



# George Washington Chapter

## Sons of the American Revolution

### Newsletter

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Mr. Edwin Meese, III was presented the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal on January 14, 2012. Pictured from L-R: Mike Elston, Paul McNulty, Stephen Leishman, Edwin Meese, Phil Williams, Paul Briggs, Joe Dooley.

Photo by Dwight Whitney

## **Former US Attorney General Awarded Golden Good Citizenship Medal**

The Virginia Society recently honored former Attorney General of the United States, Edwin Meese III, with the National Society's most prestigious award, the Gold Good Citizenship Medal. It was an evening to remember on January 14, 2012, and the venue was the Belle Haven Country Club on the occasion of the annual Gold Medal Gala, hosted by the George Washington Chapter of Alexandria.

During the extended cocktail hour compatriots and ladies, dressed in their finest, had the opportunity to meet and converse with Mr. Meese, ask questions and offer their congratulations on the award, as well as thanks for a long public record of accomplishment and outstanding service to the nation. Meese was absolutely elated at the recognition.

GW Chapter President Paul Briggs began the program with introduction of a color guard of four US Marines from Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, led by Sergeant Ottheia Searcy. An invocation by Chapter Chaplain Don Reynolds was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by VASSAR Second Vice President Kent Webber. "A Toast to the Flag" by National Sojourner President William Turner was performed, followed by the SAR Pledge, which was led by VASSAR Secretary Bob Carr.

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## President's Message



Dear Compatriots,

We find ourselves moving smartly into the New Year with a busy calendar and a wealth of opportunities. I look forward to your continuing commitment and participation in the George Washington Chapter and its program of patriotic events.

**Last month** we honored Edwin Meese III at the Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala. It was one of our best ever. If you were not fortunate enough to attend, you missed a most enjoyable and enriching evening, as well as the opportunity to meet and express gratitude to a Patriot of the first order as well as a great American. Please see the associated article in this newsletter, which was also printed in the Virginia Society Newsletter. We are attempting to add a link for a Gala slide show set to Mozart on the chapter web site.

**Next year, January 26, 2013** at 6:30 PM, Belle Haven Country Club, mark your calendars for another Gold Good Citizenship Medal event.

**February 11, 2012** the chapter meeting features Patrick Mooney of the US Marine Corps Heritage Center with an educational presentation on the Continental Marines in the American Revolution and the early US Marine Corps. If you ever wanted to know more about the origins of America's finest, you will not want to miss this.

**February 20, 2012, about 20 minutes before 11 AM** on George Washington's Birthday observed, we will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH) cemetery, 323 Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA.

**February 20, 2012 at 1 PM**, not far from the OPMH, we will step off in the George Washington Birthday Parade of Alexandria, the largest parade of its kind in the country with about 3,500 participants. The marshalling area is near the Fire Hook Bakery at the intersection of South Washington and Wilkes Streets, Alexandria, VA. Plan to get into position with our new chapter banner at 12:30 PM. The route covers an easy one-mile loop that returns to where it started. If details change, we'll keep you

posted.

**February 24-26, 2012**, the Virginia Society holds its annual meeting at the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center, located at 1021 Koger Center Boulevard Richmond, VA.

**February 25, 2012 (Saturday)** we will caravan to the general business meeting, with compatriots departing the Belle Haven Country Club at 6:15 AM and returning around 2 PM.

Should you desire, you may attend some, or the entire three-day meeting, including dinners and socials. Details, schedules and registration forms are available at [www.virginia-sar.org](http://www.virginia-sar.org).

**March 3, 2012** Chapter Secretary, Dwight Whitney, his wife Ann, and Compatriot Jack Shawn have stepped forward to represent the Chapter as volunteer judges at National History Day at the Mount Vernon High School. This is an extremely worthy educational endeavor, and we appreciate these loyal members keeping the chapter involved for a second consecutive year.

**March 10, 2012** next month at our meeting, Dr. Chuck Ferguson will make a presentation on the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina. Under the leadership of Rhode Island's Major General Nathaniel Greene, this was a pivotal engagement of the Revolution's southern campaign, a campaign that would prove key to eventual American victory and independence.

**April, May and beyond** Vice President Mike Elston is inviting both Virginia candidates for US Senate to make presentations at separate chapter meetings on patriotic topics in keeping with the non-political character of the SAR. We'll keep you posted as to whether and when these invitations come to fruition.

We'll see you Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM for social gathering and a 12PM meeting.

Respectfully,

Paul F. Paul Briggs,  
Col. USMC Ret.  
Chapter President 2012

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VASSAR President-elect Phil Williams introduced officers as well as numerous compatriot and guest luminaries present for this event. The list was long. NSSAR Stephen Leishman offered greetings from the National Society, followed by toasts to the Nation, the President of the United States, General Washington, the U.S. Armed Forces and General Meese, which were proposed by Dwight Whitney, Rich Sherman, Bob Carr, Paul Briggs and Mike Elston, respectively.

NSSAR Treasurer General, Joe Dooley, presented Mr. Meese's biography and award citation, and then assisted Phil Williams and Paul Briggs in presenting the framed medal and citation.

In response to receipt of the medal, Mr. Meese made well-considered and stirring remarks to a fully engrossed audience. He reminded us of the important of the work of the Sons of the American Revolution and other patriots in educating and keeping alive in modern minds the memory of the founding and the first principles that make this nation exceptional.

In appreciation for his remarks, GW Chapter Vice President Mike Elston presented Meese the coveted Houdin replica George Washington bust with the chapter placard affixed.

## **Registrar's Report**

Since the last Registrar's Report one New Member Application was approved by NSSAR and three New Member Applications were submitted to VSSAR for approval. They are listed below.

There are five applications at VSSAR awaiting review, nine applications at NSSAR awaiting review, and twelve new members awaiting induction.

### **New Member Applications Approved**

Edward Lee Pearce (Anc: John Ogle)

### **New Member Applications Submitted**

Rodney Hayes Lovdal (Anc: Moses Hayes)

Andrew Martin Hale (Anc: Ezekiel Hale)

Paul Gabriel Hale, Jr. (Anc: Ezekiel Hale)

Jim Mobley  
Registrar

## **Edwin Meese, III** **SAR Gold Good Citizen Recipient**



Edwin Meese, III has devoted most of his life to the service of his country. His most notable achievements came during the presidency of his mentor and friend, Ronald

Reagan. After serving as head of the transition team and Counselor to the President (Jan. 1981 to Feb. 1985), President Reagan nominated and the Senate confirmed Mr. Meese as the 75th Attorney General of the United States. As the nation's chief law enforcement officer, he directed the Justice Department and led international efforts to combat terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime. As chair of the National Drug Policy Board, he also encouraged cooperation of drug-producing nations in international enforcement efforts and enlisted the support of state and local law enforcement agencies by sharing the proceeds of sales of assets seized from drug traffickers.

Most recently, Mr. Meese served on the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, which was commissioned to study and report on the Iraq War. He was a co-author of the group's December 2006 report.

An Oakland, California native, Mr. Meese graduated from Yale and (after serving in the U.S. Army) and the U.C.-Berkeley Law School. (Mr. Meese retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Colonel in 1984). He joined Governor Reagan's staff in 1967 and was chief of staff from 1969 to 1974. After the Reagan presidency, Mr. Meese joined The Heritage Foundation as Ronald Reagan Chair in Public Policy where he is responsible for keeping the late President's legacy alive in public debate and discourse. In 2001, he became Chairman of Heritage's Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, which works to educate government officials, the media and the public about the Constitution, legal principles and how they affect public policy. He also is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution.



## **Secretary's New Members Corner**

Last month I told you about the several chapter-sponsored events during the year in which your attendance helps us "show the colors" and demonstrate to others that we are a large and vibrant organization.

In this article I want to explain other historic celebrations across the region that VASSAR expects all its chapters to support. The events are organized into three tiers to emphasize importance of programs which result in a notable impact upon a chapter's local community. The events itemized in the VASSAR annual report are shown below to which I've added the state and month in which they occur:

**Tier 1** (VASSAR and/or NSSAR priorities): Yorktown Day Observance (VA, Oct.), Martin's Station (VA, May), Battle of Great Bridge (VA, Dec.), Crossing of the Dan (VA, Feb.), Guilford Courthouse (NC, Mar.), Point Pleasant (WV, Oct.), King's Mountain (SC, Oct.), Cowpens (SC, Jan.), and Valley Forge (PA, every three (3) years jointly with DAR in Nov.).

**Tier 2:** James Madison's Birthday (Mar.), James Monroe's Birthday (Apr.), Thomas Jefferson's Birthday (Apr.), Constitution Day (Sep.), Memorial Day (May), and Veteran's Day (Nov.).

**Tier 3:** Other celebrations, e.g., including but not limited to, Battle of the Hook (VA, Oct.), Battle of Petersburg (VA, Oct.), Vietnam Memorial Day (May). [Our chapter's regular support of the George Washington Birthday Parade and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Wreath Laying at Washington's Tomb and the Naturalization Ceremony fall into this category, too.]

All chapters are evaluated annually as to their participation and number of attendees at these events. Last year, your chapter reported participation in 5 Tier-1 events, 7 Tier-2 events, and 10 Tier-3 events. Our largest turnouts were for the Memorial Day Parade (16) and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Wreath Laying at the George Washington Tomb (19). For many of the other events, the level of attendance was only 1 to 3 chapter members. However, this was, I think, a particularly good year and on par or better with the other, smaller chapters in the state. We'll find out later at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in late-February. (By the way, new

members should consider going. There is a fee, but I attended the Saturday business meeting and oration contests on my own last year and learned a lot.)

We should be particularly grateful to our president and other devoted members who were often the few representing our chapter. Let me encourage all new members to support our leaders and make an effort to attend one or more of the events published in our newsletter. In addition, if you are able to attend any patriotic event on your own, please notify the Chapter Secretary so that he can account for that in the annual report. Your efforts will maintain the strength of our chapter and further the cause of remembrance to our patriot forefathers. Moreover, you will enjoy the sense of belonging to the patriotic cause that brings us all to membership in the SAR!

Dwight Whitney  
Secretary

## **Editor's Notes**

We're off and running. Preparing this month's newsletter has been a baptism by fire, exposing the limits of my word processing knowledge. Thanks to all who contributed to this edition. Particular thanks goes to Don Kraft for his tireless service over the past few years as the newsletter editor.

Content is the lifeblood of any newsletter. We all have ancestors through whom we track our eligibility for membership in this great organization. Though we get a glimpse their stories when new members are inducted, there is much we do not hear. I would like to begin a regular ancestor spotlight in which these stories are told in greater detail. I invite all members to submit accounts of their ancestor's contributions to the revolution for consideration for publication in the newsletter. Submissions may be sent to me at [derek.loveland@gmail.com](mailto:derek.loveland@gmail.com).

Derek Loveland  
Newsletter Editor

## Upcoming Events

- **February 11, 2012** - Chapter meeting featuring Patrick Mooney of the US Marine Corps Heritage Center.
- **February 20, 2012, 10:30 AM** Wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH) cemetery, 323 Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA.
- **February 18, 2012**, Crossing of the Dan Commemoration Program and Wreath Laying Ceremony, Chastain Theater, South Boston, VA
- **February 20, 2012, 1 PM**, George Washington Birthday Parade of Alexandria.
- **February 24-26, 2012**, Virginia Society Annual Meeting in Richmond, VA.
- **March 10, 2012** – Chapter meeting featuring Dr. Chuck Ferguson's presentation on the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina.

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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 11:30a.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: Paul Briggs 703-768-6910  
Vice President: Mike Elston 703-680-0866  
Secretary: Dwight Whitney 540-349-2375  
Treasurer: Scott Wagoner 571-239-3221  
Registrar: Jim Mobley 202-465-6680

This monthly newsletter is edited by Derek Loveland, who depends heavily on inputs from chapter officers and committee chairmen. Inputs from others are always welcome. Please send your inputs and comments to [derek.loveland@gmail.com](mailto:derek.loveland@gmail.com) or call 703-373-3087

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## Volunteer Opportunity

The NSDAR Executive Committee has offered the NSSAR duplicate books that may not be in the SAR library. Some of these books may be many years old and would be a valuable addition to the SAR library.

The SAR is looking for volunteers to spend a few hours or a day in the basement of the DAR Library identifying these duplicate books.

Local coordinator, Steve Leishman, is willing to provide volunteers a brief training session at the DAR Library. This training will explain and demonstrate the process of identifying and obtaining the duplicate books.

Those interested in volunteering should contact their chapter president for more information.

**February 11, 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.

***RSVP no later than Monday, February 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:

Scott Wagner, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 75  
Occoquan, VA 22125

You may also make your reservation by e-mail to [swagoner@x4-llc.com](mailto:swagoner@x4-llc.com) or call Scott at 571-239-3221.

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

**Valet parking is available.**