



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



## Newsletter

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

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### Our Chapter Receives Awards at the VASSAR Annual Meeting



Master-at-Arms Covert Beach and President Bob Carr display flag streamers awarded to our Chapter at the VASSAR Annual Meeting

Flag streamers recognizing our chapter's sponsorship of the Knight Essay Contest, support of

the History Day Program, our website as VASSAR's best, and our chapter as being Virginia's Best Very Large Chapter were among the awards presented to President Carr at the VASSAR Annual Meeting held last month in Richmond.

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### President's Column

Fellow Compatriots,

This has been a very short month with our chapter meeting held last month on the third Saturday. Unfortunately, our guest speaker Corey Stewart, Chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, was unable to make the meeting due to no fault of his own. However, we had an informative meeting with all chapter officers updating the membership on their areas of responsibility. We also discussed the near and long term events in which the chapter is involved. I think everyone enjoyed the informal discussions and the opportunity to ask questions of the chapter officers and committee chairs.

On Saturday, March 26, at 8:30 AM, five chapter representatives reported to the Gold Room in the Johnson Center at George Mason University. Along with eleven other SAR members representing the Culpeper Minute Men, Col. William Greyson, Fairfax Resolves and George Mason Chapters they served as judges for the District V National History Day Competition. It was a great day and fun was had by all. I think we were all encouraged to see the

quality of and the intellect displayed by our young men and women participants. At the end, when awards were presented, the Johnson Auditorium was packed with contestants, teachers and parents. Kudos to Paul Briggs, Jack Shawn, Rich Sherman and Dwight Whitney. We owe you our gratitude and thanks for devoting time from your Saturday to support this most important event and to increase the visibility of those values cherished by all members of the Chapter, VASSAR and NSSAR.

At our meeting on Saturday, April 9, we are in for a special inside look at the work of the International Contract Corruption Task Force, which was organized to investigate contract fraud and public corruption associated with the war and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Be sure to make your reservations right away. You will not want to miss this one.

There are a number of VASSAR and NSSAR events coming up between now and our next meeting on May 14, which I encourage you to attend and support. On Wednesday, April 13, at 10:30 AM, there will be a wreath-laying at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC to celebrate Thomas Jefferson's 268<sup>th</sup> birthday. VASSAR will be represented by President Elect Phil Williams. I plan to be there as well.

Beginning April 16, there will be a two day celebration of the Battle of Petersburg. This battle was fought on March 25, 1781, between Virginia Militia commanded by Major General, the Baron von Steuben and British regulars commanded by Major General Williams Phillips. This was a show of force and morale boosting battle for the citizens and the militia from the Petersburg area. Total battle losses for the Americans were about 100 and 60 for the British.

On Thursday, April 28, President Monroe's birthday will be celebrated with a wreath-laying at his grave in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. On Saturday, April 30, there will be a celebration at President Monroe's birthplace and museum in Colonial Beach. I believe that at this event the large pedestal mounted bust of General George Washington will be dedicated in addition to traditional wreath-layings by SAR Chapters.

More details on the Battle of Petersburg

celebration and the two James Monroe activities will be provided by e-mail.

Thanks to all of you that are attending these functions and supporting the chapter and SAR. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 9.

Faternally,

Bob Carr  
President

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### **Highlights of the March Meeting**

Something most unusual happened at the March luncheon meeting - - the guest speaker was unable to attend! How could this happen you may ask. It seems that Corey Stewart, who had certainly intended to appear at our podium, ran into transportation difficulties. He was in Philadelphia and holding a ticket to travel to Washington on an early morning train - - but an electrical power failure on the rail line south of Philadelphia caused the train to be unavoidably delayed. Perhaps we will be able to reschedule his appearance at some future date.

President Carr ably filled this unexpected void with a discussion of his recent visit to Georgia, which was filled with SAR related activities.

That was followed by an impromptu discussion of current and future chapter business which was much appreciated by those present.

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### **Guest Speaker for April**

Those who attend our April luncheon are in for a special treat. Our guest speaker, Air Force Captain Latasha West, will discuss her unusual experiences in the global war on terror.

Captain West is a Special Agent assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) as the Assistant Field Integration Desk Chief at Andrews Air Force Base. She was born in Shelby, North Carolina, and attended Crest Senior High School where she graduated in May, 1991. Upon graduating from high school, she attended Brooks Fashion Institute in Long Beach, California, where she majored in Fashion Merchandising. In April, 1992, she enlisted in the Air Force. Upon graduating from basic training, she was assigned as

a Still Photographer Specialist at Hurlburt Field AFB, Florida. In 1998, she crossed trained into the paralegal career field. She had been a paralegal for about two years when she separated from the Air Force to continue her education. She returned to the Air Force as a photographer and completed a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayland Baptist University, graduating with honors in 2001. Seeking to obtain an advanced degree, she applied and was accepted by the Graduate Committee as a degree seeking student into the Master of Art in Management Degree Program at Wayland Baptist University. At that time, she separated from the Air Force again as part of the one year Masters ROTC Program offered by the Air Force. In June, 2002, she completed the Officer Training Course at Lackland AFB, Texas, where she received her commission, this time returning to as a Special Agent. In October, 2002, she was in the first Air Force Office of Special Investigation training class to attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia.



Captain Latasha West

In 2007, she was selected by senior AFOSI

officials to attend St. Xavier University in Chicago, where she obtained an MBA with a specialization in Financial Fraud Management. She went on to obtain certification as a Fraud Examiner and a Financial Crimes Examiner. She was recently accepted by Walden University as a candidate for a Doctor of Business Administration degree with a specialization in International Business.

As a result of the magnitude and scope of alleged criminal activity associated with the Global War on Terror (GWOT), the International Contract Corruption Task Force (ICCTF) was formed in March, 2006. This partnership combined DoD resources to investigate contract fraud and public corruption related to the US war and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. In October, 2009, Captain West volunteered to deploy to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for six-months as part of the ICCTF in support of the Global War on Terrorism. While in Iraq, she led nine investigations, conducted over 35 interviews, 25 liaison visits, and countless briefings at five different Forward Operation Bases throughout Iraq.

Don't miss meeting this accomplished Air Force officer. A form for making your reservation is contained at the end of this newsletter.

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## **REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

### **New Members**

Since the last report the following applicants have been approved:

Richard Edward Rath (Patriot: Charles Stewart)  
Andrew Charles Elston (Patriot: Benjamin Elston)  
Benjamin Francis Elston (Patriot: Benjamin Elston)  
Cody Scott Elston (Patriot: Benjamin Elston)  
Drew Benjamin Elston (Patriot: Benjamin Elston)  
Jack Leon Elston (Patriot: Benjamin Elston)  
Scott Anthony Elston (Patriot: Benjamin Elston)  
John Kendall Coulter (Patriot: James Coulter)

### **New Members Awaiting Induction**

Seven new members await induction.

### **New Member Applications**

Twelve new member applications are being processed at the Chapter level.

Two new member applications have been sent to VASSAR.

Three new member applications are at

National awaiting approval.

### Supplemental Applications

Sixteen supplemental applications are being processed at the chapter level.

Thirteen supplemental applications are at National awaiting approval.

### Application Notes

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](mailto:rowhi@comcast.net) and I will contact them.

Bob Whitehead  
Registrar

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### National History Day

This year's District V National History Day Competition took place at George Mason University's Fairfax campus on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The event was again heavily supported by Northern Virginia's SAR Chapters. Our chapter was represented by Bob Carr, Paul Briggs, Jack Shawn, Richard Sherman and Dwight Whitney. They joined eleven other compatriots to assist in the judging of projects which pertained to American history or events relevant to America's history for the 1750 to 1800 time period. These projects, presented by elementary, middle school, and high school students, consisted of documentaries, videos, posters, traditional research papers, dramatic performances and website constructions.

The following awards were presented in a ceremony attended by more than 200 students, supporting school faculty advisors and parents:

An SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was awarded to Chloe Baker for her 1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Individual Documentary titled *The Alien and Sedition Acts: An Open Violation*. Chole attends the Lorton Station Elementary School.

Brooke Albertson received an SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for placing first in the Junior Individual Exhibit competition with a project titled *Things To Be Amended*. Brooke is a student at the Philip Michael Pennington Traditional School.

An SAR Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Angelo Cline, a student at the Springfield Estates Elementary School. His project, titled *The*

*Constitutional Convention*, won third place in the Junior Individual Exhibit category.

An SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was awarded to Ben Koses. Ben, who attends West Springfield High School, won first place in the Senior Individual Performance category. His topic was *A Revolutionary Spectacle*.

Andrew Kim, Reilly McLaren, and Jack Snowden won Honorable Mention for their Junior Group Website project titled *The Debate and Diplomacy of American Independence*. For this, these Springfield Estates Elementary School students received SAR Certificates of Appreciation.

Dominik Tatera was presented an SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for winning first place in the Senior Individual Website category. His project was titled *Casimir Pulaski*. Dominik attends Wakerfield School.

All of our chapter's judges agreed that participation in this event and seeing the talents of our area's young students was a very satisfying experience.

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### Calendar of Coming Events

#### April

#### 9 Regular meeting of our Chapter.

13 268<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birthday - Jefferson Memorial, 10:30 a.m.

16-17 Celebration of the Battle of Petersburg

28 Celebration of President Monroe's Birthday, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond

30 President Monroe's Birthplace Celebration, Colonial Beach

#### 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.

#### 30 National Memorial Day Parade

#### June

121<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress

#### August

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



**April 9, 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, April 6th.***

**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.**