



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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February, 2011

The Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Awards the Gold Good Citizenship Medal to General Peter Pace



General Peter Pace, USMC (Ret), was presented the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal at a black-tie dinner. L to R: NSSAR Genealogist General Joseph Dooley; General Peter Pace; SAR President General J. David Sympson; VASSAR President-elect Mark Brennan; Chapter President Bob Carr

Photo by Dwight Whitney

More than 100 SAR members and distinguished guests assembled to witness the presentation of the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal to General Peter Pace USMC (Ret). The

award ceremony was the principal event of a black-tie dinner hosted by our chapter at the Belle Haven Country Club on the evening of January 8. This NSSAR medal, awarded for outstanding and unusual

patriotic achievement and service of national importance, recognized General Pace's 40 years of service as a Marine Corps officer and in many important posts since retiring from military service. The medal and accompanying certificate were presented by VASSAR President-elect Brennan.



General Pace at the podium

Photo by Dwight Whitney

In brief but emotional remarks, General Pace recounted his experiences as a young officer as well as some of the highlights of his long and continuing national service. He then accepted the award on behalf of all members of the nation's military services and their supporting family members.

General Pace was commissioned in June 1967, following graduation from the US Naval Academy. His distinguished career began as a Rifle Platoon Leader in Vietnam and culminated as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The years between were filled with increasingly important assignments including Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC; Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Somalia; Director of Operations for the Joint Staff; Commander, US Marine Forces Atlantic/Europe/South; and Commander in Chief, US Southern Command. He became the sixteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2005 and is the first Marine to have served in that position.

General Pace currently serves on the Board of Directors of several corporations. He has served on the President's Intelligence Advisory Board, and is currently on the Secretary of Defense's Defense Policy Board. He is also associated with a number of non-profit organizations focused on supporting the troops and their families.

In June, 2008, General Pace was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor a President can bestow.



As the festive evening drew to a close, VASSAR President-elect Brennan called Bob Carr to the podium and presented our chapter a Certificate of Distinguished Service in recognition of the work done in hosting this spectacular affair.

Check out the *Virginia Bulletin* for more complete coverage of this gala evening.

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Our February Calendar Another Typically Busy Month

Our February luncheon meeting will be held at the normal time and venue on **February 12**. The usual reservation form is provided at the end of this newsletter. In the absence of our president, Vice President Paul Briggs will conduct the meeting.

Compatriots may recall that last year's Washington Birthday events were cancelled by an extremely heavy snowfall. We hope that will not happen again, so please mark your calendars for three - yep, three - Washington Birthday events this year, all scheduled for **February 21**.

The first event is a new one for us - a **special Washington's Birthday Service followed by breakfast at historic Pohick Church. This event will begin at 8:00 a.m.** Details are contained in a following article.

The next two events are familiar to many of us. Members of our chapter will join representatives of the DAR, the Society of Cincinnatus and Scouting groups in the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier in the burying ground behind Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH), 323 South Fairfax Street in Alexandria. **This ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m., but participants should arrive 20 minutes early for rehearsal.**

Under the sponsorship of the First Virginia Regiment, this is always a colorful event. This year, the Regiment is working to include chiming of the OPMH bells to more accurately replicate the original ceremony. Participation of young people is encouraged, so if you have children or grandchildren who would enjoy getting involved please bring them along.

Immediately following the wreath-laying, compatriots should move toward the Fire Hook Bakery at the intersection of South Washington and Wilkes Streets. That is our marshaling point for the Washington Birthday Parade. **We should be in position at 12:30 p.m. The parade is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.**

The parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. Its nearly 3,500 participants include historical groups, marching bands, floats, wagons, horses, historic reenactment units, youth groups and special performances. Please join us for this event which is really a fun time for all!

To close out the month, we hope our chapter will be represented by a large delegation at the **VASSAR Annual Meeting. This will be held in Richmond at the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center, 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, beginning Friday evening, February 25, and ending on Saturday evening, February 26.**

The **cutoff date** for registration and hotel reservations is Friday, February 4. Those planning to attend and requiring hotel accommodations must make arrangements directly with the Holiday Inn

Select Hotel (phone 804-379-3800 or on-line at www.holidayinnkoger.com). The rate for SAR Compatriots is \$97 per night plus taxes and a \$2 per day charge for telecommunication.

Registration for the Annual Meeting may be done by completing the Registration Form. A copy of the form has been appended to this newsletter. The form and other meeting details may also be found on the VASSAR website, www.sar.org/vassar.

In the past, many members have found it convenient to attend the Saturday session by using an early morning carpool. Details for that will be discussed at the luncheon on February 12 (also, keep in touch via the chapter's website, www.gwsar.org).

For planning purposes, here is an abbreviated agenda for those planning to join the carpool:

Saturday, February 26

6:15 AM - GW Chapter carpool departs Belle Haven Country Club for Richmond and Koger Center

8:30 AM - VASSAR general business meeting

10:30 AM - VASSAR oration and essay contests
[This year no excursion to either the Virginia Capitol or to St. John's Church is planned. All meeting events will be held at the Koger Center.]

2:30 PM - GW Chapter carpool departs Koger Center for return to Belle Haven Country Club.

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President's Column

Compatriots,

On January 8, 2011, the George Washington Chapter did itself proud. For the outstanding work by the Board of Managers and those chapter members who performed special tasks and for each of you that took the time to bring your lady or a friend to the General Peter Pace Gala Celebration, my sincere thanks and appreciation as well as that of the Virginia Society goes out to you. What a wonderful night it was.

For those of you who could not attend, we celebrated the accomplishments of one of our modern day patriots, General Peter Pace, USMC, Retired. Through the efforts of VASSAR President Bob Bowen and NSSAR Genealogist General Joe Dooley, our chapter was privileged to host the award ceremony for the presentation of the Gold Good Citizenship Medal to General Pace. His acceptance of

the award was moving and his discussion afterwards was insightful and thought provoking.

My sincere appreciation to all the members of the Board of Managers, especially Treasurer Mike Elston, who handled the reservations and seating arrangements and many other details. Mike also provided the two lovely hostesses from the Light Horse Harry Lee Society, Children of the American Revolution. Without Secretary Don Kellerman and Chaplain Don Reynolds it would not have been possible to use the Belle Haven Country Club. They also participated in the program with toasts and prayers.

Vice President Paul Briggs offered a rousing toast to General Pace and presented the traditional Houdon bust of George Washington to General Pace. Thanks also to all those unnoticed members who worked behind the scenes – Don Kraft, our newsletter editor; Jack Pitzer, who assisted in publicizing the event; and Ray Hawn, the official escort for President General Symson and his lady, Evelyn. Lastly, to those from outside our chapter that made this event possible – all the VASSAR officers especially President-elect Mark Brennan who stepped in for President Bowen when he was unable to attend and to all the chapter friends who supported our chapter by their presence – we are truly blessed.

Our first regular Chapter meeting for 2011 will be held on Saturday, February 12. Vice President Briggs will preside. I will be in Washington, Georgia, participating in the Celebration of the Battle of Kettle Creek. That is the battle at which my patriot Stephen Heard was captured by the British/Tories and imprisoned in Augusta, Georgia.

Our February meeting begins the chapter activities for the year 2011. On February 18 – 20, the 230th Anniversary Commemoration of Crossing of the Dan (River) will be held in South Boston, Virginia. This event commemorates the escape of Gen. Green's forces from Gen. Cornwallis's. That enabled Gen. Green to rest and reconstitute his forces before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The Battle at Guilford Courthouse is considered by many historians as the major turning point in the Revolutionary War because Gen. Cornwallis was so dispirited by this battle that he removed his forces from North Carolina to Yorktown. This event is co-sponsored by the Berryman Green Chapter, DAR; Dan River Chapter,

SAR; Halifax County Historical Society and the Halifax County Middle School. Julia and I plan to represent the chapter so come join us. Our chapter will present a wreath at the ceremony

On Monday, February 21, our chapter along with members from other chapters will be laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Cemetery. Following this ceremony, attendees will participate in the George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria. Details for these two events will be provided by Vice President Briggs at the February meeting and in an article in this newsletter.

On February 25 – 27, the VASSAR Annual Meeting will be held in Richmond. Unlike previous years, this date does not conflict with our chapter's regular meeting schedule. I hope that many of you will join us in Richmond for this event. Saturday is the big day which is started with the General Membership Meeting at 8:30 AM. At this meeting the election of VASSAR officers for 2011 will take place and I expect to be elected as your VASSAR Secretary. After lunch the chapter awards will be presented followed by a black-tie banquet at which the new VASSAR officers will be sworn in.

The month of March starts with our chapter meeting and the NSSAR Spring Leadership/Trustee Meeting in Louisville. I plan to attend this meeting in Louisville and have asked the BOM to approve rescheduling our chapter meeting to the third Saturday, March 19, so this is a heads up for the change. March 16 is the date of James Madison's birthday celebration. More details on this later.

I encourage all of you to support your chapter's programs throughout the year. In the past, we have always had a good turnout for the OPMH Grave-marking Ceremony and the George Washington Birthday Parade on February 21. Let's not disappoint all of our fans this year.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Richmond at the VASSAR Annual Meeting on February 26.

Thanks for all your support in 2010 and I look forward to an even bigger year in 2011.

Faternally,

Bob Carr
President

Start George Washington's Birthday Off Right

Attend a Special Service at His Colonial Parish Church: Historic Pohick Church

Our Chapter's namesake was instrumental in selecting the site for the present Pohick Church and served on its Vestry. Each year, the church celebrates General Washington's birthday with a service of Holy Communion from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer – the liturgy with which Washington would have been familiar – in the church where Washington worshiped both before and after the Revolution. It should be noted that a few concessions to modern times are made in the service. For example, prayers for the King will not be said! The service is followed by a breakfast in the parish hall with a guest speaker. The topic usually relates to George Washington in some way. At just \$10 per person, this breakfast is quite a bargain. The church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway (at the intersection with Telegraph Road), in Lorton, Virginia. Five of our members are also members of the church.

The Washington's Birthday Service begins at **8 a.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011**. The service is free; tickets for the breakfast can be purchased in advance from our Chapter Treasurer, Michael Elston, or at the door.

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

New Registrar

Good NEWS! The chapter has a new Registrar! Bob Whitehead has agreed to assume the position of Chapter Registrar/Genealogist effective February 1, 2011. Bob brings to this position a great deal of knowledge and talent in, the field of genealogy research. He has researched extensively in the DAR Library, National Archives, Virginia Library and other state libraries, giving him a broad knowledge base which he can draw upon while assisting current and prospective members in completing their applications. Since Bob joined the chapter in February, 2010, he has submitted numerous completed applications for himself, family and friends. These applications were "State Registrar Ready" when received. In every case the applications were forwarded to national and to date four have

been approved and none rejected. Please welcome Bob and give him your support in this most important chapter position.

New Members

Since my report in the January newsletter, three new members have been approved: Robert David Andrews (Ashbel Crampton), Daniel Fox Westlake (Levi Stone), and Samuel Thomas Dangremond (Joseph Buell). In addition five previously approved new members await induction: Zachary William Haywood Schmidt (Petrus Krum), Richard Lee Latimer, Jr. (David Child), Brian Charles Hurbert (Meriweather Smith), Matthew Bret Hurley (William Norcross) and David Lawrence Gosinski, Jr. (Thomas Cantrell). Eleven new member applications are at National awaiting approval. Ten new applications are being worked of which one has been sent to the applicant for review and signature. There is one transfer pending from the Dakota Society.

Supplemental Applications

Ten supplemental applications are being worked. There are ten supplemental applications at National awaiting review and approval. Five were reviewed and pended this month. National has requested additional documentation for certain generations.

Members who have supplemental applications to submit should submit them as early as possible in order to get in the queue. It is taking up to six months for National to approve these applications. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

Application Notes

Any Compatriot having the name of someone who is interested in joining our chapter or was a former member and has dropped out, please e-mail Bob Whitehead (rowhi@comcast.com) or Mike Elston (treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com) with their name and address and we will send them an information packet along with a letter explaining the application/reinstatement 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, pick up a packet at the meeting.

SAR National Web Site

I encourage all chapter members to log on to the Chapter, VASSAR, and NSSAR web sites.

These web pages contain significant information concerning Chapter, State and National “goings-on.”

Bob Carr
Registrar

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Chapter Notes CORRECTIONS

The Editor regrets the following errors in the January, 2011, newsletter.

In the first paragraph of page 2, our newest member Darrell Smith was misnamed as David Smith.

At the bottom of page 5, President General Sympton’s name was misspelled.

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WANTED

National History Day Competition Judges

District 5 National History Day competition is scheduled for Saturday, 26 March. Jack Sweeny, National History Day District 5 Coordinator, has put out a call for judges to assist in judging the competition. If you are a history buff, particularly the 1750 to 1800 historical period and would like to be a part of a project that will restore your faith in the youth of this nation, you should sign up for this one day event. Under the tutelage of the SAR NHD District 5 Coordinator, the George Washington, George Mason, Col Grayson, Fairfax Resolves and Culpeper Minutemen Chapters, put together a good team of judges to help out in the general competition. These Chapters and the DSSAR collectively pay for the SAR Good Citizenship Medals, Outstanding Citizenship Pins and Certificates presented at the closing ceremony to those competitors placing in entries associated with the SAR 1750-1800 historical period. We also pay for the associated certificates for the medals, pins, and final certificates of appreciation which are sent to the respective faculty mentors for later presentation to the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place NHD student competitors at appropriate school assemblies. Jack Sweeny will provide all SAR chapters/organizations a final report

that stipulates all support details. That report facilitates the extraction of applicable support activity by chapters in preparation of their Annual Report to VASSAR.

Vice President Paul Briggs will coordinate the chapter’s participation in the program. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Paul at gnpbriggs@cox.net or 703-768-6910.

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Calendar of Coming Events

February 2011

- 12 Regular meeting of our Chapter.**
- 18 –20 230th Anniversary Commemoration of Crossing of the Dan (River) will be held in South Boston, Virginia.
- 21 Special Washington Birthday service and breakfast at Pohick Church, 8 a.m. OPMH Wreath-laying and Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria**
- 25-27 2011 VASSAR Annual Meeting-Richmond.**

March 2011

- 10-12 NSSAR Spring Leadership/Trustee Meeting - Louisville
- 16 Celebration of James Madison’s birthday
- 19 Regular meeting of our Chapter. Note change in date.**
- 26 National History Day competition. Details TBA**

April 2011

- 9 Regular meeting of our Chapter.**

May 2011

- 13-15 Raid on Martin’s Station - Ewing, Virginia. 10 a.m.
- 14 Regular meeting of our Chapter**
- 21 President General Sympton will present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.**
- 30 National Memorial Day Parade**

February 12, 2011

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 Wednesday, February 8th.

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.

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 Whitehead 703-203-1465

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



Virginia Society
 Sons of the American Revolution
2011 Annual Meeting Registration Form
February 25-27, 2011

Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center
 1021 Koger Center Boulevard
 Richmond, Virginia 23235-4756

Phone: 1-804-379-3800 Web: www.holidayinnkoger.com

Name: _____ Street: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Chapter: _____	Wife/Guest: _____ Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____
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	<u>Number</u>		<u>Total</u>
Registration (SAR Compatriots Only):	_____	@ \$35 each	\$ _____
Friday Night Buffet:	_____	@ \$30 each	\$ _____
Saturday Night Banquet:	_____	@ \$35 each	\$ _____
Total Amount Remitted:			\$ _____

	<u>Compatriot</u>	<u>Guest</u>
Do you and/or your guest need a name tag? (Yes/No):	_____	_____
Saturday Night Meal Choice (choose one) }	_____	_____
Prime Rib	_____	_____
Pork Chop	_____	_____

Please make checks payable to "VASSAR"

Mail this form and your check to:

Assistant Treasurer, VASSAR

71 Hope Springs Lane

Stafford, Virginia 22554-5238

Hotel arrangements must be made directly with the Holiday Inn Select Hotel

Cutoff Date for Registrations and Hotel Reservations is Friday, February 4, 2011

For questions please contact:

Taylor Cowardin, President, Richmond Chapter (dow17000@aol.com or 804-305-8007)

- or -

Wayne Rouse, Asst. Treasurer, VASSAR (wrrouse4sar@aol.com or 540-659-5258)