



April 13, 2019

Opening Remarks

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Welcome. I'm David Thomas, President of the George Washington Chapter, and welcome to the April George Washington Chapter meeting and its 65th Anniversary celebration. From the George Washington Chapter membership and the Chapter Officers we are honored to have you with us today.

This month, 65 years ago, the George Washington Chapter was chartered and joined the Virginia Society – at that time in 1954 there were only 14 members lead by Chapter President, Robert Duncan. Today, the George Washington Chapter is 250 members strong with activities that would amaze the founding members. The Chapter goals and ideals they had back then, are not that different when compared with today.

For those guests here today who are not familiar with the Sons of the American Revolution, a few highlights:

- The SAR was founded in 1889 – on the 100th Anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington
- Currently, the SAR has over 34,000 members in 500 plus chapters across the U.S., Mexico, and Europe
- The SAR is divided into state societies – the Virginia Society, founded in 1890, had as its first president, William Henry, grandson of Patrick Henry
- SAR membership is based on lineal descent of a patriot who served in the military during the American Revolution, Signed the Declaration of Independence, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence

“The Objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational; to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to

inspire them and the community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom.”

The Chapter’s main events reflect our commitment to community, honoring our veterans, honoring our patriot ancestors and our long commitment to educate our youth on the American Revolution. Our major events include but are not limited to - marching in the George Washington Birthday Parade; marching in the National Memorial Day Parade; 4th of July March to the Tomb & Wreath Laying at Mt. Vernon; Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery; Veterans Day Wreath Laying ceremony at Mt. Vernon and support to the Wreaths Across America program at Alexandria National Cemetery. The Chapter has donated tens of thousands of dollars over the years to a vast array of objectives – from assisting in preserving historical sites, to donations gathered in support of the National Library for the Study of George Washington. Many of these events represent decades of tradition.

As I reflect on the past 65 years, one realizes that it’s the fellow compatriots that are the most important - they are the heart and soul of the Chapter. It’s to our Chapter membership that I pay my highest respect and honor in observance of this 65th Anniversary, and as we celebrate the founding of the George Washington Chapter.

Once again, welcome from the Chapter members and Officers of the George Washington Chapter. We hope that you will enjoy today’s program. Thank you.

Dave Thomas
President, George Washington Chapter, SAR