George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Newsletter

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

Volume 19, Issue 2 ***February 2018***

January Chapter Meeting

Kevin J. McGee, Chief, Prince William County Dept. of Fire and Rescue, was awarded the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Award. Chief McGee is shown here with (l-r) John Blair, Chief McGee, Eileen McGee, GWC President Ernie Coggins.

Chief McGee talked of the many programs and incentives that were established during his tenure with the Prince William County Dept. of Fire and Rescue

(January Chapter Meeting Continued on Page 5)

President's Corner

Compatriots:
By the time this newsletter is published, we shall have conducted our George Washington Chapter Working Meeting on Saturday, 27 January 2018. I shall report on that meeting in our March newsletter. At our January Meeting, we presented Prince William County Fire Chief Kevin J. McGee with the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal. Chief McGee is a great friend of the Chapter and is well deserving of this award. Bill Johnson was inducted, and Steven Valentine, son of Compatriot Rick Valentine, was inducted in December. Welcome Steven and Bill. Dr. Glenn Williams gave a very interesting presentation to us on "Dunmore's War, the Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era".

Our February meeting will be held in Richmond concurrently with the Virginia Society Annual Meeting. We shall meet in Rappahannock Room of the Omni Hotel on Saturday, 10 February 2018 at 5:00. Also on Saturday, our compatriot Mike Elston will be completing his term as President of the Virginia Society. I encourage all of you to attend in order to show our support and to honor him for his service. Two of our members Tom Roth and Dave Thomas will continue as the Virginia Society's Historian and Registrar, respectively.

On Monday, 19 February, we shall participate in two Alexandria events, at 11:00 a.m., the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and at 1:00 p.m., we shall march in the George Washington Birthday Parade. Please plan to attend.

One of the things that I like to do, is to tell everyone what a great Chapter we have. The National and Virginia Societies use the Americanism Report to grade us on our activities. I am happy to report that under Paul's stewardship, we earned 7,230 points in 2017. This is a 65 percent improvement over the year before. This would not be possible were it not for all of your efforts. We need to continue and even increase this level of intensity. Thank you.

We need to find someone to replace Tom Roth as our Chapter Historian as he is now serving as our Chapter Secretary and also someone to replace Kevin Kline who has served as our Flag Committee Chairman. Kevin has done a great job but now has to relinquish the position. I would encourage any Compatriot who is interested in serving in these positions or helping in any other capacity, to contact me or any other officer or committee chairman. Remember that we are only as good as our members – YOU!

Our March meeting will be on Saturday, 10 March at Belle Haven. Our speaker will be Dr. Edward G Lengel, Chief Historian, The White House Historical Association. His topic will be Washington, the First entrepreneur.

Mike's daughter, Emily, President of the Virginia Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.), is still soliciting funds for her State project concerning partial restoration efforts at historic Pohick Church. A donation form is attached to this newsletter. The George Washington Chapter has a long history of supporting the C.A.R.

I would ask that you be mindful of our need to both recruit new members and retain existing members. Again, for those of you, who have the time; please volunteer to participate in Chapter activities.

Ernie Coggins, GWSAR President

New Members

Steven Richards Valentine Jr.

Steven was born and raised in Alexandria, the son of SAR member Rick Valentine and wife Susan. He attended Bishop Ireton HS and received his B.A. in history from Franciscan Univ. in Steubenville. He worked on Capitol Hill for more than five years, lastly as a legislative assistant to Rep. Chris Smith (D-MI). During this time he attended evening law school at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law and is a member of the VA state bar.

He is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS. He lives in Alexandria with his wife Lyndsey and their son Jude.

Steven is a 7th generation descendant of Private Daniel Morill of Massachusetts. Private Morrill served two stints as a Minuteman in 1777 and 1779; and enlisted again in 1812. He died in Vienna, ME, a town he named and served as its first town clerk.

William J. Johnson

William "Bill" Johnson is a native of Chicago. He received his B.A. in organizational behavior and management from Brown University in Providence. He served with a small police department in Maine, then obtained his J.D. from Georgetown; he is also a graduate of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. After law school, in 1988 he began working for the Florida State Attorney's office in Miami, prosecuting a wide range of felony cases, with a focus on mentally ill defendants. During this period he was also an instructor for Miami-area police academies and a basic civil law teacher for inmates nearing release at Lorton Reformatory.

Since January 2002, Bill has served as Executive Director and legal counsel for the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) in Alexandria, the largest trade association in the U.S. representing active duty law enforcement officers. He is responsible for daily operations, presents written and oral testimony before Congress, and for writing and filing amicus curiae briefs to the Supreme Court and other federal courts. He is a frequent speaker and moderator at law enforcement and legal education seminars.

Bill and his wife Katherine (Katie), a former assistant attorney general for Florida, are the parents of four children.

(continued on next page)

Members *(continued)*

The oldest, Willie is a 2014 graduate of West Point and is currently an active duty first lieutenant. Brendan is a graduate of Dartmouth and works for PNC Bank in DC. Caroline is a senior at Rose-Hulman IT in Terre Haute pursuing a double major in mechanical and biomedical engineering and has just accepted an offer with Eli Lilly. Youngest son Joseph is a freshman at Harvard. Bill is a 9th generation descendant of Patriot Richard Johnson (c. 1745 – 1792/3), who served with the rank of Ensign in the 4th Regiment (Col. John Hathorn's Reg't) of the Orange Co., NY Militia.

DRAFTING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

The Committee—Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, Livingston and Sherman.

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, Alexan-dria, 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.*

January Chapter Meeting (continued)

William Johnson was inducted as a new member of the Sons of American Revolution. Compatriot Johnson is shown with (l-r) Richard Sherman, Katie Johnson, William Johnson, Ernie Coggins.

Right: Dave Thomas presents a challenge coin to Glenn Williams in appreciation of his talk.

January Chapter Meeting (continued)

Dr. Glenn Williams spoke to the chapter about Lord Dunmore's War, the last pre-revolution colonial war. Dr. Williams is a historian with the U.S. Army Center for Military History.

Chapter Presdent Ernie Coggins opens his first meeting as President. Immediate past Chapter President Paul Walden observes.

Compatriot Bob Armstrong Memoriam

We are saddened to report that we have received word that Compatriot Robert "Bob" Armstrong died last week. For those members who wish to pay their final respects and to honor Compatriot Bob Armstrong, his funeral is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 2, 2018 at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton, Virginia. His funeral will be followed by a committal in the Pohick Church cemetery.

Robert Furman Armstrong, of Springfield, Virginia, reached the age of 80 years. Bob was born in McCook, NE and later married his wife Diana Krug in Washington, D.C., with the couple having three children, Susan, John and Melissa. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and twin sister, Ruth. Bob was a member of Pohick Church for thirty-five years, where he had been a member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and was a former member of the Pohick Church Vestry. Compatriot Bob Armstrong was also a member of the Virginia Society of the SAR, George Washington Chapter for 6 years, with his lineage going back to Patriot Isaiah Adkins who served in the Connecticut Continental Line.

Sincerely,

George Washington Chapter Officers

February Chapter Meeting to be Held in Richmond!

On February 9-11, 2017, the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution will hold its 128th Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel and Resorts in Richmond.

A highlight of the session will be the Public Service Awards, Silver Good Citizenship Medal Presentation and Chapter Awards session being held at the Virginia State Capitol from 1:30 – 4:30 PM on Saturday, February 10.

Registration for the state meeting closes on February 2, and full registration details may be found on the George Washington Chapter website http://www.gwsar.org/event/vassar-annual-meeting-09-10-february-2018/

We encourage all Chapter members and guests to attend awards session and dinner on Saturday and support our own Mike Elston as he completes his year as 97th President of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

To help make the logistics even easier, the George Washington Chapter will hold its February meeting at the Omni on Saturday, February 10 in the Rappahannock Room. This space is reserved for us from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. We shall convene our February meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Tom Roth, GWSAR Secretary

Compatriots

Please distribute the letter from Virginia SAR President Mike Elston (*on the next 2 Pages*) to all chapter members encouraging them to contact and/or write their local Virginia State Senator and House of Delegates Representative in support of this letter.

R. Wayne Rouse
Secretary, Assistant Treasurer
& Awards Committee Chairman
Virginia Society, SAR

VIRGINIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

P.O. Box 336
Lorton, Virginia 22199-0336

THOMAS WHETSTONE, PHD
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM L. SCHWETKE
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

R. WAYNE ROUSE
SECRETARY

FREDERICK N. ELOFSON
TREASURER

ERIC H. MONDAY
CHANCELLOR

REV. ROY A. MARTIN, JR.
CHAPLAIN

THOMAS M. ROTH, III
HISTORIAN

CHRISTOPHER SHEAP, MD
SURGEON

DAVID R. THOMAS
REGISTRAR

MICHAEL J. ELSTON
NATIONAL TRUSTEE

January 25, 2018

Hon. William M. Stanley, Jr., Chairman
Local Government Committee
The Senate of Virginia
Pocahontas Building, Room E610
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Hon. Riley E. Ingram, Chairman
Counties, Cities and Towns Committee
The Virginia House of Delegates
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

On behalf of the more than 2,300 members of the Virginia SAR, I write to express our strongest possible opposition to a series of bills that have been introduced in the General Assembly that would eliminate or substantially weaken the legal protection that monuments and memorials relating to the Revolutionary War currently enjoy. The Patriots of the American Revolution are the Founders of this country. To remove monuments that are dedicated to the Founders or that mark the battles fought and sacrifices made to bring this country into existence would be to deny the achievements of the Founding Generation and call into question the principles on which our country is based.

Dr. Clarence Jones – the African-American speechwriter who helped the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. craft his 1963 "I Have a Dream" address – has been quoted as explaining that while some of the founders of this country "were morally compromised in their effort to fashion together this new country, a republic, based on the principles and precepts enshrined in the Declaration of Independence," there is no reason to disavow those Founders because "they devoted their life to saving and founding this country." J. Sheerin, *Should Washington and Jefferson Monuments Come Down?*, THE ECONOMIST (Aug. 18, 2017). Their accomplishment in establishing a country based on equality, freedom, democracy and the rule of law – which was entirely unique at the time – has benefitted all Americans, regardless of race, sex or creed, and it will always be worth remembering and

honoring. The Revolution belongs to all Americans, and all Americans can be proud of the principles on which our country was founded and the imperfect men and women who first asserted, fought and died for those principles.

Virginia has appropriately protected the monuments and memorials relating to the Revolutionary War for more than 125 years. That enviable record of historic preservation should not be abandoned by the adoption of legislation like HB 1225, HB 1097, HB 1098, SB 444, and SB 733. HB 1225 would allow the removal of any monument dedicated to war veterans. SB 444 would give localities the right to move, remove or alter monuments and statues within their own jurisdiction, regardless of when they were erected. HB 1097 would allow a governing body of a locality in which a monument or memorial is located to relocate the monument or memorial to a museum of the locality's choice. HB 1098 and SB 733 would allow local governments to relocate any monument or memorial erected prior to 1900 to an outdoor location on the grounds of a locality-owned history museum that is located within one-quarter mile of the existing site. These bills, as written, reject America's Founders and its founding values, and they should never become the law of this Commonwealth.

The members of the Virginia SAR hope and trust that you will be among the delegates and senators who act to protect the memory and legacy of the black, white, Hispanic and Native American men and women who helped establish this country and launched the great American experiment in self-government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Elston
President

GENT. PUTNAM LEAVING HIS PLOW FOR THE DEFENCE OF HIS COUNTRY.

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's report in November, there has been 3 new member approved by NSSAR. There are currently 2 New Member applications and 1 Supplemental applications under review at NSSAR. There were 3 new member inductions at the September meeting, none at the October Chapter meeting, and one induction each in November, December, and January.

New Members Approved

Applicant	*Patriot*
William (Bill) John Johnson	Richard Johnson
Robert Todd Hoopes	Joseph Wilmot
Nicholas Louis Martinez	Gerardus Ryker Sr.

Supplementals Approved

Isaac Gregory Bodge	Joseph Chase
Gregory Ormand Bodge	Joseph Chase

New Member Applications Submitted

Thomas A. Benya	Garrett Dungan
Jonathan A. Benya	Garrett Dungan

2017 GWSAR Registrar Cumulative Approval Totals

Regular	16
Junior	1
Supplemental	7
Memorial	1
Transfers and Dual Memberships	1
Total New Members	19
Forgotten Patriot	0

Richard Sherman
GWSAR Registrar

February Dates in History
American Revolutionary War

February 10, 1763: Treaty of Paris ends French and Indian War (1754-1763). Canada (east of the Mississippi River) added to the British Empire.

February 1764: James Otis urges a united response to the recent acts imposed by England. The phrase "Taxation without Representation is Tyranny" is usually attributed to James Otis.

February 9, 1775: English Parliament declares Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion.

Feb. 27, 1776: The patriots drive the Loyalists from Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina.

February 6, 1778: France signs a treaty of alliance with the United States and the American Revolution soon becomes a world war.

February 27, 1782: English Parliament votes against further war in America.

February 4, 1783: England officially declares an end to hostilities in America.

February 1783: Spain, Sweden, Denmark and Russia recognize the United States of America.

Has Your Patriot Ancestor'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 right 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 they are displaying the flag. 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!

Behind these walls Patrick Henry spoke the words which launched a revolution.

The world has never been the same.

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

The Richmond SAR invites your Chapter to join us in commemorating the 243rd anniversary of Mr. Henry's historic 1775 speech to the Virginia Convention at St. John's Church in Richmond, VA. Our program features:

* **Dignitaries**
- **Wreath presentations.**
- **Seating in the very room and pews where the icons of Revolutionary War history met.**
- **A special reenactment speech where it happened.**
- **A $17 pp boxed lunch in St. John's Church Parish Hall.** (optional)

Please pre-register with Richmond SAR at denny234@verizon.net.

Deadline for lunch reservations and listing in printed program is Monday, March 12, 2018.

. . . the war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Yes, we would like to participate in the SAR program commemorating **Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death"** speech at St. John's Church in Richmond, **March 17, 2018**

☐ Please enter our Chapter in the printed program.
The name of our Chapter is _____
Our wreath presenter is _____
Telephone number is _____
E-mail address is _____

☐ Yes, we would like _____ box lunches @ $17 ea. (Lunch choices will be distributed later)

☐ No, we will not be having lunch in the Parish Hall of St. John's Church.

Copy and return registration form to:

Richmond SAR
c/o Dennis C. Peterson, President
13815 Winterberry Ridge
Midlothian, VA 23112

E-mail: denny234@verizon.net

To print, save as Landscape

Commemorating the speech which launched a revolution.

Upcoming Events

09-10 February – Friday and Saturday: **Virginia Society Annual Meeting**
Omni Hotel
100 S 12th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Details have been published

10 February – Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting** at 5:00 p.m. Rappahannock Room, Omni Hotel
100 S 12th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

16-17 February – Friday and Saturday: **Crossing of the Dan**
The Prizery
700 Bruce Street
South Boston, Virginia 24592

19 February – Monday: **George Washington's Birthday**

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution
Wreath Laying Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.
Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria

Alexandria George Washington Birthday Parade, Alexandria at 1:00 p.m.
Details will be published when available

24 February – Saturday: **252nd Anniversary of the Leestown Resolutions**
Stratford Hall
483 Great House Road
Stratford, Virginia 22558

01-03 March – Thursday through Saturday: **NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting**
The Brown Hotel
335 W Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

03 March – Saturday: **Virginia History Day – District 5**
Mount Vernon High School
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22309

10 March – Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 Speaker: Edward G. Lengel -- **Washington, First Entrepreneur**
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

16 March – Friday: **267th Birthday of James Madison**
Wreath Laying Ceremony at 1:30 p.m.
Madison Family Cemetery
Montpelier
11350 Constitution Highway
Montpelier Station, Virginia 22957

17 March – Saturday: **237th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse** Wreath Laying begins 10:00 a.m. Nathanael Green Monument
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park
2332 New Garden Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27410

17 March – 1st Annual Patrick Henry Speech Commemoration–Saturday 11 a.m.
Historic St. Johns Church
2319 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23223

13 April – Friday: **Jefferson Birthday Celebration**
Wreath Laying Ceremony begins 11:00 a.m.
Jefferson Memorial
701 E Basin Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

14 April – Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting** at 11:30
Speaker: **Curt Viebranz – His experiences as CEO, George Washington's Mount Vernon**
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

28 April – Saturday: **Patriots and Pathfinders Day – Commemoration of the Siege of the Blockhouse**
Duffield, Virginia 24244

11-12 May – Friday and Saturday: **Raid on Martin's Station**
Martin's Station
8501 Wilderness Road
Ewing, Virginia 24248

Upcoming Events (con't)

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

28 May – Monday: **The National Memorial Day Parade** at 2:00 p.m.
The Mall
Washington, DC

Ethan Allen and The Green Mountain Boys

2017-2018

History Awakens Rebel Leaders and Jedi Knights

The Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution invites you to become a Rebel Leader or Jedi Knight by supporting State President Emily Elston's restoration project at Pohick Church, a Virginia Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pohick Church was the colonial parish of George Washington and George Mason. General Washington served on the vestry and surveyed the land on which Pohick now stands. In colonial churches in Virginia and elsewhere, American patriots first developed the leadership and organizational skills that were critical to the success of the Revolution. Thus, it can truly be said that History Awakened at places like Pohick Church.

The state project will raise funds for the Historic Pohick Church Foundation to replace the late 19th-century steps at the south entrance to the 1774 church building that are well beyond their useful life. The project will also provide a plaque for the 1932 Vestry House – built to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington – that will highlight the DAR's role in raising the funds for completion of the building. Your voluntary support of the state project is greatly appreciated and donors of $100 or more will be recognized in the State Conference Banquet Program as V.S.C.A.R. Rebel Leaders! Donors of $500 or more will be recognized as V.S.C.A.R. Jedi Knights!

George Washington Chapter, VASSAR

Name to be listed in conference program_____

or Anonymous

Person/Organization making the donation:_____

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:

Miss Emily Elston
16094 Olmstead Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22191-4520