals. They were to strengthen our ties with the National and State societies; to create a web site for our chapter; and to ensure the accuracy and integrity of our membership roster.

In addition to conducting our normal full agenda of annual chapter activities, we clearly made progress in connection with the first goal in 2009. For example, we had a record attendance at the annual

VASSAR meeting in February, 2009. Our chapter's recommendation to award General Eric Shinseki the SAR's Gold Good Citizenship Award was approved by both VASSAR and NSSAR. On a personal note, I had the good fortune of providing the keynote address to the Annual Trustees' and Leadership meeting in Louisville in the Spring. I also continued to serve as Vice Chairman of NSSAR's Congressional and Government Relations Committee and as a new member of VASSAR's Nominations Committee.

Thanks in large part to Mike Elston's efforts, we now have a impressive chapter web site. Dick Kusserow joined me and others in providing a contribution to fund the design, development and implementation of the site. You can access the site at [www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org).

Thanks overwhelmingly to Bob Carr's efforts, we now have a clean membership roster where all members are current on their dues and are on the national, state and local rolls. We have over 200 members and now our chapter's future efforts need to be focused on activating more of them.

I want to thank all of the officers, committee chairs, and other members of the chapter who have helped to make 2009 a successful year. I am confident that under Bob Carr's and the other 2010 officers' leadership, 2010 will also be a successful year.

I wish all of you the best in the years ahead. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our special January 9, 2010, Gold Good Citizenship Award dinner at the Mount. Vernon Inn. I also expect to attend monthly meetings periodically in the future.

Compatriotically yours,  
Dave Walker

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### **Memorial Plaque at OPMH Cemetery Dedicated**

What was to have been a colorful dedication ceremony complete with VASSAR's Color Guard and the Fife & Drums of the Saint Andrew's Society was knocked akilter by the Blizzard of 2009. Consequently, the event originally scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup> was hurriedly rescheduled for December 24<sup>th</sup>, *sans* the Color Guard and the regal

music — and, unfortunately without many Compatriots who had conflicting family commitments for Christmas Eve Day.

Nevertheless, the plaque, which had been installed some time ago, is now formally dedicated. Beneath the crests of the SAR and the Saint Andrew's Society, the handsome plaque bears the following inscription:

#### **Old Presbyterian Meeting House Presbyterian Cemetery**

In this cemetery rest the earthly remains of  
Patriots in the Revolutionary War, many of  
whom were of Scottish ancestry.

These Patriots, along with many Presbyterians  
from Alexandria, fought for the cause of Liberty  
and assisted the soldiers of Washington's Armies.

The Old Presbyterian Meeting House also  
administers the Burial Ground at its church on  
Fairfax Street in Alexandria, where many other  
Patriots rest.

William Bartleman	John Turpin Brooks
Joseph Dean	Andrew Fleming
William Harper	James Irwin
Dennis Johnston (also "Johnson")	
James Kennedy	John Kincaid
William McKnight	William Newton
Henry Nicholson	Dennis Ramsay
Henry Rose	John Westcott

Robert Young

The George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution,  
and

The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C.  
dedicate the marker as a memorial to these

Patriots.  
2008

Mr. Hugh M. Van Horn, Chairman of OPMH's History & Archives Committee, represented OPMH at the dedication ceremony. After reading a prayer composed by The Reverend Ann Herlin, Associate Pastor at OPMH, Mr. Van Horn provided the following history of the cemetery and what is known of the Patriots who rest there:

"Perhaps not surprisingly, the men whose patriotism we celebrate today were mostly boys or young men at the beginning of the Revolutionary

War. Only two of the fifteen for whom we have age records were older than 25. Six were pre-teens when the War began; they presumably served as drummer boys, runners, or camp aides. They all survived the conflict, as evidenced by their grave markers here in the Presbyterian Cemetery, which was established nearly three decades after the war ended. In later life, several became Masons or members of the St. Andrew's Society.

"After the Revolution, these men pursued varied careers. A number continued in the military. Several were merchants. Their numbers also included a physician, a druggist, a carpenter, a rope-maker, a tavern keeper, and two sea captains. Some of them also served as members of Alexandria's Common Council.



Dedication of the Memorial Plaque at OPMH Cemetery

L to R: Bob Carr, Kenan Torrans, Dave Walker

"Several of these patriots also played important roles in the life of the Presbyterian community in Alexandria. As Scots or Scots-Irish, they brought with them their strong Calvinist faith when they immigrated to the American Colonies. Two of them, Joseph Dean and James Irwin were among the nine leaders of the Presbyterian Meeting House who established the Presbyterian Cemetery here on Hamilton Lane. Both remained with the

original congregation of the Meeting House when a group split off in 1817 to form Second Presbyterian Church.

"By 1804, health concerns had prompted Alexandria's Common Council to ban further burials within the city limits. The Meeting House then leased this property, here on Hamilton Lane near the western end of Wilkes Street, for a new Presbyterian Cemetery. The first sales of burial plots here took place in 1810, and the congregation purchased the cemetery property outright in 1813. Since then, a cross-section of Alexandria's Presbyterian citizenry has been buried here – not only these patriots of the American Revolution, but also veterans of the War of 1812 and the Civil War, including those who served for both the North and South, as well as later conflicts. Several of Alexandria's mayors, members of the city's governing council, and at least one member of the U.S. House of Representatives, are also interred there.

"In 1861, when the Commonwealth of Virginia joined the Confederate States of America, Alexandria was occupied by the Union Army. Sadly, the "... Meeting House ... did not survive the fratricide of the Civil War ...," closing its doors in 1899. Although the Presbyterian Cemetery continued to be used for burials after the closure of the Meeting House, the lack of an organization to provide maintenance led to continuing deterioration. By 1922 "... the cemetery was in ... deplorable condition and either neglected or abandoned ..." In response to a petition from a number of prominent Alexandrians, the Circuit Court of the City of Alexandria in 1923 appointed several Trustees to oversee the cemetery.

"After World War II, a new group of Trustees, who were Deacons or Elders of Second Presbyterian Church, took over responsibility for the Presbyterian Cemetery. In 1974, they filled in the lower-lying southwestern parts of the property using soil from excavations for the new Washington Metro system. At the same time when these the new Trustees took over the cemetery, Second Presbyterian re-established a congregation at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. As the years passed, the Meeting House again developed a thriving congregation, and with this growth, members from the Meeting House also gradually became a majority of the Presbyterian

Cemetery Trustees. In January 1999, “The ... Presbyterian Cemetery [again] became a part of the ministry of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House ...”

“The new Cemetery Board established within the Meeting House recognized the need for a Cemetery Superintendent, and they moved quickly to establish and fill this position. They also developed a master plan for landscape design for the cemetery, specifically including a columbarium. To provide a new aesthetic focus for the cemetery, the columbarium was located at the western edge of the property, just beyond the base of the U-shaped roadway. Over the next several years, the Board utilized the financial resources provided by the Presbyterian Cemetery endowment fund to implement the landscape master plan and build the columbarium.

“The columbarium was “opened for business” on 1 January 2008, and it was dedicated on Sunday, 25 May 2008. In remarks at the earlier site-dedication ceremony for the columbarium, Cemetery Board President Robert W. Sennewald summed up the feelings of satisfaction experienced by all those who have worked over the years to restore this treasured property, when he said, “The renovation of the Presbyterian Cemetery – and the work to create the new columbarium – has been an enjoyable and rewarding project. It is fun to be a part of history.””

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SAR Protocol

In March, 2009, Barry McKown, Chairman of the SAR Protocol Committee, published via *SAR Talk* the following guidelines regarding SAR Protocol. These guidelines responded to a number of questions received from state societies and chapters.

#### A. Regarding the wearing of rosettes:

1. Rosettes are not appropriate on formal attire, although some societies do wear them on their formal wear.
2. At most one rosette should be worn;
3. A rosette should not be worn when a neck ribbon is worn.

#### B. Regarding the SAR Pledge

1. Should the hand be over the heart when the SAR Pledge is given?

The Committee recommends that the hands should be at the side for the SAR Pledge, or left hand at the side and the right hand holding written copy of the Pledge. The hand over the heart should be reserved for the United States Flag--advancing of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and the retiring of the colors. Many members, especially new members, read the pledge. Holding the pledge in one hand while the other hand is over the heart is awkward.

2. What should non-members do when the SAR Pledge is given?

The SAR Pledge is not a pledge to the organization, but to liberty and our constitutional republic. The Committee recommends that non-members who wish to make this pledge be permitted and even encouraged to do so, and those who do not should stand respectfully with their hands at their sides.

#### C. What should be the order within the opening and closing rituals, particularly with respect to advancing and retiring the colors?

Not all elements of opening and closing rituals are required or even possible at every meeting. Many state societies and most chapters do not sing the National Anthem. Many state societies and chapters recite the American's Creed, but most do not. For clarification, if there is confusion regarding the spelling of the creed, in *The American's Creed and its Meaning* by Matthew Page Andrews published in 1919 it is given as American apostrophe S, not S apostrophe or without the S.

Chapters often do not have a color guard to advance or retire the colors, and may further curtail the closing ritual if the meeting facility is closing. The Committee recommends the following order as guidelines, with the presiding officer having the option to drop elements that do not fit or add elements that may be appropriate in the particular situation. The recommended order would be:

#### Opening:

Call to order

Advance the colors\* (hand over heart or salute)

Invocation (follow own faith in position of hands)



Pledge of Allegiance (hand over heart or salute)  
 National Anthem\*\* (hand over heart or salute)  
 SAR Pledge  
 Other Pledges such as the American's Creed\*\*  
 Posting of the Colors\* (hand over heart or salute)

Closing:

Motion to adjourn the meeting  
 SAR Recessional  
 Benediction  
 Retire the colors\* (hand over heart or salute)  
 Declaration of adjournment  
 \*Only if a color guard participates  
 \*\*Optional

D. President General's State visit:

1. It is essential that Vice Presidents General and State Presidents contact the President General's travel coordinator or the Executive Director in writing when considering arranging for a visit by the President General to your state or district meeting. Invitations should be arranged as soon after the Congress as possible.

2. The President General and his lady are guests of the state society and should be accorded all courtesies. Arrangements for arrival reception, hotel accommodations, meals, and any special ceremonies should be planned and made clear when the invitation is extended.

Additional information regarding SAR Protocol can be found in the Volume II SAR Handbook, pages 31 and 32. You may access it on the NSSAR web site ([www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)) under COMPATRIOTS drop down menu, SAR HANDBOOK.

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**REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

New Members

The George Washington Chapter continues to grow. At present there are twelve (12) new members awaiting induction. We have all twelve (12) Membership certificates in hand and are working with the applicants for an appropriate meeting to have their induction ceremony. Three (3) either live out of the area or are in school with the remainder in the area. There are two (2) new members' applications at National awaiting approval. There

are twelve (12) new applications being worked of which three have gone out to the applicant for review and signature. Two (2) transfers from C.A.R. to SAR are in process and one (1) reinstatement is being worked.

Supplemental Applications

Presently there are fourteen (14) drafts out to applicant for review and signature and twelve (12) supplemental applications in process. This backlog is the result of priority being given to processing all new member applications ahead of supplemental applications.

All supplemental applications are being processed based on receipt date. Where a member has submitted multiple supplemental applications, only one will be processed from those member submissions before moving on to the next member submission in the queue.

There are other members who have supplemental applications to submit. Those members should submit their supplemental in order to get in the queue. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

Application Notes

Any Compatriot having the name of someone who is interested in joining our chapter, please e-mail me ([capt7cs@aol.com](mailto:capt7cs@aol.com)) their name and address and I will send them an information packet along with a letter explaining the application procedures and the benefits of being a member of our chapter. If you would like to have a New Member packet to give to someone, see me at the meeting and pick up a packet.

SAR National Web Site

I encourage all Chapter members to log on to the Chapter, VASSAR NSSAR web sites. The web pages contain a significant amount of information concerning Chapter, State and National "goings-on".

Bob Carr  
 Registrar

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## Calendar of Coming Events

### January

- 9 Special Evening Meeting. The Honorable Eric Shinseki, former Chief of Staff of the Army and currently Secretary of Veterans Affairs will formally accept the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Award and speak to our chapter at this meeting.

### February

- 13-15 2010 VASSAR Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn Select Hotel, Koger South Conference Center, 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond. Reservation date cut off is Thursday, January 28. **This takes the place of our regular February luncheon meeting.**
- 15 Chapter wreath-laying ceremony at Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier and participation in Alexandria's Washington's Birthday Parade. Details TBD.
- 20 Crossing of the Dan, *The Pizery*, South Boston, VA 10 a.m. POC is Dan Shawl 434-575-7253

### March

- 5-7 National Spring Trustees/Leadership Meetings, Louisville, KY.
- 14 St. John's Episcopal Church - Hampton, VA Plaque presentation and wreath-laying ceremony. Lunch - 1:00 p.m. - Program - 2:30 p.m. For details contact [melyman@va.metrocast.net](mailto:melyman@va.metrocast.net).
- 16 President James Madison's Birthday - Montpelier, VA.

### April

- 13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday - Naturalization Ceremony & Wreath-laying - Monticello, VA. 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday - Washington, DC. Time TBA.
- 18-19 Battle of Petersburg - Historic Battersea, Petersburg, VA. 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday; 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Sunday
- 19 Patriot Day Celebration, Cumberland County Courthouse. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 26 Grave Marking - Glasgow Street Park, Old Towne Portsmouth. Norfolk Chapter, SAR, Fort Nelson Chapter, DAR and Virginia Society, Order of Founders and Patriots. Patriot: Lt. William Porter. 2:00 p.m.
- 28 President James Monroe's Birthday - Richmond, VA, 11:00 a.m.

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 200 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted) at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

#### Present officers are:

President: Bob Carr 703-780-3066  
Vice President: Paul Briggs 703-768-6910  
Secretary: Don Kellerman 703-768-2442  
Treasurer: Mike Elston 703-680-0866  
Registrar: Bob Carr 703-780-3066

This monthly newsletter is edited by Don Kraft, who depends heavily on inputs from chapter officers and committee chairmen. Inputs from others are always welcome. Please send your inputs and comments to [kraftdon@att.net](mailto:kraftdon@att.net) or call 703-451-6132.

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**January 9, 2010**

**Special Evening Meeting Reservation Form**

Please use this form to make a reservation for the chapter's special evening meeting at the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, Virginia. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Check in and social time begin at 6:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony and address by the Honorable Eric Shinseki will begin at 7:00 in the Smith Auditorium followed by dinner in the restaurant. **Dress: Black tie optional.** Parking is free and convenient.

**RSVP no later than January 4, 2010. Seating is limited! Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.**

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:

F. Paul Briggs, Treasurer  
7213 Regent Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22307

You may also phone (703) 768-6910 and leave a message or e-mail [gnpbriggs@cox.net](mailto:gnpbriggs@cox.net).

Please include "SAR reservation for (spell out name)" on the subject line of the e-mail.