



## George Washington Chapter Newsletter in Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 26, Issue 5

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May 2024

### George Washington Chapter Proudly Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary

Mount Vernon Country Club, Saturday, April 13, 2024



**ABOVE:** George Washington Chapter President Scott Walker, center, is flanked by 11 past Chapter Presidents after the anniversary celebration ceremony that followed the April 2024 Chapter meeting. From left to right were Rand R. Pixa (2023), Michael J. Elston (2013), Thomas M. Roth, III (2021), William Kenan Torrans (2007-2008), Lorraine D. Lisle (1986), David R. Thomas (2019), Scott S. Walker (2024), C. Russell H. Shearer (2005-2006), Ernest B. Coggins, Jr. (2018), David M. Walker (2009), Richard E. Rankin (2022), and Jay M. Henn (2020). See more photos and read more about the anniversary celebration on page 6. (Photo by Tom Roth)

# President's Corner

## *Greetings, Compatriots.*

The George Washington Chapter celebrated the 70th anniversary of its founding in style during our April chapter meeting at the Mount Vernon Country Club. We inducted new Compatriot John Marden into our chapter and presented the Lifesaving Award to 2nd Lt. Tom Aardema of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office.

After being treated to a delicious lunch, cake with our chapter logo, and champagne toasts, four Past Presidents of our chapter—Mike Elston, Ernie Coggins, Dave Thomas, and Tom Roth—entertained us with stories of past members and events, and they also inspired our current members to continue building on the successes of our predecessors.

We welcomed back several longtime chapter members who travelled to Alexandria from their current homes to attend this special celebration, including Past Presidents Larry Lisle and Jay Henn. Greetings were delivered by President Jon Rymer of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter and Meredith Hopkins, First VP of the Virginia C.A.R.

Compatriot Edgar Bates, representing Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, presented the chapter with several category awards won at the February parade in Old Town: Historical Unit (Second Place), Float (Second Place), and Adult Marching Band (Second Place).

Speaking of parades, it's important that you make plans now to attend the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Washington, D.C. on May 27. Your original signed Release Form should be received by Dave Thomas no later than May 12. President General Dodd will be on hand, as will Virginia Society President Bill Greaf, Treasurer General Mike Elston, and many other SAR and C.A.R. dignitaries. Parking at all Metro stations is free for Memorial Day, and we've posted helpful instructions on planning your trip into downtown on our website.

May's chapter meeting promises to be an enjoyable one. Ellen Denning Smith, local Nelly Custis NSDAR Chapter member (and wife of George Washington Chapter Compatriot David Smith) will share the story of her Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestor from her new book, *The Court-Martial of Captain John Armstrong: Life, Death, and Politics in America's First Regiment*. Compatriot John Blair will present a Heroism Award, and the winner of our Eagle Scout Essay Contest will read his essay.

As this is the last President's Corner until September, and since my daughter's wedding falls on the same day as the May chapter meeting, I'll take this opportunity to wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing you at the Memorial Day parade and our Fourth of July March to the Tomb at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

*Fraternally,*

***Scott Walker***

*President*

*George Washington Chapter*



***70th Anniversary!***



*Chapter President*  
**Scott Walker**



## *And please welcome new member...*

**JOHN EVANS MARDEN** was born in Everett, Mass. and is newly arrived in the area from Winthrop, Mass., living near John Carlyle Square in Alexandria. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Salem State College and a master's degree in library science and archives management from Simmons College, in Boston.

John is a Presidential Archivist with the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Md. Prior to coming to the Washington area, he was with the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass.

He is married to his wife of 30 years, Maria, and they have two sons, John Marden III and Joseph Marden.



*ABOVE: Compatriot John Marden. (Photo by Tom Roth)*

John is a direct paternal descendent of Private Lemuel Marden of Bradford, Mass. (Patriot # P-100992). Private Marden served in Captain Nathaniel Gage's company of minutemen, Colonel Frye's regiment, which marched on the Alarm of April 19, 1775 to both Lexington and Concord. Private Marden also served in Captain John Savory's detachment from the 2nd Bradford Company, marching to the defense of Cape Ann, Mass.

John is descended from three additional Patriots, Private Calvin Stevens of Concord, Mass., Private John Dale, Jr. of the 1st New Hampshire Regiment, Continental Army, and Sergeant William Henry Bartlett of Marblehead, Mass.



*"This picture is of two cousins, Tom Bland on the left and John Blair on the right!"*

*John is holding a collection of SAR Challenge Coins he won in a drawing at the end of the Saturday, April 13, 2024 GWSAR meeting!"*

- Compatriot [Tom Bland](#)

# Charter Agreement *with Boy Scouts of America*

*Alexandria, Va., April 9*



*LEFT: Signing the agreement were Jaymie Cook, Chapter Secretary and Colin Tridone, Executive Director, Colonial District, National Capital Area Council. Observing the signing were Rand Pixa, Manage-at-Large, Marty Johnson, Youth Recognition Chairman, and Scott Walker, Chapter President. (Photos by Vickie Bryant)*

**JUST PRIOR TO OUR CHAPTER MEETING** on April 13, the George Washington Chapter signed an agreement with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) agreeing to be a Charter organization for a newly forming BSA Cub Scout Pack in Alexandria, Va. After several months of research and coordination between SAR and BSA, Chapter Compatriot Marty Johnson, Chairman of the Scouting and Youth Activities Committee, and Manager-at-Large Rand Pixa, presented the proposal to the Chapter Board of Managers, which approved the proposal on April 9. In coordination with Mr. Colin Tridone, BSA Senior District Executive, Colonial District, an elementary school in the Alexandria area was selected based on having adult parents in the school who are willing to serve as Unit leaders and the school administration offering to allow the BSA to have a BSA Unit meet on the school premises. The important agreement allows for additional students in the Alexandria area to join Scouting.

The purpose of the BSA program is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values and principles taught in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The George Washington Chapter, as a duly constituted Charter organization that serves youth, desires to use the program(s) of the BSA to further its mission respecting the youth it supports. The Local Council provides the support and service necessary to help the Chapter succeed in its use of Scouting.

The George Washington Chapter is pleased to support the Boy Scouts of America based on our common goals related to patriotism, education, and community service.





# Jefferson's Birthday Commemoration

Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C., April 13



**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**, marked the 281st birthday of Thomas Jefferson, our nation's third President. The George Washington Chapter, represented by Compatriots Mike Elston, Mark Jackson, and Paul McComb, participated in the event to observe President Jefferson's birthday.

A native Virginian, Jefferson was a Founding Father and the "pen" of the American Revolution, authoring notable documents like the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom in 1777.

The George Washington and Sgt. Maj. John Champe Chapters joined event sponsor, the D.C. Society SAR (DC SAR), and other heritage societies in presenting wreaths on behalf of the President of the United States, Secretary of the Interior, and the University of Virginia. SAR Treasurer General Mike Elston presented a wreath on behalf of President General John L. Dodd of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

The event Master of Ceremonies was Richard E. Patten, Past President of the DC SAR, music was provided by the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" Brass Quintet, and the colors were presented by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.

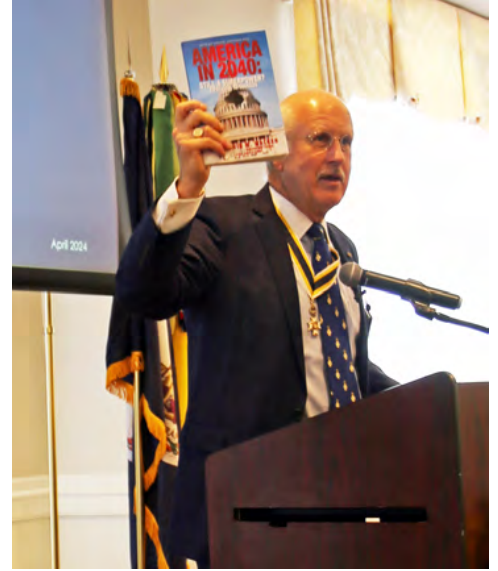
**ABOVE:** From left to right, Compatriots Mark Jackson (George Washington Chapter), Mike Weyler (1st Vice President, Virginia SAR), Ken Bonner (Sgt. Maj. John Chapter), Mike Elston (Treasurer General, National SAR), and Paul McComb (George Washington Chapter). **BELOW:** A lone ugler from the U.S. Army Band. (Photos by Anita L. Bonner)





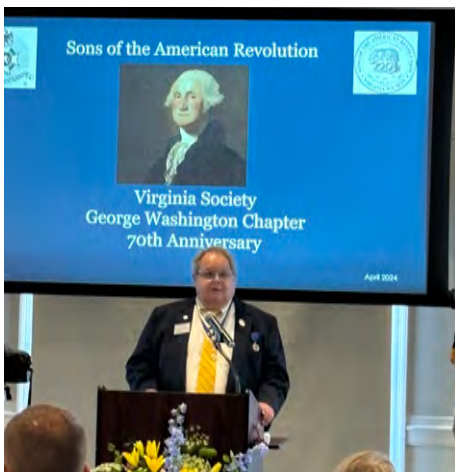
# April 2024 Chapter Meeting and 70th Anniversary Celebration

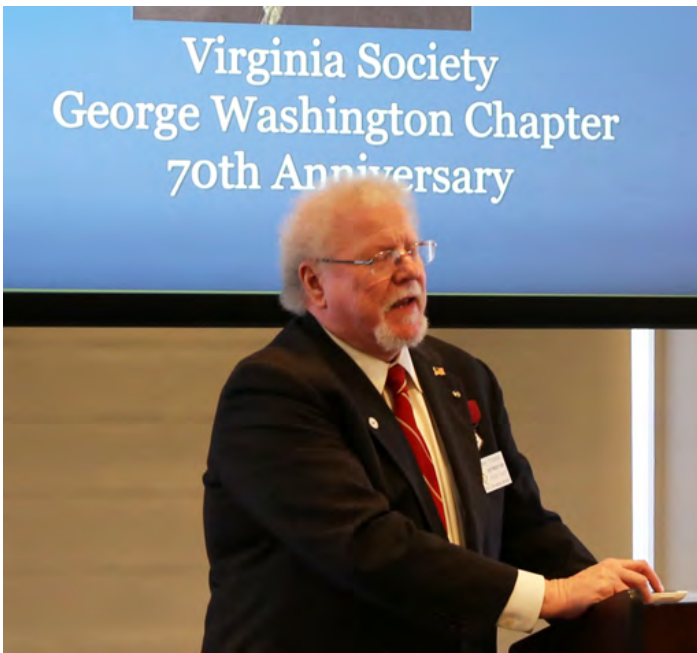
Mount Vernon Country Club, April 13



**ABOVE:** From left to right, Virginia C.A.R. 1st Vice President Meredith Hopkins brings greetings. Fairfax Resolves Chapter President Jon Rymer attended and also brought greetings. Past George Washington Chapter President the Honorable David M. Walker spoke to the audience and described his latest book, *America in 2040: Still a Super Power? A Pathway to Success (New Edition)*. Past President David Walker also presented a brief quiz question related to the history of George Washington with the first to answer correctly to win a copy of the book. (See following pages to learn who won!)

**BELOW:** From left to right, Virginia SAR and George Washington Chapter Historian and Chapter Past President Tom Roth thoroughly impressed the audience with his history of the Chapter presentation. Past Virginia SAR and Chapter President and current National SAR Treasurer General Mike Elston spoke about the Chapter's remarkable record of leadership, production, and commitment to the cause. The always effervescent Ernie Coggins, Past Chapter President and still fresh after passing the torch as the Virginia SAR President to his successor two months ago at the Virginia SAR annual conference, captivated the audience with his take on how leadership at every level of the SAR can redefine itself to continue to develop and to become more influential across not only the chapters but across state regions as well.





*ABOVE: From left to right, Virginia SAR Assistant Registrar and Past George Washington Chapter President Dave Thomas brought all of the earlier speakers' presentations together with a moving retrospective slide show about not only the Chapter, but about its driving force ... its members. Current Chapter Vice President Scot Bryant, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the 70th Anniversary Celebration portion of the day, is seen here conferring with Mike Elston before Mike and the other speakers shared their memories and lessons learned with those in attendance.*

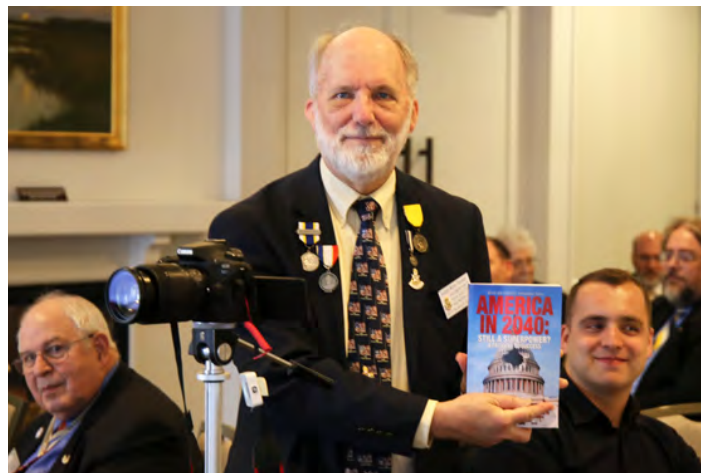


*70th Anniversary!*

*BELOW: From left to right, Virginia C.A.R. 1st Vice President, Meredith Hopkins drew names from a tricorn hat in order to award lucky winners with handsome giveaways and the first lucky winner of a collection of Challenge Coins and walnut display base was GW Chapter compatriot and Public Safety Awards Committee Chairman, John Blair.*







**ABOVE:** From left to right, newly inducted Chapter member John Marden enjoyed some Beginner's Luck as his name was drawn as the winner of *The British Are Coming*, by Rick Atkinson. Chapter Registrar Richard Sherman was the first to correctly answer Past President David Walker's Quiz question about Chapter namesake, George Washington, twinning a copy the latest edition of Chapter Compatriot Walker's book, *America in 2040: Still a Superpower? A Pathway to Success*.

**BELOW:** Clockwise from left to right, during the Chapter meeting, Chapter President Scott Walker presented the SAR Life Saving Award medal and certificate to Fairfax County Sheriff 2nd Lt. Tom Aardema. A luscious serving of golden cake with an inside layer of chocolate butter cream, iced with white butter cream and emblazoned with the Chapter's custom 70th Anniversary logo, did more than keep guests from going away hungry! It was symbolic of the Chapter's rich history.



**RIGHT:** An enthusiastic group of charter and prospective members attended the "Charter Day Luncheon" of the George Washington Chapter, Alexandria, Va., April 2, 1954. Donald W. Shriver (seated, left), President of the Virginia Society, presented the Charter, which was carefully inspected by Harold L. Putnam, executive secretary, N.S.S.A.R.; Robert M. Duncan, President of the new chapter; and E. Stewart James, Chairman of the Organization Committee of the Virginia Society.





# An interview with Compatriot **Dr. Donald F. Reynolds**

By Secretary Jaymie Cook



**ABOVE:** *Compatriot Reynolds accepts the Past President Emeritus award from George Washington Chapter President Scott Walker at the Chapter meeting in March 2024. (Photo by Tom Roth)*

**IN MARCH 2024**, the George Washington Chapter leadership bestowed the title of Past President Emeritus to Don Reynolds, Past Virginia Society President as well as Past George Washington Chapter President and Chaplain. The Emeritus status is in honor of Dr. Reynolds' years of dedicated service to the SAR and for the high regard of his many positive contributions to this Chapter.

Past President Jay Henn nominated Dr. Reynolds for this honor, noting that he has been an enduring cornerstone supporter and leader of the George Washington Chapter for many years. Since joining the SAR in the 1980s, Dr. Reynolds has made enduring contributions to the gentlemanly character of the Chapter while continuously making more tangible contributions. He served as Chapter President in 1994, going on to become the President of the State Society for the 2000-2001 term. Notably, following this honorable service, Dr. Reynolds continues to participate in Chapter events whenever possible. He and his Mustang convertible were fixtures in annual George Washington Birthday parades and National Memorial Day parades. He rarely missed a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or a Chapter meeting. Not only did he provide direct support during visits by many SAR Presidents General, he also generously supported access to various venues for Chapter meetings throughout the years. As the George Washington Chapter Chaplain, Dr. Reynolds set the tone for Chapter gatherings and has long supported membership through the Amenities Committee he chaired. He truly stands out for making the George Washington Chapter what it is today.

Born in 1939 near Blacksburg in south-central Virginia, Dr. Reynolds grew up as an only child during World War II. His father worked at the Soil Conservation Service at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI, now Virginia Technical University). The Service analyzed soil samples to assist farmers with agricultural production. His mother taught 3rd grade and ensured all her students learned to write in cursive, a practice that Dr. Reynolds continues teaching today to two of his seven grandchildren whom he drives to school every morning.



**ABOVE:** *Virginia Society SAR President Dr. Don Reynolds during assembly for the annual George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria, Va., 2000.*



**RIGHT:** *2009 Platform Party for the Gold Good Citizenship Medal Presentation to General Eric Shinseki at Mount Vernon. (Left-Right: GW President David Walker, Gen. Shinseki, Joe Dooley (NSSAR Genealogist General), William Simpson (VASSAR President), and GW Chaplain Don Reynolds.)*

Upon graduating with degrees in science (organic chemistry) and dentistry, Dr. Reynolds joined the Air Force as a dentist during the Vietnam War. He has been happily married to Mrs. Suzanne Reynolds (Smola) for 58 years, and together they have three grown children. They met on a double-blind date and were married two years later. He went on to join the Air Force two months after their wedding. Dr. Reynolds' U.S. ancestry reaches back to the colonial days when ancestor William Reynolds assisted Major General Nathanael Greene's army when it passed through south-central Virginia. Along with Dr. Reynolds' dedication to the SAR, Mrs. Reynolds has served as the Senior National President of the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (N.S.C.A.R.).

While growing up during WWII, Dr. Reynolds recalls that everything, including food and gasoline, was rationed. This was the result of the U.S. government instituting a controlled economy that distributed coupons for citizens to buy everyday food and goods. His family had tenants on an 11-acre family farm that provided additional produce and supplies. A few vivid memories Dr. Reynolds shares include attending the local Baptist Church, fellow neighbors being conservative and patriotic, and cadets from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute being called up for service upon graduation, and watching them march to the train station to go to war. Additionally, during his teenage years, Dr. Reynolds loved dancing the jitterbug to Big Band music that included fancy black-tie events with live performances by Benny Goodman and others. A local TV station in Roanoke regularly broadcasted student dances at the local high schools, including his Blacksburg high school.

Dr. Reynolds' high school was known for its academic standards, and he was an A student involved in the drama club and taking photos for the yearbook. Still today, Dr. Reynolds believes it is important for students to get as much education as they can, noting that "all else can be lost, except one's education." Part of Dr. Reynolds' education and work ethic also stemmed from his participation in the Boy Scouts of America and a job delivering newspapers. By saving money from his work delivering papers, he was able to buy his first car, a 1948 Chevrolet Fleetline. In his youth, Dr. Reynolds learned to work with his hands from a neighbor whose hobby was building and flying model airplanes. He would later apply these skills to his professional work as a dentist, after being exposed to this career through his father's cousin, who was a practicing dentist.





# Chapter needs new Newsletter Editor



## We need you!

While serving as a captain in the U.S. Air Force (1965-1967) during the Vietnam War, Dr. Reynolds was among 20 military dentists in two base clinics in Mississippi, learning a lot as he rotated through surgery. While living in the Magnolia State, he and his family took up boating on the Gulf of Mexico. After serving in the Air Force, Dr. Reynolds and his wife decided to move from Mississippi to Alexandria, Va. upon responding to an advertisement from Dr. Frank Stone, DDS in the American Dental Association Magazine. They rented an apartment on Route 1 while saving money to buy their first house for \$30,000, two doors down from their current residence. After working with Dr. Stone, Dr. Reynolds branched out, practicing dentistry for 50 years.

Dr. Reynolds views his membership in the George Washington Chapter as good fortune, because it was the largest and most active chapter in the state of Virginia. In the 1970s in Alexandria, his mother-in-law helped him trace his lineage and become a SAR member. As a member of Belle Haven Country Club, he enjoyed gatherings there and highlighted that current meetings at the Mount Vernon Country Club are ideal because of the geographic proximity to President George Washington's home. After serving in the Chapter, Dr. Reynolds also became involved in the State Society for six years, along with so many George Washington Chapter members who are active in state leadership. Dr. Reynolds' fondest SAR memories include learning about Virginia's extensive history and attending national conventions, including in San Francisco (at The Mark Hopkins Hotel on the waterfront). His favorite part of the SAR is attending gatherings and socializing with fellow compatriots, and on rare occasions sipping Johny Walker Black together.

On the current status of the George Washington Chapter, Dr. Reynolds sees the Chapter as "doing all the right things, including good programs and good venues." The incorporation of younger generations, according to Dr. Reynolds, helps the Chapter continue to thrive and allows officers the opportunity to serve at the state level. Dr. Reynolds views Chapter members as "a well-informed group of patriots who are continuing to carry out the mission of SAR." He recommends maintaining the current Chapter leadership structure, which allows leaders to gain the necessary experience to succeed at both the chapter and state levels. He suggests keeping one's SAR membership active and increasing one's membership. Dr. Reynolds notes that "because members have to work to join SAR by proving their ancestral lineage, this justifies staying with it and participating in meetings that are insightful into both U.S. history and current events."

Reflecting on our country, Dr. Reynolds said this: "In the United States, everyone has an opportunity to make something of themselves based on their education, not their past. Our nation is relatively young compared to the rest of the world, and although we make mistakes, we can correct them. Everybody has an opportunity in this country."

Dr. Reynolds sees himself as very fortunate and wants to be remembered for being pleasant and kind. "The world has been good to me...I have a great wife and a great family. We all need to have good relationships with others, including a family. Our diversity makes us stronger."

**RELOCATION RESPONSIBILITIES** are taking their toll on the Chapter as Compatriot Eric Atkisson vacates the Chapter Newsletter Editor role for a move to Fredericksburg this summer. Eric has graciously remained in the Editor's seat through this issue. Since the newsletter is not published in June, July, or August, that provides the Chapter time to locate the next Editor and it gives that member time to be ready for the September issue's publication.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the position and/or let us know if you are ready to help the Chapter by receiving photos and articles submitted throughout the month and then putting them into the newsletter's format. You will be introduced to the software presently used to produce the newsletter (Adobe Acrobat) to as great or lesser degree that you require. Certainly, current familiarity with Adobe Acrobat, Adobe Photoshop (or other photo editing software) will get you "up and running" very quickly.

If you can provide some much-needed assistance by volunteering to serve as the next Chapter Newsletter Editor or if you would like to discuss the requirements, and the rewards, in more detail, please contact:  
Chapter President [Scott Walker](#) or  
Vice President [Scot Bryant](#).

# Chapter Color Guard opens GWU vs. GMU rugby match

Fairfax, Va., April 19

**THANKS TO A REFERRAL** by Chapter Compatriot and Chapter America 250 Committee Chairman Edgar Bates, the Chapter was contacted by a representative of the George Mason University Rugby Alumni Association to inquire about enlisting the services of the Chapter's Color Guard. The Color Guard presence was requested to open a 7 p.m. rugby match between George Washington University and George Mason University with expected guests to include the George Mason University president and other local dignitaries. The George Mason Rugby Club was described as the oldest University team in the Washington area (1965) and reportedly the first to play at the intercollegiate level. Chapter Color Guardsmen Mark Jackson and Paul McComb were willing and able to both participate in the event and to further the Chapter's community outreach.

Upon request, the rugby match organizers heartily agreed to announce the Color Guard as being from the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and, in addition to the announcement, they agreed to include a brief history of the SAR and its Mission:

*Since 1889, the Sons of the American Revolution honor their Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving their communities, and educating to inspire future generations about the founding principles of our country. With a membership of over 37,000 members in 550 Chapters across the United States, SAR members play active roles in continuing to promote the underlying ideas of our Founding Fathers... such as George Washington and George Mason!*

In addition to the Chapter's own Color Guardsmen, Commander Jackson and McComb, Virginia Color Guardsmen Barry Schwoerer and Steve Van Deusen from the Sgt. Maj. John Champe Virginia SAR chapter joined the assembly. An estimated 75 attendees were in the turnout.



**ABOVE and BELOW:** SAR Color Guard members Paul McComb, Mark Jackson, Steve Van Deusen, and Barry Schwoerer. (Photographer unknown)





# Upcoming Events

**May 11:** Saturday, 11:30 a.m.: **May Chapter Meeting**

Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309

Guest Speaker: Ellen Denning Smith, local Nelly Custis NSDAR Chapter member and wife of GW Chapter Compatriot David Smith, will share the story of her Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestor from her new book - *The Court-Martial of Captain John Armstrong: Life, Death, and Politics in America's First Regiment*.

**May 26:** Sunday, 2 p.m.: **National SAR President General's Gold Good Citizenship Medal Award to a Local Professional Athlete (TBA!)**

Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079

**May 27:** Monday (Memorial Day Holiday), Time TBA: **National Memorial Day Parade**

National Mall, Washington, D. C.

National SAR President General, John L. Dodd, National C.A.R. President and Virginia SAR President are slated to join us this year! Muster point and time details will be provided as they become available from the national parade organizers.

**Note: A Release form is required from all participants and must be handed or mailed with original signature (no scans or eMails) before 5/13/24 to: David Thomas, 4425 Berwick Place, Woodbridge, VA 22192. The Dooley-Carr-Elston Chapter Medal is awarded for first time Memorial Day Parade participants! (Full size medal: Free. Optional Mini/Formal medal: \$10)**

**June 2:** Sunday, 2 p.m.: **Major Joseph Eggleston Roadside Marker Dedication\***

St. John's "Grub Hill" Church and Cemetery, Grub Hill Church Rd. (State Rd. 609) north of Amelia Courthouse and just south of N. Lodore Rd. (State Rd. 636)

\*This roadside marker will be the first Pomeroy Foundation-sponsored Virginia SAR marker dedication.

**June 7-9:** Friday-Sunday: **2024 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution: "The American Revolution: War on the Waters"**

Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

This conference shall consider maritime operations during the War for Independence. Visit the event website for conference, hotel and registration details, please follow: <https://www.sarfoundation.org/education/sar-annual-conference-on-the-american-revolution/>

**June 8:** Saturday, 11 a.m.: **Commemoration of the Virginia Declaration of Rights**

Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079

**July 4:** Thursday, 9:30 a.m. (tentative time): **63rd March to the Tomb**

Mount Vernon Estate, Ann Pamela Cunningham Building, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

**July 10-14:** Wednesday-Sunday: **National SAR 134th Annual Congress**

Lancaster, PA

Learn more: <https://passar.org/2024%20Congress/2024%20SAR%20National%20Congress.html>

**July 18-20:** Thursday-Saturday: **250th Anniversary of the adoption of the Fairfax Resolves resolutions**

There are several events planned and registration is now **open here**. If interested, registration for The Alexandrian host hotel, located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, is **available here**. Note that there is limited capacity for all Fairfax Resolves 250 paid events and for the hotel room block at the group rate. For more information, please see pages 16-17.

**August 9-10:** Friday-Saturday: **National SAR Atlantic Middle States Association Conference**

Williamsburg Lodge, 310 South England Street, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Please visit this link for more information: <https://www.amssar.org/conferences>

**September 13-14:** Friday-Saturday: *Virginia SAR Semi-Annual Meeting*  
Woodlands Hotel and Suites, 105 Visitor Center Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Agenda and details TBA

**September 21:** Saturday, 11:30 a.m. (Note: 3rd Saturday in September): *September Chapter Meeting*  
Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202  
Invited Guest Speaker: National SAR President General

**September 21:** Saturday, 4:15 p.m.: *Annual Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier w/ National SAR President General invite*  
Arlington National Cemetery, 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA 22211

**Note: Details for "Events" are updated on the Chapter website.**

**\*Please remember that you must be logged in to view SAR members-only events in addition to the public events.  
Please see the Virginia SAR calendar for upcoming, statewide SAR events.**



## May through the years with George Washington

- 1784** on the 4th--Washington attends first meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati.
- 1785** on the 17th--Washington elected president of the Potomac Canal Company.
- 1787** on the 25th--Washington elected president of Constitutional Convention.
- 1789** on the 14th--Congress officially adopts "*President of the United States*" as a form of address for new leader.
- 1802** on the 22nd--Death of Martha Washington.

By signing the Declaration of Independence, the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless. Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.





# Chaplain's Corner

## COMPATRIOTS,

May 14 is Mother's Day! Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers across the SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. God bless all mothers.

The end of May brings Memorial Day. Memorial Day honors the country's military members who died in service. The holiday offers the American Legion and all Americans a chance to reflect on the countless individuals who served and lost their lives and to come together with the families and communities left behind. We are forever grateful for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for America. May they rest in peace.

A Memorial Day prayer: "Almighty God, let us pause to pay tribute to our dearly departed. Let us honor the memory of the valiant servicemen and women who made the supreme sacrifice so that we may live in a country that is free. Cause us never to take for granted their devotion to liberty. In the memory of the fallen, let us dedicate ourselves anew to you, Almighty God, and to our country. Amen."

Blessings to you and your family.



*For God & Country,*

Paul McComb  
Chaplain, George Washington Chapter SAR Assistant  
Chaplain, Virginia Society of the SAR



*"A citizen, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."*

*Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee,  
December 26, 1799.*

<i>President</i>	<i>Scott Walker: 703-216-4798</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Scot Bryant: 703-922-4431</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Jonathan Coles: 570-449-8197</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jaymie Cook: 202-570-2008</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319</i>

*The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form April 2, 1954. With over 250 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter.*

*Meetings customarily are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted).*

*Immediate Past President:*

*Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001*

*Ride Share: Members in need of a ride to a Chapter meeting or a Chapter-sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Paul McComb, Chapter Chaplain, at 202-403-4463.*

*Editor: Eric Atkisson. Submissions from Chapter officers, committee chairmen and fellow Compatriots are always needed. Please send submissions and comments to Secretary Jaymie Cook at [vasargwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:vasargwsecretary@gmail.com).*



# *250th Anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves*



## **SAR 250<sup>th</sup> National Event**

### **Thursday, July 18th, 2024**

9:30 am      *"Author of the Fairfax Resolves"*  
George Mason Plaque Dedication Ceremony  
George Mason's Gunston Hall, Lorton, VA  
*Home of American Rights*



11:30 am    *"Chairman of the Fairfax Resolves"*  
Wreath Laying and Program  
at George Washington's Tomb  
George Washington's Mount Vernon



12:30 pm    *"Dining with the Washingtons"*  
Luncheon at the Mount Vernon Inn  
Hosted in the George Washington Room  
George Washington's Mount Vernon



3:00 pm      *"Home Church of Washington and Mason"*  
250th Program and Plaque Unveiling  
Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, Lorton, VA  
*Built in 1774 – Year the Resolves were Signed*



6:00pm      *"Signing of the Fairfax Resolves"*  
250th Public Event & Plaque Unveiling  
Market Square, 300 King St., Alexandria  
*Where the Fairfax Resolves were Signed*



7:30PM      *"President General's Reception"*  
Duvall House, 305 Cameron St., Alexandria  
Where Washington was celebrated in 1783  
Upon his return from the Revolutionary War  
*Appetizers, Cocktails and a Madeira Toast*







# 250th Anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves



## SAR 250<sup>th</sup> National Event

### Friday, July 19th, 2024

9:30 am     *"Footsteps of the Signers"*  
Tour of Revolutionary Alexandria  
and Sites Associated with the Signers  
Alexandria History Tours with Tim Rose

OR

*"Seaport of the Signers"*  
Tall Ship Providence Tour  
1A Prince St., Alexandria Waterfront  
John Paul Jones and the Continental Navy

Noon         *"Portside with the Signers"*  
Luncheon at the Fish Market  
105 King St., Old Town Alexandria  
*Heart of Alexandria's Waterfront District*

3:00 pm     *"Memorial to the Signers"*  
Plaque Dedication and Ceremony  
Historic Christ Church Built in 1773  
118 N. Washington St., Alexandria

6:00 pm     *"Dinner with the Signers"*  
Gadsby's Tavern – Fine Dining since 1770  
138 N. Royal St., Old Town Alexandria  
*Descendants 250<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner*  
*Hosted by George and Martha Washington*



### Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

10:00 am    George Washington Plaque Dedication

Noon         *"Toast to the Signers"*  
Settle Down Easy Brewing Co.  
2822 Fairfax Dr., Falls Church, VA  
*Lunch Buffet and Special 250 Craft Brew*

