



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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June, 2009

Calling All Compatriots! Marching Down Constitution Avenue to Rousing Applause

Your George Washington Chapter will once again hoist the colors and march in the National Memorial Day Parade on May 25th. This activity is building momentum and representatives from several other chapters, state societies and NSSAR will also participate. After several successful years of remembering those who fought and died to preserve our freedom, the parade now fittingly draws over a quarter million spectators and features more than 200 participating units.



G.W. Chapter Members assemble for the Memorial Day Parade, May 2007. [File photo]

Please plan on joining your G.W. Chapter Compatriots this year for this meaningful event. It's an easy route to march so bring the family.

We will assemble at **1:30 p.m.** on 7th Street, NW between Madison and Jefferson Drives. If

you're not familiar with this location, it is on the National Mall between the National Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. You may arrive as early as 12:30 p.m. in order to find good parking. The parade kicks off at 2:00 p.m. and we should be finished no later than 3:30 p.m. – in ample time to return home for a backyard barbeque.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Vern McHargue at 703-313-0671 or vmchargue@verizon.net.

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George Washington Chapter and Mount Vernon Join in a Celebration of Independence Day

This year, as in past years, we will again be a major participant in a wreath-laying ceremony at General Washington's Tomb on Independence Day. At press time, the agenda for this event was unavailable. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to expect that this year's schedule of events will not differ significantly from past Independence Day celebrations. In addition, we anticipate that this year Mount Vernon's annual **Naturalization Ceremony** for new citizens will also take place on Independence Day. Our chapter has also played a significant part in the Naturalization Ceremony.

What follows is a description of **a previous year's schedule**. You may use that schedule as a **guide**, but please check your e-mail for a message containing this year's schedule. That will be transmitted as soon as it becomes available. **Please join us for this important chapter activity.**

For planning purposes, here's what you can expect:

Please join us on July 4, for our annual wreath-laying ceremony at General Washington's Tomb. If you were with us last year, you will remember what a wonderful experience it was. If you missed it last year, please be sure to mark your calendar for this year's event. The ceremony will be similar to last year's memorable event. We will gather at the Texas Gate and be escorted to our assembly area. From there, we will form ranks behind the Fifes & Drums of Prince William III and proceed to the Tomb. Along the way many other Mount Vernon visitors will join our procession.



Compatriots Briggs and Torrans at the Speaker's Podium, July 4, 2007
[File photo]

In the glade near the Tomb there will be a brief ceremony and an address by our Chapter President. Then two uniformed Boy Scouts will carry our wreath to the General's Tomb. Each participant will be provided a red carnation to place at the Tomb's entrance. This solemn tribute to our Founding Father and First President is a tradition you can help to keep alive.

Now, here are the particulars: On July 4, SAR members and their immediate family members should gather near the Texas Gate (main pedestrian entrance) at Mount Vernon. You should arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. Complimentary admission will be provided only for those making a timely arrival. On arrival, you will be escorted to the assembly area where the procession to the tomb will commence promptly at 10:00 a.m. Please remember that we

will be very much in the public eye, so members and their immediate family should be appropriately attired. Chapter members are encouraged to wear their SAR rosettes and medals. We expect warm weather and therefore plan to have water available on the site.



Compatriot Briggs and our wreath at General Washington's Tomb
[File photo, 2007]

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A Post-Event Gathering

Chapter Treasurer Paul Briggs and his wife have again invited us to their Alexandria home for a 4th of July Picnic following the Mount Vernon event. Please note their invitation at the conclusion of this newsletter.

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Dr. Bruce Cole Addresses the Chapter

We were honored to welcome Dr. Bruce Cole to the speaker's podium at our May 9th meeting. Dr. Cole is the CEO of the American Revolution Center (ARC). He related the plans and progress of this new facility, which will be located on a 78 acre tract near Valley Forge National Park.

The ARC will establish the first international center to commemorate the entire story of the American



Dr. Cole receives the coveted bust of General Washington from Vice President McHargue.

Revolution. Its museum will display the Center's distinguished collection of objects, artifacts and manuscripts from the American Revolution. It will provide an education center for the study of the American Revolution, and the enduring principles of democracy upon which our Nation was founded. There will be both an on-site and a distance learning facility to bring the history of the American Revolution alive for people of all ages worldwide. The ARC will also host programs, lectures and symposia to commemorate the entire story of the American Revolution and its ongoing legacy.

Compatriots may follow the progress of this important project by visiting its web site at www.americanrevolutioncenter.org.

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President's Column

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

Our May speaker, Dr. Bruce Cole drew a good luncheon crowd for our last monthly meeting before our summer break. As the CEO of the new American Revolutionary War Museum, he advised us of plans to construct such a museum and a monument to the patriots who fought for our independence at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The

land has been obtained but some litigation remains to be resolved.

Our members were surprised to learn that no museum dedicated to the Revolution currently exists. Clearly this is a project that the SAR, DAR and other patriotic organizations should be interested in and involved with.

We have a number of events planned during the break, including the Memorial Day Parade march in DC and our annual July 4th commemoration at Mount Vernon. This year, we expect the annual Naturalization Ceremony also to be conducted on July 4 at Mount Vernon. Several members, including myself, also plan to attend portions of the NSSAR's annual meeting in Atlanta in July.

Given a number of issues pending before the Board of Managers, we plan to hold a special planning meeting at my home on Saturday, June 6. The meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. until noon at 9061 Tower House Place in Alexandria. Members are welcome to attend should they so desire. Should you require directions, my home number is 703-619-9751.

Bob Carr, our Chapter Registrar, advised us that our chapter has 17 pending applications for membership. This is good news and we look forward to their ultimate admission. The BOM is continuing to explore ways to increase attendance among existing members.

I hope to see you at one or more chapter events over the summer.

Compatriotically yours,

Dave Walker
Chapter President

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Opportunity Available

If you have been looking for a way to participate more fully in the activities of our chapter, a great opportunity now looms on the horizon. At our May meeting, Compatriot Butch Chaboudy stepped to the podium and announced that in a few months he will be moving from Northern Virginia. Consequently, he will not be available to serve as chairman of our JROTC Committee after the present school term ends. For the past three years, he has managed the chapter's responsibilities in coordinating the award of the SAR Bronze ROTC medal to JROTC cadets at local high schools. He also served as a liaison between our chapter

and local JROTC units. He reports that participating in the presentation of the SAR JROTC medals to outstanding cadets is a very satisfying experience.

Compatriot Chaboudy has several medals to present before the end of the present school term. This is a perfect time to step forward and serve a brief apprenticeship with him before assuming the chairmanship of this important program for the next school year. He is also going to complete the CY 2009 activity report and order sufficient award materials to cover the next two years. Interested chapter members should waste no time in contacting Butch Chaboudy. He may be reached by phone at 703-406-3720 or by e-mail at chaboudyc@aol.com.

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Registrar's Report

New Member Applications

The chapter continues to grow as we receive more new applicants. Fourteen new applications are in process. Some are awaiting additional material from the individual or from the DAR Library. Two applications have been forwarded to NSSAR for approval.

Supplemental Applications

Two supplemental applications are at NSSAR for approval. There continues to be a supplemental backlog. Ten have been returned by the applicants after their review. Six are still in draft form and need applicant review. Priority continues to be given to new membership applications.

Please submit only one supplemental application at a time. Make sure that copies of all documentation are included with the application, including a record copy of your initial application to SAR, if applicable.

Reinstatement Applications

Over thirty-five requests for reinstatement have been made to NSAAR through VASSAR since February, 2009. To date, I have not received notice of any approvals. If you have received notification of reinstatement, please let me know so your status can be updated on the chapter roster. I will notify you immediately of any approvals received.

Application Notes

Compatriots with names of potential new members should provide the candidates name to me or one of the chapter officers. I have available a new member information packet that includes a letter of introduction as well as documents explaining application procedures and the benefits of being a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. I will have several packets available at our monthly meetings. During the summer break you can e-mail me at capt7cs@aol.com or call me at 703-407-4496.

2010 Dues Invoices

The 2010 dues notifications will be sent out in September. It is hoped that by doing so we can avoid the numerous reinstatement applications experienced this year. These notifications will also be seeking each member's assistance in updating our records on your type of membership as well as personal data such as current e-mail address and telephone number. If you have changed your mailing address during the past six months, please send me your new address by either e-mail or a telephone call. This will assist in assuring that you receive your dues notification expeditiously.

Bob Carr
Registrar

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In 1776, nothing, including the news, traveled faster than a fast horse could carry it. Consequently, General Washington and his soldiers, encamped near New York, did not learn of the signing of the Declaration of Independence until July 9, 1776. Washington's orders issued on that day are reproduced below:

General Orders

Head Quarters, New York
July 9th 1776

Parole: Manchester

Countersign: Norfolk.

John Evans of Capt. Ledyard's Company Col. McDougall's Regiment - Hopkins Rice of Capt. Pierce's Company Col. Ritzema's Regiment having been tried by a General Court Martial whereof Col. Read was President and found guilty of "Desertion," were sentenced to receive each Thirty-nine Lashes. The General approves the Sentences and orders them to be executed at the usual time & place.

Passes to go from the City are hereafter to be granted by John Berrien, Henry Wilmot and John Ray Junr a Committee of the City appointed for that purpose - Officers of the Guards at the Ferries and Wharves, to be careful in making this regulation known to the sentries, who are to see that the passes are signed by one of the above persons, and to be careful no Soldier goes over the Ferry without a pass from a General officer.

The North River Guard to be removed to the Market House near the Ferry-Stairs, as soon as it is fitted up.

The Honorable Continental Congress having been pleased to allow a Chaplain to each Regiment, with the pay of Thirty-three Dollars and one third a month - The Colonels or commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure Chaplains accordingly; persons of good Characters and exemplary lives - To see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect and attend carefully upon religious exercises: The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger - The General hopes and trusts, that every officer, and man, will endeavor so to live, and act, as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties or his country.

The Honorable Continental Congress, impelled by the dictates of duty, policy and necessity, having been pleased to dissolve the Connection which subsisted between this Country, and Great Britain, and to declare the United Colonies of North America, free and independent STATES: The several brigades are to be drawn up this evening on their respective Parades, at six O'clock, when the declaration of Congress, shewing the grounds & reasons of this measure, is to be read with an audible voice.

The General hopes this important Event will serve as a fresh incentive to every officer, and soldier, to act with Fidelity and Courage, as knowing that now the peace and safety of his Country depends (under God) solely on the success of our arms: And that he is now in the service of a State, possessed of sufficient power to reward his merit, and advance him to the highest Honors of a free Country.

The Brigade Majors are to receive, at the Adjutant Generals Office, several of the Declarations to be delivered to the Brigadiers General, and the Colonels of regiments.

The Brigade Majors are to be excused from farther attendance at Head Quarters, except to receive the Orders of the day, that their time and attention may be withdrawn as little as possible, from the duties of their respective brigades.

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Looking Forward

May

- 25 National Memorial Day Parade - this is a great event for the G.W. Chapter.
- 29-30 Tribute to Pioneers and Pathfinders - Siege at the Blockhouse - Natural Tunnel State Park - Scott County, VA - 29th - 6 pm - continues on the 30th at 9:00 am.

June

- 6 G.W. Chapter Board of Managers meeting - 10:30 am.

July

- 3-8 119th Annual Congress - Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA
- 4 Independence Day Celebration at Mount Vernon. In addition to a wreath-laying ceremony, festivities include patriotic music and re-enactments by the First Virginia Regiment.

September

- 12 The next meeting of our chapter. Dr. John Maas from the US Army Center for Military History will be the guest speaker.
- 17 Constitution Day - Montpelier, VA
- 18-19 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting - Virginia Beach, VA
- 23-26 National Fall Trustees/Leadership Meetings - Louisville, KY

October

- 19 Battle of Yorktown - Yorktown, VA - 10:00 am

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July 4th, 2009 "Picnic of Patriots," an Invitation

Who: George Washington Chapter SAR members and families

What: Backyard picnic and social with food, beverages, beer and cocktails

When: 12:30 PM, following ceremony at Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon

Where: Home of Paul and Gina Briggs

7213 Regent Drive (Villamay)

Alexandria, VA 22307

Dress: Patriotic casual attire (wear some red white and blue)

RSVP: (703) 768-6910, or email gnpbriggs@cox.net

(so we can get a count)

Directions:

6 miles north of Mount Vernon

- North on George Washington Parkway;
- Left Morningside
- Right Park Terrace,
- Left Villamay Boulevard,
- Right Regent Drive (4th home on right)

