



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

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Volume 10, Issue 5

May, 2010



SAR Compatriots and Color Guardsmen pose for a group photograph after our wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns on April 10. Front Rank, l to r: VASSAR Color Guard Commander Robert Anderson, Richard Sherman, Ray Hawn, Don Kellerman, Paul Briggs, Bob Carr, President General Butler, Past President General Wilcox, Jack Shawn, Jack Felt, and NSSAR Color Guard Commander Joe Dooley.

President General Ed Butler Shares a Spring Day with Virginia Compatriots and Friends

The weather could not have been more perfect when SAR President General Ed Butler spent a full day with our chapter and guests which included compatriots from several other Virginia chapters as well as chapters in the District of Columbia, Massachusetts and Ohio. It was a cool, crisp spring day and recent rains had helped abate the heavy fall of tree pollen which had caused many of us to suffer.

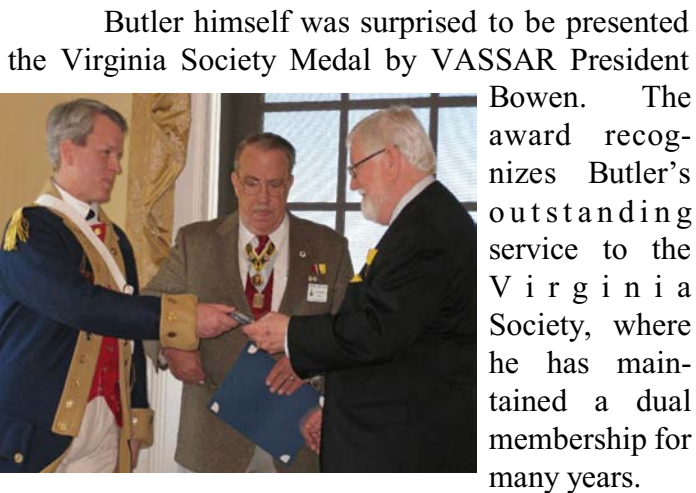
PG Butler and his wife Robin joined a group of about 60 at our regularly scheduled luncheon meeting. As our guest speaker, he gave us a report on what has been accomplished so far in the construction of our new library and other facilities in Louisville. In addition, he personally inducted three new members for our chapter and presented a rare fifty-year membership pin to Compatriot Don Baldwin.



President General Butler inducts Michael W. Coulter, William K. Coulter, and Robert A. Whitehead.



PG Butler congratulates Don Baldwin for 50 years service as a member of the SAR



Genealogist General Joe Dooley assists VASSAR President Bowen in presenting the Virginia Society Medal to President General Butler.



Of course, a chapter meeting is not complete until the guest speaker is "busted." Here, Chapter VP Briggs presents the coveted bust of General Washington to our distinguished guest.

The luncheon completed, our venue shifted to Arlington National Cemetery. There the President General met Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cowherd at the grave of their son, 2d Lt Leonard Cowherd III. Lt Cowherd, a West Point graduate, was killed in Operation Freedom on May 16, 2004. In a brief ceremony, PG Butler presented a wreath and a prayer was read by Mr. Cowherd. Both Mr. Cowherd and his son are compatriots affiliated with the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter.



Three members of the Massachusetts SAR Color Guard and NSSAR Color Guard Commander Joe Dooley at the grave of 2d Lt Leonard Cowherd III in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery. Photo by Ann Whitney.



President General Butler and Compatriot Leonard Cowherd at the wreath-laying ceremony for Leonard Cowherd's son.



April 10, 2010. Section 60, Arlington National Cemetery, where many of the fallen from Iraq and Afghanistan rest.

Our group then proceeded to the Tomb of the Unknowns where we were met by many other compatriots and SAR Color Guardsmen for a wreath-laying ceremony. Our ceremony was one of about 25 that were conducted that day. The stairs leading to the Tomb plaza were crowded to capacity for the 4 o'clock changing of the guard. We were scheduled for 4:15, and as that time approached, the SAR Color Guardsmen formed on each side of the aisle on the stairs leading down to the Tomb plaza.



In a quiet glade near the Tomb of the Unknowns, SAR Color Guardsmen receive their instructions. The Guards were jointly commanded by NSSAR Color guard Commander Joe Dooley and VASSAR Color Guard Commander Robert Anderson.

Photo by Jack Felt.

President General Butler, Chapter President Bob Carr and Chapter Vice President Paul Briggs were escorted to the Tomb Plaza by an Honor Guard soldier of the Third U.S. Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard). Then honors were rendered as a bugler played *Taps*.



President General Butler places our wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



Our wreath at the Tomb.

Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known only to God.



Coming up the stairs lined by SAR Color Guardsmen, Paul Briggs, PG Butler, and Bob Carr are led by the Honor Guard Relief Commander SPC Joseph L. Hull. This concluded our wreath-laying ceremony.

Photo by Jack Felt.

It was a great day to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution! The George Washington Chapter thanks President General Butler, the SAR Color Guardsmen, and the many guests who came from great distances, for joining us on this special day.

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Next Month's Meeting

Next month's meeting will be held at the usual place on May 8. Our guest speaker will be Past President Dave Walker. Dave will give us an overview of recent book *Comeback America*, which provides diagnosis, analysis and prescriptive advice, tailored for the current administration, regarding how the federal government can begin to live within its means and spare future generations a fiscal calamity.

If you have read his book, you know this will be an interesting discussion. Members desiring signed copies should order a book now and bring it to the meeting. Dave has indicated that he is not able to bring a stock of the books with him.

Note that this will be our last meeting until September 18. However, there are several important chapter activities during the intervening summer months.

Our chapter is entered in the **National Memorial Day Parade (May 31)**. We will be among the first units in the parade's order of march. Compatriots should assemble near the corner of Madison Avenue and 7th Street NW at 1:15 p.m. The parade will begin at 2 p.m.

The **Independence Day wreath-laying at Mount Vernon** will begin at 10 a.m. Compatriots and guests should assemble NLT 9:30 at the Anne Pamela Cunningham Building, which is accessed by automobile through the Hearst Gate at Mount Vernon's east parking lot.

Watch the chapter web page, www.gwsar.org, for details as the dates of these events draw near.

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A Special Note from the VASSAR President

At press time, the chapter received the following note from our VASSAR President:

Gentlemen,

We're 44 days away from what I like to call the signature event of my term: the dedication of a plaque at the Old Providence Presbyterian Church in Raphine that bears the names of 24 men who served during the Revolutionary War and 19 men who served in the War of 1812. All are buried in the old church cemetery.

This jointly funded program of the Virginia Society SAR and the Virginia Society of the War of 1812 is described in detail on the attached flyer. Thanks, also, to the National George Washington Endowment Fund and VASSAR's Knight-Patty Fund for their generous assistance.

The program is one of two Presidential Initiatives that will appear on your Chapter Report for 2010. Your attendance is encouraged.

Sign up to attend. Bring a wreath and join in the festivities. VASSAR Graves Registration Chairman Mike Lyman has labored long and hard to put this program together. Let's support him with our attendance.

Semper Fi

Bob Bowen
President, VASSAR

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Introducing Our Newest Compatriots

The following Compatriots were inducted by President General Butler at the April 10th luncheon:

Michael William Coulter

Compatriot Michael William Coulter was born and grew up in the Washington, DC area, spending much of his time on the tennis courts and golf course here at BHCC. Received his BA in political science from the University of Maryland, obtained his Masters at the Naval War college, and other degrees from the National Defense University and the Foreign Service Institute.

Following college, Michael worked on national security policy, first for Senator John Warner on the Armed Services Committee and then for Senator Chuck Hagel on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Mike then joined the Department of State in 2001, where he served as Chief of Staff of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, and then Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commanding General, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.

In 2005, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and served in that position until 2007 at which time he joined the Department of Defense as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense on policy for Africa, Europe and NATO, Eurasia and the Middle East.

Mike is currently the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Principal Deputy for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5).

He is also a Naval Reserve Intelligence Officer with multiple tours in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the Middle East, and stints at European, African and Central Commands. He is currently the intelligence officer for a Prowler (electronic warfare) Squadron.

Compatriot Coulter's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Captain Job Pierce, who served as a Private under his Brother Captain Pierce with the Rhode Island Minute Men at the Lexington Alarm.

He lives here in Alexandria with his wife Jennifer and son John.

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William K. "Bill" Coulter

William K. "Bill" Coulter is a partner in the global law firm of Baker & McKenzie, where he

practices international technology law, specializing in national security communications and in IR, media and telecommunications. He heads the firm's IT, Media and Telecommunications Practice.

Prior to joining Baker & McKinzie, Bill headed the Global IT practices at DLA Piper and Coudert Brothers. Prior to that he was General Counsel at COMSAT, where he was for almost 10 years. During his career, he also worked for ST&T, INTELSAT and IBM in legal roles.

He began his career as a Deputy Attorney General at the Justice Department and on the staff of Senator Howard Baker (R-TN).

While Bill is new to SAR, his mother Jane, and his grandmother, Helen, were both DAR members. One of Bill's mother's joys before passing away last year was that Bill and his son Mike would be joining the Sons of the American Revolution.

Bill's family has a history of serving the country. His grandfather served in both WWI and WWII as a doctor and his great grandfather served in WWI and later as Governor of Delaware. One of Bill's great uncles, while in the Red Arrow Division, was killed in the Haute-Alsace trenches of Europe. Another uncle was a pilot and was killed in WWII receiving the Silver Star. Later a Navy ship, the US Pennewill DE-175 was named after him.

Compatriot Coulter's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Captain Job Pierce who served as a private under his brother Capt Pierce with the Rhode Island Minute Men at the Lexington Alarm.

Bill and his wife, Mary Susan, are parents of two children, Mike and Katie, and live in Belle Haven.

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Robert August "Bob" Whitehead

Robert August "Bob" Whitehead was born on November 15, 1941, in Richmond, Virginia. Bob is the middle of three children of Asa Carter Whitehead, of Amherst, Virginia, and Charlotte Clocke, of Crewe, Virginia. In 1953, the family moved from Richmond to Alexandria and Bob attended schools in Alexandria and Fairfax county.

In 1963, Bob married Valorie McGovern, of Alexandria, and they have three children: Melissa, Melanie and Robert, Jr. In 1968, he began studies at Southeastern University and received a B.S. degree

in Business Management in 1971. In 1970, he joined the U.S. Customs Service as a system analyst, transferred to the Library of Congress in 1984, and retired in 2003 after 32 years of federal service.

Bob now spends his time walking his dogs, reading, flying his sailplane, and most recently delving into his family history on the internet and at local libraries.

Bob's membership in the SAR is based on his bloodline descent from Col. Samuel Meridith's service as a Battalion Commander in the Virginia Militia from Hanover County.

Bob lives in Alexandria with his wife Sandi and their two dogs, Koda and Suzie.

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President's Column

Dear Fellow Compatriots:

You have outdone yourselves since our March meeting. I can feel the excitement in the chapter growing and the attendance is improving at our monthly meetings. We still need some work in this area but as long as attendance is going up that's a good thing.

Since our last meeting, your President has been very busy getting to know more about the other chapters and societies in the Greater Washington, DC, area as well as representing the chapter at wreath laying and flag ceremonies throughout the state. On March 18, Julia and I attended the DC Society dinner meeting in Crystal City along with Jack and Carol Sweeney from the Fairfax Resolves Chapter. On March 27, Don and Fran Kraft, and Julia and I attended a luncheon and grave marking in Irvington, Virginia. Thanks to Mike Elston, Don Kraft, Mike and I were honored to present a Flag Certificate to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors at their evening meeting on April 6.

At 11 o'clock on April 13, Compatriots Dan McGuire, Mike Elston, Rodney Schmidt and I attended the Thomas Jefferson Birthday wreath-laying ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial. President General Butler, Genealogist General Joe Dooley, VASSAR President Bob Bowen and other SAR compatriots from the DC and Ohio Societies also participated. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the President of the United States; Secretary of the Interior; Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia; National, DC, Maryland and Virginia Societies of the

Sons of the American Revolution; the University of Virginia; the Thomas Jefferson Foundation; the National Society Children of the American Revolution; the Jamestown Society; the National Society Children of American Colonists; the National Society of the Sons of the American Colonists; the Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Constitution; and the Hocking Valley Chapter, Ohio Society, SAR – the latest chapter formed in SAR.

On April 15, Julia and I attended the DC Society's annual awards banquet and installation of new officers at the Fort Myer Officers Club. President General Butler spoke to the society and installed their new officers.

On April 24, Ray and Reba Hawn and Julia and I will attend the birthday celebration for James Monroe at his birth place in Colonial Beach, Virginia. On the 27th we will attend a grave- side wreath-laying ceremony at the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA.

You will not want to miss our May 8 meeting. David Walker, former Controller General and Chapter Past President, will speak on his most recent book, *Comeback America*. Dave will also be autographing books. So bring your book and have him sign it.

Looking ahead for the next three months – even though May 8 will be our last meeting before the summer break - there is lots for the chapter to do during these three months. On May 13, Paul Wagoner and other chapter members will be presenting Junior ROTC awards to eight JROTC high schools.

On May 31, we have one our biggest events of the year – the National Memorial Day Parade. This year we are working to organize the biggest SAR contingent to date to participate in this parade. Last year we had a great showing but this year we are shooting for a larger marching contingent, more color guard members and more chapters' banners, flags and members participating. We had 18 color guardsmen for the wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns – Ohio, Massachusetts, Maryland and Virginia were represented. We would like to best that number for the Memorial Day Parade. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us on the mall in DC for the parade. You will receive more specific details later.

June is a very busy month also. On June 18 - 20, NSSAR, and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association will present at West Point, New York, the 2010 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution. The conference will explore "Sons of the Father - George Washington and His Protégés", how he not only fathered a new nation but mentored a new generation of leaders. You can learn more about this conference on the NSSAR website.

On June 24 - 30, the National Congress will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, where the national officers for 2011 will be elected. Julia and I plan to attend. On July 4, we have the Annual wreath-laying at George Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon followed by the Naturalization Ceremony. Please mark this important event on your calendar as well.

In August we will be preparing to send out dues statements for 2011 and putting together recommended members for the nominating committee for 2011 chapter officers.

Prior to our first fall meeting on September 18, we have the VASSAR Semi-Annual meeting on September 10 - 11 in Winchester, VA. That is close to home so let's plan on having a strong chapter showing for this meeting. I encourage each of you that can attend to do so.

Finally, I want to thank all chapter members who attended the April meeting at which we were privileged to hear a "Report from Louisville" by President General Butler. I want to particularly thank those who assisted in the preparation and the execution of the two wreath ceremonies following the meeting - Paul Briggs, Mike Elston, Don Kellerman and Don Kraft. Could not have done it without you.

Fraternally,

Bob Carr
President.

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Patriot Societies Mark Graves at Christ Church in Irvington

More than 50 descendants of patriots and their guests gathered at historic Christ Church on March 27 for a special commemoration ceremony. The church, near Irvington, Virginia, is the site of a unique burial plot containing the graves of two Revolutionary War Patriots: Surgeon Charles Taylor and Patriot James Kelly. In the same plot lie the six sons of James Kelly,



Compatriot Mike Lyman

each of whom served in the War of 1812.

This ceremony was organized by Compatriot Mike Lyman, who is the present Governor of the Virginia Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA) and also a member of the Richard Henry Lee Chapter, SAR. Several other patriotic societies, including the War of 1812 Society, assisted in conducting the ceremony, in which a plaque at the church yard entrance was dedicated and eight graves were marked. Memorial wreaths were presented by twelve societies and foundations.

The ceremony was preceded by a luncheon



Historic Christ Church, Irvington, Virginia

held at the nearby Rappanhannock Westminister-Canterbury Retirement Community. During the luncheon, two speakers discussed the history of the James Kelly Family of Lancaster County and the history of Christ Church, which was constructed in 1735 and restored to its present elegance in the late 1950s.

Following the luncheon, Compatriot Lyman opened the ceremony in the church yard. Following the customary formalities, the Color Guard presented the colors of the United States and the participating societies. The Star Spangled Banner Flag of 15 stars and 15 stripes, which was the U S flag during the

period of the War of 1812, was included in the massed colors to honor the six Kelly brothers who fought in that war.

Prominent society and local officials addressed the assembled crowd. Some of those officials hold membership in more than one of the participating societies. In addition to Compatriot Lyman, the SAR was represented by Compatriots Art Batten, Bob Bowen, and Stanley Cichowicz (President of the Richard Henry Lee Chapter).



Chapter President Bob Carr presents our wreath.

Following their remarks, the plaque and grave markings were unveiled and the wreaths were presented. George Washington Chapter President Bob Carr presented a wreath for our chapter. The ceremony was concluded with a rifle salute and the playing of *Taps*.

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Registrar's Report

Welcome to John Phillip Dumolin, who was approved for membership on April 1, 2010. Currently, ten new member and eleven supplemental applications have been sent to the VASSAR Registrar for approval and forwarding to NSSAR. Of these twenty one applications, sixteen are being worked at NSSAR. Twelve new member and thirty supplemental applications are in draft and awaiting review by the applicant or the provision of additional documentation from the applicant. In addition, sixteen prospective members are working on their applications.

At the May 8 chapter meeting, we plan to induct two new members, Dave Walker's brother Steven R Walker and John Phillip DuMoulin. Keep the new member and supplemental applications coming! If you need a new member packet, please call or e-mail me and I will gladly send you all the information needed.

Bob Carr
Registrar

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DID YOU KNOW?

Partners in Patriotism: Did you know that chapters and state societies which work hand-in-hand with veterans organizations – American Legion, VFW, DAV, MOPH, National Sojourners, Wounded Warriors and TAPS – to organize and conduct a program of mutual interest qualify for the NSSAR Partners in Patriotism Certificate? With the VA and Walter Reed Hospital in our area, we are well positioned to qualify for this recognition.

Chapter Color Guard: Did you know that your chapter would like to establish its own color guard? We have one member, Don Reynolds, who already has his musket and uniform and is ready to go. We are looking for three or four more members who would like to participate. If you are interested, please let any member of the BOM know.

National Status: Did you know that you can go on line and find out what information is held at NSSAR Headquarters on your membership in SAR? Here is how: Go to www.sar.org on your computer. On the "Home" screen put your cursor on the heading "Compatriots" and you will get a drop-down menu. Click on "SAR Member Data Base". In the next screen, click on the blue highlighted "SAR Member Database" which will give you the log-in screen. Click on "Create User". This will instruct you on how to create your user ID and password, thus allowing you to access your membership data held at NSSAR.

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Special Flag Certificate Presentation

Chapter President Bob Carr and Secretary Mike Elston presented the SAR Flag Certificate to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors at the Board's April 6, 2010, meeting. The SAR Flag

Certificate is presented to individuals, businesses or other organizations to recognize "exemplary patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America."

County Board Chairman Corey Stewart accepted the certificate on behalf of the county and expressed his appreciation of the work of the SAR. He even mentioned that he has thought about joining the SAR. Compatriot Carr volunteered to take care of the paperwork for him.

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JROTC Awards Program

This year's JROTC awards program is off to a good start. In the past, the George Washington Chapter has presented awards to seven high schools that have JROTC programs in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Lake Braddock High School was added this year. The participating high schools are: Edison in Alexandria; South Lakes in Reston; Hayfield, Mount Vernon, West Potomac, and T. C. Williams in Alexandria; C. D. Hylton in Woodbridge; and Lake Braddock in Burke.

The Sons of the American Revolution Bronze JROTC Medal was authorized in 1965 by each of the military services for presentation to JROTC cadets or midshipmen who display a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence. The award consists of the SAR Bronze Medal, the SAR Ribbon and a SAR Certificate. The award is presented by a George Washington Chapter representative at the unit's Spring Awards Program. Compatriot Paul Wagoner is our chapter's JROTC Coordinator.

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TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

SAR Day with the Potomac Nationals

Sunday, June 20th is Fathers' Day - and it's also SAR Day at the Potomac Nationals minor league ballpark in Prince William County. We are working with several Northern Virginia chapters to get a good turn out for an old-fashioned afternoon at the ballpark. Game time is 1:05 p.m., and tickets are only \$7 each. (That's not a misprint - seven dollars.) The VASSAR Color Guard has been invited to present the colors during the pre-game festivities. Celebrate Fathers' Day and show your pride in the SAR at the same time by bringing your whole family to the ballpark! To reserve your tickets, please e-mail the treasurer at

treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or call him at 703-680-0866 no later than April 30, 2010, to get our special discounted price of seven dollars per ticket.

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Calendar of Coming Events

April

- 24 President James Monroe birthplace - Westmoreland County, VA. 10:30 am. For additional information, contact the James Monroe Chapter.
- 28 President James Monroe's Birthday - Richmond, VA, 11:00 a.m.

May

- 7-8 Raid on Martin's Station - Ewing, VA. Start time is 8:00 a.m. Contact Thomas Coker, 445-5836 or trc@mounet.com.
- 27-6 **8 Regular meeting of our chapter.**
- 15 Plaque Dedication - Raphine, VA. Old Providence Presbyterian Church.
- 31 National Memorial Day Parade - Washington, DC. Assemble at Madison Ave & 7th St NW at 1:15 pm.**

June

- 18-20 SAR Conference of the American Revolution - West Point, NY.
- 20 SAR Day with the Potomac Nationals - celebrate Fathers' Day with your SAR Compatriots at an old-fashioned day at the ballpark.**
- 24-30 120th Annual Congress - Cleveland, OH.

July

- 4 Washington's Tomb Wreath-laying and Naturalization Ceremony - Mount Vernon, VA. Assemble at Mount Vernon at 9:30 am.**
- 4 Naturalization Ceremony - Monticello, VA. Thomas Jefferson Chapter is the sponsor. Time TBA.
- 26-4 Aug National Scout Jamboree - Fort A.P. Hill, VA

September

- 10-11 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting - Winchester, VA.
- 10-11 Constitution Day - Montpelier, VA.
- 18 Regular meeting of our chapter. Note this change in our regular second Saturday schedule.**

The newsletter editor greatly appreciates the assistance received from Bob Carr, Mike Elston, Paul Briggs, Paul Wagoner, Ray Hawn, Jack Felt and others who have assisted in the production of this newsletter.

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 or call 703-451-6132.

May 8, 2010

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 Monday, May 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:

Michael J. Elston, Treasurer
P.O. Box 336
Lorton, VA 22199

You may also make your reservation by e-mail to treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or call Mike at 703-680-0866.

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

Valet parking is available.