



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



## Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue 5

May, 2011



Air Force Captain Latasha West receives the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal at our April luncheon.

### **Law Enforcement Commendation Medal Awarded to Captain Latasha West**

In a ceremony following her address to chapter members and guests at the April luncheon meeting, Captain Latasha N. West was awarded the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. This award recognized her exceptional efforts in combating contract fraud and corruption while serving as a

special agent in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Captain West distinguished herself from February, 2009, to January, 2011, by faithfully and selflessly volunteering and serving in Iraq as part of the International Contract Corruption Task Force. She led nine investigations involving corruption and fraud, conducted over 35 interviews and numerous



briefings throughout the country ensuring commanders were kept abreast of the economic crime threat impacting their capability to ensure that war fighters were properly equipped to execute the mission.

Her efforts led to the identification of a contractor involved in a conflict of interest scheme involving contracts valued at \$38 million, and in a separate incident, identifying a contractor funding insurgents, resulting in the contractor being blacklisted from military bases.

Captain West's entire career has been an example of outstanding service. In addition to her accomplishments in Iraq, she is a role model who mentors and guides field agents in complex investigations and seeks continuous self-improvement opportunities, such as her active involvement with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Following six years as an enlisted woman in the Air Force, Captain West returned to civilian life to obtain a bachelor's degree with honors and to begin graduate study. After re-enlisting, she was commissioned in June, 2002, following completion of the Air Force Officers Training Course. She then attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center as a member of the first Air Force Special Agent class at that institution. She excelled in that course, and since has been selected Agent and Officer of the Quarter for three different Detachments and was also the Company Grade Officer of the Year for Region 5 in 2005. She earned an MBA with a specialization in financial fraud management and recently was selected to pursue a doctorate in business administration.

Captain West's distinguished service to her nation has brought great credit to herself, the United States Air Force and the law enforcement profession. [Thanks to Jack Pitzer for preparing this article.]

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### **President's Column**

Fellow Compatriots,

Another busy and fun month. The week following the Chapter meeting at Gatsby's Tavern on April 9, which, by the way, was a nice change of venue and all present enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the old time atmosphere, Chapter members attended

the Thomas Jefferson Birthday Celebration at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC. The DC Society led the celebration under the auspices of the National Park Service. Society Secretary Paul Hays chaired the ceremony in the absence of President Gary Nordlinger. President General Sympton made the keynote address which was followed by the presentation of wreaths by over forty lineage societies and organizations. President Mark Brennan represented VASSAR and our own BG Charles McGuire, represented the Jamestown Society. The George Washington Chapter was represented by Compatriots Hawn and Carr.

On Wednesday, April 14, Ray and Reba Hawn attended the ground breaking and dedication of the new Library at Mount Vernon which will be dedicated to the research and preservation of the life of George Washington. That Saturday, the day of the tornados, the Battle of Petersburg was celebrated but I believe the weather prevented any representation at that event.

On Monday, April 18, a ceremony was held at the Vietnam Memorial to recognize those Vietnam Veterans who have died since the war due to diseases attributed to their participation in the Vietnam War. This is an annual event that receives very little recognition.

During the last week of April there are two events in which the Chapter participates: the celebration of James Monroe's Birthday at his grave site in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery; and the James Monroe Celebration at his birth place in Colonial Beach. This year, Secretary Donald Kellerman and his wife Nancy will represent the Chapter at the Hollywood Cemetery ceremony. Don will bring greetings from the Chapter and place a Chapter wreath at James Monroe's grave.

Treasurer Mike Elston and Compatriot Jack Shawn will represent the Chapter at the ceremony in Colonial Beach. They will bring greetings and place a wreath at James Monroe's birth place. We are hoping that the James Monroe Memorial Foundation will include in this event a dedication ceremony for the large bust of George Washington and its pedestal. These were donated to the foundation by members of the George Washington Chapter for display in the recently opened museum located nearby.



Following this activity, we move into the month of May, our last meeting before the summer break. The Chapter will be involved in two major events during May: the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on May 21 at 6:15 p.m. ( we could not get a better time – sorry); and the National Memorial Day Parade in DC on May 30. You will receive more information on this later.

During the month of June, one major event will take place -- the SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution. This will be held in Baltimore at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel. This year's conference will focus on the role Black Americans played in the American Revolution. More on this later.

The 121<sup>st</sup> National Congress will be held in Winston Salem from July 8 to July 13. If you have never been this may be your best opportunity to attend this annual event. The venue is reasonably close to home so you can drive if you like. Julia and I plan on attending. We have found this event to be one at which the true meaning of SAR comes alive and you will meet new friends for life. Currently, four members of the Chapter plan to attend and we hope to have more by July 8.

The premier event of July is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July wreath-laying ceremony at George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon and the Naturalization Ceremony that follows. Please place this on your calendar for July. Our Washington Life Guards Color Guard will be participating in this ceremony for the first time. Come and support them at this colorful event.

On August 12 and 13, the George Washington Chapter joins the Fairfax Resolves and George Mason Chapters as VASSAR's representatives to host the Atlantic Middle States Annual Conference in Alexandria. The Atlantic Middle States Association of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is composed of seven state societies: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia of the Mid-Atlantic District and New York and New Jersey of the North Atlantic District. To learn more, log on to their web site at <http://virginia-sar.org/ams>.

On Saturday, September 10, the Chapter will have its first meeting after the summer break. Be sure and put this on your calendar. The following weekend, September 16 and 17, the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting will be held in Fredericksburg. On

September 30, the NSSAR Fall Leadership/Trustee meeting will convene for 3 days in Louisville. Also in September, you will receive your 2012 notice for NSSAR, VASSAR and Chapter dues. This will allow sufficient time for the Treasurer to collect all dues before the NSSAR deadline of December 31, thus avoiding drops and reinstatement problems.

Thanks to all of you for your support this year. I look forward to your continued support for the remainder of the year.

Fraternally,

Bob Carr  
President

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### Highlights of the April Meeting

Chapter members and guests were pleased to surprise our guest speaker by presenting her the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal (see article above). They were also genuinely impressed with her presentation, which focused on the International Contract Corruption Task Force and that organization's successes in investigating contract corruption in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are indeed fortunate to have such an accomplished young officer serving in our armed forces.

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Several area high school students submitted essays to the Chapter's annual essay contest. The volunteer judges selected the essay submitted by



Ankita Dosaj receives medal, certificate and check.

Ankita Dosaj, a senior at Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax. Ms. Dosaj's essay was entitled "A Constitutional Guarantee: To what extent was the Constitution a complete abandonment of the principles on which the Articles of Confederation rested?" Second place was awarded to Kieran



Sigrest, a junior at Osbourn Park High School, Manassas.

Ms. Dosaj and her mother attended the April meeting at Gadsby's Tavern. President Robert Carr and Treasurer Michael Elston, who chairs the Chapter's contest as well as the Virginia Society's contest, presented Ms. Dodaj with a medal, a certificate and a \$100 cash prize.

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### Important Upcoming Events

#### National Memorial Day Parade , May 30, 2011

The National Memorial Day Parade this year is the seventh annual, and it has grown to become a significant event in the nation's capitol. The George Washington Chapter has participated in each parade, and this year we will make a repeat appearance in concert with the NSSAR Color Guard, the Fifes and Drums of Prince William the Third and compatriots of other chapters who may join us in a single SAR unit. Here are the details:

| <u>Time (PM)</u> | <u>Event Place (National Mall)</u>   |
|------------------|--|
| 1230 – 1:30      | Marshal in SAR attire**<br>Madison and 7 <sup>th</sup> St. NW                        |
| 1230             | Parade Jeep to marshaling area<br>Madison and 7 <sup>th</sup> St. NW                 |
| 1:45             | Parade forms Madison and 7 <sup>th</sup> St. NW                                      |
| 2:00             | Parade steps off Constitution Ave<br>from 7 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> St. NW |
| 3:00             | Moment of silence and remembrance  |

\*\* Parking available Reagan Building entrance on 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW near Constitution Ave.

The parade route is about a mile and takes about 35-40 minutes to walk.

Eat and drink before the parade, and bring water if you need it. Wear a hat.

**Important: Every participant must sign a liability release.** A copy of the release form is provided at the end of this newsletter. Forms will also be available at the May 14 luncheon. Please complete a form and send it to:

Paul Briggs, Vice President  
7213 Regent Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22307  
[gnpbriggs@verizon.net](mailto:gnpbriggs@verizon.net)  
703-768-6910

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Wreath-Laying Ceremony Washington's Tomb

#### Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens

On Independence Day, following our long-standing tradition, we will again place a wreath at General Washington's Tomb. The schedule for this event follows:

| <u>Time (AM)</u> | <u>Event</u>   |
|------------------|--|
| 9:00-9:30        | Participants arrive at Administration Building (enter at Hurst Gate and park inside) |
| 9:45             | Participants march to Tomb Grove via Bowling Green                                   |
| 10:00            | Wreath-laying program (program printed by Mount Vernon)                              |
| 10:30            | Proceed to tomb for wreath-laying and floral tributes                                |
| 10:50            | Wreath-laying ceremony ends  |
| 11:00            | Naturalization Ceremony on Bowling Green   |

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### Guest Speaker for May

We are excited to have arranged for Marc Leepson to return as our guest speaker for the May luncheon speaking on the subject of General Lafayette in the American Revolution. Many compatriots will remember his presentation on the history of the Stars and Stripes at an earlier luncheon.

Leepson is a journalist, historian and the author of seven books, most recently *Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General*, a concise biography of the famed Marquis de Lafayette. His previous books are *Desperate Engagement*, the story of the Civil War Battle of Monocacy and Confederate General Jubal Early's subsequent march on Washington; *Flag: An American Biography*, the history of the Stars and Stripes from the beginnings to today; and *Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built*. He edited *The Webster's New World Dictionary of the Vietnam War* and wrote two books on health topics in the 1980s.

A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly*, he has been a free-lance writer since 1986. He has written for many newspapers and magazines. Since March of 1986, he has been arts editor and



columnist for *The VVA Veteran*, the newspaper published by Vietnam Veterans of America. He teaches U.S. history at Lord Fairfax Community College in Warrenton, Virginia.

Since the early 1990s Leepson has been active in many non-profit groups, including membership on the Middleburg (Virginia) Library Advisory Board (President and Vice President); the Loudoun County (Virginia) Library Board of Trustees; the Library of Virginia Foundation (Treasurer); the Virginia State Library Board; the YMCA of Loudoun County (Virginia); the Goose Creek Association (Secretary); and the Mosby Heritage Area Association (Treasurer, President).

Marc Leepson graduated from George Washington University in 1967. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1967-69, including a year in the Vietnam War, he received an honorable discharge and went on to earn a Masters Degree in history from George Washington University in 1971. He lives with his wife Janna and their children, Devin and Cara, in Loudoun County, Virginia.

This will be another presentation you will not want to miss. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to make your reservations.

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## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Since the last Registrar's Report four applications were approved by NSSAR and seven applications were forwarded to the VASSAR Registrar.

### Applications Approved by NSSAR

New Member: Charles E. McDowell (Patriot: Luke Eager)

New Member: Kyle K. Baldwin (Patriot: James Allen)

Supplemental: Robert A. Whitehead (Patriot: William Camden)

Supplemental: Robert A. Whitehead (Patriot: Richard Crafton)

### Applications Forwarded to the VASSAR Registrar

New Member: Derek K. Loveland (Patriot: Levi Loveland)

New Member: Ronald G. Kirby (Patriot: William Trogdon)

New Member: Dustin D. Greene (Patriot: Joseph Hardin)

New Member: James W. Whitehead, IV (Patriot: John Whitehead)

New Member: James M. Mobley (Patriot: Edward Martin)

New Member: Scott B. Stephens (Patriot: John Adam Stevens, Sr.)

Supplemental: Robert A. Whitehead (Patriot: Charles A. Wilson)

There are fourteen applications at NSSAR (four awaiting review and ten pended awaiting additional documentation). Eight applications are being worked on at the chapter level, and seven new members await induction.

Any Compatriot having the name of someone who is interested in joining our chapter please forward their name, address, and email address to rowhi@comcast.net and I will contact them.

Bob Whitehead

Registrar

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## Chapter Notes

### Next Newsletter Will be Published in August

As we approach the summer recess, please note that the next newsletter will not be published until August - just prior to the resumption of our regular monthly schedule on September 10. Don't forget that there are important chapter events on the calendar for the summer months. Consult our website, [www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org), for announcements and watch for news distributions via e-mail.

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### Chapter Directory to be Updated

All chapter members should have received a Chapter Directory contained in an easily updated three-ring binder. We will soon be distributing an up-date to that important record. The updated



directory will include the chapter's constitution, bylaws and other historical data which have been contained in past directories. The print font will also be increased.

As a part of this updating, all members are asked to review the directory's presentation of their personal data to make certain that it is accurate. If your data contains errors or is incomplete, please send corrections to Chapter Secretary Don Kellerman at e-mail address [aced9@cox.net](mailto:aced9@cox.net).

In a recent email to SAR officers, NSSAR Communications Coordinator Denise Hall emphasized both the utility and economy of e-mail communications:

"... [don't miss opportunities to] update your ... Chapter individual member records with e-mail addresses! If you don't do this already, please consider adding an e-mail address field to the dues notices you send to your members, along with requesting updated addresses and phone numbers.

"Inform your members of the online member database, which makes it possible for them to maintain their own contact information – a great help to you, the officers!

"Our ability to relay, not only "green," but instant, communications via e-mail will be an even more critical component in the overall, efficient operation of Headquarters as we move forward. E-mails incur no paper, printing, or mailing costs, and information can be broadly disseminated instantly. Intermittent, pertinent bulletins can be e-mailed when necessary, and received in plenty of time before the information is "old news," ... For these reasons, we ask you to actively request your members' e-mail addresses, and changes to existing e-mail addresses, whenever communications are dispersed. Then, ensure that those new e-mail addresses have been entered in our membership database for future use. Note: NSSAR does not sell nor distribute e-mail lists for third party use. Your email address will be kept confidential and protected. E-mail will be used to

communicate only NSSAR information."

With that said, this is also a good time to visit the SAR website and update your personal profile which is contained there.

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## HELP WANTED

**Don Kraft has advised the BOM that he will step down as editor of this newsletter at the end of the calendar year. At that time, Don will have completed seven years as the editor. Volunteer(s) to fill this important post are urgently solicited. Please contact Chapter President Bob Carr if you are interested in taking over the newsletter. Interested persons can be confident that Don will assist in a seamless transfer of the editor's duties .**

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## ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

Compatriots who do not attend our monthly meetings may not be familiar with the importance of the Chapter's annual report to VASSAR. VASSAR uses this report to evaluate each chapter's performance during the year. That evaluation is the basis of flag streamers and other awards that are presented at the VASSAR Annual Meeting. Chapters submit their reports by completing an *Annual Chapter Report* form which specifies the activities that will be used to compile each chapter's score.

The list of "scored activities" changes slightly from year to year. This year's report form is posted on the VASSAR website ([www.virginia-sar.org](http://www.virginia-sar.org)) under the Administrative Information tab. You will see that this year's score will be based on our achievements in 15 different categories.

Although the reports are not submitted until next January 13<sup>th</sup>, it is not too early to review the listed categories and see where you can help improve our Chapter's score. You will see that even if you do not attend a single luncheon meeting, it is still possible for you to make important contributions to



our annual rating - and have a good time in the process! For example:

★ Your participation in any of our special events (e.g., wreath-layings at the Tomb of the Unknowns, the Memorial Day Parade and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events at Mount Vernon) adds to our total score.

★ Can you nominate a friend or neighbor (or even yourself) as a person who qualifies for an SAR Flag Certificate? If so, that also counts.

Every little bit helps. Please find a way to help our Chapter achieve to the best score ever when this year's report is graded.

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### **Members Continue to Provide Generous Financial Support**

The George Washington Chapter depends on the generosity of its members to meet its annual expenses. The Board of Managers extends its appreciation to the following members who made contributions to the Chapter in the First Quarter of 2011:

#### **More than \$3,000**

Robert F. Carr

#### **\$500 to \$1,000**

Ray Hawn

#### **Up to \$100**

Joseph Dooley

Edward Gumkowski

Ernesto Uribe

Dennis J. Hickey

Remember, the SAR is a 501(c)(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Further, if you are considering including the George Washington Chapter in your estate plans, please contact the Chapter Treasurer.

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### **Calendar of Coming Events**

#### **May**

13-15 Raid on Martin's Station - Ewing, Virginia.  
10 a.m.

**14 Regular meeting of our Chapter**

**21 President General Simpson will present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Assemble at the Tomb at 5:45 PM.**

**30 National Memorial Day Parade. See schedule in article above.**

#### **June**

24-28 NSSAR Conference on Black Patriots.  
Baltimore.

#### **July**

**4 Wreath-laying at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon**

8-13 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress, Winston Salem.  
Register NLT June 15 for special rates. See details in the NSSAR website.

#### **August**

**12-14 Atlantic Middle States Conference  
hosted by Northern Virginia Chapters**

#### **September**

**10 Regular meeting of our Chapter**

**16-17 Semi-annual VASSAR meeting in Fredericksburg.**

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](mailto:kraftdon@att.net) or call 703-451-6132.



**May 14, 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 Monday, May 9th.***

**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](mailto: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 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**  
**AGREEMENT OF RELEASE**

The National Memorial Day Parade  
c/o American Veterans Center  
1100 North Glebe Road Suite 910  
Arlington, VA 22201

The undersigned will appear in the National Memorial Day Parade being produced by the American Veterans Center on Monday, May 30, 2011. The parade is being given as a public service.

I assume any and all risks associated with participating in the events and particular activities that I agree to undertake, including but not limited to negligent or reckless acts by other participants and volunteers, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I also agree to abide by the rules of the events as set forth by designated officials and supervisors.

Knowing these facts, and in consideration for being permitted to participate in the parade, I hereby, for myself, and on behalf of the members of my organization and my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns, or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive release and discharge the American Veterans Center, The District of Columbia, The National Park Service, JM Best Entertainment Inc., Under the Sun Productions Inc., any and all parade sponsors, and each of them, their officials, agents, designated event supervisory personnel or anyone acting for or on their behalf, from any and all losses, costs (including without limitation, litigation costs, and attorney fees), claims, damages, suits, actions, demands, liability, and expenses in connection with loss of life, personal injury and/or property damage of any kind whatsoever, in law or in equity, arising out of or in the course of my participation in the event.

The undersigned does hereby release his/her voice, biography, audio/visual clips and likeness(es) solely in connection with the promotion, advertising for this year and subsequent festivals, and archival use of the Parade (including print, radio, television, and Internet advertising and promotions, including promotional materials). The undersigned hereby grants the American Veterans Center the right to broadcast, and /or to authorize others to broadcast, via radio, television, cable television, Internet, or otherwise. Clips provided that any such broadcast will be solely for purposes of promoting the Parade. Undersigned acknowledges and agrees that prior to, during or after the Parade, producers may, but will not be obligated to, disseminate information and various materials concerning the Event via the Internet, various online services or through other means or media.

The undersigned hereby accepts sole responsibility for the conduct and operation in the parade. The undersigned agrees that he/she/it will not involve or conduct itself in any manner that would negatively impact the good reputation of the parade. The undersigned agrees to be legally bound hereby.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization : George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Parental signature required, if under 18 years of age)