George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Newsletter

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Volume 16, Issue 3 *March 2015*

Wreath-Laying and Musket Salute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution!

Above: Vice President Bodge, shown here being assisted by a local Boy Scout, presented a wreath honoring the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

March 14: Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

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

Events Information

March 5-7: NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky.

March 14: Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina.

April 11: VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia, 6 p.m..

April 25 - Commemoration of President James Monroe's 257th Birthday at the Monroe birthplace farm, 4460 James Monroe Highway, Colonial Beach, VA, 10 a.m.

April 28 – Annual wreath-laying ceremony at President James Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery, 412 South Cherry Street, Richmond.

President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

Last Month. February is always one of our busiest months, and maybe one of the coldest on record! So, I have plenty of news to pass on to you.

We had a great turnout February 7th at the Grayson Brothers Tomb in Woodbridge for the grave marking and monument dedication ceremony hosted by the Col. William Grayson Chapter on behalf of the Virginia Society. It was a very nice ceremony and featured many leaders from the community, Prince William County, and local DAR and SAR Chapters -- plus a resounding musket salute by the VASSAR Color Guard! I'm proud to say George Washington Chapter was well represented by 11 members. Third Vice President Michael Elston spoke on behalf of President Broadus, I served in the Color Guard, and Vice President Bodge performed the wreath-laying honors. Thanks to all who came out and supported this presidential initiative.

Compatriot Mike Elston reported that he and Will attended the 234th Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan commemoration on February 14th. While they were guarding the colors down there, those who attended our chapter meeting that day were treated to a very special presentation by Compatriot Kurt Muse. Kurt gave us an intimate account of his book *Six Minutes to Freedom*, explaining his personal efforts to rally Panamanians to vote their way out from under the cruel and dictatorial rule of Manuel Noriega, his incarceration for doing so, and his eventual rescue by the U.S. military. It was truly a remarkable story.

During the meeting we also honored Compatriot Jack Coulter with a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his volunteer services to the community, and we presented awards to our Chapter winners of the Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest (James Pala) and the Rumbaugh Orations Contest (Alexandra Rodriguez). By the way, both of these young people attended the VASSAR Annual Conference where James received his third-place award in the state contest, and Alexandra did a fine oration there, taking second place overall in the state competition. I'll also mention here that Cadet Rhea Ambanta took the second place award in the JROTC contest. Congratulations to them; and to our Youth Activities Committee, led by Rich Sherman, and our Awards Committee, led by Jack Pitzer, a resounding Huzzah!

This year's George Washington Birthday Parade was called off due to the very cold temperatures and threatening snow on February 16th. Nevertheless, several members (Greg Bodge, Tom Roth, Carlisle Bean, and dual member Reverdy Wright) braved the weather to participate in the First Virginia Regiment's annual ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution. Vice President Greg Bodge presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter. Thank you gentlemen!

The 125th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society SAR was held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond on February 20-22. I am thankful to the six regular members who attended with me: Covert Beach, Greg Bodge, Ernie Coggins, Mike Elston, Tom Roth, and Rich Sherman. A few members cancelled their trip due to the threatening weather. Not a bad move! Ann and I had an adventurous three-hour trip home Saturday evening through the slush and freezing rain, but arrived home safe and sound.

The highlights of the conference included the VASSAR youth orations contest and watching Mike Elston be sworn in as VASSAR 2nd Vice President. On Saturday evening, VASSAR President Bill Broadus gave his farewell address before the swearing-in of Reverdy Wright as the 2015-2016 VASSAR President.

We can all be proud as our chapter received many awards during the conference. I'm pleased to report we received VASSAR's Program Innovation Award, in recognition of the "Buddy System" for new members, inaugurated last year by Immediate Past President Scott Wagoner. We also received the Chapter Excellence Award, VASSAR's second highest chapter award, the Don Baldwin Award for the largest membership increase, and the History Day Support Award. In addition, the chapter earned two special awards

for participating in the Joint Revolutionary War/War of 1812 Monument Dedication, and the Grayson Family Grave Marking, each a 2014-2015 Presidential initiative; and we earned a streamer for Flag Program Participation. Congratulations to all our chapter members who helped make this happen and especially to Scott for his leadership and being responsive to ideas put forth by the members.

Upcoming Events. As I am writing this, Ann and I, alas, just cancelled our plans to attend the Spring Leadership Conference due to the Winter Storm Thor. I hope to see you at the following events:

March 7 – National History Day Competition, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria. Thanks to those who have heeded the call for Judges.

March 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Make your reservations early to hear our guest speaker, Chief Postal Inspector Guy J. Cottrell.

March 14 - Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina. If anyone attends, please send a photo and brief report for inclusion in the newsletter.

March 16 - James Madison Birthday Celebration, Monday, March 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., Madison Family Cemetery. Compatriot John Blair, a member of the National Society of Madison Family Descendants, will represent the chapter at the wreath-laying ceremony. Others planning to attend may get in touch with John to let him know you will be there to support.

April 11 - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. This year we will honor General Earl E. Anderson, USMC (Ret.). During his 35-year Marine career, he served in combat actions in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Make your reservations now!

Ride Share Program: We have a few members who live in the community and, for one reason or another, are not always able to drive to our chapter meetings. I am aware that some of you have been providing rides to members and I commend you for your thoughtfulness. Having received the suggestion from one of our members and after consultation with the Board of Managers, I want to extend this practice into a Ride Sharing Program. Members in need of a ride to a chapter meeting or a chapter sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Don Reynolds. He will put you in touch with one of our members who can assist you. This *Ride Share* contact information is and will continue to be published in the newsletter in the contacts box placed in every issue (following my signature below).

In the mean time, I encourage all to be alert to members who may need a ride to our events. Get in touch with them ahead of time and offer them a ride. You can also help by contacting Don and have him put you on his list of members offering rides.

Dwight Whitney

Chapter President

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.

From the Secretary

Updates and time sensitive information are being sent to the membership via email as necessary. However, if I do not have your email address, you are not receiving these emails. If you fall in to this category, please send me your email address at sargw.secretary@gmail.com

Ernie Coggins

Secretary

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

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report three new member and one memorial applications were approved by NSSAR. There are two new member applications in review and two supplemental applications in review by NSSAR. Two new members were inducted at the January 10 meeting: John Martin and Joshua Walker.

New Members Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Mark Burns	Jacob Kramer
Richard Rankin	George Fisher
Sean Robbins	James Chitwood

Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Memorial Membership Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Mark William Burns	Jacob Kramer
Richard Ernest Rankin	George Fisher
Sean Michael Robbins	James Chitwood

Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Dave Thomas

Registrar

Chief Postal Inspector to speak at March Meeting

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

GUY J. COTTRELL

CHIEF POSTAL INSPECTOR

Guy Cottrell was appointed the 38th Chief Postal Inspector of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in July 2010. Chief Cottrell oversees all operations of the Postal Inspection Service, which include National Headquarters offices, 17 field divisions, two service centers, and the National Forensic Laboratory. The offices are staffed by Postal Inspectors, Postal Police Officers, and professional support personnel. Chief Cottrell also serves as Chief Security Officer for the Postal Service and as Chairman of the Universal Postal Union's Postal Security Group of the United Nations.

Prior to his appointment, Chief Cottrell served as Deputy Chief Inspector at National Headquarters, where he oversaw all national security programs for the Postal Service. As a native of West Virginia who grew up in New Orleans, Cottrell joined the Postal Service in 1987 when he became a letter carrier there. In 1991, Chief Cottrell became a Postal Inspector at the New Orleans Division, where he investigated internal and external mail theft throughout Louisiana and southern Mississippi.

Since that time, Chief Cottrell has held a number of management positions in major metropolitan areas, including his appointment as Inspector in Charge of the Postal Inspection Service's Washington field office during the Amerithrax investigation.

In 2008, Chief Cottrell served as Inspector in Charge of Security & Crime Prevention and Communications, where he guided the Postal Inspection Service toward a risk- and management-analysis platform, streamlined security programs, and implemented numerous cost-effective and innovative solutions. Under his direction, the group produced security and crime prevention publications and videos that have reached millions of customers. Chief Cottrell holds a bachelor's degree from the University of New Orleans.

Chief Cottrell takes pride in his service for one of our nation's oldest federal law enforcement agencies. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is a highly specialized, professional organization performing investigative and security functions essential to a vital, stable, and sound postal system.

postalinspectors.uspis.gov

New Member Biographies

MARK BURNS

Compatriot Burns was born in Davenport, Iowa and raised here in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area. He received a BFA degree from the Milwaukee Institute, and later received a M.S. in Military Art & Science from the Air University, Alabama.

Mark is currently a Reserve military officer, serving in a fulltime capacity as the Congressional Liaison to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force. He has worked there since this past July.

He and his wife Mimi have a 23 month old son named Elijah, and are pleased to announce that they have one on the way, due this summer. He is a member of defense and military-related organizations to include the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Life Member, Air Force Association (AFA) Life Member, Military Officer Association of America (MOAA), and the Foreign Area Officer Association (FAOA). He was recognized in *Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals* in 2008, and was hand-selected to the U.S. Air Force High Potential Officer Program in 2012.

Mark's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot John Jacob Kramer, who during the Revolution served as an Ensign in the 5th Battalion, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

GARNER R. BENNETT

Compatriot Bennett was born in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and was raised in the suburbs of Nashville, Fraserburgh, Scotland, and Fairbanks, Alaska as his father traveled for Western Electric. He has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Technology University and was designated as the link to the "Order of Engineers" Society. Garner is currently the President and CEO of Total Resource Management, Inc. whose corporate office is located in Alexandria, Virginia. Garner has worked as a robotics engineer and in international sales & marketing prior to settling in Alexandria, VA.

Garner and his wife Claire (a member of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR) have two children, Emily aged 19 and Nicholas 18. Garner's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot John Barron, who as a young man of 19 years, served during the Revolution as a Private in the South Carolina Militia under Col. Bratton and Gen. Henderson in the Southern Campaign.

Did You Know?

Washington was a Federalist, so he favored a strong central government. He also had a strong affinity for aristocrats. During the Constitutional Convention, he spent much of his time at the mansion of Robert Morris, the richest man in America. His closest political ally was Alexander Hamilton, whose policies inevitably leaned toward the upper classes.

Washington was the only president to win unanimous approval (all of the votes cast) by the Electoral College. He did it twice.

In office, Washington served the nation best by keeping the government stable. He advocated a strong national defense, and kept the country out of the escalating tension between England and France.

His health failing, Washington begged out of the presidency after one term. Men from both sides of the political fence urged him to remain in office, however, so he stayed on. His second inaugural address may reveal his enthusiasm for the second term. At 135 words, it is the shortest inaugural address in history.

George Washington Quotes

"Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all."[1]

[1] http://brainz.org/50-best-george-washington-quotes/

March Dates in History
American Revolutionary War

March 22, 1765: The Stamp Act was passed by the British Parliament as a means to pay for British troops on the American frontier. Colonists violently protest the first direct tax on the American colonies. Americans were forced to pay tax directly to England. and not to their own local legislatures in America.

March 24 1765: The Quartering Act required American colonists to house British troops and supply them with food.

March 18, 1766: Stamp Act repealed - Ben Franklin argued for repeal and warned of a possible revolution in the American colonies if the Stamp Act was enforced by the British military

March 18, 1766: Declaratory Act passed asserting the British right to make laws binding on the colonies.

March 1769: Merchants in Philadelphia join the boycott.

March 1769: "The Boston Massacre" - Four workers shot by British troops in Boston.

March 1774: The Coercive Acts (called Intolerable Acts by Americans) in response to the rebellion in Massachusetts. The Coercive Acts included:

Massachusetts Government Act
Administration of Justice Act
Boston Port Act
Quartering Act

The Boston Port Act shut down all commercial shipping in Boston harbor until Massachusetts paid the taxes owed on the tea dumped in the harbor and compensation to the East India Company

March 23, 1775: Patrick Henry delivers the "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech

March 30, 1775: New England Restraining Act requiring New England colonies to trade exclusively with England

March 4-17, 1776: American forces capture Dorchester Heights and British evacuate Boston

March 16, 1778: A Peace Commission rejected by Congress.

March 15, 1781: Battle of Guilford Courthouse British victory

March 5, 1782: The British Parliament empowers King George to negotiate peace with the United States.

March 20, 1782: British Prime Minister Lord Rockingham starts negotiations with the American peace commissioners.

Grayson Brothers Tomb Grave Marking and Monument Dedication Ceremony

Top: VASSAR 3rd Vice President Mike Elston addressed the crowd and presented awards on behalf of VASSAR President Broadus.

Bottom: George Washington Chapter Compatriots (L-R) Mike Elston, Vern McHargue, Dwight Whitney, John Blair, Dave Thomas, Paul Walden, John Lyreman, Greg Bodge, Jay Henn, and Tom Roth.

Highlights of the February Chapter Meeting

Top: New compatriots Garner Bennett, Mark Burns, and Robert Allen prepare for their induction. Paul Walden also received the Memorial Membership for his father, the late Clarke Walden.

Bottom: James received the SAR Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition, the Eagle Scout Scholarship Chapter Medal and Patch from Vice President Bodge and President Whitney. He went on to take 3rd place in the scholarship competition at VASSAR.

Upper left: Compatriot Jack Coulter received the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from President Whitney for his outstanding volunteer services to the community.

Lower left: Author and Compatriot Kurt Muse gave our audience powerful and inspirational account of his run-in with the Panamanian dictatorship in 1989 and the events that led to a heroic rescue by the U.S. military.

Right: Chapter winner of the Rumbaugh Oration Contest displaying her awards. Alexandra went on to capture 2nd place at the state competition.

Scenes from the 125th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society

Top Left: Compatriots Rich Sherman and Dwight Whitney celebrate with our 2nd Place winner of the state oration contest

Top Right: Compatriot Covert Beach received thanks from VASSAR President Broadus for serving as one of the judges

Bottom Left: Compatriot Ernie Coggins was honored with the Virginia Society State Service Award.

Bottom Right: The new 2nd VP Mike Elston was awarded the VASSAR Meritorious Service Medal

Above: On February 21st, Dr. Reverdy Wright was sworn in as 2015-2016 VASSAR President by Atlantic Middle States Association Vice President General J. Thomas Showler.

Future Events 2015

March 5-7 - NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky. †

March 7 – National History Day Competition, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria. Judges needed - Rich Sherman. ‡

March 14 - Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina. †

March 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. *

March 16 - James Madison Birthday Celebration. 2:00 p.m., Madison Family Cemetery. ‡

April 11 - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Reservations required, no later than April 3rd. **

April 25 - Commemoration of President James Monroe's 257th Birthday at the Monroe birthplace farm, 4460 James Monroe Highway, Colonial Beach, VA, 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided afterward at the Moose Lodge nearby. †

April 28 – Annual wreath-laying ceremony at President James Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery, 412 South Cherry Street, Richmond. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. (subject to change by the Army which conducts the ceremony). †

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

May 9 - Commemoration of the Raid at Martin's Station, Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, Virginia. †

May 25 - National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC. **

June 27 - July 1 - 125th Annual SAR Congress, Louisville, Kentucky. †

July 4 - 54rd Annual Independence Day Ceremonies, 10 a.m., George Washington's Mount Vernon, Virginia. *

August 7-8 - Atlantic Middle States District Meeting. †

August 12-17 - SAR-DAR Bermuda Gunpowder Plot Commemorations in Bermuda. **

September 12 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. *

September 17 - Constitution Day at Montpelier, Orange, Virginia. †

September 24-26 - NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky. †

October TBA - Point Pleasant Days, Point Pleasant, West Virginia. ‡

October 3-4 - Battle of Kings Mountain, Kings Mountain, North Carolina. ‡

October 10 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. *

November 11 - Veterans' Day Ceremony at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, Virginia. *

November 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. *

December 12 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. *

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.

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please make your **reservation by telephone or e-mail**. This is the preferred way to ensure your reservation is received in time to get a seat. Please send reservations by Wednesday, March 11.

Please send reservations and payment to Paul Walden. For e-mail reservations, send to paulwalden@live.com with **RESERVATION** in the subject line.
For call-in reservations, call **Paul at 703-347-9770**.

The lunch cost is $35.00 per person ($12.00 per child) and you may pay at the door or send a check in the mail in advance of the meeting. Make checks payable to "**G.W. Chapter SAR**." Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of $40.00 is required.

When calling or writing, please include the following:

Compatriot Name: _____
Guest Name (s): _____

When mailing checks, be sure I'm notified in time to hold seating for you and your guests! Please include the following information:

Compatriot Name: _____
Guest Name (s): _____

A check for ____ persons in the amount of $_____ payable to **G.W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form and your check to:

Paul Walden
Treasurer, G.W. Chapter SAR
5902 Mount Eagle Drive, #1609
Alexandria, VA 22303

Check-in and social begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon. Valet parking is available.

Gold Good Citizenship Award Gala Reservation

Saturday, 11 April 2015

Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia

Please use this form to make a reservation for the Gold Good Citizenship Award Gala at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. The cost for this black-tie optional event is $85 per person. The reception and receiving line for the honoree will begin at 6:00 p.m. The program and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP no later than April 3, 2015.

Name(s): _____

Entrée Choice(s): _____ Herb Seared Petite Filet _____ Roasted Salmon Filet
A check for _____ persons in the amount of $ _____ payable to George Washington Chapter VASSAR is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form with your check to:

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

You may also make your reservation by e-mail to PaulWalden@live.com