

George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter



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Volume 20, Issue 7

October, 2019

George Washington Chapter at Arlington National Cemetery



NSSAR President General's Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, September 14, 2019



Above Left: VASSAR President Peter M. Davenport, NSSAR President General John T. "Jack" Manning, NSSAR Color Guard Commander Jim Fosdyck and GW Chapter President David R. Thomas. Above Right: SAR wreath at the tomb.

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(ANC Con't on Page 4)

President's Corner



Compatriots:

Soon we'll begin to experience the fall season and all it has to offer – cooler days and nights, the changing of the leaves, excitement of the Major League Baseball Playoffs

and World Series, fall harvest festivals and significant George Washington Chapter events. I encourage you to enjoy your fall activities and participate in the events of your Chapter in the months ahead.

This fall the George Washington Chapter has the unique honor to host the Virginia Society, Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, VA on Saturday, November 9th. The honoree for this year's Gold Good Citizenship Medal is General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.), former Chief of Staff of the Army and member of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Sullivan is to be honored and recognized by the SAR Virginia Society for his military service to the United States. Currently, General Sullivan is the Executive Director of the Army Historical Foundation, playing a major role in the creation of the new National Museum of the United States Army at nearby Ft. Belvoir.

VASSAR President Peter Davenport and other VASSAR, VADAR and US military dignitaries will be in attendance. Arrangements are being made to have the Military District of Washington to honor the gala with a US Army Color Guard, the US Army Band "Pershing's Own" Brass Quintet and soloist to sing the National Anthem. The Master of Ceremonies duties will be performed by the George Washington Chapter's own Mike Elston. The gala will be a 'black tie optional' affair that Chapter members are more than welcomed to attend – with invitations extended to the membership in October, with the gala expected to be a memorable evening for all.

Further, in November we turn our attention to honoring our Chapter veterans at the November 9th Chapter meeting, and then at our Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mt. Vernon on Monday, November 11th – the ceremony, in collaboration with the VADAR Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, will be in front of General George Washington's Tomb. Lastly, the Chapter will honor three past Chapter members (Robert Duncan, Scott Crampton and Robert Armstrong) with a wreath laying and grave marking ceremony at the historic Pohick Church in Lorton, VA on Saturday, November 16th. It should be noted that Robert Duncan was the founding President of the George Washington Chapter in 1954 and VASSAR President in 1960 – 1961. November is scheduled to be a very busy month for the Chapter.

On Saturday, September 14th the George Washington Chapter hosted the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider at Arlington National Cemetery. This year we were honored to have NSSAR President General, Jack Manning and NSSAR Color Guard Commander, Jim Fosdyck, VASSAR President, Peter Davenport and GW Chapter, President David Thomas in the presentation party. The presentation party was flanked by 14 VASSAR Color Guardsmen composed of a mix of guardsmen from around Virginia and other states. The beautiful wreath was provided by The Virginia Florist of Alexandria, VA. PG Jack Manning and National Color Commander Jim Fosdyck both expressed to me what the ceremony meant to them and the high honor they felt in presenting the NSSAR Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider. As a note, and almost 50 years to the day, this was also a very special honor for compatriot Fosdyck who once served as a Tomb Guard with the 3rd US Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Solider and performing

(President's Corner Con't. Next Page)

President's Corner (Con't)

honor guard duties for military funerals at Arlington National Cemetery -- he was sincerely humbled and deeply honored to assist in presenting the NSSAR Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider.

On Saturday, September 7th the George Washington Chapter, along with representatives from the Fairfax Resolves, Col. Fielding Lewis, and Col. William Grayson Chapters, for the first time participated in recognizing and honoring the 184 patriots who perished on American Airlines Flight 77 and those in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The wreath laying ceremony was hosted by the VADAR Pentagon Chapter and held at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. VASSAR 2nd Vice President Jeff Thomas represented the Virginia Society contingent, with compatriots Jay Henn, Tom Roth, Bill Bland and Dave Thomas representing the George Washington Chapter. This was a very sobering, reflective and patriotic event the GW Chapter is hoping to continue participating in during the years ahead. If you haven't visited the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial yet, I encourage you to do so – you will find it very meaningful

and well worth your time.

On a Chapter administrative note, the George Washington Chapter is welcoming fellow Chapter members to consider being a Chapter Officer. At present time the 2020 Chapter Secretary position is open – if you have interest in becoming a Chapter Officer please contact President Dave Thomas or Vice President Jay Henn to ask questions to explore the overall opportunity.

The George Washington Chapter and its membership continues to honor the patriots of the American Revolution, our military veterans and those patriots and heroes of today—with the Chapter continuing to participate, and in many cases organizing, those SAR National Society, Virginia Society, GW Chapter and local events that represent the core foundations of our Chapter in its 65th year. So as we enter the fall season please consider participating and joining your fellow compatriots in those Chapter events that are of interest to you—we look forward to your participation.

Thank you,
Dave Thomas
President
George Washington Chapter

Compatriots: Dues Renewal

Dues Renewal time is upon us once again. Individualized forms for 2020 are expected to be mailed at your address-of-record in mid-October. If you have any questions. An email to *tmroth*3@*earthlink.net* is the fastest way to get a response, or give me a call at 703-739-8811.

Please note that completing and returning your 2020 Dues Renewal Form will take care of all your SAR dues obligations: National, State and Chapter. This is also your opportunity to update any personal information (such as a new address or email account) and indicate your preference for how you wish to receive your copy of our 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 (including orations and essay contests, JROTC, and Eagle Scouting) and honoring our Patriot ancestors with grave markings and other recognition ceremonies.

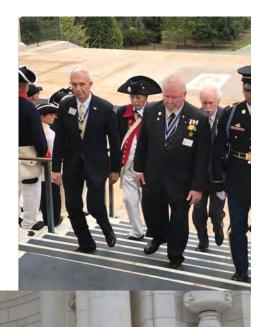
However, with your additional support, however, we can go "above and beyond" to support even a wider range of deserving activities. For example, your additional, tax exempt, donations, will allow us to continue to expand our Public Safety Awards program. This program is recognized as one

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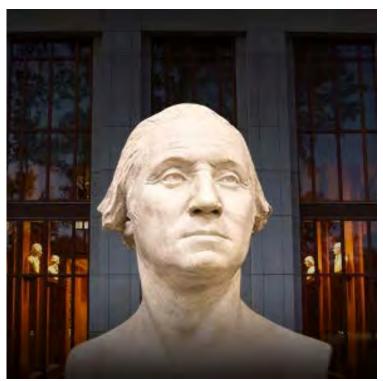
GW Chapter at Arlington Cemetery (con't)



Scenes from the
Wreath Laying at the
Tomb of the Unknown
Soldier
at Arlington National
Cemetery,
September 14, 2019







President	David R. Thomas: 703-583-8791
Vice President	Jay M. Henn: 703-447-0820
Treasurer	Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811
Secretary	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 255 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:

Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807

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@cox.net or call 703-585-3163.

GW Chapter at Arlington Cemetery (con't)

Scenes from the Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, September 14, 2019





DUES--from Page 3

of the most outstanding in the SAR.

Please consider a generous donation in addition to your required dues. I look forward to receiving your completed form. Thank you in advance for continuing your membership, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thomas M. Roth, III Treasurer

September 11 Commemoration at the Pentagon

On Saturday, September 7, 2019, the Pentagon Chapter, DAR, sponsored a ceremony at the Pentagon Memorial honoring those who died on September 11, 2001 when terrorists crashed an airplane into the Pentagon. Four SAR chapters were represented at the ceremony, and the VASSAR Second Vice President, Jeff Thomas brought greetings. Nancy Hill, the Honorary Regent of the Pentagon Chapter, DAR, pointed out that the incentive for the formation of her chapter was the need to honor those lost in the terrorist attack, and the need for a continuous remembrance. Three wreaths were presented at the Memorial, the DAR, the SAR and the C.A.R. Jeff Thomas presented the VASSAR wreath. Following the ceremony, many of the DAR, SAR and C.A.R. attendees placed roses on some of the 184 benches that form a significant part of the Pentagon Memorial, with the name of one lost that day engraved on each bench. (Courtesy of Michael Weyler)



L to R: Bill Bland (George Washington Chapter), James Crook (Historian, Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter), Dave Thomas (President, George Washington Chapter), Jeff Thomas (VASSAR 2nd Vice President), Jay Henn (Vice President, George Washington Chapter), Tom Roth (Treasurer, George Washington Chapter), Ken Bonner (Past President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter) Justin Thomas (Fairfax Resolves Chapter), and Mike Weyler (President, Col. William Grayson Chapter).



Left: Attendees placed roses on some of the 184 benches that form a significant part of the Pentagon.

Right: Jeff Thomas presented the VASSAR wreath.



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October Speaker

Many of you have visited Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's famous home. But how many of you know the behind-thescenes story of what happened to his house after he died, and what it took to preserve this treasure for future generations?

Please join us at the October Chapter meeting to hear from journalist and historian Marc Leepson as he speaks about his most popular book, *Saving Monticello*, which details this little-known but important tale of historic preservation.

A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly* in Washington, DC, Marc has now authored nine books, including most recently *Ballad of the Green Beret*, a biography of Army Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler. He has addressed the George Washington Chapter on two previous occasions, speaking on two of his other volumes,



What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life and Lafayette: Idealist General.

Marc graduated from George Washington University in 1967. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1967-1969, including a year in Vietnam, he received his honorable discharge and went on to earn a Masters Degree in history from George Washington University in 1971.

He currently lives in Loudon County, Virginia.

September 11 Commemoration (con't)



Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards

May 7, 2019

Deputy Steven Hand, Deputy Ashley Battle and Deputy Eloy Reyes

The Sheriff's Office recommends that Deputy Steven Hand, Deputy Ashley Battle and Deputy Eloy Reyes receive Life-Saving Awards.

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, during the evening hours, a female inmate had a mental health crisis while attending recreation in the detention center gym. A new deputy recruit, Steven Hand, entered the gym and noticed a female inmate alone, crying and not acting normally. Deputy Hand knew immediately that this inmate was in need of further assistance. Because of her behavior and apparent mental instability, Deputy Hand made the decision to immediately contact his supervisor and then escorted the female inmate to the medical unit to be further evaluated. Deputy Hand's immediate interaction and his keen observation skills set in motion the need to keep a closer watch on this female inmate who was undergoing some difficult times while incarcerated. Afterwards, the inmate was moved to a cell where she could be more closely monitored by the deputies on duty.

Deputies Ashley Battle and Eloy Reyes were just two of the deputies on duty working in the booking area that night. Deputy Battle was aware of the female inmate because she had interacted with her the day before.

During their shift, while monitoring the different camera feeds throughout their area of responsibility, Deputies Ashley Battle and Eloy Reyes noticed that this same inmate had covered the light inside her cell. Deputy Battle entered the inmate's cell and told her to remove her blanket from the interior light. With some prior knowledge of this inmate, Deputy Battle used her training and interpersonal communication skills to speak with the inmate.

Later, in the early morning hours of Sunday, December 16, the inmate was observed covering the security camera located inside her cell. Both Deputies Battle and Reyes quickly made their way to the inmate's cell and entered with the expectations of having another verbal intervention. What they observed was something very different. They found the inmate lying down on the floor next to the toilet with a torn bed sheet wrapped around her neck and tied to the toilet in what was believed to be an attempt to commit suicide. Both deputies acted quickly and untied the bed sheet to relieve the pressure on the inmate's neck. While doing so, the inmate told the deputies, "You came at the wrong time."

Once the inmate was out of immediate danger, and the sheet was removed, the inmate was seen by medical staff and placed on suicide watch protocols. Both deputies advised that the bed sheet was tied extremely tight and that the inmate had the means and the intention of taking her own life. If not for the vigilance, quick response and life savings measures demonstrated by all three deputies, this incident could have had a much different and tragic outcome.

From left to right are Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Deputy Eloy Reyes, Deputy Steven Hand, and Deputy Ashley Battle, and GW's John Blair.



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Alexandria Valor Awards con't



Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Michele McCarty for outstanding support of our Public Service Awards Program. To the left of Michelle is Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and on the right is John Blair.



Discussion of History of the United States Flag at Sunrise at Mount Vernon





On September 21, Paul Walden, Chapter Flag Chairman, gave a presentation on the history of the United States Flag to residents of the Sunrise at Mount Vernon Assisted Living Facility in Alexandria. Paul, using his collection of 8 full size (3'x5') historic flags, began with the discussion of the Union Jack that flew over the colonies in the pre-Revolution period and the variations of the Flag during the Revolution, and the evolution of the Flag to the present day. He also discussed the various Flag Acts and the history of Flag Day. In the photo he holds, (ably assisted by his mother Mimi Walden, resident of Sunrise) what is known as the "Star Spangled Banner" flag, which was the 15 star and stripe flag that flew over Ft. McHenry in Baltimore during the British bombardment in the War of 1812, and was the inspiration for our National Anthem.

VASSAR Semi Annual Meeting



Awardees included GW President Dave Thomas (4th from left) with additional oak leaf clusters to his Liberty Bell Medal for signing many, many membership applications



In the above photo Former Chapter and VASSAR President Mike Elston received Certificates of Appreciation for his work with various NSSAR committees, as did dual Chapter member and former P-G Joe Dooley. Also former Chapter President and VASSAR Asst. Secretary, Ernie Coggins received a Certificate for Appreciation for his work as a member of the NSSAR History Committee.



GW Chapter Meeting in September at VASSAR Semi Annual Meeting





Small group but Major decisions!





Left: Dave Thomas meeting the new NSSAR V P-G Atlantic Middle States at the Friday VASSAR BOM meeting

Upcoming Events

October 12–Saturday: George

Washington Chapter Meeting-11:30 am

Speaker: Mark Leepson Topic: *Saving Monticello* Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, Virginia 22307

October 19–Saturday: Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr. Wreath Laying-9:15 am Grace Episcopal Church Yorktown, VA

October 19–Saturday: 238th Anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown-10:30 am Parade and Patriotic Exercises Yorktown, VA

November 9–Saturday: George
Washington Chapter Meeting-11:30 am
Speaker: Dr. Kevin Butterfield
Executive Director
Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study
of George Washington, Mount Vernon
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

November 9–Saturday: VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala-6:00 pm Honoring General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA Retired Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, Virginia 22307

November 11-Monday: Veterans Day at Mount Vernon-TBD

Mt. Vernon Estate 3200 Mount Vernon Highway Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

November 16–Saturday: Robert V.H. Duncan Grave Marking-TBD Historic Pohick Church 9301 Richmond Highway Lorton, VA 22079



December 7–Saturday: 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge-11:00 am
Great Bridge Battlefield Park

1775 Historic Way Chesapeake, VA 23320

December 14-Saturday: Joint Meeting of the George Mason and George Washington Chapters-11:30 am Installation of 2020 Officers Speaker: Mr. John Mason Mount Vernon Country Club

5111 Old Mill Road Alexandria, Virginia 22309

December TBD Wreaths Across America Alexandria National Cemetery

January 11, 2020–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:30 am Speaker/Topic: TBD Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, Virginia 22307

February 7-9, 2020–Friday-Sunday: 130th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society (VASSAR)

Omni Hotel 100 S 12th Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

February 8, 2020 –Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting-TBD** VASSAR General Meeting Room Omni Hotel 100 S 12th Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

From Chapter Secretary

As we prepare for the mailing of your 2020 Membership Renewal Statement, it is important that our chapter roster correctly contains the most current information to ensure a timely processing of your renewal membership dues.

If any of the following events have changed since the mailing of your 2019 Membership Renewal and have not been reported to the Chapter Secretary, please let me know ASAP--

(Con't on Page 14)



Peter M. Davenport

President of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution
and
David R. Thomas

President of the George Washington Chapter

cordially invite you to a

Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala

honoring the sixty years of public service of

General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA Retired

Saturday, November 9, 2019 Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, Virginia 22307

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Black Tie Optional/Comparable Military or Colonial Attire

Reservations accepted while space is available or until October 25, 2019 \$125 per person

Please address questions to Jay Henn at jayhenn.sar@gmail.com (Reservation form next page)

SEE WEBSITE: 2020SARCONGRESS.ORG

NATIONAL MEETINGS, BANQUETS, AWARDS, EVENTS
LOCAL TOURS OF YORKTOWN, JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS,
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (PATRICK HENRY'S SPEECH)
SHOCKOE CEMETERY (CREDIT TOWARDS GRAVE MARKING MEDAL)
AND STATE CAPITOL



RESERVATION FORM FOR THE 2019 GOLD GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL GALA HONORING GENERAL GORDON R. SULLIVAN



Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution

November 9, 2019 Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22307

Reception and Receiving Line Begins at 6:00 pm/Program and Dinner at 7:00 pm

Please use this form to make your reservations for the Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala. The cost per guest for this black tie-optional event is \$125.00. Please make your check payable to "George Washington Chapter, VASSAR" and return to:

Thomas M. Roth, III, Treasurer George Washington Chapter, VASSAR 1200 First Street Apartment #431 Alexandria, VA 22314

Reservations accepted while space is available or until October 25, 2019

Yes, I/we will attend:	<u>Dinner Selection (please</u> <u>each guest</u>	•
NAME OF ATTENDEE(S) (as you would like displayed on your table card):	Jumbo Lump Crab Cake & Petite Filet Mignon	Vegetable Napoleon
For additional information please contact Jay		

Secretary Reminder -- from Page 12

-- Change in your mailing address; your email address; or your home or mobile telephone number. Please email or call me with any updated information no later than our next meeting on October 12. Thank you for your assistance.

Richard Rankin email: brandywinecreek@aol.com

Chapter Secretary Phone: 703-538-5805

Members Only Section of GWSAR.ORG It's There For You!



In case you have never established a Members Only linkage, or you have forgotten your username & password, I am here to remind you of how you do it and what you'll find there when you visit this part of the George Washington Chapter's website.

Go to our chapter website and click on the Members Only Login link (far right side) at the top of the Home page on the Chapter's website and then use either your website account (username and password) or social media account to gain access. For those that either don't have an account or have forgotten their username and/or password, I can help you with that if you send me an email at:

WEBMASTER@GWSAR.ORG

I will need to verify you are who you say you are so include your full name, email and phone number you provided for your GW Chapter membership and your State and/or National SAR numbers, if you know them. With this information, I can verify your account and then provide you with your password so you can gain access.

There is also another sign on option if you have a social media account (Google / Twitter / LinkedIn / Instagram / Amazon / Microsoft / Yahoo). The website will use your social account to verify who you are thus providing easy and seamless access. I use a Google Chrome browser and am thus always logged into my Google account, so I use the "Login With Google" button and I get right in without having to remember another username and password. Use whichever option you are most comfortable with.

After gaining access to the Members Only site, you have access to the following information:

- Membership Directory the lastest and historical versions dating back to 2013
- References SAR Brochure / Application Form / Grave Markings Research Material
- Reports Americanism / Committee
- GWSAR Business Approved Budgets / Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

This is your section of the website and it can host anything you think is important to share exclusively with the members of this Chapter. If you have some ideas, please share them.



Jamie Callender, Webmaster







George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR

Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form Chapter Meeting: 11:30 a.m., Saturday, October 12, 2019 Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Please join us for our October Chapter meeting on Saturday, October 12th. We will hear from journalist and historian Marc Leepson as he speaks about his most popular book, *Saving Monticello*, a history of Thomas Jefferson's famous home that focuses on what happened after he died – a little-known and important story of historic preservation. Autographed copies of *Saving Monticello* will be available following the meeting.

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 tmroth3@earthlink.net. To help ensure receipt, please put "RESERVATION" followed by your last name in the subject line. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your reservation. Payment will be collected at the door. Checks are preferred over cash, and, if paying with cash, exact change is appreciated.

For both methods, please make sure that your reservation is received no later than **Tuesday**, **October 8th**, 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 12, 2019.



(1)	Compatriot Name:	
(2)	Guest Name(s):	requests (i.e., vegetarian, children's) for member and/or guest
(3)	3) A check payable to George Washington Chapter, VASSAR in the amount of	
	\$ is enclosed.	
	Return this form and check to:	Thomas M. Roth, III, Treasurer 1200 First Street, Apt 431 Alexandria, VA 22314

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.