



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 4

April, 2009

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of our chapter will be held on Saturday, April 11, at our usual venue. Mr. Michael Cecere will be the guest speaker and has selected "Potomac Raids of 1781 and American Revolution History in Today's High Schools" as his topic. Mr. Cecere teaches American History at Robert E. Lee High School in Fairfax County. He was named the 2005 Outstanding Teacher of the Year by VASSAR. Mr. Cecere also teaches American History at the Northern Virginia Community College and is the author of several acclaimed books on the Revolutionary War. An avid Revolutionary War and Civil War reenactor, he participates in numerous living history events throughout the year. He holds Masters Degrees in both History and Political Science from the University of Akron.

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## President's Column

Fellow Compatriots,

I was fortunate to be asked to deliver the Keynote Speech at the March, 2009, NSSAR Leadership and Trustees Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. The title for my speech was "Fighting for America's Future." It addresses the principles and values on which our great nation was founded and for which our Revolutionary War patriots and ancestors fought, and for which some died, as well as various challenges that currently confront our nation. You can find a copy of my speech at <http://www.pgpf.org/newsroom/oped/nssar>. [Text of the speech also printed in this newsletter.]

The Annual Meeting included some newsworthy business. For example, Judge Ed Butler from San Antonio, Texas, was elected the new President General of NSSAR. He will be installed at the NSSAR Annual Meeting in Atlanta this July. I had the opportunity to have breakfast with Ed and he has asked me to be involved in NSSAR's

strategic planning efforts. In doing so, I plan to raise a number of the membership issues (e.g., paperwork requirements) and concerns we have been discussing recently in our chapter. Importantly, the proposal to borrow \$5,000,000 to improve the new headquarters building and museum was withdrawn by Bruce Wilcox. NSSAR will now try and mount a fund-raising campaign in addition to seeking government funding.

Your Board of Managers (BOM) is working to create a web site for our chapter in order to facilitate communications and aid in our member service, recruiting, activation and SAR relations efforts. This is one of my goals for the year. Vice President Vern McHargue has also lined up good speakers for the next several meetings. They can be found in the newsletter. The BOM is also exploring ways in which to make the annual dues process less challenging for both members and chapter officers. This month's newsletter contains a related announcement.

While our George Washington Chapter has many members, as with many volunteer organizations, only a relatively small fraction attend monthly meetings. I want to thank my fellow Compatriots who attend regularly. I'd also ask that those Compatriots who do not to consider doing so on a more frequent basis in the future. I'm confident that you will enjoy the speakers and the fellowship.

All the best,  
Dave Walker  
Chapter President

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## Knight Essay Award Winner

During the George Washington Chapter's regular March meeting, the chapter honored this year's winner of the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest and presented him with a \$200 cash prize. The winner of the chapter's contest was Colin Chaddock, a home schooled high school senior from Alexandria, Virginia. The Knight Essay Contest is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors and calls for

an original researched and documented essay dealing with an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Essays are judged on the following five criteria: historical accuracy, clarity of thought, organization and proven topic, grammar and spelling, and documentation.



Accompanied by his father, Colin Chadduck is congratulated by Contest Chairman Mike Elston.

Chadduck's winning essay was titled "Canada, Our Fourteenth Colony." The paper addressed the reasons Canada did not join the fight for independence and remained loyal to the British Crown instead of becoming the fourteenth state. While the leaders of the Revolution made overtures toward their fellow colonists in Canada and launched military ventures toward the north, none of these efforts succeeded. Chadduck's paper concluded that decades of battles with the colonies to the south while Canada was still a French colony combined with more tolerant rule from Westminster made Canadians generally unreceptive toward the call to arms against the King from the colonies to the south.

The deadline for submissions for the 2010 Knight Essay Contest is December 31, 2009. Chapter members should encourage any eligible students they know to participate by submitting an essay. The chapter winner is eligible to compete at the state and national levels. The national winner receives \$2,000; a recognition certificate and medal; airfare and one night hotel stay for the winner and a chaperone at the SAR Annual Congress. The last time the Virginia Society winner went on to win the national contest was 1999. Information and contest rules are available at the SAR website at <http://www.sar.org/youth/knight.html> or from contest chairman Michael Elston at [melston@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:melston@mcguirewoods.com).

Provided by Mike Elston

## Registrar's Report

### Membership

We continue to experience a slow down in the number of prospective members over the past several months. Since my March report, we have three transfers, four new members, two supplemental applications and fifteen reinstatements in process at NSSAR. I am presently working on three new member applications and over 30 supplemental applications. Four new members are awaiting induction.

Presently, fourteen prospective members are in various states of work. Compatriots with names of prospective members should contact Bob Carr at 703-780-3066 or e-mail to [capt7cs@aol.com](mailto:capt7cs@aol.com) and provide the prospective member's telephone number and home address. A New Member packet with application instructions and membership information will be provided. If you would like a New Member packet for a prospective member, pick one up from Bob at the next meeting.

### Application Notes

In the March Newsletter, I updated you NSSAR's recent announcement regarding the acceptability of the DAR single "tick mark" applications in support of SAR applications and indicated that this matter would be addressed at the National Trustee and Genealogical Committee meeting at Louisville, Kentucky, in March. The committee met and subsequently on March 14, Secretary General Ed Butler issued the following notice on SAR-Talk:

*Compatriots,*

*This past week-end at the NSSAR Leadership meeting, the Genealogy Committee voted decisively to uphold the long-standing SAR policy that only those DAR applications may be considered on which specific genealogical facts are documented. The NSSAR Executive Committee expressed its appreciation to Genealogist General Joe Dooley and Genealogy Committee Chairman, Dick Fetzer for conducting the meeting in a fair, professional, and impartial manner, giving each side equal time to speak, and providing a learned parliamentarian to assist the chair. All members of the committee acted as gentlemen, which is a credit to our Society. The committee room was packed with members standing in the back and overflowing into the hallway. Thanks go to all who participated in ratifying the interpretation of the Genealogist General on this issue.*

*Fraternally,*

*Ed Butler*

*NSSAR Secretary General.*

On March 18, 2009, Genealogist General Joe Dooley issued the following explanation regarding the ruling by the committee:

*As Secretary General Ed Butler has already indicated in his notice on SAR-Talk on March 14, 2009, a*

*proposal was made to revise the current SAR policy regarding the acceptability of DAR applications as documentation for lineage or patriotic service. The current policy provides that DAR applications may be considered only insofar as specific facts are sufficiently documented on any given DAR application. The proposal to revise this policy would provide for DAR applications with "center check marks" to be accepted as documentation for lineage or patriotic service. Examples were given of DAR applications with "center check marks" that were based on old DAR applications that had insufficient or no documentation. The proposal failed, and the policy remains unchanged.*

Joe also included in his e-mail a change in the policy regarding the use of DNA in SAR applications.

*Current policy provides that the SAR may consider DNA evidence in cases relying on the preponderance of evidence when 36 out of 37 markers on the Y-chromosome match between an applicant and a known solid-line male descendant of a known and approved patriot. This policy has now been revised to allow for either 36 out of 37 markers, or 65 out of 67 markers.*

Please see the revised website for more details.

Bob Carr  
Registrar

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## Chapter, Virginia and National Dues

Your Board of Managers, more specifically the Registrar, the Treasurer, Secretary and the Vice President (Bob Carr, Paul Briggs, Mike Elston, and Vern McHargue, respectively) have been working hard to reconcile our chapter's membership roles with those maintained by VASSAR and NSSAR. It has proven to be more complicated than you might think, and the task is exacerbated by the way members are dropped from the roles if their annual dues are not paid in a timely manner. Given several challenges resulting from this past dues cycle, the Board of Managers has decided to mail the 2010 annual dues notices during the first week of September, 2009. This will ensure several more weeks of lead time for individual payment of annual dues (currently \$65). With more lead time, the chapter can issue more reminder notices thus ensuring that higher percentage of chapter members will submit their dues on time. Hopefully, this will help to avoid the onerous reinstatement process required by NSSAR when dues are not paid before the November 30 deadline. Unfortunately, despite our suggestions to the contrary, this annual NSSAR deadline cannot be waived and there is no grace period under current procedures.

Additional reminders are being sent to several members who have yet to pay their dues for 2009.

## Our March Meeting

In his remarks, our guest speaker Dr. Daniel Driesbach, spoke on how religion influenced the life of General Washington. Dr. Driesach drew upon selections from Washington's "circular letter" to the governors of the colonies and Washington's farewell address issued on his retirement from the presidency in 1796. Citing those and other primary sources, he made a convincing case that Washington believed that religion and morality were indispensable supports of public life and to a civil society.



Vice President McHargue presents the traditional George Washington bust to Dr. Driesbach.

Though much beloved, Washington has been dismissed by some scholars as an intellectual light weight. However, any serious study of Washington's writings reveal that this is not the case. He understood that there must be some force to compel people in a free self-governing society to behave in an orderly and disciplined manner. That force depended on the strong influence of religion and morality - and these two forces are interdependent.

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## Chapter President is Keynote Speaker at NSSAR Leadership Conference

Chapter President Dave Walker gave the keynote address at NSSAR's Spring Leadership Conference which was held in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 5-7. Here is the text of his address:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to address the NSSAR Annual Meeting in Dallas a couple of years ago. I would like to say that things have improved for our country since then; unfortunately such is not the case.

As you may know, I am President of the George Washington Chapter of the SAR in Alexandria, VA. Our Chapter is one of the largest and most active ones in the world. What you may not know is that my wife Mary and I live on land that was once owned by George Washington. Mary is active in the DAR and I am active in the SAR. Why? Because we both care deeply about our country, and we believe that it is important to honor those patriots who sacrificed much so that we can have a free and independent nation. In addition, we are both very concerned about the future of our country and believe that our republic will be "at risk" over time if Washington does not start making tough choices soon.

Let me start with a positive statement and a little history. The United States is a great nation, possibly the greatest in the history of mankind. We have gone from a fledgling nation to the world's only superpower and a beacon of liberty and freedom for people around the globe. Clearly, we have much to be proud of and much to be thankful for. However, it is clear that our society has strayed from a number of key principles and values on which our republic was founded. For example, we have gone:

- From a belief that the federal government should have a limited role to where it is playing a large and expanding role in our society. Believe it or not, in 1789 the federal government represented only 2 percent of the economy. At the end of fiscal 2008, it represented over 20 percent of our economy, and that was before the various bailouts and recent stimulus legislation. And this percentage is set to grow dramatically when "baby boomers" retire in big numbers;

- From a focus on a limited number of express and enumerated roles for the federal government to a point where in fiscal 2008 less than 40 percent of the federal government related to the key roles envisioned by our Founders. These key roles include national defense, the federal judiciary, foreign policy, our treasury functions, the postal service, Congress and the Executive Office of the President. What happened to the Founders' intent that all roles not expressly reserved to the federal government belong to the states and ultimately to the people?

- From a time when George Washington and other Founders cautioned us not to involve ourselves in foreign conflicts to the first "preemptive war" in the history of the U.S., and, contrary to the Constitution's terms, that "war" was never declared by the Congress. In fact, the Congress has not declared "war" since World War II!

- From a culture that valued savings, thrift and had "debtors prisons" to one where both America and too many Americans are "addicted to debt", where household savings rates are near zero, and there is little shame associated with filing bankruptcy;

- From a political system where parties were viewed with skepticism and where politicians left their normal jobs for a period of time to do public service, to where party politics sometimes trumps

the public interest and too many elected officials view their position as a job and want to make a career of it;

- From a country that believed in community and personal responsibility to one where too many people are self-absorbed and will file suit over just about anything if things don't go their way;

- From a society that believed in individual opportunity and public morality to one with a large number of broad-based "entitlement programs", including for middle and upper income individuals, and where the moral indiscretions and escapades of celebrities are frequently in the news; and,

- From a country where people were focused on the future to where too many Americans are living for today rather than taking steps to create a better tomorrow.

Even more seriously, we've gone from a nation of hope and optimism to where, for the first time in our nation's history, a majority of Americans believe that life for their children will not be better than their own. Why? In large part because America faces a range of large and growing deficits and key sustainability challenges that Washington's policymakers are not taking seriously enough. In addition, unlike at the outset of our Republic when we had more than our fair share of great leaders, America faces a serious leadership deficit.

It is time to recognize reality. America is at a critical crossroads and our collective future will largely be determined by what we do and what we fail to do within the next few years. We need to get back to basics, find our way back home, and begin to address the key sustainability challenges that serve to threaten our future before we pass a "tipping point" - and all of us need to be part of the solution.

It's clear that Americans are tired of partisan rhetoric and ideological battles. They want to start seeing some real results - "We the People" deserve no less. Despite this fact, some anti-government, special interest and "status quo" forces like the current stalemate in Washington.

The election of President Obama was greeted with great hope. At the same time, people have very high and somewhat unrealistic expectations for him. In addition, it's pretty clear that the financial markets do not feel that the new Administration is off to a very good start.

This is true, in part, because Washington is both a "lag indicator" and is "crisis oriented." It often doesn't act until it has to and then all too frequently in a manner that lacks clarity and is inadequate. The truth is, Washington's failure to act when things are going well is not necessarily a problem. After all, Washington can sometimes "muck things up." Yes, the word that I used started with an "m" and not another letter. However, having Washington be in a "stalemate position" when things are not going well and are getting worse with the passage of time is totally unacceptable. That is where we are today and our collective clock is ticking!

Importantly, when Washington does act, it needs to do so in a timely, clear and effective manner. For example, in the later days of the Bush Administration, we spent \$350 billion on the first phase of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). What did we get



for our \$350 billion? Not much! In large part because the Congress did not have clearly defined objectives and the Administration did not have clearly defined and consistently applied criteria regarding who would receive assistance or appropriate conditions on what firms could and could not do with the money.

Government can do all it wants to increase transparency and oversight after the money flows but these actions are not enough. After all, once the money has been spent it is G-O-N-E! The federal government must address the objectives, criteria and conditions principles that I have discussed in order to maximize the chance of success and minimize waste, frustration and embarrassment.

It's time for Washington to provide more leadership and less "laggardship". Hopefully, President Obama will do so in connection with our fiscal and other key sustainability challenges, but only time will tell.

Time does not allow me to address all of our sustainability challenges so I will touch on our fiscal and savings challenges.

As the most recent Comptroller General of the United States and our nation's top auditor, I know firsthand that our country's financial condition and fiscal outlook are worse than advertised. According to the latest financial statement of the U.S. Government, when you consider the current "off balance sheet obligations" associated with Social Security and Medicare, the U.S. was in a \$56 trillion plus financial hole as of September 30, 2008. That is equal to \$483,000 per household or about 10 times median household income. And these numbers are before the declaration of an official recession, before the significant market declines that began in October 2008, before the bailout bills associated with the financial services and auto companies, and before consideration of the cost of the economic stimulus bill. Believe it or not, America now owes more than Americans are worth and the gap is growing!

Let's review the trend for the past several years. Federal deficits have gone from \$162 trillion and \$455 trillion in fiscal 2007 and 2008, respectively, to over \$1.6 trillion in fiscal 2009. Total debt levels have gone from about 65 percent of GDP at the end of fiscal 2007 to over 75 percent today. President Obama's fiscal 2010 budget anticipates that our Debt/GDP ratio will reach 89 percent by the end of fiscal 2009 and 96 percent by the end of fiscal 2010. That's up from about 65 percent at the end of fiscal 2007 - or an almost 50 percent increase in 3 years!!

The currently pending Omnibus budget bill for 2009 includes an 8.3 percent discretionary spending increase, including a 10 percent increase for the legislative branch, and thousands of earmarks! This can hardly be described as "leading by example" or as being "fiscally responsible."

Candidly, things seem to be "out of control." We must realize that the factors that contributed to the mortgage-related sub-prime crisis also exist in connection with the federal government's own finances. There are, however, two big differences. First, the numbers are much bigger. And second, no one will bailout America!

Our nation is clearly on an imprudent and

unsustainable fiscal path and our financial condition is deteriorating with the passage of time. We must take a number of steps soon to defuse our "fiscal time bomb" which is driven largely by out of control health care costs and known demographic trends. These steps include, re-imposing tough statutory budget controls, comprehensive Social Security reform, as well as round one of what needs to be a series of comprehensive reforms to our tax and health care systems. Entitlement reform, especially Medicare reform, is essential since that is where tens of trillions of dollars of unfunded promises lie.

While we ultimately need to take steps to address all these areas, given the current recession and our housing, financial services, auto and other industry challenges, the Obama Administration will need to focus foremost on getting past the current crises and turning the economy around. In this regard, we needed a stimulus, unfortunately, only about one-third of the \$787 billion bill that passed can truly be called stimulus. In addition, while President Obama's first budget has more truth and transparency, it includes too much new debt financed spending and not enough transformational reform.

Yes, additional steps will be necessary to address the financial services, housing and auto industries. Hopefully any additional action will address the inadequacies associated with prior efforts, especially in connection with the TARP. This time we need to know what our objectives are. We need to establish criteria regarding who will get the money and what appropriate restrictions and conditions should apply up-front and before funds flow. We also need to make sure there is stronger transparency and accountability relating to any such federal assistance.

Clearly, in addition to focusing on today, President Obama needs to take steps to help create a better tomorrow. We can't spend and borrow our way to prosperity. In particular, he must take concrete steps to achieve the "grand bargain" on budget, entitlement, tax and other spending reforms that, in January, he acknowledged should be achieved on his watch - which may or may not extend beyond four years. Doing so will require a number of steps, including possible creation of a "Fiscal Future Commission". This would not be the typical Washington Commission. It would be designed to facilitate and accelerate action rather than to punt on the challenges it addresses. It would engage Americans, have everything on the table, including budget controls, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, other spending and tax reforms, and, it would make a package of recommendations that would be guaranteed a vote in Congress.

What about our nation's savings practices? The sad but simple truth is that most Americans are great at spending but poor at saving. Worse yet, too many Americans are following the bad example of their federal government. Namely, they are spending more money than they take home in pay while building up debt and mortgaging their future. This type of behavior cannot be sustained over the long-run.

In fact, America has about the lowest savings rate of any industrialized nation. Why should we care? Because with savings comes investment which results in additional research and development (or R+D). R+D results in new and innovative products and practices, quality enhancements and productivity improvements -

and all of these serve to increase our nation's overall economic growth and competitive posture. They also serve to improve our average standard of living over time. I think most people would rather have our average standard of living continue to improve over time - that has been our American tradition since the inception of our republic!

At the same time, one has to be careful with averages. For example, on average, both Pete Peterson and I are billionaires! I can assure you that my net worth is missing several zeros to the left of the decimal point!

The failure to save domestically also results in the U.S. having to rely on foreign investors to an increasing extent in order to finance our nation's excess consumption. This may be OK in the short-term; however, it is not in our nation's economic, foreign relations, national security or domestically tranquility interest over the long-run. All you need to do is look back to see how the United States used our financial leverage against the United Kingdom during the 1956 Suez Crisis to see why this is not a prudent course. We must reverse this dangerous trend. This will require a number of actions, including reducing government deficits and increasing personal savings rates possibly by adding mandatory individual savings and investment arrangements as part of comprehensive Social Security reform.

Most importantly, all of us need to do our part as individuals and citizens. We need to be financially responsible while also discharging our civic responsibilities as citizens of this great nation.

Collectively, we must stop living for today and learn the lessons of history. One lesson from history relates to the fall of the Roman Empire. Rome fell for many reasons, four of which seem to resonate today. These include: 1) A decline in moral values and political civility at home; 2) An over extended military around the world; 3) Fiscal irresponsibility by the central government, and; 4) An inability to control its borders. Do these sound familiar? We need to wake-up and make sure that we learn from these experiences.

Before you get too depressed let me be clear: Regarding my views on the state of affairs, we can and we will turn the economy around and get past our current crises. In addition, yes, we can re-impose tough statutory budget controls to constrain federal government spending and make sure that we begin to pursue a more prudent and sustainable fiscal path. Yes, we can reform Social Security to make it solvent, sustainable, secure and more savings oriented. Yes, we can reform our health care system to reduce the rate of increase in health care costs, and address basic and essential societal needs without bankrupting America. Yes, we can reform our tax system to make it simpler, fairer, more equitable and competitive, while raising adequate revenues to pay our bills and deliver on the promises that the federal government intends to keep. Yes, we can review, reprioritize and reengineer the base of the federal government to make it more results oriented and future focused.

However, in order to achieve the above objectives, Washington needs to start making tough choices and employing "tough love" principles. It

will also require extraordinary measures like special purposed commissions and task forces with expeditious consideration, limitations on amendments, and guaranteed votes in Congress to achieve sustainable success.

That's where you come in. In my view, the only way we can assure that our collective future will be better than our past is if "We the People" become more involved in ensuring that our elected officials efficiently address the key challenges facing our country. We must demand change and hold our elected representatives accountable for what they do and what they fail to do to keep America strong and the American dream alive. I can assure you that I and others at The Peterson Foundation will do our part; all that I ask is that you do yours.

In conclusion, we at the Peter G. Peterson Foundation are in this fight to win. In my view, patriotic organizations like the SAR and the DAR should also be on the front line in this fight for America's future. After all, failure for our elected officials to act could result in us losing some of the things that our forefathers fought, and many died, for and that unfortunately, too many Americans take for granted today.

We can, we must, and I believe that we will ultimately rise to meet the challenge - and by doing so, we can keep America great and help to make sure that the United States will be the first republic to stand the test of time. Let's work together and fight for America's future!

Thank you.

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## **Two New Members Inducted**

Compatriot Martin Ray Johnson, the youngest son of Robert E. Johnson and Maxine Ingraham Johnson was born in Chicago, and raised in Evergreen Park, Illinois. His father served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater of War. Marty attended the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh where he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Following graduation from college, Compatriot Johnson entered the U.S. Army and served continuously for thirty years. A 1994 graduate of the Army War College, he is a member of the Army War College Alumni Association. He retired in 2001 after attaining the rank of colonel; and was award the Legion of Merit, in addition to numerous other awards and decorations. His last assignment was as the Chief of Staff, 9th Theater Support Command.

Marty is currently employed as a Senior Systems Engineer with ManTech International Corporation, and is supporting a Department of Defense client. Prior to his employment with ManTech International, he was a Program Manager in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Networks and Information Integration. He is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute.

Compatriot Johnson has been an active adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America having served as a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Committee member and Troop Committee Chairman. He is a member of the Boy

Scouts of America Order of the Arrow.

Compatriot Johnson's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Remember Ingraham, who served as a private under Captain Jacob Ide in the Massachusetts Militia, and as a Corporal in Captain Stephen Richardson's Company, Attleborough/Bristol, Massachusetts.

Marty is married to the former Donna Orlowski, and resides in Fairfax, Virginia. They have been married for over thirty-seven years and have two married sons, Michael and Bryant; and three grandsons, Tyler, Broderick, and Carter.



President Walker administers the oath to new Compatriots Derek Valero and Martin Johnson.

Compatriot Derek Amadeo Valero was born in Bethesda Naval Hospital and raised in Alexandria. He is the son of Lisa Kay Stephens and Eloy Medina Valero. Derek is a graduate of West Potomac High School in Alexandria and is presently a freshman at Old Dominion University, where he is studying business.

While attending West Potomac High School, Derek worked in the Belle Haven Country Club golf shop. He is presently learning to play golf and enjoys fishing. He is interested in history and likes to discuss political issues.

Compatriots Valero's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Thomas Livesay who assisted in establishing American independence while performing public service. He was a signatory on the petition for the division of Henry County, Virginia, acknowledging authority of the new government.

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## Looking Forward

### April

- 11 GW Chapter Meeting -. Guest speaker will be Michael Cecere
- 13 Thomas Jefferson Birthday - Naturalization Ceremony & Wreath Laying-Monticello-10am
- 18-19 Battle of Petersburg - Historic Battersea - Petersburg, VA - 9:30 am - 6:00 pm Saturday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Sunday
- 19 Patriot Day Celebration, Cumberland County (VA) Courthouse - 10:am - 4:00 pm. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual festival located at the courthouse square where the first call for independence was made on April 22, 1776.
- 28 President James Monroe's birthday - Richmond, VA - time TBA

### May

- 5 Raid on Martin's Station - Ewing, VA - 1:00 pm - Contact Thomas Coker, Martin's Station Chapter President, at [trc@mounet.com](mailto:trc@mounet.com) for details.
- 9 GW Chapter Meeting - Guest speaker will be Dr. Bruce Cole, CEO American Revolution Center at Valley Forge.
- 25 National Memorial Day Parade - this is a great event for the GW Chapter. Details will soon be announced.
- 29-30 Tribute to Pioneers and Pathfinders - Siege at the Blockhouse - Natural Tunnel State Park - Scott County, VA - 29<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm - continues on the 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

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## General Washington Hires a New Gardener

Spring has arrived and it is time to get started with the garden work. It is not, therefore, unusual to expect that in April, 1787, General Washington was increasing his gardening staff at Mount Vernon. Washington often used formal employment contracts when new employees were brought to work at Mount Vernon. His contracts were normally in straight forward language with easily understood terms. Washington found that written contracts were important to avoid later misunderstandings and disagreeable arguments. However, Washington's terms were quite different than those you might find in contracts negotiated in the present day. Consider the following contract between Washington and Philip Bater, who was to be a gardener at Mount Vernon.

Articles of Agreement made this twelveth day of April Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and eight seven, by and between George Washington Esqr. of the Parish of Truro, in the County of Fairfax, State of Virginia,

on the one part, and Philip Bater, Gardner, on the other. Witness, that the said Philip Bater, for and in consideration of the covenants herein, hereafter, mentioned, doth promise and agree to serve the sd. George Washington, for the term of one year, as a Gardner, and that he will, during said time, conduct himself soberly, diligently and honestly, and that he will faithfully and industriously perform all, and every part of his duty as a Gardner to the best of his knowledge and abilities, and that he will not, at any time, suffer himself to be disguised with liquor, except on the times hereafter mentioned.

In Consideration of these things being well and truly performed on the part of the sd. Philip Bater, the said George Washington doth agree to allow him (the sd.

Philip) the same kind and quantity of provisions as he has heretofore had; and likewise, annually, a decent suit of clothes befitting a man in his station; to consist of a Coat, Vest and breeches; a working Jacket and breeches, of homespun, besides; two white Shirts; three Check Do; two pairs of yarn Stockings; two pair of Thread Do; two linnen Pocket handkerchiefs; two pair linnen overalls; as many pair of Shoes as are actually necessary for him; four Dollars at Christmas, with which he may be drunk 4 days and 4 nights; two dollars at Easter to effect the same purpose; two Dollars also at Whitsontide, to be drunk two days; a Dram in the morning, and a drink of Grog at Dinner or at Noon.

For the true and faithful performance of all and each of these things the parties have hereunto set their hands this twenty third day of April Anno Domini 1787.

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### **April 11, 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 is \$35.00 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 April 6th.***

**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 \$37.00 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](mailto: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.**

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 703-313-0671  
Secretary: Mike Elston 03-680-0866  
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](mailto:kraftdon@att.net) or call 703-451-6132.