



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



## Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1

January, 2009



VASSAR President presides over installation of Chapter Officers for calendar year 2009.

From left to right: Chaplain Don Reynolds; Registrar Bob Carr; Secretary Michael Elston; Vice President Vern McHargue; Treasurer Paul Briggs; President Dave Walker; Retiring President Kenan Torrans; and VASSAR President Arthur Batten. (Not shown: Master-at-Arms Covert Beach.)

Our chapter was honored to have VASSAR President Arthur Batten on hand at the December meeting to preside over the installation of officers for the calendar year 2009. Following the installation ceremony, President Batten made a brief presentation to the assembled members and guests. He encouraged all of us to read books on colonial history, a pastime that he particularly enjoys. President Batten also stressed the importance of participation in SAR activities at the state and national levels and encouraged our members to seek involvement and responsibilities beyond the bounds of our own Chapter. He described improvements made in the administration of the Virginia Society during his term as VASSAR President. These include the elimination of several inactive committees, improved use of the Society's funds, and a renewed emphasis on youth programs such as the oration and essay contests and recognition of Boy Scout service.



VASSAR President Arthur Batten at the podium during our December luncheon meeting.

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**Next Meeting**  
**January 10, 2009**  
**Don't Miss It!**

Our newly installed President Dave Walker will take the podium when we meet on January 10 to start the New Year. He plans to talk to us about the challenges facing both our Nation and the George Washington Chapter. Dave's many accomplishments are already well known and he is uniquely qualified to address important national problems. We will also be interested to learn his plans for Chapter activities. If you would like to refresh your knowledge of Dave's background, his biography can be found on the internet at [www.pgpf.org/about/leadership/dmw](http://www.pgpf.org/about/leadership/dmw).

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**Chapter Members Recognized for Service to the Chapter and the Nation**

At the December meeting, President Torrans presented medals to many Chapter members.

The following Compatriots received Meritorious Service Medals for contributions to the Chapter during the past year:

Covert Beach  
 Paul Briggs  
 Bob Carr  
 Butch Chaboudy  
 Mike Elston  
 Jack Felt  
 David Grimes  
 Don Kraft  
 Dick Kusserow  
 Vern McHargue  
 Dave Walker

The following Compatriots received War Service Medals recognizing their service in the armed forces during armed conflict:

Bob Carr  
 Butch Chaboudy  
 Don Kraft  
 Paul Wagoner  
 Samuel Wilson III

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**Our Chapter Continues to Grow**

During the December luncheon, Paul D. Wagoner and Samuel V. Wilson III were inducted. These two Compatriots bring extensive backgrounds and experiences to our Chapter.

**Compatriot Paul D. Wagoner** joined the United States Air Force in 1954, became a fighter pilot, and retired after 30 years of service. He and his wife, the former Peggy Lichtenwalter of Rochester, Indiana, moved to 19 different homes during their travels including four years near the Arctic Circle in Fairbanks, Alaska and Keflavik, Iceland. Some of Paul's career highlights include flying off the aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* as an Air Force exchange pilot making 173 carrier landings and flying 101 combat missions in Vietnam in the F-4 Phantom. During

the Cold War while he was Commander of Air Forces Iceland he and his pilots made a total of 276 intercepts of Soviet bomber and reconnaissance aircraft flying within Icelandic airspace, without incident.

In 1978, while serving in the Pentagon he was selected to brief President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and the Secretary of Defense on missile warning and response options to a surprise nuclear attack on the US from Soviet submarines off the east coast. That briefing went so well that he was transferred to Iceland! But it was OK, while in Iceland he was promoted to Brigadier General. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and six Air Medals.



### **New Members Inducted**

From left to right: Samuel Wilson III; Paul Wagoner; Mrs. Peggy Wagoner; President Torrans; and Registrar Carr.

After retirement in 1984, he worked as a Program Manager for 21 years for Martin Marietta Corporation (now Lockheed Martin) and Innovative Solutions International supporting the Federal Aviation Administration's Modernization Program.

Compatriot Wagoner's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot John Wagoner who enlisted in Reading, Pennsylvania, as a private in Captain Von Heer's troop of horsemen and in General Washington's Life-Guard. In addition to membership

in the SAR, he is a member of the Order of Daedalians, Military Order of the Carabao, Air Force Association, and the MOOA.

Paul plays golf at the Andrews Air Force Base Golf Club. He and Peggy have three children and five grandchildren in the local area, are members of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and resides in the Westgate subdivision of Mount Vernon.

**Compatriot Samuel V. Wilson, III**, is the son of Lt. Col. Samuel Vaughan Wilson, Jr., USA (Ret) and Ann Decker Wilson. He is a third generation paratrooper and highly decorated combat veteran. Growing up Vaughan lived through out the country due to his father's military assignments. He is a graduate of Fork Union Military Academy where he lettered in three sports. After his initial enlistment in the military, Vaughan returned to Prince Edward County, Virginia and worked as a paramedic. In 1996 he re-enlisted for a second tour of duty as a Light Infantryman in the Virginia Army National Guard. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks he re-enlisted in the Army as a combat medic. His assignments included the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade, and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. This last term of service included an overseas posting in Europe and combat service in Afghanistan. In September of 2006, Vaughan returned home with a traumatic brain injury from an IED in Afghanistan and was medically discharged.

Compatriot Wilson's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Alvin Newton who assisted in establishing American independence while acting in the capacity as Corporal in Captain Samuel Wood's Company, General Wards Regt. ; and in Lt. Seth Rice's Company, Col. Job Cushing's Regt., Massachusetts Militia.

In addition to Compatriot Wilson's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, he is a Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Military Order of Stars and Bars, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, and an Honorary Member of the French 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Parachute Regt (Special Forces).

He currently lives in Charlottesville, Virginia with his wife Joy Jennifer and his youngest daughter

Mary Clare. He attends the University of Virginia and devotes time to his miniature war-gaming hobby. He has a keen interest in the military history of the American Revolution. His miniature soldier collection includes many of the historical units that participated in the southern campaigns of 1780 and 1781. His plans include a master's degree in history.

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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

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.

## January 10, 2009 Luncheon 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 Monday, January 5th.***

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.**