George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

-Newsletter-

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

Volume 18, Number 11 *November, 2017*

October Chapter Meeting Speaker, Mrs. Carole Thomas

Mrs. Carole Thomas, a living history interpreter at George Mason's Gunston Hall, spoke to the George Washington Chapter meeting on 14 October 2017. Her presentation was about founding father George Mason IV entitled "George Mason: Influence of a Forgotten Founding Father". As George Mason IV is relatively unknown to many Americans, she spoke about his family and his personal traits, and the desire of others to have his participation in conferences and conventions because of his knowledge and wisdom. Important documents that George Mason wrote, such as the Fairfax Resolves, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and the Virginia Constitution were discussed as to their importance and his influence in creating them.

Carole is a docent and living history interpreter at The Historic Pohick Church, the church of George Washington, George Mason, and George William Fairfax. A native New Yorker, Carole has had a diverse education and working career. After finishing college at Hofstra University, Hempstead, Long Island, where she majored in Dramatic Literature and German, she worked for British Airways at the offices in New York City and later at John F. Kennedy International Airport. In 1985 she married and moved to the Washington area where she worked for the American Australian Bicentennial Foundation, assisting with organizing the program for the participation of the United States in the 1988 Australian Bicentennial Celebrations. Working with the late Dr. Richard Whitford, Assistant Commissioner of Education during the Carter Administration, Carole helped edit a book about Australia which was distributed to various American schools in order to educate American children about the continent of Australia. The organization was no longer needed as of early 1989, and Carole moved on to be the Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired (DACOR), an organization of active duty and retired U.S. Foreign Service personnel. This organization is still located in Washington, D.C., at the historic DACOR Bacon House at 18 and F Streets. The last personal owner was the late Mrs. Virginia Murray Bacon, a descendant of Lord Dunmore, the last British governor of the colony of Virginia. After twelve years of service at DACOR, Carole opened her own business called Music Solutions for Life, LLC, in 2001. Carole had already earned a Master's Degree in Music from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, as well as the credentials to practice music therapy. For 17 years, Carole has worked with children and adults with a variety of intellectual challenges and developmental disabilities, such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and shaken baby syndrome. Having always been a history buff is what has drawn Carole to Gunston Hall and living history.

Mrs. Carole Thomas

George Mason IV

Gunston Hall Plantation

Compatriots Recognized for Chapter Service

For Compatriot Callender's leadership in the Grave Marking Program, the multi-year project to erect a plaque listing the Patriots from Fairfax County, and his hard work on the chapter website, he was awarded the SAR Distinguished Service Medal. He also received his promotion to "General" in the First Virginia Regiment. On the right (below) Chapter Secretary David Thomas was awarded the Bronze Roger Sherman medal for his leadership as Chapter Registrar and Secretary. Our chapter thanks you both for your hard work and dedication.

Jamie Callender and Paul Walden

Dave Thomas and Paul Walden

Additional Photos from September Chapter Meeting

Compatriot Reynolds selling drink tickets

Signing the well-earned public safety awards

Rev. Tom Costa Awarded SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award

Rev. Tom Costa and Paul Walden at Pohick Church

For his support of our chapter's activities this year, including the invocation at our dedication of the plaque commemorating the Patriots from Fairfax County and (left) for participating in the chapter's Constitution Day event at Pohick Church, Rev. Costa was given the SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award and pin on September 17. Rev. Costa often appears as Parson Massey, Rector of historic Pohick Church during Washington and Mason's time. Rev. Costa also volunteers his Sunday mornings by leading a prayer service at the Sunrise at Mount Vernon Retirement Home, so he truly is an outstanding citizen!

Virginia Hurtes Rouse Awarded Flag Certificate

At the semi-annual meeting on 1 Oct of the Virginia Branch, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, George Washington VASSAR Chapter President Paul Walden (and former VA Branch Governor of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims) presented Ms. Rouse with the SAR Flag Certificate for leading the display of the U.S. Flag in her subdivision for Memorial Day.

SAR Public Service Awards Presented to 14 Prince William County Fire & Rescue First Responders

On October 23, the George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution presented public service awards to members of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department at the McCoart County Administration Building. A heroism award was presented to Technician Jason Zappas for rescuing a child trapped in a burning automobile while off duty. Fire Safety Awards were presented to Lt Dave Jones, Captain Walt Hunt, Lt Kevin Tobey, Technicians Matt Pullen, Daniel McGee, Pamela Bray, David Worrell, Edward Schmidt, Paul Racco, Aaron Dillon, and Asley Amequita for their response to a house fire on June 20, 2016. Finally, Emergency Medical Service awards were presented to Captain Bob Montminy and Lt. Randy Coggin for implementing a High Performance CPR program for Prince William County Fire and Rescue personnel.

(L to R) Chief McGee, Paul Walden, Capt. Montminy, and Awards Chair John Blair.

(L to R) Chief McGee, Paul Walden Tech. Zappas, and John Blair.

President General Guzy Presents NSSAR Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider

PG Larry Guzy and Virginia SAR President Mike Elston present the NSSAR Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

On September 9 the George Washington Chapter hosted President General Larry Guzy as he presented the NSSAR Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. PG Guzy was assisted by VASSAR President, Mike Elston in presenting the wreath, and escorted by George Washington Chapter President, Paul Walden and Virginia SAR Color Guard Commander, Bill Schwetke. The Virginia SAR Color Guard flanked the march down the steps to the tomb in uniform with flags.

NSSAR Wreath & Tomb of the Unknown Solider overlooking Washington, D.C.

NSSAR presents wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Step Up Now for Chapter Leadership Opportunities in 2017/2018

Chapter President Paul Walden is looking for a number of compatriots to fill leadership positions and other key roles in the chapter. If you are interested in getting more involved, please e-mail him at paulwalden@live.com or call him at (703) 347-9770. All positions allow chapter members to become more involved in the SAR without taking on the burden of an officer position. There are, of course, opportunities to serve as a member of any of the chapter's **Committees** (except for the Nominating Committee, which is appointed by the Board of Managers each autumn). Please contact Paul Walden if you would like to discuss any of these leadership opportunities or serve on one of the chapter's committees.

President's Report

I hope everyone is enjoying the long awaited fall and has something to be thankful for in time for Thanksgiving. I also wish you safe travels if you are travelling for the holiday. It has really been an eventful summer for our chapter. However, we still have a couple of key events this fall. We have our annual Veteran's Day ceremony at Mount Vernon and are planning a grave marking in Alexandria before the year is out. I spent a couple of hours this weekend enjoying the pleasant fall weather by wandering up and down the rows of gravestones at the peaceful Alexandria Wilkes Street cemetery complex. As a result, I believe I have found a few patriot graves that have not been marked with a SAR or DAR marker. This is a reminder that every compatriot should check and see if his patriot ancestor's grave has been marked, assuming the grave still exists, and that the information appears in the SAR Patriot Index.

I also want to appeal to those of you who may have school age children or have some contact with a teacher to get the word out about the various SAR Youth Contests. The theme of the Americanism Poster contest for the 2017-18 school year is Revolutionary War Events. Entries from grades 3-5 are eligible to participate in this contest. Revolutionary War curriculum is taught in Grade 4 in Virginia between December and February. The theme of the Americanism Brochure contest for the 2017-18 school year is Foundational Documents of the United States to include the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation and the Federalist Papers. Entries from grades 6-8 are eligible to participate in this contest. This curriculum is taught in Grade 6 in Virginia between February and March. I am always amazed at the creativity of these students when they display their posters at Congress. Hopefully, our chapter will also be presenting a couple of Eagle Scout certificates before the year is out as well.

As a reminder, at our November chapter meeting, we will be showing our "Salute to Chapter Veterans" in honor of our chapter veterans. Also, please consider donating to Wreaths Across America (WAA), which is a fitting way to honor those veterans who have passed. I want to thank Paul Briggs for chairing our WAA Drive and Jack Coulter, Jamie Callender, and Floyd Ryan for assisting Compatriot Briggs. We will be distributing wreaths at Alexandria National Cemetery at 11 am on 16 December. I hope many of you can participate in this.

Fraternally,

Paul Walden
Chapter President

Treasury Notes

By now you should have received your 2018 dues renewal form in the mail. If you have not, it may mean that we do not have your correct address on file. If you have moved in the last year and did not provide us with the new address, please e-mail me at jaymhenn@gmail.com with your updated address so that we may re-send your renewal form.

Remember, your dues payment provides support for a variety of patriotic, historical, and education goals. Looking forward to next year, we are planning to expand our support of various Youth Programs (including JROTC and Eagle Scouting); honor our Patriot ancestors with grave marking and other recognition ceremonies and recognize our deserving fire, police, and EMT first responders. While your dues payment enables many such activities, an additional contribution accompanying your dues renewal will allow us to do even more. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Once received, please return your renewal form by December 1, 2017 so that we can provide an accurate accounting to the State and National levels by the end of the year. Most importantly, however, if we have not heard from you by December 31, 2017 we are required to drop you from our roster, so please take care of yours now! Thanks!

Jay M. Henn
Treasurer

In Memory of Colonel Howard Merritt Steele, Jr.

Howard Merritt Steele Jr., known lovingly as "The Colonel" died Wednesday, December 28th at Fairfax INOVA Hospital after complications from a fall. Colonel Steele was a soldier at heart. He loved his family, his country, his God, the Army and West Point.

Howard Steele was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on October 17th, 1927, the son of Howard and Bernice (Hall) Steele. He earned his high school diploma from the prestigious Peekskill Military Academy, Peekskill, NY. In 1945, "Howie" was accepted to Yale University. However, "Howie" had always wanted to attend West Point and make the army his career. In 1947, his dream came true. He received a Congressional appointment to the United States Military Academy and in 1951, graduated with a commission as a second lieutenant in the Infantry.

His first posting was Fort Benning, Georgia where he married Dorothy King of Washington, DC- his steady girlfriend all through West Point and his true love for the next 65 years. He fought in Korea where he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action as a rifle platoon leader. He also received the Bronze Star for his service as a rifle company commander.

After the Korean War, Howard Steele served as Aide-de-Camp for the Commander-in-Chief, Far East Command. In 1954, he and "Dotsy" returned to the U.S. to begin their family and life as a career military couple. They moved more than 21 times, which Howie relished and Dotsy endured! Among the highlights was his service as company commander in the 3rd Infantry, The Old Guard, at Fort Meyer, VA; aide to the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Lyman Lemnitzer; Divisions Operations Officer in the 2nd Infantry during the Cuban Missile Crises following which he volunteered for Vietnam. There, he served as the Senior Infantry Training Advisor at the Vietnamese Infantry School in the early days of the advisory effort in 1963-64.

After Vietnam, he returned home to command the 54th Infantry Battalion (Mechanized), attend the Army War College, and in his free time, obtain a Master's Degree from Shippensburg State University in Political Science and International Relations.

Duty, honor, and country called again as he volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam where he served as Senior Advisor to the 18th ARVN Infantry Division.
One of his favorite tours was as Commander of the 2nd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

He completed that tour and returned to Washington, D.C. as Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary of the Army. He wrapped up his distinguished career as Director of the Combined Arms Department of the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir. After retiring in 1981, he became active in investment management, various hereditary societies including the Sons of the American Revolution, The Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford and a number of others. Colonel Steele was a Master Mason, Scottish Rite and a Shriner. His real focus however, was his wife "Dotsy," his children, and his grandchildren who all loved him beyond measure.

Colonel Steele's awards also include three Bronze Stars, Meritorious Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, three Air Medals, Army Commendations Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and a number of other service and foreign medals.

He is survived by his beloved Dorothy, his son Howard Merritt Steele, IV, his two daughters Cynthia Steele Vance, Susan Steele and six adoring grandchildren.

In Memory of William Ross Clayton

William Ross Clayton was born on 24 October 1927, to Augustina Ruth Mullaly and Faye Ralph Ross Clayton, in San Francisco, CA. Bill's family surname was actually Ross, which changed when Bill's father was adopted by Oscar Clayton. Bill enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was assigned to a unit in the Philippines where he was learning to pilot a landing craft preparing for the invasion of Japan. Thankfully, President Truman had other plans, and Bill was discharged when the war ended and returned home without injury.

Bill enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley where after graduation he was commissioned as an Ensign, and assigned to the Office of Naval Investigations (ONI). While at Berkeley, he met and married the beautiful and intelligent Lourine Hacker, they married and had two daughters. Lourine died suddenly in 1976, Bill was 41 years old at the time of her passing. When ONI became the Naval Investigative Service, Bill transitioned performing to new duties attaining the rank of Commander before his retirement. As a civilian employee of the federal government, Bill was employed by the Defense Investigative Service (DIS), and achieved the position of Director of Special Investigations for DIS, where he supervised criminal fraud investigations and high level security leaks. Bill retired as the DIS Regional Director in San Francisco, CA.

After his retirement from DIS in 1981, Bill and his wife, Anne moved to Northern Virginia where Bill learned to play bagpipes, and played with the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums, when they were not sailing the Chesapeake. In 1987, Bill and Anne welcomed their son, William Ross Clayton, Jr. Bill, Anne and William moved to Orange Park, FL in 1990, where they lived until Bill's sudden passing on 14 July 2017. Bill was the very best man, husband, father, grand dad, an Eagle Scout, and a true Patriot and his family misses him dearly.

Sons of the American Revolution
Lapel Pins for Sale

The George Washington Chapter still has some distinctive SAR lapel pins for $20 each. Proceeds will be split evenly to support the chapter and the Sons of the American Revolution Foundation. The SAR Foundation was established in 2000 as the fundraising arm of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.
Contact Paul Walden, President, at the next chapter meeting if you wish to buy one of these pins and support the chapter and the Foundation.

Chapter Wreath Presentation at Yorktown Day

Compatriots Don Reynolds and Ernie Coggins present the Chapter wreath at the 236th Anniversary of Victory at Yorktown.

On October 19, VASSAR celebrated the 236th anniversary of our ancestors' victory at Yorktown. A strong contingent of Virginia SAR compatriots participated in the celebration, led by President Mike Elston and seven other state officers with 13 Virginia chapters participating. President Larry Guzy represented the NSSAR.

Festivities began the evening before with a dinner at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The featured speaker was General Lafayette, portrayed by an actor. The morning began with the presentation of wreaths at the tomb of Thomas Nelson, Jr. Virginia SAR Secretary Wayne Rouse was the master of ceremonies, greetings were brought by President General Larry Guzy, and Virginia SAR President Mike Elston was the keynote speaker.

General Thomas Nelson's tomb

Veteran's Day Ceremony at Mount Vernon

The George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution and the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, Virginia Society Daughters of the American Revolution will host their Annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Wreath Laying at General Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon on Saturday, 11 November 2017.

As this is our regular meeting date at the Belle Haven Country Club, we shall conduct a short luncheon meeting and adjourn by 1:00 p.m. to order to allow compatriots to assemble at General Washington's Tomb by **2:15 p.m.** We shall need to conclude the Ceremony by 2:50 p.m.

Compatriots may park at the Ann Pamela Cunningham Administrative Building as we do for our Fourth of July Ceremony. A map of the parking and administrative areas of Mount Vernon is attached. You will need to enter into the administrative complex at the Hearst Gate **(G-1)** from the East Parking Lot **(P-1)**; press the button on the call box and identify yourself as a member of the George Washington Chapter present for the **SAR** ceremony; and then proceed toward the Ann Pamela Cunningham Administration Building **(3)** and park in the area between parking lots **P4** and **P5** – if not directed by a guard to park elsewhere.

Proceed past the Ann Pamela Cunningham Administrative Building and the Mansion and down the hill to the Tomb. Just before reaching the Tomb, the Daughters of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter will be staffing a table with a book for Veterans to sign. Additionally, they will have carnations for all to lay at the foot of General Washington's Tomb. Once all have assembled, we shall begin the ceremony.

Several administrative notes: There is no admission fee unless you are planning to tour the mansion. It is traditional to wear a blue blazer with khaki trousers and SAR tie. Straw hats are advisable. Guests are welcome. There is no need to RSVP; however, all compatriots are encouraged attend. Feel free to invite Compatriots who are members of other chapters and Daughters and Children of the American Revolution.

George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR

Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Chapter Meeting: 11:30 a.m., **Saturday, November 11, 2017**
Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Please join us at the November Chapter meeting as we pay tribute to our Nation's veterans. In particular, we will be showing an updated version of the ever-popular *Salute to Our Chapter's Veterans* slideshow - featuring photos and profiles of our distinguished George Washington Chapter veterans. (New members: if you haven't yet provided us with your profiles please contact Greg Bodge or Dave Thomas; it's not too late!)

You may make your reservation in one of two ways. First, you may complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below. The cost of the meal is **$35.00** per person (**$12.00** for a child). Please make checks payable to *George Washington Chapter, VASSAR***.** Second, you may email the Chapter Treasurer at jaymhenn@gmail.com. To help ensure receipt, please put "RESERVATION" ***followed by your last name*** in the subject line. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your reservation. Payment will be collected at the door. Checks are preferred over cash, and - if paying with cash - exact change is appreciated.

For both methods, please make sure that your reservation is received by **Tuesday, November 7th** so that we may provide the Club with our anticipated attendance. Walk-ins (members and guests who have not made reservations) will be charged **$40.00**.

Please provide the following information when making reservations:

❶ Compatriot Name: _____

❷ Guest Name(s): _____
Please note if any of the guests are children

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

❹ Return this form and check to:

Jay M. Henn, Treasurer
16920 Chapel Hill Court
Woodbridge, VA 22191-4569