George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

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Volume 19, Issue 8 ***October 2018***

GWSAR Chapter in September

At the September Chapter Meeting, we were fortunate to have eight past George Washington Chapter Presidents in attendance! Left to Right: Ernie Coggins (current President), Dick Kusserow (2003-04), Don Reynolds (1994, VASSAR 2000-2001), Larry Lisle (1986, VASSAR 96-97), David Walker (2009), Don Baldwin (1963, VASSAR 69-70), Mike Elston (2013, VASSAR 2017-18), Paul Walden (2017), and Dwight Whitney (2015). A number of the men also served as VASSAR President.

President General Warren Alter assisted in inducting our newest members, Rand Pixa and David Kuhnsman. PG Alter (l) is shown here with (l-r) Richard Sherman (George Washington Chapter Registrar), Margaret Winslow (Mrs. Kuhnsman), Dave Kuhnsman, Morgan Pixa, Rand Pixa, Pat Kelley (President VASSAR), and Ernie Coggins (President, George Washington Chapter).

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President's Corner

Compatriots: We were honored and privileged to have President General Warren Alter and First Lady Nancy along with Virginia Society President Pat Kelly and his Lady Jennifer attend our September meeting.

During our meeting we inducted two new members, David Kuhnsman and Rand Pixa. President General Alter and President Kelly assisted Registrar Rich Sherman and I in performing the induction ceremony. David's wife, Margaret Winslow, and Rand's son, Morgan, also participated. It is not often that we induct new members in the presence of the President General and the Virginia Society President. David and Rand, we welcome you into the George Washington Chapter.

Our Flag Chairman, Past Chapter President Paul Walden, presented Compatriot Jamie Callender with an SAR Flag Certificate.

A Chapter President has the opportunity to award one Bronze Distinguished Service Medal during his term, and a Compatriot may only receive the Bronze Distinguished Service Medal once. I accorded John Blair this honor. John has done legion work in building our Public Safety Awards program. He has worked tirelessly with surrounding public safety agencies to recognize deserving individuals.

President General Warren Alter was our principal speaker and President Kelly offered a few comments before we departed for the President General's traditional visit to Arlington National Cemetery. In what has become a tradition, the Chapter sponsored a wreath laying for the President General and Virginia Society President at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Virginia Color Guard Commander and Second Vice President of the Virginia Society, Bill Schwetke, and I formed the balance of the wreath laying party. As always, it was a very solemn event, and in spite of the rain, the Virginia Color Guard, Chapter members, and other members of the Virginia Society attended.

On Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 September, Chapter Secretary Tom Roth and I attended the Virginia Society's Semi-Annual meeting in Charlottesville. Also attending the Saturday session was Past Chapter President Paul Walden and Compatriot Nat Ames. At this meeting, President Kelly presented National Society awards to several members of our Chapter: Dave Thomas received an Oak Leaf Cluster for his Liberty Medal (for being the first line signer on the applications of ten new members), Rich Sherman received the Dr. Joseph Warren Medal for his contribution to the Rumbaugh Orations Contest, Mike Elston received a number of certificates, and I received one certificate from former President General Larry Guzy for National Society activities. On Sunday the 16th, a number of us attended a ceremony honoring the signing of the United States Constitution at Pohick Church led by the Reverend Tom Costa and Past Chapter President Paul Walden. The Reverend Dr. Costa portrayed Parson Lee Massey, Rector of Pohick during that time. George Washington and George Mason, both Virginia Delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, were members of Pohick.

In other news, Jack Pitzer is beginning his activities to initiate this year's JROTC Program. Marty Johnson is working on our Eagle Scout Program. Paul Walden continues to award SAR Flag Certificates (see additional articles in this newsletter). Nat Ames will be looking for the graves of Patriots to mark next year. Additionally, we want to continue to support of Virginia C.A.R. President Molly McCue's State Project. A flyer explaining her project and a donation form are attached to this newsletter.

Please remember our meeting at Belle Haven Country Club on Saturday, 13 October 2018. Our speaker will be Ms. Katrina Krempasky

(President's Corner con't next page)

President's Corner *(con't)*

of the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center, whose mission is to preserve and make available to the public the historic records of the Fairfax Circuit Court. Katrina will be speaking on "The Colonial Courtroom: The Who, Why and How of the Early Virginia Court" . . . don't miss it. At the October Meeting, the Nominating Committee will announce the 2019 slate of officers to stand for election at our November meeting.

On Friday, 19 October 2018, the Virginia Society will host a ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Yorktown at Grace Episcopal Church, 111 Church Street, Yorktown, Virginia 23690.

It is that time of year when we need to renew our memberships in the National Society, the Virginia Society, and the George Washington Chapter. As always, I want to encourage all of you to become recruiters for the SAR and the George Washington Chapter. Please consider enrolling your fathers, sons, grandsons, and nephews or anyone who may be interested. Additionally, please consider making a generous donation to the Chapter to further our activities. Your prompt attention in this matter would be greatly appreciated. I want to stress how important renewing your membership and signing up new members is to strengthening our Society and Chapter's growth.

Finally, I would like to welcome the newest dual member of the George Washington Chapter, Compatriot Warren Alter, 2018-2019 President General.

My most sincere thanks to all of you for your dedicated efforts!

Ernie Coggins, GWSAR President

Upcoming Events

05-06 October – Friday and Saturday: **Point Pleasant Battle Days Celebration**
Tu-Endie-Wei State Park
1 Main Street
Point Pleasant, West Virginia 25550

06 October – Saturday: **Battle of Kings Mountain**
Kings Mountain National Military Park
2625 Park Road
Blacksburg, South Carolina 29702

13 October – Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting at 11:30**
Speaker: **Katrina Krempasky,** Fairfax County Courthouse Historic Records
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

19 October – Friday: **Yorktown Day**
Grace Episcopal Church
111 Church Street
Yorktown, Virginia

10 November – Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting at 11:30**
Speaker: **TBD**
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

11 November – Sunday: **Mount Vernon Veterans Day Ceremony**
Wreath Laying Washington's Tomb
Mount Vernon Estate
3200 Mount Vernon Highway
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

08 December – Saturday: **Joint Meeting of the George Mason and George Washington Chapters at 11:30**
Installation of 2019 Officers – Virginia Society President Pat Kelly presiding
Mount Vernon Country Club
5111 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22309

September GWSAR (con't)

(Left) President General Warren Alter gave the Chapter an overview of current National Society activity and policy and (Right) Virginia Society President Pat Kelley brought greetings from the Virginia Society.

GW Chapter Vice President Dave Thomas presented a copy of Houdon's bust of George Washington to President General Alter in appreciation for his talk at our September 8, 2018 Chapter Meeting.

President	*Ernie B. Coggins: 703-241-2807*
Vice President	*David R. Thomas: 703-583-8791*
Secretary	*Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811*
Treasurer	*Jay M. Henn: 703-447-0820*
Registrar	*Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319*

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.

Immediate Past President:
Paul Walden: 703-347-9770

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 Pete Farley. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to **nyyno7@verizon.net** *or call 703-585-3163.*

September GWSAR (con't)

At the September Chapter Meeting, the SAR Flag Certificate was presented to Compatriot Jamie Callender for flying the United States Flag at his Springfield home. So far, our chapter was awarded 12 Flag Certificates this year! SAR Flag Certificates are awarded to compatriots, non-members, and even businesses who fly the United States Flag appropriately at their home or place of business.

Please contact Paul Walden, Chapter Flag Chairman, at PaulWalden@live.com if you wish to nominate someone for a flag certificate.

John Blair was awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal by President Coggins for his work leading our program to honor police and other first responders for their service and heroism. John is seen here with (l-r) Ernie Coggins (President GWC), PG Alter, John Blair, Linda Blair, and Pat Kelley (President VASSAR). This award can be received only one time by any member, and can only be awarded once during his term by a Chapter President.

September GWSAR (con't)

(Left) David Kuhnsman's wife Margaret placed his Membership Rosette.

(Below) Rand Piza's son Morgan placed his Membership Rosette.

(Right) Compatriot Larry Lisle, former GW Chapter President and our current representative in North Carolina attended the North Carolina Society's Battle of Ramseur's Mill Commemoration and placed a wreath on behalf of the GW Chapter. Larry attended our September 8 meeting and presented a streamer to the Chapter in recognition of our participation in the Battle of Ramseur's Mill Commemoration. Larry is shown here with President Coggins (l) and Vice President Thomas (r).

September GWSAR (con't)

We were uniquely honored to have both the NSSAR President General and the VASSAR President attend and participate in September 8, 2018 Board of Manager's Meeting. Shown (l-r) Paul Walden (past GWC President), Dwight Whitney (past GWC President), Ernie Coggins (GWC President), Pat Kelley (VASSAR President), Don Reynolds (GWC Chaplain), Jay Henn (GWC Treasurer), Jack Coulter (GWC Scrapbook Committee Chairman), President General Alter, Richard Sherman (GWC Registrar), Jamie Callender (GWC Website Manager), and Dave Thomas (GWC Vice-President)--the reflection of Tom Roth (GWC Secretary) may be seen in the mirror.

(Above) NSSAR First Lady Nancy Alter recognized our own First Lady Diane Coggins for her support of the Chapter and the SAR.

(Left) President General Alter designated President Coggins as one of his Aides de Camp. PG Alter here congratulates President Coggins (shown with the insignia of his new office on his lapel), while Nancy Alter (l) and Diane Coggins (r) assist.

GWSAR at Arlington National Cemetery

On Saturday afternoon, September 08, 2018, under cloudy skies with intermittent rain, President General Warren Alter laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on behalf of the SAR. Escorted by Soldiers of the Old Guard, PG Alter was assisted in placing the wreath by Virginia Society President Pat Kelly. Virginia Color Guard Commander and Virginia Society Second Vice President Bill Schwetke and George Washington Chapter President Ernie Coggins were also part of the presentation party. A good number of compatriots attended in spite of the weather, and members of the Virginia Society Color Guard formed a guard of honor on the steps leading to the Tomb.

The Sentinels who guard the Tomb are all volunteers and are considered to be the best of the elite 3rd United States Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). They guard the Tomb twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year regardless of the weather. In addition to protecting this sacred site, the Soldiers of The Old Guard maintain reverence and silence.

The Tomb contains the remains of the Unknown Soldiers of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. The Unknown Soldier from World War I was interred on November 11, 1921. A white marble sarcophagus was placed over the grave. On May 30, 1958, the Unknowns from World War II and Korea were buried by the sarcophagus, and their graves were marked with flat marble slabs. An Unknown from the Vietnam War was buried on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984 and this grave was also marked by a flat marble slab. As the result of DNA analysis, these remains were identified and exhumed in 1998. It has been decided that this crypt will remain vacant and the crypt cover was replaced with one inscribed with the words "Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975."

It has become an annual tradition for the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society to host this ceremony for the President General to honor the Unknowns and all who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

(Above).The Sergeant of the Guard, the Wreath Bearer, and the Bugler convey the National Society's Wreath to President General Alter for presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. (Right) President General Warren Alter accompanied by Virginia President Pat Kelly and escorted by a Soldier of The Old Guard, lays a wreath for the National Society at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery on September 08, 2018. The Soldier with the red cap is the bugler and a member of The United States Army Band.

GWSAR at Arlington National Cemetery

SAR Compatriots attending President General Alter's wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Saturday, 08 September 2018. From left to right: Bill Schwetke, Dr. Don Reynolds, Ernie and Diane Coggins, Jeff Thomas, Ken Morris, Dennis Peterson, Dave Thomas, Dwight Whitney, Pat and Jennifer Kelly, Warren and Nancy Alter, Jim O'Kelley with grandson Bailey Friedman, Vern Eubanks, Dave Cook, Mike Taimi, Pete Davenport, Jack Pitzer, Joe Famme, and Rev. Dr. Gene Thomas. Photographer Tom Roth and Editor Pete Farley are not pictured.

Shown above are Warren Alter (President-General NSSAR (L front)), Pat Kelly (President VASSAR) (C front), with the Sergeant of the Guard saluting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the playing of Taps. They are joined by Ernie Coggins (President GW Chapter (L rear) and Bill Schwetke (2nd V-P VASSAR and Commander of the VASSAR Color Guard) (R rear)

On October 3, 1789, President George Washington declared November 26, 1789, a day of Thanksgiving to express gratitude for the creation of the United States of America.

Sons, Grandsons, Brothers and Nephews-- Members in the SAR?

For those George Washington Chapter members who have a son, grandson, brother or a nephew and have not yet submitted or encouraged them for SAR membership this is an excellent time to consider their respective membership. By submitting their names for membership you continue to honor your patriot ancestor, and the unique history of your family as descendants of a Revolutionary War era ancestor.

The process is not hard and the document requirements are minimal, given they can use your approved SAR membership Record Copy document as the core evidence to prove their individual lineage to the Revolutionary War patriot. Birth certificates/records will be needed and some cases a marriage certificate may be required, with guidance being provided by the George Washington Chapter Registrar, Richard Sherman.

Membership in the SAR and the George Washington Chapter would be uniquely diverse--joining an organization that actively honors current day men and women who are law enforcement officers, fire & rescue and EMS personnel serving our local communities with distinction. A Chapter that supports a variety of youth programs and offers participation in patriotic ceremonies that celebrate the foundations and commemorations associated with our Nation's history--marching in the George Washington Birthday and National Memorial Day parades, celebrating and recognizing the significance of the 4th of July and Veterans Day with ceremonies at Mt. Vernon, and the solemn ceremony of recognition and remembrance at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery--with these and other activities providing a wide range of interests and opportunities to participate for new members.

Membership applications can be submitted individually, or as gifts by the Chapter member if they prefer. Further, more than one application can be submitted at the same time potentially qualifying and saving money for applicants under the SAR Family Plan discount.

For questions and information on the application process, needed documentation and fees, please contact the George Washington Chapter Registrar, Rich Sherman at email: *rmsalp@gmail.com*

TREASURY NOTES

It's that time of year again. No, not leaf-raking – dues renewal! If you have not received your dues renewal form in the mail it should arrive shortly (if not, please get in touch with me).

The 2019 Renewal Form will take care of all of your SAR dues obligations: National, State and Chapter. This is also your opportunity to update any personal information and indicate your preference for how you receive your copy of this excellent newsletter throughout the year.

Perhaps most importantly, this is your opportunity to show your support for the George Washington Chapter and the goals of the SAR. Your basic dues payment will enable the Chapter to continue to conduct a wide variety of activities, including sponsorship of various Youth Programs and honoring our Patriot ancestors with grave markings and other recognition ceremonies.

With your additional support, however, we can go "above and beyond" to support even a wider range of deserving activities. For your generosity this past year we were able to significantly expand our Public Safety Awards program - recognizing fire, police, and EMT first responders who might have otherwise gone unnoticed.

On behalf of all of the Officers of the George Washington Chapter, I ask that you consider a generous donation in addition to your required dues. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Jay M. Henn, Treasurer

2018-2019 State Project: Building Detectives at the Robert Carter House 2018-2019 State Theme: "History has its Eyes on You

The V.S.C.A.R will raise funds for to benefit Colonial Williamsburg's "Building Detectives" program. This is a unique program that will help our members learn more about colonial buildings and their structure, historic preservation efforts, and the lives of men like Robert "King" Carter, who played an integral role in the early history of our nation.

"Building Detectives" is an original program at the Robert Carter House in Colonial Williamsburg that immerses guests of all ages in architectural investigation. Architectural historians guide groups of six to eight through the house, helping them learn to see historic structures through the eyes of experts with the care that the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation brings to its work. Visitors are given flashlights, magnets, and simple observation tools to distinguish the modern from the colonial work inside the house to reveal the changes Robert Carter III of Nomini Hall made to the home of his grandfather, Robert "King" Carter, in the 1760s.

The program is not a guided tour, but rather a directed hands-on interaction with the Robert Carter House. It has been extremely popular, selling out in both of the summers it has previously run. This popularity highlights the appeal of seeing such an interesting historic structure through the lenses of experts as well as visitors' curiosity about architecture. The program will add a decorative arts element to show guests how historians decide what furniture and decorations are appropriate for this type of home.

The house was originally built by Robert "King" Carter in 1726 close to the Virginia Governor's Palace. "King" Carter served as acting governor of Virginia between 1726-1727 and was one of Virginia's wealthiest plantation owners and businessmen. His grandson, Robert Carter III, made significant changes to the home beginning in 1762. Robert Carter III sat on the Virginia Governor's Council, but later provided aid to the American cause in the Revolution. He was a fervent supporter of a plan to emancipate Virginia's slaves and himself was responsible for the largest manumission of slaves before the Civil War. Both of these men had an early impact on Virginia both before and after the Revolution, and guests of this program learn about their lives and impact throughout the tour.

The funds raised by the V.S.C.A.R will contribute to the continuation of the program for the summer of 2019. The funds are used to pay the costs of the two interns, who are experts in the fields of architectural history and preservation. Additionally, the program hopes to update the visuals inside the house with better likenesses of the Carter family and what elements of the house, such as the wallpaper, would have looked like. All funds raised will be used to support the educational efforts of this program, so that as many visitors as possible can enjoy it. The V.S.C.A.R. will receive recognition for the donation inside the home during the 2019 summer.

Fundraising goal: $7,500-$10,000

"Building Detectives"

Project Patrons

The Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution invites you to become a V.S.C.A.R. Private, Lieutenant, Major General, or General by supporting State President Molly McCue's fundraising project for "Building Detectives" at the Robert Carter House in Colonial Williamsburg!

"Building Detectives" is an original program at the Robert Carter House that immerses guests of all ages in architectural investigation. Architectural historians guide small groups through the house, helping them learn to see historic structures through the eyes of experts. Visitors are given flashlights, magnets, and simple observation tools to distinguish the modern from the colonial work inside the house to reveal the changes Robert Carter III of Nomini Hall made to the home of his grandfather, Robert "King" Carter, in the 1760s.

The funds raised by the V.S.C.A.R will contribute to the continuation of the program for the summer of 2019 as well as important signage additions to enhance the visitor experience. History has its eyes on you, so don't throw away your shot to contribute to "Building Detectives"! We appreciate your support of the State Project. Donors will be recognized in the State Conference Banquet Program at the following levels:

$25 Private **$50 Lieutenant**

$100 Major General **$500 General**

Name to be listed in conference program: _____
or Anonymous

Person/Organization making the donation: _____

S.A.R./D.A.R./C.A.R. Chapter or Society Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Donation Amount: $_____ Please make all checks payable to V.S.C.A.R., Inc.

Thank you for your generous support!
Mail form and checks to:
Rebecca Slaughter, Senior State Treasurer
14333 Ferndale Road,
Dale City, VA 22193

Constitution Day at Pohick Church

To commemorate the 231st Anniversary of the Signing of the Constitution, the George Washington Chapter led a service at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton, VA. Pohick Church was the parish church of General George Washington and George Mason. The Master of Ceremonies was Paul Walden. The Reverend Thomas Costa, portraying Parson Massey, Rector of Pohick Church during the Revolutionary War period, read the preamble to the Constitution and led us in prayer, following a solemn tolling of the church bell 13 times.

(Left) The Rev Tom Costa reading the Preamble to the Constitution from the Lectern at Pohick Church.

(Below) The Rev. Tom Costa with Paul Walden (immediate past President, the George Washington Chapter) leading the singing of "My County Tis' of Thee"

Constitution Day at Pohick Church

(Right) Paul Walden (immediate past President, the George Washington Chapter) delivered an address discussing the course of events which led to the adoption of the Constitution.

In the photo below are (left to right) front row: Dave Thomas (VP George Washington SAR), Susan Costa, Virginia Hurtes Rouse (Mount Vernon VADAR),Donna Hall (Henry Clay VADAR), Patricia Everts, Hank Foresman (George Washington SAR), and Ernie Coggins (President George Washington SAR); back row: Rev. Tom Costa and Paul Walden (George Washington SAR). On the other side of the camera was Tom Roth (Secretary George Washington SAR).

George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR

Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Chapter Meeting: 11:30 a.m., **Saturday, October 13, 2018**

Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Please join us for our October Chapter meeting and luncheon. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Katrina Krempasky of the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center, whose mission is to preserve and make available to the public the historic records of the Fairfax Circuit Court. Katrina will be speaking on "The Colonial Courtroom: The Who, Why and How of the Early Virginia Court". . . don't miss it!

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 mehtods, please make sure that your reservation is received no later than **Tuesday, October 9** 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:

Meeting Date: **Saturday, October 13, 2018**

(1) Compatriot Name: _____

(2) Guest Name(s): _____

Please note any special meal requests (i.e., vegetarian, children)

(3) A check payable to **George Washington Chapter, VASSAR** in the amount of

$ _____ is enclosed.

(4) Return this form and check to:

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

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

VASSAR Semi-Annual Convention

Friday night at the semi-annual conference was devoted to seminars on various topics helpful to Chapter Officers. Chapter President Ernie Coggins (l) and Immediate Past Chapter President Paul Walden (r) are shown here attending a seminar on completion of the Americanism Report.

Immediate Past VASSAR President Mike Elston was presented with a number of Certificates of Appreciation awarded him at the Annual Congress last July by the National Society for service on various NSSAR Boards and Commissions during the 2017-18 term. In Mike's absence Chapter President Ernie Coggins received the awards on Mike's behalf. Ernie is shown here valiantly holding on to the Certificates while Mike Taime (l) and Pete Davenport (r) observe.

At the Saturday Morning General Membership Meeting of the VASSAR semi-annual meeting Chapter President Ernie Coggins delivered a report on the G.W. Chapter's activities for the past seven months. GW Chapter member Nat Ames (left in green shirt) is seen here taking in President Coggins' report.

VASSAR Semi-Annual Convention

Rich Sherman the former GW Chapter Rumbaugh Orations Contest and Knight Essay Contest Chair and former VASSAR Knight Essay Contest Chairman was awarded the Dr. Joseph Warren Medal by NSSAR in recognition of his contributions to youth leadership. In Rich's absence President Coggins received the award on his behalf. President Coggins is shown here with VASSAR President Pat Kelley (l) and VASSAR Awards Committee member and past State President Larry McIntyre (r).

The 2018 VASSAR semi-annual conference was closed by lunch on Saturday.
The VASSAR Color Guard with the Colors were piped into the Saturday lunch by the Albemarle Pipes and Drums.

Has Your Patriot's Grave Been Recognized and Marked?

There is perhaps no more fundamental or sacred activity for the SAR than the registration and marking of Revolutionary patriot graves – a ceremony that serves to cherish, honor and preserve the memory of those that fought valiantly in order that their descendants could be endowed with those inalienable rights that we now enjoy.

Accordingly the George Washington Chapter Graves Registration and Marking Committee has made it a priority objective to honor with formal grave markings as many as possible GW Chapter member patriot ancestors. The first step is the identification, documentation and registration of the Patriot grave. Many thanks to Compatriot Jamie Callender for his remarkable effort in reconciling disparate and in many cases ambiguous Patriot ancestor data bases resulting in a comprehensive list of patriot ancestors and the status of any grave marking (see http://www.gwsar.org/ancestors.html).

With less than ten percent of ancestor Patriot graves marked, there is both a challenge and incredible opportunity. If you would like your ancestor's grave marked the Committee will assist you in navigating and completing the established SAR process, specifically with the creation of a biography which brings to life the Patriot's key relevant accomplishments and with conducting the grave marking ceremony procedure itself which includes the placement of a brass marker as a visible symbol to the public that the person buried at that place aided in the cause of the American Revolution.

If you think you might be interested in having your ancestor appropriately recognized with a grave marking ceremony please contact the Committee at gravemarking@gwsar.org
Also, the Committee always welcomes volunteers to help with this highly rewarding effort which is one of the primary means for the SAR to keep the memory and ideals of the Revolution alive.

Recognize a Patriotic Citizen!

Recognize your patriotic neighbors and friends while helping out our Chapter. Here is a great way to start conversation with your neighbors and friends and let them know about your involvement in the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. If anyone you know displays an American flag on their home or property, in a way you deem to be respectable and patriotic, let's recognize them and present them with a personalized Flag Certificate from the George Washington Chapter. Each flag certificate our committee issues on behalf of our chapter earns our chapter points.

The rule for issuing a flag certificate is that the flag must be displayed in a respectable way and not for commercial use. A neighbor displaying an American flag in their yard or on their home is a perfect example. A local business or office park might have an American flag displayed in a way that is patriotic and respectable and that's great too. However, the local McDonald's displaying 10 American flags on the top of their building to attract business and attention does not qualify. Use your common sense or if you are not sure, take a picture and email it to me. Most importantly, this certificate is a way to recognize someone you feel is displaying the American Flag in a way that might instill pride and patriotism within our community!

Just email me the person's name and address of where the flag is displayed. Make sure to include your name and your mailing address. I will issue the certificate and have it sent to you to present. Email requests to paulwalden@live.com Thanks!

The majority of photos in this newsletter and previous editions are attributed to Tom Roth, the GW Chapter Historian--and Photographer.