



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter



*Washington*

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Volume 20, Issue 6

September, 2019

## GW Chapter at Mount Vernon on the 4th of July



*On Bowling Green, VASSAR Color Guard Commanders Pete Davenport and Bill Schwetke and a full contingent of VASSAR Color Guardsman, and SAR members, on the way to the General's Tomb.*

## Washington's Pohick Church on the 4th of July Reading of the Declaration of Independence

On July 4, the Rev. Thomas Costa, portraying Parson Lee Massey, colonial Rector of Historic Pohick Church and a Patriot of the American Revolution, read the Declaration of Independence from the pulpit of historic Pohick Church. This is the same church that George Washington and George Mason served as vestrymen. It is fitting too that the remains of Parson Massey were reinterred under that very pulpit in the early 1900s. 115 were in attendance, which is a large increase over last year's Independence Day observation at Pohick Church. Compatriot Paul Walden served as usher and bell ringer, and introduced Parson Massey.

Compatriot Dick Hamly, a docent at Pohick Church, then gave tours to visitors after the service.



*(4th Con't on Page 9)*

# President's Corner



## *Compatriots:*

We've had our summer vacations, football season has arrived and the MLB playoffs are not far away – soon the air will cool and a sense of fall will be in the air. Before we

begin to think about the Chapter's fall activities, we need to take a moment to review the activities the George Washington Chapter organized and participated in during the summer.

Two of the Chapter's hallmark events take place during the summer break – the National Memorial Day Parade and the 4th of July March to the Tomb and Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mt. Vernon. On May 28th the George Washington Chapter organized its participation and marched in the annual National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. This year we had the honor of having NSSAR President General, Warren Alter representing our unit, comprised of fellow compatriots and officers from the Virginia Society, the Maryland Society, the District of Columbia Society and the president of the Children of the Sons of the American Revolution marching as a unit down Constitution Avenue. The crowds were large with thousands of individuals waving and cheering us on as we marched.

It was a very hot and humid day for the Chapter's 4th of July March to the Tomb and Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mt. Vernon. The Chapter had an excellent turnout of 120 fellow SAR and DAR compatriots and special guests who followed the VASSAR Color Guard and rhythmic drumbeat of compatriot Don Francisco's march to George and Martha Washington's Tomb. VASSAR President, Peter Davenport and VADAR Regent, LeAnn Turbyfill offered their greetings with GW Vice President, Jay Henn performing an excellent job as master of ceremonies. VASSAR Joseph H. Rumbaugh

Historical Oration Contest winner, Lauren Bradshaw offered her VASSAR winning oration speech, and Chapter President, Dave Thomas delivered a few words of patriotic thought to those gathered in the grove. Past President, Ernie Coggins and compatriot John Brigden had the unique honor of presenting and laying the Chapter wreath in front of the tomb. And we were honored this year with VADAR Regent, LeAnn Turbyfill and VADAR Prince William Resolves Chapter, Bonnie Henn laying pink carnations at the foot of Martha Washington's crypt. Highlight of the event concluded with SAR, DAR and C.A.R. compatriots having an opportunity to lay red carnations and pay individual respects at the foot of George and Martha Washington's crypts. After the ceremony, Vice President Jay Henn had the unique honor of leading over 50 new citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance at the annual Mt. Vernon naturalization ceremony. A good day was had by all.

Not overshadowed by the National Memorial Day Parade and the 4th of July March to the Tomb, the Chapter actively participated in other events and activities during the summer break representing the Chapter with honor and distinction.

Briefly – 1) Compatriots Mike Elston and Ernie Coggins attended the 2019 NSSAR Congress in California in July – compatriot Mike Elston received the SAR's highest honor for service, the Minuteman Award; 2) on May 18th Paul Walden participated in the joint Grave Markings for Revolutionary War Patriot Robert Thurman and 1812 Patriot Thomas Thurman hosted by the Col. William Grayson Chapter; 3) during a Prince William County Police roll call on July 23rd, compatriots John Blair, Jay Henn and Dave Thomas presented SAR Heroism Awards and Law Enforcement Commendation Awards to 14 Officers for their unwavering service during a life threatening event. During a confrontation, Officer John Yenchak in pursuit of a

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dangerous individual, was shot in the chest by the suspect, fortunately he was saved by his vest. After being shot, Officer Yenchak, along with supporting officers, continued to pursue the suspect until the situation was resolved and the public was out of danger; 4) on June 20th, GW Vice President Jay Henn presented the Chapter wreath at the Commemoration of the Adoption of the Fairfax Resolves in 1774 -- the event was hosted by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter; 5) compatriots Richard Rankin, Tom Roth and Paul Walden participated in the Fairfax Resolves Chapter Wren-Darne Grave Markings; 6) and on June 14, Flag Day – compatriot Paul Walden presented a SAR Flag Certificate to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Director of the Office of Facilities & Environmental Quality recognizing the flag flown over the Herbert C. Hoover Building in Washington, D.C. Fifty employees attended the ceremony to hear compatriot Walden discuss the evolution of our flag from the American Revolution to present day. Further on Memorial Day the Chapter recognized 10 veterans and presented to them the SAR Certificate of Appreciation at the Sunrise at Mt. Vernon Assisted Living Facility in Alexandria; and compatriot Edgar Bates presented the Chapter wreath during a ceremony at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution. Participating in three separate events, it was a busy Memorial Day for the Chapter.



Looking forward. The George Washington Chapter is delighted to announce that it has been selected to host a black-tie VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal gala on Saturday, November 9th at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, VA. The Gold Good Citizenship Medal is the highest SAR national award for outstanding public and patriotic service of national importance, and on November 9th the Gold Good Citizenship Medal will be presented to General Gordon R. Sullivan, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, United States Army, (Ret.). In the weeks ahead more information about the gala will be communicated to the Chapter membership and others, so save the date on your calendar now.

This past summer was a busy one for the Chapter at the community, State and National levels. I'm so honored by the dedicated participation by our fellow Chapter compatriots to represent and project the image of this Chapter, the Virginia Society and the larger SAR to our local communities and citizens.

*Thank you,  
Dave Thomas, President  
George Washington Chapter  
VASSAR*





# GW Chapter Meeting in May

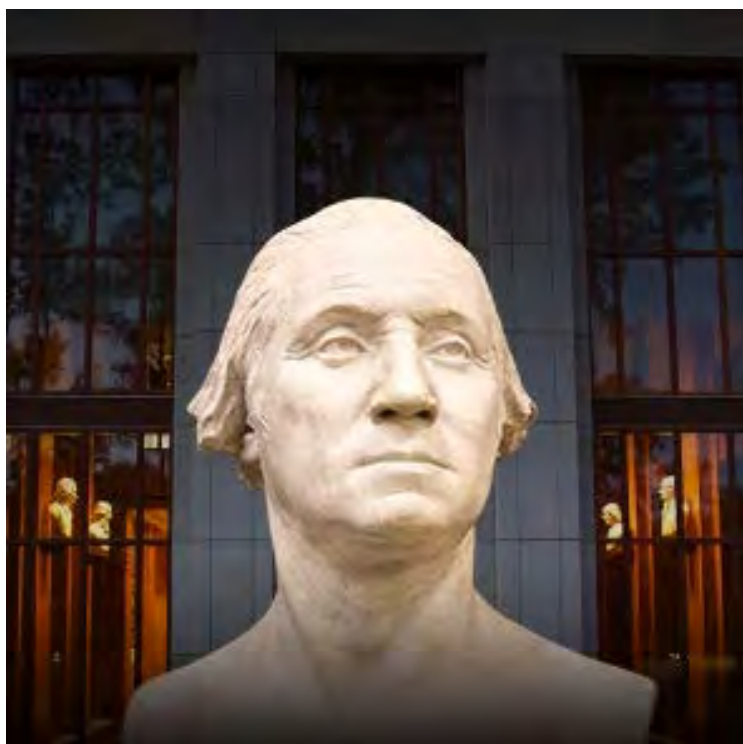


*Above: The Guest Speaker for the May meeting of the GW Chapter was Andrew Och ("The First Ladies Man").*

*Right: Mr. Och is presented with a replica Houdon bust of General George Washington by GW President Dave Thomas.*



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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 250 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](mailto:nyyno7@cox.net) or call 703-585-3163.

# GW Chapter Meeting in May (con't)



*Above -- GW Chapter compatriots including new member Peter-Anthony Pappas (middle in picture) and to his right, GW Registrar Richard Sherman and Past President Paul Walden.*



*Left--Rand Pixa, GW Secretary Richard Rankin, GW President Dave Thomas and GW Chaplain Don Reynolds who leads the members in prayer.*

*Right: Paul Wagoner, Mary Walker, David Walker, Jamie Callender. David Walker is a former GW Chapter President, former Comptroller of the United States (head of the GAO), and GWC Past President Emeritus.*



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# GW Chapter Meeting in May (con't)



*Above: Bill Wilson and his three granddaughters.*

*Right: Past Chapter President Scott Wagoner and Rand Pixa.*



*(May Meeting con't on Page 11)*

## Dedication of Plaque at the Mount Eagle Mansion Site

On June 1, a plaque was dedicated marking the site of the Mount Eagle Mansion on the Montebello Condominium grounds in Alexandria. This was the home built by Bryan Fairfax in 1790 and stood until it was razed in 1968 after being used for several purposes, including a country club. George Washington was a friend of the Fairfax family and attended a dinner here the week before his death in 1799.

Bryan Fairfax was the 8th Lord Fairfax of Cameron, and in fact, was the first member of the House of Lords born in America. Fairfax's feelings were torn between England and America during the Revolutionary War. On his own in 1777, he decided to be a mediator between the two sides. He was arrested in Lancaster, PA, for refusing to sign a loyalty oath. However, he wrote to his good friend, George Washington, who gave him a pass to travel between the lines. In New York, British officials also required a loyalty oath, which he refused to take. With his mediation attempts a failure, he returned to Virginia for the remainder of the war. In the 1790s, he became Rector of Christ Church in Alexandria and lived at the Mount Eagle estate until his death in 1802.

The plaque was designed and funded by Montebello residents Paul Zeisset and Chuck Amorisino. Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck also participated in the dedication. Montebello residents and George Washington Compatriots Lisle Bean and Paul Walden also attended.



# Memorial Day Parade in DC



*Left-Right: Elise Forrester, Lanes Mill Chapter, DAR; Vern Eubanks, Fairfax Resolves; Mike Elston, GWC; Richard Weaver with son Samuel, Fairfax Resolves; Ken Bonner, Fairfax Resolves; Anita Bonner, Lanes Mill Chapter, DAR; Tim Dioquino, President, Fairfax Resolves; Craig Smith, John Hansen Chapter, MD (holding banner); Jim O'Kelly, TJC; Mike Kelly, MD-3rd VP: Blake Branch, TJC (Jim O'Kelly Grandson); Lou Rabourg, MD, Society NSSAR VP, General Mid-Atlantic Region; Pete Davenport, GMC VASSAR President; (another O'Kelly grandson); Warren Alter, NSSAR President General; Mackie Storage, National President, C.A.R.; Mike Weyler, Col. William Grayson Chapter; Dave Thomas, President GWC; Emily Elston, Lighthouse Harry Lee Society, C.A.R.; Gene Thomas, GMC, VASSAR Chaplain; Ken Morris, President GMC; Ron Kirby, GWC; Tim Clark, Col. William Grayson; Jay Henn, V-P GWC; William (Bill) Ritchey, DCSAR; David and Samuel Huxsall, Fairfax Resolves; William (Will) Elston, GWC and Lighthouse Harry Lee Society, CAR; Ernie Coggins, Past President GWC (now Asst. Sec. VASSAR); Don Reynolds, GWC, Past President GWC and VASSAR; Bill Schwetke, First V-P VASSAR. **Not Shown**-Tom Roth, GWC Treasurer and Photographer.*

*Right: Left-Right--Bill Schwetke (VASSAR 1st VP), Lou Rabourg, MD, Society NSSAR VP; Tim Dioquino, President, Fairfax Resolves; Pete Davenport, VASSAR President; Mike Weyler, President, Col. William Grayson Chapter; Warren Alter, NSSAR President General; Mackie Storage, National President, C.A.R.; Ken Morris, President GMC; Dave Thomas, President GWC.*



*George Washington*

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# Memorial Day Parade in DC (con't)



*Clockwise from upper left: PG Alter receiving the Dooley-Carr-Elston Medal from GWC President Dave Thomas; DAR Contingent; CAR Contingent; PG Alter presenting the Dooley-Carr-Elston Medal to CA National President Mackie Storage with Mike Elston; Sweet ride for CAR National President.*



*Above Left: Fairfax Resolves.*

*Right: Jim O'Kelley (TJ Chapter Pres.) with Pete Davenport (VASSAR President).*



# GW Chapter July 4th at Mt. Vernon (con't)

Continuing a tradition that dates back to 1962, the George Washington Chapter celebrated Independence Day by honoring its namesake with a March to The Tomb and Wreath Laying at Mount Vernon on the Fourth of July.

The ceremony began with a parade up the bowling green in front of the mansion, led by VASSAR Color Guard Commanders Pete Davenport and Bill Schwetke and a full contingent of VASSAR Color Guardsman. After passing in review between ranks of the 1st Virginia Regiment, the column wound its way down the hill to the Tomb Grove. There, Master of Ceremonies (and Chapter Vice President) Jay Henn led a short program featuring greetings from VASSAR President Pete Davenport and DAR State Regent LeAnn Turbyfill; remarks from Chapter President Dave Thomas; and an outstanding oration from VASSAR State Orations Champion Ms. Lauren Bradshaw.

Participants then formed up and moved to the Tomb area where Past President Ernie Coggins and Compatriot John Brigden presented the Chapter wreath. Members of the SAR, DAR, CAR and public were then invited to lay carnations at the entrance to George and Martha Washington's tomb.

Over forty-five members from the George Washington, George Mason, Fairfax Resolves, Culpeper Minutemen, Richmond, Col. William Grayson and Fincastle Resolutions VASSAR Chapters participated in the event. In addition, three compatriots from the MDSSAR's John Paul Jones Chapter joined in the march. VADAR had an excellent representation with over 15 DAR Chapters represented, led by newly-installed State Regent Mrs. Turbyfill. We were also delighted to welcome Gretchen Kelly, Regent of the De Anza Chapter from the California DAR, daughter of GW Chapter Compatriot Joe Famme, and sister of GW Chapter Compatriot Christopher Famme. In all, over 120 individuals participated in the ceremony.

In another tradition, following the completion of the wreath laying at the Tomb, GWSAR Vice President Jay Henn led fifty-one new citizens in their first Pledge of Allegiance as part of a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Ceremony held on the mansion's East Lawn.



*George Washington Chapter Vice President, Jay Henn, leading The Pledge of Allegiance to new citizens at Mt. Vernon on July 4th.*



*GW Past President Ernie Coggins and Compatriot John Brigden presented the Chapter wreath at the General's tomb.*



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# GW Chapter July 4th at Mt. Vernon (con't)



*DAR at Mount Vernon on 4th of July*



*SAR at Mount Vernon on 4th of July*



*SAR at Mount Vernon on their way to pay respects to the General*



# GW Chapter Meeting in May (con't)



*Left: George Washington Chapter President Dave Thomas, speaking at the May meeting.*



*Right: George Washington Chapter Treasurer (and Photographer) Tom Roth, addressing the members.*



*George Washington Chapter Registrar Richard Sherman (Left) with new member, Peter-Anthony Pappas and GW Chapter President, Dave Thomas (Right)*



As many of you have heard, the Virginia Society is hosting the Sons of the American Revolution National Congress in 2020, to be held in Richmond next July. This is a great honor and opportunity for Virginia, and as you might imagine will require a lot of support from SAR Chapters and members throughout the Commonwealth. If you are interested in volunteering to help make the 2020 Congress a success, please contact Vice President Jay Henn at [jaymhenn@gmail.com](mailto:jaymhenn@gmail.com)

# Upcoming Events

**September 8–Sunday: 238th Anniversary of the Battle of the Capes: 11:00 am**

Fort Story  
Virginia Beach, VA

**September 13-14–Friday-Saturday: VASSAR Semi Annual Meeting 11787**

Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway Fair  
Oaks Marriott  
Fairfax, VA 22033

**September 14–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting: 10:30 am-11:15 am**

11787 Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway  
Fair Oaks Marriott, Salon A  
Fairfax, VA 22033

**September 14–Saturday: President General's Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier–4:15 pm**  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, VA

**19-21 September–Thursday-Saturday: NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting**  
Brown Hotel  
335 W Broadway  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

**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: Thomas Nelson, Jr. Wreath Laying-9:15 am**  
Grace Episcopal Church  
Yorktown, VA

**October 19–Saturday: Yorktown Day: 238th Anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown**  
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

**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 Meeting-11:30 am**  
**Installation of 2020 Officers**  
Speaker/Topic: TBD  
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





# Joint Grave Markings for SAR and War of 1812 Patriots

On May 18, 2019, approximately 40 people gathered at the Glen-Gery brickyard in Manassas to mark the graves of SAR Patriot Robert Thurman and War of 1812 Patriot Thomas Thurman. The event was planned by the Col. William Grayson VASSAR Chapter. Due to the deterioration of Thomas Thurman's grave, a new tombstone was installed at his grave. Compatriot Thad Hartman (member of both VASSAR and the War of 1812 in VA) did much of the research and labor in installing the grave markers. VASSAR Chapters presenting wreaths were, in addition to the VASSAR Wreath, Col. William Grayson, George Mason, Col. James Wood II, James Monroe, George Washington, and Fairfax Resolves. VASSAR President Pete Davenport, VASSAR 1st VP Bill Schwetke, and VASSAR 2nd VP Jeff Thomas were in attendance. William Collier, Councilor, and Paul Walden, Secretary, of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia presented wreaths for that society. The Elizabeth McIntosh Hamill, Falls Church, Fauquier Court House, and Prince William VADAR chapters presented wreaths, as well as the Col. William Grayson Chapter of CAR.

Curtis Robb of the Col. William Grayson VASSAR Chapter served as master of ceremonies. The combined VASSAR and Society of the War of 1812 color guard presented colors as well as providing a 21 gun musket salute.

SAR Patriot Robert Thurman, paid property taxes in 1783, and his son, Pvt Thomas Thurman served in the 89th Regiment of the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812 from July to September 1814. He was deployed to Round Hill Church in King George County in the defense of the Potomac River, and to Mattox Bridge in Westmoreland County.



*Left: Master of Ceremonies  
Curtis Robb.*

*Below: The Color Guard at  
Thomas Thurmond's grave.*



*Above: Paul  
Walden presented  
wreaths for GW  
Chapter and  
Society for the  
War of 1812.*



*Right: Robert  
Thurman's  
tombstone and  
SAR marker.*



# Awards Presented to Prince William County Police Department

## H E R O I S M



Presented  
July 23,  
2019



## COMMENDATION

Top photo: **Heroism Awards** presented to Officers Evan Jurgensen, Nicholas Kelly, John Yenchak, and Rachel Mynier.

Bottom Photo: **Law Enforcement Commendation Awards** presented to 1st Sgt. Daniel Crawford, Sgt. David Bliss and Officers Kevin Vasquez, Travis Hardman, Wade Dickinson, Benjamin Infanti, Taylor Calton, Jordanis Lozier, Matthew Takats and, Franco Martinez.

Presented by George Washington Chapter President Dave Thomas and John Blair, GW Public Service Awards Chairman.







# **THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY WANTS YOU ! TO:**

**ATTEND \* ENJOY \* PARTICIPATE  
& VOLUNTEER FOR THE**

**2020 NSSAR CONGRESS  
RICHMOND, VA**

**FRIDAY 10 JULY THROUGH THURSDAY 16 JULY 2020**



**SEE WEBSITE: [2020SARCONGRESS.ORG](http://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](#)**

**VIRGINIA SOCIETY  
2020 CONGRESS  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

# **RAFFLE**

## **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

LET US HELP YOU KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY  
TWO POWDER HORNS FOR RAFFLE

**TICKETS \$15.00 EACH**

LET US HELP YOU CUT THROUGH RED TAPE  
TWO HAND MADE KNIVES:  
YORKTOWN AND JAMESTOWN DESIGNS

**TICKETS \$25.00 EACH**

POWDER HORN TICKET@**\$15.00** EACH      NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

YORKTOWN KNIFE TICKET@**25.00** EACH      NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

JAMESTOWN KNIFE TICKET@**25.00** EACH      NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED    \$\_\_\_\_\_**

## **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

**MAIL TO:**

**PAT KELLY  
2228 WILLIAMSBURG ROAD  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22901**

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## **Oral History Opportunity**

Roughly a dozen past Chapter Presidents are still active in the George Washington Chapter. If you would be interested in reaching out to these individuals and capturing the memories and highlights (or lowlights!) of Chapter leadership, please contact V-P Jay Henn at [jaymhenn@gmail.com](mailto:jaymhenn@gmail.com)



# Fairfax Resolves in Old Fairfax Courthouse

## Commemoration of the Adoption of the Fairfax Resolves



Above: L-R President, Col. William Grayson Chapter, C.A.R.; Pete Davenport, GNC, President VASSAR; Jay Henn, VP GWC; Tim Dioquino, President Fairfax Resolves; Mike Weyler, President Col. William Grayson Chapter; Ken Morris, President George Mason Chapter; President VA C.A.R, Representatives of the C.A.R and D.A.R

Left: Plaque on Courthouse Lawn. Below: Jay Henn and Darren Schimdt.



Above: Darrin Schimdt, VASSAR Color Guard Commander; Pete Davenport (FRC), VASSAR President & NSSAR Chancellor-General GMC); Mike Weyler (Col. William Grayson; Ken Bonner (FRC)



# SAR-Fairfax Resolves Wren-Darne Grave Markings



*George Washington Chapter Treasurer Tom Roth and GW Secretary Richard Rankin, who presented the Chapter Wreath at the ceremony.*



*Past GW President and Society of 1812 Secretary, Paul Walden presented the 1812 Society Wreath and gave remarks to the attendees. To the right of Paul is Fairfax Resolves President Tim Dioquino.*





# SAR-Fairfax Resolves Wren-Darne Grave Markings (con't)



*Clockwise from above: Jeff Thomas FRC, 2nd VP VASSAR, and Fairfax Resolves President Tim Dioquino; a salute to the Wren-Darnes; Color Guard; James Wren marker; VASSAR President Pete Davenport and Fairfax Resolves President Tim Dioquino*





# GW Chapter to Host Gold Medal Gala

On behalf of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), the George Washington Chapter is delighted to announce that it has been selected to host a black-tie gala to honor General Gordon R. Sullivan (USA-Ret.) as he is presented with the SAR's highest national award for public service. The SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal is awarded for outstanding and unusual patriotic achievement and service of national importance. Included among past recipients of the medal are former Presidents Truman, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush. The most recent Virginia recipients have included Generals Eric Shinseki, Peter Pace, Richard Meyers, and Frederick Kroesen; former Attorney General Edwin Meese; James C. Rees, President and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon; and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

General Sullivan currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Army Historical Foundation in Arlington, Virginia. In this capacity, he leads the Capital Campaign to construct the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. A tireless advocate for Soldiers and their families, the Museum project remains consistent with General Sullivan's priorities—to recognize the contributions of over 30 million American men women who have served in our Army.

Beginning in 1998, General Sullivan served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of the United States Army, also headquartered in Arlington, where he oversaw the transformation of the association into a dynamic, member-based organization that continues to represent Soldiers, Army families, and the defense industry. General Sullivan retired from the Association in July 2016.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts and raised in Quincy, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Norwich University and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Armor in 1959. General Sullivan retired

from the Army on July 31, 1995, after more than 36 years of active service. He culminated his uniformed service as the 32nd Chief of Staff—the Army's senior general officer—and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Sullivan also recently completed an appointment as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Norwich University. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board at the Marshall Legacy Institute and is also a member of the MITRE Army Advisory Board, the MIT Lincoln Labs Advisory Board, and a Life Trustee of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

In addition to his numerous military awards and decorations, he is also the recipient of the AUSA 2016 George Catlett Marshall Award for selfless service to the United States of America, the West Point Association of Graduates' Sylvanus Thayer Award and a member of the Sergeants Major Academy's Hall of Honor.

General Sullivan currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia. He has three children and three grandchildren. He is an avid reader, amateur historian, and active sailor and sport fishing enthusiast.

[The date and location of the Gala will be Saturday, November 9, 2019 at the Belle Haven Country Club beginning at 6 pm.](#)



A stylized, cursive script logo that reads "George Washington". The letters are elegant and flowing, with a mix of dark and light blue colors.



## George Washington Chapter Commemorates Flag Day

On June 14, 2019, Paul Walden, Chapter Flag Chairman, commemorated Flag Day by giving a presentation on the history of the United States Flag in the historic U.S. Department of Commerce library in the Herbert C. Hoover Building (named after 31st U.S. President and SAR Compatriot) in Washington, DC. Approximately 50 Commerce employees attended. Paul discussed the evolution of the flag from the colonial period, through the American Revolution, and up to the present.

Afterwards, he presented a SAR Flag Certificate to Byron Adkins, Jr., the Director of the Office of Facilities and Environmental Quality. Mr. Adkins is the senior official in charge of the Herbert C. Hoover Building operations. This building is located at a prominent location (1401 Constitution Avenue, NW) and displays total of 12 United States Flags around the building.



## GW Chapter Recognizes Veterans on Memorial Day

In commemoration of Memorial Day, Paul Walden, Chapter Flag Chairman, recognized 10 veterans residing at the Sunrise at Mount Vernon Assisted Living Facility in Alexandria with a SAR Certificate of Appreciation and a veteran's flag pin. The Reverend Tom Costa led the invocation and read a passage from Ecclesiasticus 44:1-15, a very appropriate passage for Memorial Day. Rev. Costa's wife, Susan, then led us in singing "God Bless America." The ten veterans honored were Vincent Cunnings (Army), Robert Eberth (Navy), James Edwards (Army), Henry Malik (Navy), Karl Norris (Army), Ron Sedlacek (Navy), Irwin Simensky (Army), Gene Swedo (Army Air Corps), Patty Tsouras (Army), and Eric Wilder (Army). The event concluded with the serving of a large cake decorated with the U.S. Flag.

Also, Paul Walden presented the maintenance director with a SAR Flag Certificate for their constant display of the United States Flag.



## Compatriots--

This is a kind reminder this year's Virginia Society SAR Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, September 13th and Saturday, 14th in Fairfax, VA--this is a local event for us this year given the meeting is at the Fairfax Marriott at Fair Oaks, so please consider attending to meet fellow compatriots, to attend informative workshops and witness the activities of the Virginia Society in the General Membership Meeting. The officers of the George Washington Chapter welcome your consideration to attend this Virginia Society annual event.

Special Note--the George Washington Chapter will hold its September Chapter meeting following the General Membership Meeting on Saturday morning beginning at 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in Salon A.

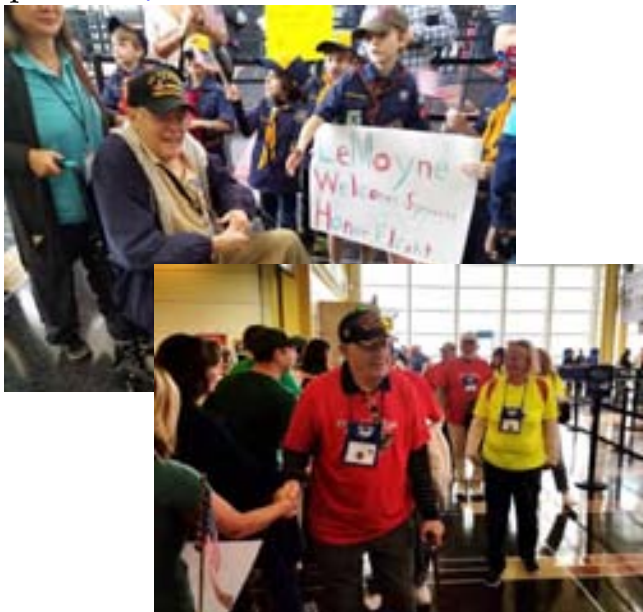
## Participating in Honor Flights

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing honor and closure to veterans. Honor Flight does that by transporting America's veterans to Washington, DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices by themselves and their families. Top priority is given to senior veterans--World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill. Over 19,000 veterans were flown in 2018.

In April 2018 and April 2019 I participated in Jesuit Alumni Days of Service at Reagan National Airport. Our six schools ranged from Le Moyne College up north (Syracuse, NY), to Spring Hill College in the south (Mobile, AL), to Seattle University in the far west. My school was Fordham University (Bronx, NY).

This year about 24 of the local Jesuit alumni waved American flags, cheered and greeted 160 veterans arriving on two flights in the morning. You could tell that the veterans greatly enjoyed the reception. On our part, we got lumps in our throats as we realized the service that they had performed for our country.

When we lay wreaths on graves, we honor the memory of deceased patriots. Participating in Honor Flights allows us to honor the services of living, breathing patriots.--*Jack Coulter*



## GW Chapter Contributes To the Mission of the Estate

*This is from the recently published Mount Vernon's activities brochure--our ceremonies contribute to their mission!*



*Shown above are soon-to-be compatriot Don Francisco, Bill Schwetke of VASSAR, and G.W. Chapter Past-President Dwight Whitney.*



*Ryan Patrick Terrell receives the Eagle Scout Certification of Recognition.*



# George Washington Chapter Presents Local Business With Flag Certificates

In recognition of Independence Day, on July 3, Paul Walden, Chapter Flag Chairman, presented the SAR Flag Certificate to four business in the Groveton area of Alexandria: Chris Piscitilli, representing the Mount Comfort Cemetery on Kings Highway, was presented with a certificate. The interesting fact about this cemetery is that until recently, it had one a replica of the Houdon statue of George Washington that stands in the Virginia State House. However, the statue has been returned to the Masonic Temple in Alexandria. Assistant Manager Annisa, for the Boston Market Restaurant on Richmond Highway, received the second certificate. Cyprus Air and Heating Company, also on Richmond Highway, has perhaps the largest United States Flag flying in front of their building. Ted Kennedy received the certificate on behalf of that firm. Finally, a certificate was presented to Jan Kelly, Assistant Manager for the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Lodge 758, also on Richmond Highway. These four business have prominent locations on major commuter routes in Alexandria and their proud display of the United States Flag inspires many citizens on their daily commute.



# SAR Recognizes Veterans

Are you a veteran? Did you know that the SAR provides special recognition to veterans? Both the SAR War Service Medal and Military Service Medal are available to Compatriots who have honorably served in the US armed forces. Additionally, the War Service Medal may be awarded to the military forces of a country allied with the US, or a United Nations Peace Keeping Force.

The War Service Medal recognizes those who have served in a combat zone and have been awarded a campaign medal, award, or badge by their service. The Military Service Medal is for Compatriots who served, or are serving, honorably in: (1) the armed forces of the United States, (2) the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or (3) a United Nations Peace Keeping Force. For either the War Service or Military Service Medals, Compatriots must submit proof of military service or the award of a campaign medal. The best way to do this is by submitting a redacted DD-214 (copy the original, mark through personally identifying information except name with a black marker, and copy again) to the Veteran's Committee chairman, Compatriot Greg Bodge. Compatriot Bodge will verify the service, determine eligibility for the War Service or Military Service Medal, and complete the award process.

The SAR Handbook states that veterans can be awarded either the Military Service or War Service Medals, and only one can be worn. More specifics about the award, the SAR awards order of precedence, and other SAR awards can be found in the SAR Handbook, Volume 5.

The URL for the SAR Handbook is <https://www.sar.org/compatriots/member-tools/sar-handbook>.

If the compatriot uses this link, they will receive an error message. Just click the "Login" tab at the top of the page and enter your username and password; doing so, will give you access to the handbook.

As a reminder, the George Washington Chapter will purchase the medals and certificates, so --

**Compatriots only have to provide proof of service to receive the awards.**

**If there are any questions, the point of contact is Compatriot Bodge at: [gbodge@hotmail.com](mailto:gbodge@hotmail.com)**

## Patriot Research System How You Can Bring Our Patriots To Life

One of the responsibilities we have as members of the NSSAR is the recognition and honoring of our Revolutionary War military veterans and civilian patriots. To this end, I have been actively involved with the development and implementation of the NSSAR Patriot Research System (PRS), which details the revolutionary war lineages and biographies of our Patriots. Click on the link below for more information:

<https://sarpatriots.sar.org>

A key part of making the PRS a success is an effort to upload all of the existing approved lineages based on the NSSAR approved record copy (RC) you got when you first joined the Society. These RCs detail the Compatriot's lineage to his Patriot as well as critical information about each Patriot. There are efforts underway in several State Societies to organize teams of volunteers to enter RC information. I am proposing we join these efforts, with the immediate goal of entering the RC information for each GWSAR member, ensuring all of our Chapter's Patriots are honored.

If you are interested in joining me in this highly rewarding and worthwhile effort, please contact me at (703) 455-8317 or [webmaster@gwsar.org](mailto:webmaster@gwsar.org).

You can volunteer for as many, or as few, hours as your schedule permits.

Jamie Callender