George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Newsletter

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Virginia Society, SAR!

Volume 16, Issue 8 ***November 2015***

GW Chapter Attends Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown!

Above: President General Tom Lawrence, accompanied by his wife, Mickey Jo, present the National Society's wreath to the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery. Escorting them are President Dwight Whitney and VASSAR Second Vice President Mike Elston.

Front Row (L-R): Bob Carr, Tom Roth, Dwight Whitney, Mickey Jo Lawrence, President General Thomas Lawrence, Will Elston, Mike Elston, Dave Thomas, Jamie Callender, James Mitchell (TXSSAR), Bill Price (Pres. FFR Chapter)

Back Row (L-R): Ellis Adams (PASSAR), Phil Anders (PASSAR), Darrin Schmidt (FFR Chapter), NSSAR Color Guard Commander David Hoover, Bill Schwetke (CMM Chapter), Larry McKinley (FFR Chapter), Lance Lyngar (CMM Chapter), Ernie Coggins.

Attending from GW Chapter but not pictured: Jay Henn, Don Reynolds

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

November 14: Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Tribute to member veterans and 2016 elections.

December 12 - Joint chapter meeting with the George Mason Chapter. 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. VASSAR President Reverdy Wright will speak and install the Chapter's 2016 officers.

Events Information

November 11 - Veterans' Day Wreath Laying at Washington's Tomb, with Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR, 2:00 p.m.

December 5 - *Battle of Great Bridge*, Chesapeake, Virginia.

December 7 –Plaque dedication Honoring Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in St. Mary's Church Cemetery, 1000 South Royal Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Arrive by 9:00 a.m.

December 12 –*Wreaths Across America*, 12:00 noon at Alexandria National Cemetery, 450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria. Join up with Compatriots Carlisle Bean and Jack Coulter.

President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

November is election season in Virginia, and that includes the George Washington Chapter! The nominating committee has proposed the following slate for election: Greg Bodge, president; Paul Walden, vice president; Jay Henn, secretary; Ernie Coggins, treasurer; and yours truly for a three-year term on the board of managers. There were no nominations from the floor, and thus I feel safe in predicting the election of this slate at our November meeting!

The 2016 slate of candidates is a great group of dedicated, hard-working leaders and I look forward to working with them all next year in their new roles. I have very much enjoyed being your president, but it is good to pass on the gavel to your next leader and continue the process of one-term presidencies begun a few years ago. We have nearly 300 accomplished and talented members, and more opportunities for leadership mean more opportunities for leaders to step forward and serve. It is also good that we are able to have former presidents sitting on the Board of Managers. This ensures continuity in the leadership with the coaching and the knowledge resources they avail to the new officers. I look forward to the opportunity of supporting the next team of officers and having more time for the comradery that this great chapter has to offer!

Last Month: What a pleasure it was to have Tom and Mickey Jo Lawrence visit us and attend our meeting last month! We enjoyed their company at our chapter meeting. The President General spoke to us about the several initiatives and changes underway to improve the national society's structure and to improve communications at every level. His remarks were of great interest and drew a number of questions and comments from the members.

Following the chapter meeting, we participated in the annual President General Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, an annual event hosted by our chapter. In front of a large crowd, the presentation was made by President General Lawrence, escorted by his wife Mickey Jo Lawrence (the granddaughter of a WWII veteran), VASSAR 2nd VP Mike Elston and your chapter president. The SAR Color Guard, comprised of guardsmen from Virginia, Maryland, and Texas and led by NSSAR Commander David Hoover, added an impressive component to the ceremony as they took formation along the stairs leading to the Tomb. There was also a good showing of members there to watch and pay respects to the memory of all those who lost their lives in the military service of the United States. It was a true honor for me to be a part of the ceremony.

Compatriots Ernie Coggins, Don Reynolds, Mike Elston, and Will Elston participated in the annual Yorktown Victory Day celebrations October 19th. In the morning, VASSAR 2nd VP Mike Elston presided over the wreath laying at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr., and Secretary Ernie Coggins presented our chapter's wreath. The afternoon parade through Yorktown contained a contingent of the SAR, including President General Lawrence and many other members from around Virginia and other parts of the country.

This Month: On Wednesday **November 11th**, we hold our annual Veterans Day Wreath Laying with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter of the DAR at George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. I hope to see many of you there to pay tribute to the service of George Washington and honor our country's veterans (many veterans will be there).

The focus of our chapter meeting on **November 14th** will be on service -- to our nation, our community, and the SAR. We will carry over the spirit Veterans Day with a tribute to our member veterans led by Vice President Greg Bodge. We have several members of the local law enforcement community who we will honor for their service. And we have a number of awards to present to quite a few members in recognition of their service to the SAR. This is also the meeting to vote for the 2016 officers. It will be a special day that you won't want to miss!

St. Mary's Church Cemetery Plaque Dedication: I am pleased to announce that the Graves Registration Committee has made big plans for a plaque dedication ceremony honoring Revolutionary War patriots buried in St. Mary's Church Catholic Church Cemetery in Alexandria. The event is in the morning of Monday **December 7th** and includes a program involving the church and the St. Mary's School students and faculty. The committee has been working on this project for years and we are all excited to see this come to fruition. Please come out and support this very special event.

Wreaths Across America: On **December 12th**, the same day as our chapter meeting, we will be participating in this annual event at Alexandria National Cemetery. Our coordinators for the event are Carlisle Bean and Jack Coulter. Look for them at

the event or contact one of them to arrange carpooling. And don't forget to send in your donations for the wreaths!

Share a Ride: When making your plans to attend the Veterans Day ceremony and the chapter meeting, please remember your fellow members who don't get out regularly. Consider calling them up and offering a ride. To anyone needing a ride, please remember we have a Ride Share program. Contact Don Reynolds and he will assist you in finding a ride to the meeting or an event.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Dwight Whitney

Chapter President

From the Secretary

We are well into our membership renewal effort. Our Treasurer, Paul Walden, reports that as of the end of October almost 40 percent of you have paid your dues for 2016. He and I both encourage you to write that check now and mail it to him (the address is on the form) or give it to him at our 14 November meeting. If you did not receive your dues statement, Paul requests that you email him immediately at PaulWalden@live.com or phone him at (202) 360-9254. Our By-Laws require that dues be paid by 15 November, and the Virginia Society will drop any compatriot who has not paid by 01 January "…from the roles of membership…". Also, our Chapter earns ten points towards the National Society's Americanism award for every member who pays on time. Please do not procrastinate; pay your 2016 dues now. I would very much appreciate your providing us with your current email address as we do send out time sensitive event information via the Internet.

Also, I would ask that you consider making an additional contribution to the Chapter. These monies may be earmarked for our youth programs such as JROTC, Rumbaugh Orations, Knight Essay, and Scouting; veteran services, and grave markings. Moreover, you may make a general contribution to the Chapter's operation or specify some other purpose such as Wreaths Across America. You are members of a very active Chapter, and one that has been recognized as the best large Chapter by the National Society two years running. In order to do this, we need manpower and funding.

As our President Dwight Whitney as mentioned, we are going to have a special ceremony on Monday, 07 December 2015, to commemorate those patriot veterans of the War for Independence buried at Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Alexandria. We are specifically asking for donations to cover the costs for the plaque and supporting expenses for this cemetery and for future grave markings generally. Please be generous.

On Veteran's Day, 11 November, we shall hold our traditional ceremony at General Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. This observance will not be as involved as our Fourth of July ceremony, but it is still a very moving tribute to the Father of our Country and to our veterans. If you were not able to attend in July, please consider attending.

Finally, we are still collecting Patriot Biographies. If you have not done so, please send to our Webmaster Jamie Callender at webmaster@gwsar.org. We would like for them to be at least 200 words. If you would rather mail you Patriot Biography, the address is:

George Washington Chapter
Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution
ATTN: Patriot Biographies
P.O. Box 77
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

Ernie Coggins

Secretary

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report in October 1 new member and 1 supplemental application were approved by NSSAR. There are currently 2 new and 10 supplemental applications under review by NSSAR. There were no new member inductions during October.

New Members Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Michael Pillsbury	Stephen Pillsbury

Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Paul Ashley Walden	Ebenezer Stewart

New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
William Christopher Cook	Joel Phillips

Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Isaac Gregory Bodge	Ruben Pound
Michael Kane	Henry Shaffner
Leyton Todd Pitzer	Thomas Lewis
Leyton Todd Pitzer	John Pitzer
Leyton Todd Pitzer	Anthony Shomo
Paul Ashley Walden	David Mewshaw

Dave Thomas

Registrar

From the Editor

It is an honor to serve in the role of newsletter editor and I look forward to interacting with all of my fellow compatriots to make this newsletter useful and interesting.

Please submit stories, photos and suggestions to newsletter@gwsar.org. I will do my best to include them in future issues.

Richard Gilliland

Editor

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 280 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:	*Dwight Whitney: 540-349-2375*
Vice President:	*Gregory Bodge: 770-789-3252*
Secretary:	*Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807*
Treasurer:	*Paul Walden: 703-347-9770*
Registrar:	*Dave Thomas: 703-583-8791*

Immediate Past President:
Scott Wagoner: 571-239-3221

Ride Share: *Members in need of a ride to a chapter meeting or a chapter sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Don Reynolds, at (703) 765-4947.*

This newsletter is edited by Richard Gilliland. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to newsletter@gwsar.org or call 202-870-3762.

George Washington (1793)

"There is a rank due to the United States, among nations, which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity; it must be known that we are at all times ready for war."[1]

Living History Interpreters on the steps at Pohick Church

Discovering George Washington's Church

At the corner of U.S. Route 1 and Telegraph Road in Lorton, Virginia, stands Pohick Church, a colonial church that has witnessed over 240 years of American history. This is the church of influential men such as Founding Fathers George Washington and George Mason, both of whom were on the building committee.

The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild has developed an interactive, hands-on children's tour to teach school-age children about life in northern Virginia in the 18th century.

Students will have an opportunity to compare life in 1775 to their lives today. How did people travel during the colonial period? What did their clothing look like? Did they grow their own food? Other topics will address the architecture of the colonial church, the type of box pews that parishioners sat in and why, as well as the differences between church services during George Washington's time and now. During the colonial period, religion and the church were important in daily life. The children will learn about the church's call to take care of the poor, widows and orphans, and to organize apprenticeships for young boys, so those children could learn a trade and take care of themselves in the future. Meeting in the courtyard after the service was an opportunity to discuss family business, such as baptisms and upcoming marriages, and sometimes the politics of the day.

Students have a chance to discuss pictures and short biographies of church members. Included in the profiles are George and Martha Washington, George Mason and his family members, and Alexander Henderson, father of Archibald Henderson, the longest serving commandant of the Marine Corps. As an activity, a Pohick Docent will demonstrate the bricklaying techniques used in building Pohick Church.

School groups, Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups, homeschoolers and children visiting the church with their parents and grandparents are all welcome.

To support the educational programs and initiatives of the SAR, please consider this opportunity to have family and friends with young children join us for this educational tour.

To schedule a tour, please call 703-339-6572. The address of Pohick Church is 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, Virginia, 22079.

Pohick Episcopal Church is still active, with several hundred members. For additional information, please visit the parish web site: www.pohick.org
We look forward to seeing you soon.

The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild

George Washington -- A Founding Father for St. Mary's Catholic Church and Cemetery

Alexandria, Virginia has many ties to the American Revolution, including George Washington, often referred to as the founding father of the United State. After securing American independence, many of General Washington's staff from the Continental Army moved to Alexandria to be near their old commander. One of Washington's closest friends was his Aide de Camp, Col. John Fitzgerald, who served with him throughout the Revolutionary War. He had, in his own right, played a prominent role during the War. He was also a very prominent Alexandria citizen and was elected and served as Mayor 1786-7.
Washington and Fitzgerald remained close friends in the years following the War and Washington's retirement from the Presidency. What is not generally known is that Washington played a very significant role as a founding father of St. Mary's Catholic Church and cemetery, the oldest Catholic parish and cemetery in Virginia. In 1795, Col. Fitzgerald with the help of Washington founded St. Mary's, along with their cemetery. St. Mary's is still

[1] http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washs05.asp

located at the original site at 310 South Royal Street, Alexandria. The cemetery occupies an oblong plot between Royal and Washington Streets bounded on the north by St. Mary's School and on the south by the busy Interstate I-95 approach to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. It is bounded by a wrought iron and brick fence with a gate at the north end at Washington Street indicating a "1795" date. There is a plaque at the church which states:

"In grateful acknowledgement of their aid in establishing this church the three trees to the north of this stone have been dedicated as follows: To General George Washington as subscriber to the building; Colonel John Fitzgerald, his favorite aide de camp, as the collector of the building fund; Colonel Robert Hooe, Mayor of Alexandria as the donor of the acre of land."

Col. Fitzgerald died on December 16, 1799. Although reported as having been buried at St. Mary's cemetery, the better evidence suggests he was buried across the Potomac River on property he owned in Maryland.

A few years ago the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution marked the grave of Private Lawrence Hurdle who died in 1848 at the age of 98. Full honors were provided, including a color guard. Two of the church Parish Priests participated in the ceremony. There is a brass plaque and commemorating marker at his grave in the Hurdle family plot that cites he service in the American Revolution. Members of the Hurdle family are still members of the church and attended the program.

Several other Revolutionary War soldiers are known to be buried in the cemetery. Unfortunately, the early records of burial plots are missing. Alexandria Historian Michael Miller, in his book "Burials in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery 1799-1983", identified the first known burial at the new Cemetery as Caven Boa who died August 20, 1799. He was a member of the Corps of Artillery and was buried by full military honors. His grave site is among those unknown. Local historian Wesley E. Pippenger in his "Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria" identified known Revolutionary Soldiers buried at St. Mary's that included Hurdle. Two other identified were Francis Ignatius Hagen who died in 1830 at age 76; and Pierre La Croix who died in 1830 at the age 88. La Croix served in the French and Indian War under Gen. Montcalm and later in the Revolutionary War under General Montgomery.

This historic cemetery includes many other soldiers from other wars. For example there are over 40 soldiers from the Civil War buried there. All of this is a reminder of the importance that Alexandria has in the history and development of the United States.

Plaque Dedication Ceremony. The Graves Registration Committee has just completed a years-long project that will culminate in a ceremony and the placement of a plaque identifying the known patriots buried there at the St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery. The ceremony will be conducted at the cemetery on December 7, 2015 by the George Washington Chapter, SAR, in partnership with Saint Mary's Catholic Church and the Students of Saint Mary's Catholic School.

Please Donate to our Graves Marking Program

The George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, is engaged in a rigorous program to mark the graves of Revolutionary War Patriots, especially those that are unmarked by other means. We seek in this way to preserve the memory of the service these Patriots rendered and to preserve the only tangible reminder of that service—their grave—for posterity.

Please give generously to this program so that the George Washington Chapter may mark the graves at the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery now and at many other sites in the future. Compatriots making contributions of $250.00 or more will be recognized. Donations earmarked for grave marking on your 2016 dues renewal will count toward the $250.00 threshold. Thank you for your support of this important project!

Donations and pledges can be given to Paul Walden at the chapter meeting, included with your dues, or mailed to him separately at:

Paul Walden, Treasurer
George Washington Chapter
5902 Mount Eagle Drive, #1609
Alexandria, VA 22303-2522

Did You Know?

Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804)

Highest Political Office: Treasury Secretary

Other Accomplishments: Along with Madison and John Jay, authored the Federalist Papers, rallying support for the new Constitution. Led the effort to convene the Constitutional Convention when the nation was verging on anarchy.

Hamilton called for a meeting of all 13 states at Annapolis, Maryland in September, 1786 to discuss the economic situation in the country at that time. However, only five states sent representatives. There were not enough states for a quorum and the conference had no real authority. Undaunted, Hamilton then requested permission from the Congress of the Confederation (under the Articles of Confederation) to invite representatives from the thirteen states to assemble in Philadelphia with the express purpose of "revising" the Articles of Confederation. Behind closed doors and with no real authority, the delegates decided to write an entirely new constitution.

Hamilton was consumed by his passion for a nation built around a strong and fiscally stable central government. He was born out of wedlock in the West Indies, and moved to the colonies at the age of 17. His father, a Scottish trader, went bankrupt when Hamilton was 15, and the boy went to work in a counting house to help support the family.

Fresh out of Columbia University, he organized artillery regiments in New York for the Revolutionary War, and from 1779 to 1781 he was Washington's chief aide. When Washington assumed the presidency, he named Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury.

Ironically, before Washington was elected president, Hamilton was one of a group of politicians who felt that the U.S. needed a king. The group wrote to Prussia's Prince Henry and asked if he wanted the job. Before he replied, the group changed its mind.

His Politics: Hamilton was the one who most advocated an elitist political vision. He believed that the intellectual aristocracy should rule the nation.

Hamilton's political legacy is embodied in the Federal Bank. He led the effort to establish the first such bank, which he saw as critical for sustaining the government's fragile finances. His opponents saw the bank as an evil tool for expanding the power of the federal government, at the expense of the states. Hamilton is regarded as the "Father of the National Debt" because he felt that a national debt was really a "blessing." The more money the government owed to the people of the country, the more the people had a stake in the success of the country!

When Jefferson ran for president in 1800, he and Aaron Burr (both Republicans) tied. The election went to the Federalist-controlled House. Hamilton, founder of the Federalist Party, convinced his colleagues to elect Jefferson over Burr. Burr then campaigned for governor of New York. Again, Hamilton swayed voters against Burr. Finally, Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel. Fatally wounded by his rival, Hamilton died one day later.

Closest Crony among the Founding Fathers: *George Washington*

What He Said: "*The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of the Divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power.*"

November Dates in History

American Revolutionary War

November 1, 1765: Many daily transactions cease as the Stamp Act goes into effect. Violence breaks out in New York City
November 1772: Boston town meeting endorses proclamations asserting the rights of the colonies to self-rule.
November 6, 1773: Colonists in Boston fail to force their British tea agents to resign
November 20, 1773: Three ships carrying tea sail into Boston harbor.
November 29/30, 1773: Colonists decide to send the tea ships Dartmouth back to England without paying any import duties
November 30, 1773: The Royal Governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson (1711 – 1780), orders harbor officials not to let the ship sail out of the harbor unless the tea taxes have been paid.
November 15, 1777: Articles of Confederation - Congress is made sole authority of the new national government.
November 11, 1778: Loyalists and Indians massacre American settlers at Cherry Valley, New York.
November 10, 1782: The final battle of the Revolutionary War when Americans retaliate by attacking a Shawnee village in Ohio.
November 2, 1783: George Washington delivers farewell address.

Source – www.datesandevents.org

Highlights of the October Chapter Meeting

Left: President Whitney thanks the President General Lawrence for being guest speaker with a George Washington bust.

Top: President General Lawrence thanks Don Reynolds with the PG's Aide de Camp pin for assistance rendered to him and Mrs. Lawrence during their stay in Alexandria.

Bottom: President Phil Anders of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter presents Compatriot Richard Bender Abell, a dual member of our chapter, with his Emeritus Membership Certificate and 50-year pin.

Top: Registrar Dave Thomas, Youth Activities Committee Chairman Rich Sherman, President General Tom Lawrence, and Compatriot Richard Rankin pause from a moment of conversation.

Left: President General Lawrence addressing the chapter with news on his national initiatives.

Right: The Texas hot sauce flowed during lunch!

Other October Highlights

Above Right: Second VASSAR Vice President and past George Washington Chapter President Mike Elston emcees the Yorktown Ceremony at Governor Nelson's grave marking.

Above Left: VASSAR President and dual George Washington Chapter member, Reverdy Wright leads the SAR contingent in the Yorktown Victory Parade on Monday, 19 October 2015.

Bottom: The SAR contingent at the Yorktown Victory Celebration on Monday, 19 October 2015.

Top Left: The George Washington Chapter's wreath on the grave of Virginia Governor and General of the Virginia Militia Thomas Nelson, Jr., 19 October 2015.

Top Right: All of the wreaths laid at Governor Nelson's Grave, Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery, Yorktown, Virginia, 19 October 2015. Secretary Ernie Coggins made the presentation of the chapter's wreath.

Bottom Right: Ann Whitney and Secretary Ernie Coggins at the October chapter meeting.

Other October Highlights (Continued)

Top Left: The official party, including Chapter President Dwight Whitney, VASSAR Second Vice President Mike Elston, and the Tomb Sentinel of the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, United States Army, return after the ceremony.

Top Middle: President General Lawrence and his wife descend with the Tomb Sentinel to the Wreath Laying.

Bottom Left: President General Lawrence prepares for the for the Wreath laying.

Bottom Middle: President General Lawrence placing the Wreath

Right: VASSAR Color Guard attends the ceremony.

Future Events 2015

November 11 - Veterans' Day Wreath Laying with Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR. Begins 2:00 p.m. at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, VA. This year, there is no parking by the Administration Building. Park in the regular visitor parking lots or use the CCVC employee parking lot, located across the street from the Mount Vernon Post Office if available. Since it is a long walk from the parking lot to the Tomb, you may check in at the Volunteer Center (the building next to the lot) and request a golf cart ride to the Tomb. Arrive early to allow time for parking and meet at the tomb before 2:00.*

November 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Tribute to member veterans and 2016 elections.*

December 5 - Commemoration of *the Battle of Great Bridge*, Chesapeake, Virginia. †

December 7 – Plaque dedication Honoring Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in St. Mary's Church Cemetery, 1000 South Royal Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Arrive by 9:00 a.m.*

December 12 - Joint chapter meeting with the George Mason Chapter. 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. VASSAR President Reverdy Wright will speak and install the Chapter's 2016 officers. *

December 12 –Wreaths Across America, 12:00 noon at Alexandria National Cemetery, 450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria. Join up with Compatriots Carlisle Bean and Jack Coulter. ‡

January 9 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia

Legend:
** Chapter event;*
*** Chapter-sponsored state or national event;*
† VASSAR/NASSAR event in which GW members are encouraged to participate;
‡ Other SAR event of significance that GW members should consider attending.

George Washington Chapter, VASSAR
Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form
Chapter Meeting: 11:30 am, 14 Nov 2015
Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA

It is requested that reservations be made by completing this form and mailing it to the Chapter Treasurer at the address below so that he **receives it by 11 Nov 2015**. It is preferred that payment be received in advance to avoid having to track down the Treasurer at the meeting to collect checks or cash. It also ensures that the caterer is given adequate notice to prepare enough tables for the meeting.

If you chose to notify us by email, please ensure your email has the word "RESERVATION" in the subject line. The Treasurer will confirm your reservation by email as well. This will ensure your email is not lost by "spam" filters. The Treasurer's email address is PaulWalden@live.com.

The lunch cost is $35 per person ($12 for a child). The check should be made payable to **George Washington Chapter, VASSAR.** Again, checks are preferred over cash. Walk-ins will be accommodated provided there is space. However, if you have not notified the Treasurer by 5:00 pm on the preceding Wednesday, the walk-in price of $40.00 is requested.

Please provide the following when making the reservation:

Meeting Date: _____

Compatriot Name: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

A check in the amount of $ _____ payable to **George Washington Chapter, VASSAR** is enclosed.

Please note if any of the guests are children.

Please return this form and check to: Paul Walden, Treasurer
George Washington Chapter, VASSAR
5902 Mount Eagle Drive, #1609
Alexandria, VA 22303-2522

The check-in and social begins at 11:30 with a cash bar. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon and is typically concluded by 2:30. Valet parking is available.

The George Washington Chapter
Virginia Society
The Sons of the American Revolution
P.O. Box 77, Mount Vernon, VA 22121
www.gwsar.org

12 Sep 2015

Dear Compatriots:

Once again, the George Washington Chapter, VASSAR, is supporting Wreaths Across America (WAA) in their mission to honor the memory of the men and women who served our country by placing a wreath on their graves at veterans cemeteries across the nation during the month of December. Specifically, our chapter supports the placing of wreaths at the Alexandria National Cemetery.

Please help us in honoring these brave men and women by purchasing a wreath for $15. This can be done with a credit card by going to our chapter's WAA donation website:
http://waa.convio.net/site/TR/NationalWreathsAcrossAmericaDay/General?team_id=10075&pg=team&fr_id=4746

If you prefer, you may make a check payable to the George Washington Chapter, VASSAR and mail to me at 5902 Mount Eagle Drive, #1609, Alexandria, VA 22303 and the chapter will forward your donation to the WAA. Please make sure you indicate "WAA" on the memo line of your check.

The deadline for receipt of donations is 30 Nov 2015. WAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Background:
Alexandria National Cemetery: This is one of the oldest national cemeteries in the nation, if not the oldest, based on 1862 Congressional legislation. During the Civil War, there was a great need for a military cemetery in Alexandria. Many soldiers died in battles nearby and thousands died in Alexandria's Union hospitals. There were 26 such hospitals in Alexandria. Many soldiers buried in this cemetery died of disease or wounds rather than on the battlefield. There are 3,533 Civil War veterans buried here, including 123 unknown soldiers. The original wooden headboards were replaced by marble headstones in 1876. A small stone monument across the road from the lodge commemorates four soldiers who died in 1865 chasing John Wilkes Booth.

Wreaths Across America: Their mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies at veterans' cemeteries in all 50 states and beyond. They also organize a week of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia where they spread the message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.

What a great way to remind the public to remember the Veterans, honor their service, and teach children the value of freedom.

Sincerely,

Paul Walden
Treasurer

What is a VETERANS' WREATH?

A veterans' wreath is a symbol of HONOR, RESPECT *and* VICTORY.

10 BALSAM BOUQUETS comprising each veterans' wreath = **10** SPECIAL QUALITIES that our veterans embody

Evergreens = LONGEVITY & ENDURANCE

Red Bow = GREAT SACRIFICE

Forest Scent = PURITY & SIMPLICITY

Circular Shape = ETERNITY

REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH. *Don't say "I should have." Say "I did."*

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

"THIS YEAR, WHEN YOU PLACE A WREATH ON A VETERAN'S GRAVE, you will know it is not just a wreath. It's *your* personal gift to an American hero, and you'll swell with pride and have a tear in your eye knowing you've done something very, very special. God bless our veterans and God bless America."

—MORRILL WORCESTER, FOUNDER OF WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

WATCH THE VIDEO AT bit.ly/veteranswreath