



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Volume 9, Issue 10

December, 2009

*** * * NOW HEAR THIS * * ***

**The George Washington Chapter will host a special Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner
on the evening of Saturday, January 9, 2010,
to present the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Award
to
The Honorable Eric Shinseki.**

Details are presented elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Please reserve your place at the table by using the special reservation form on the last page of this Newsletter.

Our Next Meeting Will Be Held on December 12

At the December meeting, Compatriots will elect officers to lead our chapter in 2010. The slate of officers prepared by the nominating committee is:

For President:	Bob Carr
For Vice President:	Paul Briggs
For Treasurer:	Michael Elston
For Secretary:	Don Kellerman

Following the election, the new officers will be installed in a ceremony conducted by VASSAR President Bill Simpson.

President Simpson has also agreed to be our speaker for the December meeting and has promised an interesting address.

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November Activities

Veterans Day Wreath-laying Ceremony at Washington's Tomb



Rain and cold did not deter those who honored our service members at Washington's Tomb on Veterans Day.

The dismal weather we experienced on Veterans Day did not dampen the ardor of the sturdy patriots who gathered at Washington's Tomb to remember our Founding Father and to recognize the service of past and present members of the Nation's uniformed services.



VADAR Chaplain
Carol Howerton

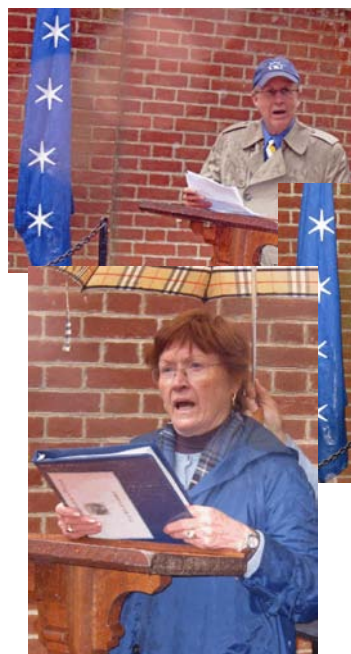
Former and present service members received free admission to Mount Vernon and were welcomed at the estate's entrance by members of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter DAR.

At the Tomb, DAR ladies provided red carnations which guests placed respectfully by the General's sarcophagus.



Chapter Vice President McHargue and
Treasurer Briggs place a wreath at
Washington's Tomb.

A brief ceremony was conducted at two o'clock when our chapter presented a wreath. Chapter President Walker made brief remarks which were followed by remarks from Kate Waller Barrett Regent Nancy Valley and the reading of Washington's *Prayer for our Country* by Barbara Mc Joynt.



GW Chapter President
Dave Walker



Kate Waller Barrett
Regent Nancy Valley

KWB Member
Barbara McJoynt

November 14th Luncheon Meeting

Chapter President Walker made a number of important announcements at the November 14th meeting. These are covered in his column below.

Our guest speaker was Ms. Denise McHugh. She is the Education Coordinator at Gunston Hall, where she has worked since 1991. She supervises the Gunston Hall education program and coordinates the activities of both Gunston Hall staff members and a large volunteer corps in effectively presenting the history of Gunston Hall and its master, George Mason.

Ms. McHugh's address, illustrated with slides, discussed the restoration and current exhibition of Gunston Hall. The structure, completed in 1759, passed through a succession of owners before being acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia, now the owner of the residence and 550 acres of Mason's original plantation. Unaided by a detailed inventory of Mason's home, comprehensive studies of other 18th century estates have been used to furnish and decorate Gunston Hall as it would have appeared during Mason's life.

The original grounds of this large plantation included about 30 outbuildings. Extensive research and archaeological explorations have been used to reconstruct Gunston Hall's gardens and outbuildings which now show visitors how a wealthy planter lived in colonial times.



Ms. Denise McHugh accepts the coveted bust of George Washington from Chapter Vice President Vern McHargue.

Ms. McHugh described George Mason as a home-centered and loving father. The fact that he preferred to stay near his home resulted in few letters to his family, thus limiting primary sources of information on his life. Though much of his influence was wielded behind the scenes, Mason is recognized as an important member of our Founding Fathers. He held strong views on the protection of individual liberty and the importance of a limited central government. Although a member of the Constitutional Convention, Mason refused to sign the document as drafted in Philadelphia because individual rights were, in his view, inadequately protected. He argued against Virginia's ratification but, after the addition of our "Bill of Rights," supported the Constitution.

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Wreath-laying at Tomb of the Unknowns Arlington National Cemetery

The sun broke through an overcast sky to brighten the scene of our Chapter's annual presentation of a wreath at the Tomb of the

Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. This ceremony, held on November 21, was witnessed by a large gathering of cemetery visitors.



Assisted by Honor Guard soldiers, Chapter Vice President McHargue, President Walker, Treasurer Briggs and Registrar Carr place our wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Our Chapter has established this recognition of our fallen heroes as an annual event, held each



Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known only to God.

November on a Saturday following Veterans Day.

Eight chapter members attended this year's ceremony.



George Washington Chapter members gathered at the Tomb following the ceremony.

From left to right: Floyd Ryan, Don Kraft, Bob Carr, Paul Briggs, Dennis Hickey and Jack Felt.

Not shown: Dave Walker and Vern McHargue

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The Chapter President's Column

Compatriots,

First and foremost, we have a very special evening planned for Saturday January 9, 2010, at the Mount Vernon Inn. During that evening, we will host a Gold Good Citizenship Award Banquet honoring former Army Chief of Staff and current Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki, in lieu of our normal monthly meeting. We expect several VASSAR officers, members of other SAR chapters in our area, and members of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter of the DAR to attend. We fully expect to sell out this event and seating is limited. Therefore, please sign-up right away by either calling or emailing Paul Briggs at gnpbriggs@cox.net or using the reservation form on the last page of this newsletter.

My wife Mary and I will be moving to Connecticut in the spring. Therefore, I will not be able to stand for re-election as your Chapter President. The Nominations Committee, comprised of former Chapter Presidents Don Reynolds, Kenan Torrans, and myself recommended a slate of officers for calendar 2010. Bob Carr, current Chapter Registrar, heads the list of nominees which is

outlined on page 1 of this newsletter. We will vote on this slate of officers and have them installed by VASSAR President Bill Simpson at our December meeting.

Former VASSAR President Joe Dooley has done the research to prove that President Barack Obama is eligible for membership in the SAR. He and I plan to recommend him for membership and I am pursuing this matter with the White House on our behalf.

The Board of Managers discussed the results of the recent member survey. While the overall results were positive, there were several comments that deserved special consideration. One repeated concern related to the price of our monthly luncheon. Based on member comments, the Board of Managers approved a reduction in the price of the monthly luncheon from \$35 to \$30 effective next month. Several other issues were discussed and will be followed-up by the Board of Managers in the future.

We have a special grave marking ceremony planned for December 20. Please see the events calendar on page 6 of this newsletter for this and other planned events.

In closing, it has been my pleasure to serve as your Chapter President in 2009. During the year, we have added about 10 new members and we have 10 more applications in process. Bob Carr has led our Chapter's efforts to ensure the accuracy of our membership roles and dues efforts. As always, we have participated in a number of community events and SAR initiatives. We have also taken steps to increase our Chapter's involvement with both national and state level meetings, awards and other activities. In addition, under the leadership of Chapter Secretary Mike Elston, we have designed and implemented our first chapter website. Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done. I am confident that your new Chapter officers, under the very capable leadership of Compatriot Bob Carr, are up to the task.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chapter president. And thanks to all of my fellow officers, our committee chairmen and other chapter members for everything that you did in 2009.

Yours in Service to our Nation,

Dave Walker
Chapter President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Plaque Dedication at

OPMH Hamilton Avenue Cemetery

Please join us on Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH) Auxiliary Cemetery on Hamilton Avenue in Alexandria as we conduct a ceremony dedicating a memorial plaque to the Patriots resting there who served in the Revolutionary War. The St. Andrews Society Color Guard with pipes and drums as well as the VASSAR Color Guard will participate and all members of OPMH, St. Andrews Society, and SAR and their guests are invited to attend.

The Rev. Ann Herlin, Associate Pastor of OPMH, will offer the blessing and there will be brief remarks by Chapter President Dave Walker and Vice President Vern McHargue. Mr. Hugh M. VanHorn, Chairman of the OPMH History & Archives Committee, will present a brief history of the Presbyterian Cemetery and discuss a few of the Patriots who are mentioned on the plaque.

This will be a memorable event, and we look forward to seeing you there.

To find the cemetery, from South Patrick Street (U.S. Rt 1) turn west onto Wilkes Street, then turn left onto Hamilton Avenue which is near the end of Wilkes Street.

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New Application Fee

The November newsletter advised that NSSAR had increased the new application fee for 2010 from \$60.00 to \$80.00 effective January 1, 2010. This week the State Registrar informed all registrars that the date used in determining whether the old or new fee applies is the date that the application is received at National Headquarters in Louisville, KY, not the date the applicant signs his application. Therefore, considering that it takes from 20 to 30 days of processing time for a new application to move from the Chapter Registrar through the State Registrar to National Headquarters, all new applications submitted after December 1, 2009 and forward will require the new application fee of \$80.00 and the new national dues of \$30.00.

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Membership Cards

The 2010 Membership Cards will be mailed to all dues paying members in early December. The card you will receive is obtained from NSSAR and apparently it is used by other chapters and state societies as a dues billing statement as well as a membership card. You will note that the dues portion of the card has been marked "PAID IN FULL" so please do not think we are hitting you up again for dues. This is the most expeditious method to provide you a quality membership card that many of you have requested.

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New Data Base for Researchers

The DAR has created several online databases that are available to the general public. It is known as the DAR Genealogical Research System. I encourage you to visit the various databases to add to your research. The link to the databases is: http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm.

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Registrars Report

New Members: The George Washington Chapter continues to grow. At present, eleven new members await induction. We have eight membership certificates in hand and are awaiting receipt of three additional certificates from National. Three of these new members either live out of the area or are in school. The remainder live in the area. There are three new members' applications either at State or National awaiting approval. Ten new applications are being worked, of which three have gone back to the applicants for review and signature. Two transfers from C.A.R. to SAR are in process and one reinstatement is being worked.

Supplemental Applications: Three supplemental applications are being processed at State. Eight drafts have been returned to applicants for review and signature and sixteen other supplemental applications are in process. This backlog is the result of priority being given to processing all new member applications ahead of supplemental applications.

All supplemental applications are being processed based on receipt date. Where a member

has submitted multiple supplemental applications, only one will be processed before moving on to the next member submission in the queue.

There are other members who have supplemental applications to submit. Those members should submit their supplemental in order to get in the queue. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

Application Notes: Any Compatriot having the name of someone who is interested in joining our chapter, please e-mail me (capt7cs@aol.com) their name and address and I will send them an information packet along with a letter explaining the application procedures and the benefits of being a member of our chapter. If you would like to have a New Member packet to give to someone, see me at the meeting and pick up a packet.

SAR National Web Site: I would encourage all Chapter members to log on to the SAR National web site at www.sar.org. The web page was recently upgraded and is easier to navigate. Also the headings of drop-down menus make more sense. Chapter, State and National web sites are sources of significant information concerning SAR activities.

Bob Carr
Registrar

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 200 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.

Present officers are:

President: Dave Walker 703-619-9751
Vice President: Vern McHargue 202-439-1530
Secretary: Mike Elston 703-680-0866
Treasurer: Paul Briggs 703-768-6910
Registrar: Bob Carr 703-780-3066

This monthly newsletter is edited by Don Kraft, who depends heavily on inputs from chapter officers and committee chairmen. Inputs from others are always welcome. Please send your inputs and comments to kraftdon@att.net or call 703-451-6132.

Calendar of Coming Events

December

- 9 Battle of Great Bridge. Details TBA.
- 12 GW Chapter Luncheon Meeting, **Officers for the coming year will be elected and inducted at this meeting.** VASSAR President Bill Simpson will be our Guest Speaker.
- 14 Wreaths Across America, National Cemeteries, noon.
- 20 At 2:00 p.m., our Chapter will conduct a ceremony to dedicate a plaque recognizing the patriot ancestors buried in the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Auxiliary Cemetery at Hamilton Avenue, Alexandria. VASSAR and St. Andrew's Color Guards will participate.

January

- 9 **Special Evening Meeting.** General Eric Shinseki, former Chief of Staff of the Army and current Secretary of Veterans Affairs will formally accept the Gold Good Citizenship Award and speak to our chapter at this meeting.

February

- 12-13 2010 VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond. [Be alert for possible change in our normal monthly meeting date, which conflicts with the VASSAR Annual Meeting.]
- 20 Crossing of the Dan, South Boston, VA
- 22 Chapter wreath-laying ceremony at Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier and participation in Alexandria's Washington's Birthday Parade. Details TBD.

December 12, 2009

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please use this form to make a reservation for the chapter's lunch at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. **The lunch cost has been reduced to \$30.00 per person.** Check in and social time begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon. Feel free to invite your wife and friends as your guests.

RSVP no later than Monday, December 7th.

Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but note that to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of \$35.00 is required.

Name: _____

A check for ____ persons in the amount of \$ ____ payable to **G. W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.
Mail this reservation form with your check to:

F. Paul Briggs, Treasurer
7213 Regent Drive
Alexandria, VA 22307

You may also phone (703) 768-6910 and leave a message or e-mail gnpbriggs@cox.net.
Please include "SAR reservation for (spell out name)" on the subject line of the e-mail. **It is important to provide advance notice of attendance to be sure you get a seat.**

Valet parking is available.

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January 9, 2010

Special Evening Meeting Reservation Form

Please use this form to make a reservation for the chapter's special evening meeting at the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, Virginia. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Check in and social time begin at 6:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony and address by the Honorable Eric Shinseki will begin at 7:00 in the Smith Auditorium followed by dinner in the restaurant. **Dress: Black tie optional.** Parking is free and convenient.

RSVP no later than December 31, 2009. Seating is limited! Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Name: _____

A check for ____ persons in the amount of \$ ____ payable to **G. W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.
Mail this reservation form with your check to:

F. Paul Briggs, Treasurer
7213 Regent Drive
Alexandria, VA 22307

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