

George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 22, Issue 6

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

September, 2021

60th Annual March to the Tomb--July 4, 2021



One of our signature events for our Chapter year is joining with our fellow Chapter members and friends for the 60th Annual March to the Tomb and Wreath Laying at the Washington Tombs on Independence Day. This year, Mt. Vernon has re-opened more of its grounds to the general public to include our Marching on the Bowling Green.

(Con't on Page 3)

President's Corner

Compatriots:

After our three month hiatus, I would normally say "welcome back," but the last four months have been so extraordinarily busy in the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, that it really does not seem like a break. Instead of summarizing in narrative form everything that occurred in the last several months, I have asked our editor to include in this Newsletter a summary list of some of the activities your Chapter leadership has been involved in (*See Page 7*). All or most of these activities were open to any SAR member and I encourage you all to keep an eye on the upcoming events sections of this Newsletter and of the Chapter website.

Our two Summer signature events were highly successful, and thanks are owed to everyone who participated, and especially to Mike Elston who has coordinated this event for us for many years. The National Memorial Day Parade was pre-filmed on May 1 on the National Mall and broadcast on Memorial Day. Many of our members participated and the SAR was given great exposure both nationally and on the Armed Forces Network.

On July 4, our traditional March to George Washington's Tomb, Tomb Grove Ceremonies, and Wreath Presentation at the Tomb were all held in the normal manner and were extremely well attended. The events were videotaped, and a link to Rand Pixa's excellent edited video is on our chapter website. Special thanks are owed to all of the SAR members and Mt. Vernon staff who made this event possible, including Vice-President Richard Rankin; Master at Arms Covert Beach; Treasurer and Videographer Rand Pixa; John Blair (who helped wrangle the crowd and carnations at the Tomb); Photographers Ernie Coggins and Carlisle Bean (who both took excellent



photographs); and to the members of the VASSAR Color Guard who helped so much to make the parade special, especially Commander Ken Bonner, and former Color Guard Commander Bill Schwetke (who also had to dash back to Culpeper for a 1:00 event his own chapter was holding).

As we start coming back together, we should be thinking about ways to expand our own participation in the collective SAR effort to "Lift our Voice" in the Community, especially as the 250th Anniversary of the Revolution rapidly approaches. Please do not hesitate to reach out to chapter officers either in person, or by email and phone to discuss how you can become more involved. Just in the coming 6 weeks, there will be opportunities to attend celebrations of the Victory at Yorktown, the reconstruction of James Monroe's birthplace in Colonial Beach, and our own chapter's grave markings in the St Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery here in Alexandria. Here are three, of many, areas in which our broader membership can be particularly helpful on a simple basis: (1) identifying people who regularly fly the American Flag and who might be eligible/willing to receive an SAR Flag Certificate, (2) identifying and helping our Youth Program chair to recruit middle school teachers who would be interested/willing to sponsor the SAR Brochure and Poster Competitions in their classrooms, and (3) proposing High School History Teachers who could be nominated for the SAR teacher of the year awards. Please feel free to contact me if this interests you and I can put you in contact with the Chapter's experts on these programs.

So welcome back, and I look forward to seeing and hearing from you all in the next few months.

Tom Roth, III
President of The
George Washington
Chapter



(Additional Corner Con't on Page 7)

60th Annual March (Con't from Page 1)



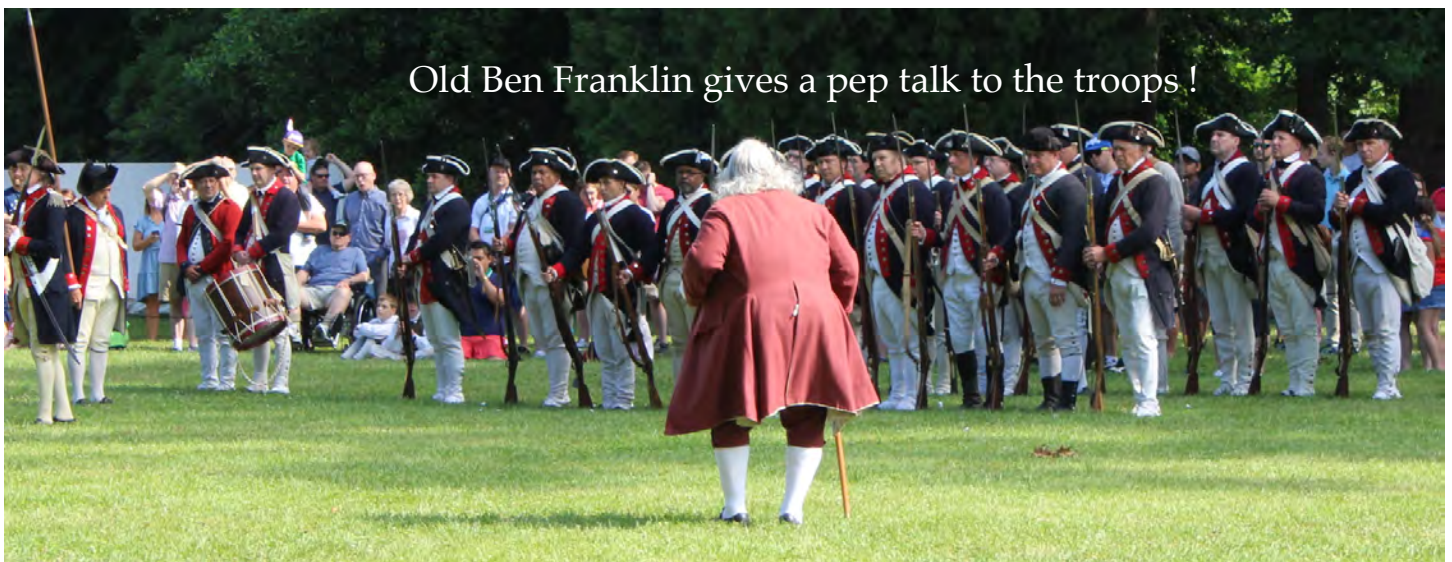
George Washington Chapter President Tom Roth gives remarks at the Tomb Grove.



Above: Color Guard at Washington's Tomb. Dwight Whitney, former GW Chapter President is at right.

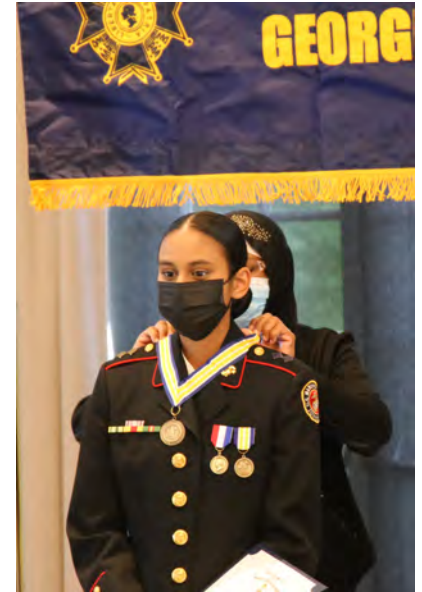


Right: GW Chapter President Tom Roth, with VASSAR President Jeff Thomas, presented a wreath at the Tomb.

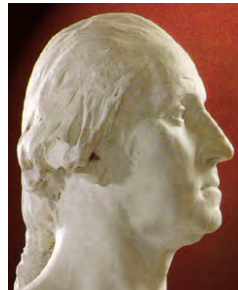
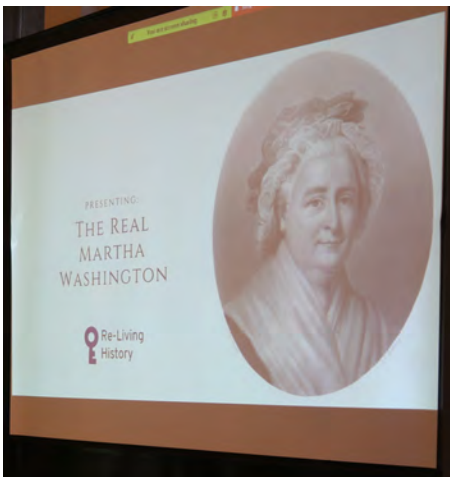


Old Ben Franklin gives a pep talk to the troops !

May 8th GW Chapter Meeting



Tom Roth presented JROTC Cadet Lt. Col. Asiyah Khan (Mt. Vernon High School) with the Enhanced JROTC Cadet Award. To the left are her parents, Mr. Mohamed N. Khan and Mrs. Vanilla N. Khan. In right photo, Asiyah's mother puts medal around her daughter's neck.



The Chapter was also honored to be joined by Elizabeth Maurer who spoke on "The Real Martha Washington". Vice President Rankin presented our speaker with a copy of the Houdon Bust of George Washington in appreciation of her talk.

The following certificates were also awarded to attendees:

Richard Sherman, *Certificate of Appreciation*-- Chairman of the Knight Essay Competition.

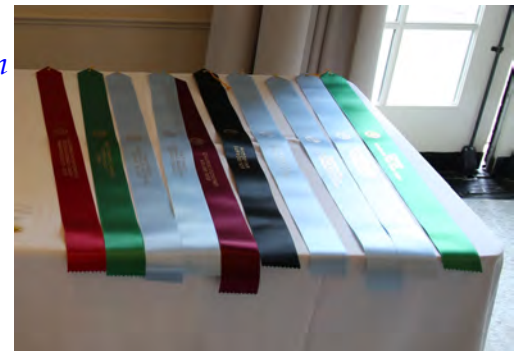
Jamie Callender, *Certificate of Appreciation*-- Facilitator of PRS Workshop, 2021 VASSAR Annual Meeting.

Jamie Callender, *Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal*-- 7 gold, 3 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

Jamie Callender, *Webmaster of the Year*.

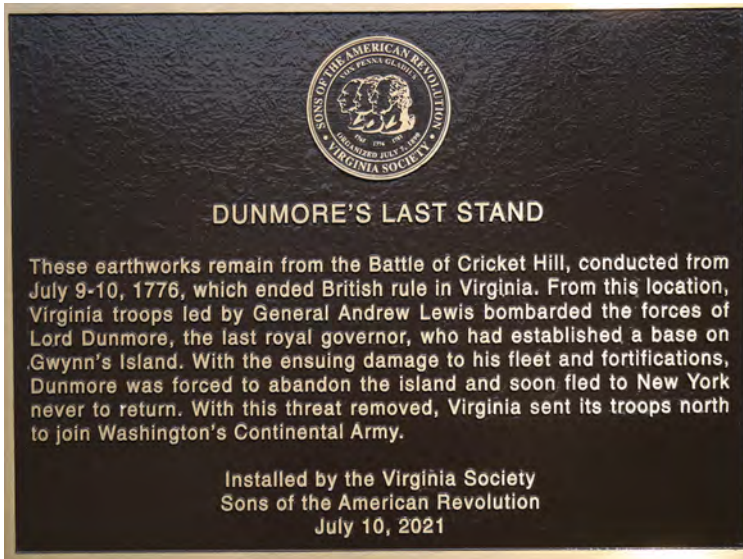
Tom Roth, *VASSAR President's Award Certificate*.

Below: The Chapter received a few streamers at the 2021 Virtual Annual VASSAR Meeting that represented awards earned by the Chapter. President Roth presented these to Master at Arms Covert Beach for preservation on behalf of the Chapter.



Battle of Cricket Hill -- Gwynn's Island

July 10, 2021 -- GW President Tom Roth attended the dedication and presented a wreath.



"A citizen, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."--Light Horse Harry Lee--December 26, 1799.

"He had all the genuine mildness of Christianity, with all its force. He was neither ostentatious nor ashamed of his Christian profession"--J. Smith, February 22, 1800

2021 SAR Atlantic Middle States

Annapolis--August 13-14 -- GWC Members in attendance: Warren Alter, *Former PG*; Joe Dooley, *Chairman of the SAR Foundation, former PG and former VASSAR President*; Mike Elston, *Chancellor General 2021-22 and candidate for re-election in 2022, former GWC and VASSAR President, former VPG for the International District*; Ernie Coggins, *2nd VP, VASSAR, Chairman NSSAR Knight Essay Committee, and former President GWC*; Tom Roth, *GW President*.



President	Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811
Vice President	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Treasurer	Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001
Secretary	Bill Wilson: 301-523-2690
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 240 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings customarily 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.

Immediate Past President:
Jay Henn: 703-447-0820

Ride Share: Members in need of a ride to a Chapter meeting or a Chapter-sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Don Reynolds, at (703) 765-4947.

This newsletter is edited by **Pete Farley**. Inputs from Chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow Compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to nyjyno7@cox.net or call 703-585-3163.

Boy Scouts of America



This SAR Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition ceremony was held on May 23, 2021, at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church off Ft. Hunt Road. The Scout Master is Keith Maly, father of Simon Maly, Eagle Scout. At right is GW VP Richard Rankin.



August 12--Marty Johnson – GWC Eagle Scout Committee Chairman presented an Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition to Mason Terrell at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor.



September through the years with George Washington

- 1777** on the 11th--Battle of Brandywine.
- 1787** on the 17th--Washington signs the Constitution.
- 1789** on the 24th--The federal court system is created.
- 1791** on the 8th--"Federal City" officially renamed Washington, District of Columbia.
- 1793** on the 18th--Washington sets cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.
- 1796** on the 17th--After declining a third term in office, Washington issues his Farewell Address.
- 1983** on the 21st--Mount Vernon Slave Memorial dedicated.

Additional from President's Corner

The Virginia Society, your Chapter, and its members, have had a very, very busy Summer, and rather than presenting a narrative article discussing them, I thought that presenting a listing of activities since our last Chapter meeting would be more readable and informative. Of course, I am only listing those events that were generally open to any member, and only those I have been informed of. Please accept my apologies if I have overlooked anyone. I encourage everyone to review the upcoming events section of this newsletter and on our website to review other opportunities, both here and across the state to participate in SAR activities.

May 8 -- Chapter Meeting.

May 8 -- Martin's Station National Commemoration – Martinsville. Ernie Coggins attended and presented a wreath.

May 13 -- Virginia SAR Speakers Series – Historian General Bill Stone presentation on SAR Library collection. Ernie Coggins and Tom Roth attended.

May 15 -- Ebenezer Baptist Church Monument Dedication – Loudon Co. Tom Roth attended and presented a wreath. Ernie Coggins and Paul Walden also attended.

May 16 - Battle of Alamance. Larry Lisle attended and presented a wreath.

May 22 -- Shockoe Cemetery Grave Marking and Monument Dedication. Richard Rankin attended, presented a wreath and acted as Chaplain. Ernie Coggins also attended.

May 25 -- Virginia SAR Social Hour – Zoom Trivia Night with VASSAR Historian and GW Chapter President Tom Roth.

May 28 -- 285th Anniversary of Patrick Henry's Birthday at Red Hill. Tom Roth attended and presented a wreath.

June 5 -- Wayne's Crossing, Fairfax Resolves, Leesburg. Tom Roth placed a wreath, Ernie Coggins attended in person and Richard Rankin attended by Zoom.

June 7 -- Virginia SAR Speaker Series – Librarian General Tony Vets with SAR Library Virtual Tour. Several Chapter members attended.

June 11-13 -- 2021 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution, Providence, RI. Organized by Joe Dooley. Attended by Ernie Coggins and Joe Dooley.

June 19 -- Daniel Morgan and Phillip Bush Commemoration and Grave Marking in Winchester -- State Event. Ernie Coggins and Tom Roth attended. Tom Roth presented a wreath.

June 26 -- Spencer's Ordinary, Williamsburg -- State Designated Event. Pete Farley attended.

June 26 -- Patrick Henry Day. Governor's Palace, Williamsburg – Presidential Initiative. Tom Roth and Pete Farley attended. Tom Roth presented a wreath.

June 26-27 -- 2020 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution, Detroit, MI. Organized by Joe Dooley. Attended by Ernie Coggins and Joe Dooley.

July 3 -- Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee -- only two brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence. Ernie Coggins attended and presented wreaths. --- Richard Henry Lee Wreath Ceremony – Burnt House Field.

--- Francis Lightfoot Lee Grave Marking – Mount Airy Farms, Warsaw.

July 4 - March to the Tomb and Wreath Presentation – George Washington's Mount Vernon – Very well attended by a large number of SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. members and guests, with the traditional events.

July 4 – Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Yowell Meadow Park, Culpeper. Ernie Coggins presented a wreath.

July 5 -- Benjamin Harrison V Grave Marking – Virginia Governor and Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Berkeley Plantation (Birthplace of William Henry Harrison--9th U.S. President)--Ernie Coggins and Tom Roth attended. Tom Roth presented a wreath.

(Con't on Next Page)

Additional (from Page 7)

July 10 -- Plaque Dedication – Battle of Cricket Hill at Gwynn's Island – Hudgins, VA. Plaque commemorates the end of British colonial rule in Virginia. Tom Roth presented a wreath.

July 9 -15 -- SAR 121st Annual Congress, Renton, Washington. Attended by Mike Elston, Joe Dooley, and Ernie Coggins among others.

July 17 -- Fairfax Resolves Chapter Commemoration of the Fairfax Resolves, Pohick Church. Attended by Ernie Coggins, Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, Bill Bland, and ??????

July 24 -- Grave Marking – Lovettsville, Virginia – Fairfax Resolves. Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, and Ernie Coggins attended. Tom Roth presented a wreath.

July 25 -- Eagle Scout Court of Honor – Certificate of Recognition to Winfield Scott Robinson. Tom Roth presented the certificate, and gave a short talk about the SAR.

July 28 -- Public Safety Awards Presentation – Alexandria Sheriff's Department Master Deputy Joseph Runquist (Bronze Good Citizenship Award), Deputy Sean Williams (Life Saving Award). John Blair and Tom Roth attended. John Blair gave a short talk about the SAR.

August 12 -- Eagle Scout Court of Honor – Certificate of Recognition to Mason Terrell by Marty Johnson, who also gave a short talk about the SAR.

August 13 -14 -- 2021 Atlantic Middle States Conference – Annapolis. Tom Roth, Ernie Coggins, Mike Elston, Joe Dooley, and Warren Alter attended.

August 21 -- William Clark Grave Marking, Culpeper. Paul Walden attended.

August 25 -- Public Service Awards Presentation – Alexandria Police Officers Shakita Warren and Bennie Evans – John Blair and Tom Roth Attended. John Blair gave a short talk about the SAR.

August 28 -- Annual Seven Chapters Lunch Meeting, Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, Virginia. Attended by Ernie Coggins.

September 10-11 -- Virginia Society SAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Berry Hill and Red Hill, Virginia. This event included among other things: (1) the dedication of a plaque honoring William Wirt Henry (grandson of Patrick Henry and first President of VASSAR), (2) the installation of the revived Patrick Henry Chapter (Both of these events were attended by Tom Roth), (3) Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting, and (4) American Flag retirement ceremony (both of these events were attended by Tom Roth, Mike Elston, Will Elston, and Paul Walden).

September 12 -- Pentagon Chapter, NSDAR Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks on the Pentagon. This was primarily a virtual event, and was attended virtually by Richard Rankin who presented a wreath on our behalf.



Lovettsville Grave Markings for Patriots

July 24 -- Ernie Coggins, Tom Roth and Richard Rankin attended a Grave Marking for 5 Revolutionary Patriots at the New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Graveyard in Lovettsville, VA.

This event was sponsored by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, VASSAR. GW President Tom Roth placed a wreath.

Upcoming Events

September 18, 2021–Saturday: 11:00am
George Washington Chapter Virtual or Hybrid (?) Zoom Meeting
Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, Virginia
Speaker: *NSSAR President General, Davis Wright*

September 18, 2021–Saturday: 4:15pm
NSSAR President General Wreath Presentation at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier @ ANC
Sponsor–*George Washington Chapter*

September 20, 2021–Monday: 11:30am
Constitution Day Proclamation Signing
Alexandria City Council Chambers
Sponsor–*John Alexander Chapter NSDAR*

September 24-25, 2021–Friday & Saturday:
NSSAR Fall Leadership & Trustee Meeting
Brown Hotel, Louisville, Ky.

October 2-3, 2021–Saturday & Sunday:
Point Pleasant Battle Days
Point Pleasant, West VA
Parade on Saturday
Wreaths presented on Sunday afternoon
October 2 portion cancelled, *Wreath Presentations on 10/3 are virtual*

October 2, 2021–Saturday: 10:00am
Grand Opening Ceremony James Monroe's Birthplace House
(Reconstruction)
James Monroe Birthplace and Park
Westmoreland County, Virginia
(Colonial Beach)

October 3, 2021–Sunday: 3pm
Samuel Williams and John Richards Grave Marking
Williams Family Cemetery
62 Williamsdale Lane
Matthews, Virginia 23109
Richard Henry Lee Chapter & Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter

October 6, 2021–Wednesday: Time TBD
Silver Good Citizenship Award to Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne
Alexandria Sheriff's Office
Sponsor – *George Washington Chapter*

October 7, 2021–Thursday: Time TBD
241st Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain
Kings Mountain National Military Park
2625 Park Road, Blacksburg, South Carolina

October 9, 2021–Saturday: 11:00am
George Washington Chapter Virtual or Hybrid (?) Zoom Meeting
Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA
Speaker: Dr. Glenn F. Williams
"Let It Begin Here" (Lexington & Concord, 1775)

October 9, 2021–Saturday: 3:00pm
Grave Marking for Patriots Peter Tatsapaugh and Lawrence Hoof
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery
(Wilkes Street Complex) , Alexandria, VA.
Sponsor – *George Washington Chapter*

October 19, 2021–Tuesday: Time TBD
240th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown
Start at Grace Episcopal Church, 111 Church Street, Yorktown, VA



July 17 --After the Fairfax Resolves event at Pohick Church, Tom Roth, Richard Rankin and Ernie Coggins paid homage to GW's first Chapter President, Robert Duncan, at his grave site in the church cemetery.



GW Chapter Public Service Awards

July 28, 2021, Alexandria Sheriff's Department -- (L-R) GW Awards Chair John Blair, Deputy Sean Williams (Lifesaving Award), Master Deputy Joseph Runquist (Bronze Good Citizenship), and GW Chapter President Tom Roth. Both of their citations appear below.



Deputy Sean Williams – Lifesaving Award

Around 5:30 p.m. on August 28, Deputy Sean Williams was in the process of moving an inmate from one cell to another when something unusual caught his attention. Deputy Williams observed a knotted sheet hanging from a sprinkler head in another inmate's cell.

Deputy Williams immediately called for other deputies to respond as he quickly placed his inmate into a new cell. Then he promptly entered the cell with the hanging sheet and saw an inmate sitting down and crying. The inmate admitted that he had tried to hang himself. Deputy Williams made sure the inmate was safe and arranged for him to be checked by medical and mental health staff with assistance from other deputies. He was moved to a different cell and placed on suicide watch so deputies could closely monitor him in case he tried to harm himself again.

A follow-up investigation into the incident revealed that this inmate had twice attempted to hang himself in the minutes before Deputy Williams intervened. In fact, at one point, he had even suspended himself with the sheet wrapped around his neck before unwrapping it.

Thanks to Deputy Williams' excellent situational awareness and strong observation skills, he was able to prevent an inmate from taking his own life.

Master Deputy Joseph Runquist -- Bronze Good Citizenship Award

Joining the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in 2007, Master Deputy Joseph Runquist has consistently pursued additional responsibilities, joined specialized teams, and never hesitated to assist fellow law enforcement officers or members of the public facing life threatening situations.

He began his career with the Sheriff's Office by serving in the Detention Center and for the last eight years, he has been the Gang Unit Coordinator. He works closely with deputies assigned to housing units and together, they monitor and share gang-related intelligence to protect inmates and staff and to prevent gang members from participating in gang-related activity while in custody. He also networks with other agencies and exchanges information with his counterparts throughout the region as part of a coordinated effort.

He has been a member of the award-winning Honor Guard since 2010. He is committed to training, working as part of a team, and representing the Sheriff's Office in the most positive and professional manner. Deputy Runquist was part of the four-member unit that took first place in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' annual honor guard

(Con't on Next Page)

Public Service Awards (Con't from Page 10)

competition in 2019, and he most recently represented the Sheriff's Office and Honor Guard by participating in a modified memorial ceremony on May 1 for National Correctional Officers Week.

Deputy Runquist has also served as a select member of the Motorcycle Unit since 2016. With only two deputies, this elite unit represents the Sheriff's Office in parades and as official escorts.

He assists the entire organization by training new deputies as well as veterans. A state-certified instructor, Runquist is a law enforcement field training deputy and a defensive tactics instructor.

Whether on or off duty, Deputy Runquist is vigilant and quick to respond in emergency situations. In two cases of note, his actions saved someone from serious harm and potential death. In 2011, he observed and interrupted an inmate attempting suicide and in 2015, while off duty, he observed a woman choking and successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver.

Last year, when a resident of an apartment building along Richmond Highway began shooting, Deputy Runquist did not hesitate to respond. He joined several Alexandria police officers who entered the building and went to the fourth floor where the shots were still being fired. As residents of nearby apartments ran out, Deputy Runquist and the officers assisted in getting them to safety. He remained on site for seven hours and the incident was later peacefully resolved.

Finally, Deputy Runquist served as a youth mentor for many years at Charles Barrett Elementary School, provided outreach to the homeless, and enthusiastically participates in community events like National Night Out.

Alexandria Police Officers Public Service

The **Alexandria Treatment Court (ATC)** launched in September 2019. Its mission is to provide treatment and assistance to individuals diagnosed with substance use disorders who were charged with non-violent offenses. In return, they are given an opportunity to have those charges reduced or dismissed. Participants who successfully progress through the ATC program receive in-court recognition of meaningful milestones. The program celebrated its first graduate in February 2021.

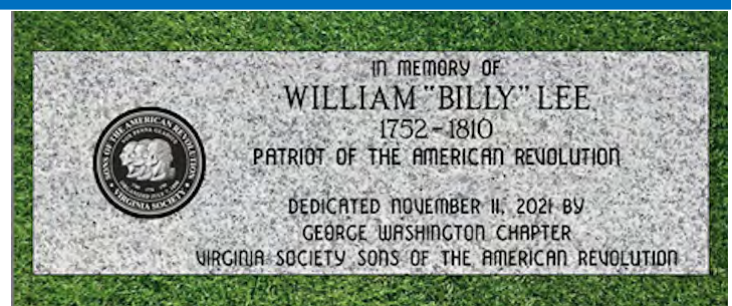
The Sons of the American Revolution Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. It recognizes those who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond what is normally expected.



August 25, 2021 -- Alexandria Police Department Officers Bennie Evans and Shakita Warren received The SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. (L-R) President Tom Roth, Officer Shakita Warren, Officer Bennie Evans, Awards Chair John Blair, Deputy Chief of Police Don Hayes.

(Con't on Next Page)

Proposed memorial for Billy Lee who served with General George Washington throughout the American Revolution. This will be dedicated on November 11, 2021.



Prince William Fire Department Public Service

August 31, 2021 -- Prince William County DFRS Technicians Lee Bergstreser and Nicholas Alexander received The SAR Life Saving Awards.



The first photo from left to right is PWCDFRS Chief Tim Keen, Lee Bergstreser and John Blair. The second photo is Chief Keen, Nicholas Alexander and John. As part of John's presentation, he included a brief history of the Sons of The American Revolution.

Fairfax Resolves at Pohick Church

A number of GWC compatriots attended the Fairfax Resolves Commemoration of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves held at Pohick Church on July 17. Tom Roth presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter.

Ernie Coggins also received a certificate of appreciation form the Col. James Wood II Chapter.



Attendees were Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, Ernie Coggins, Bill Bland and ????????????



Patrick Henry's Election as Governor

June 26 -- Tom Roth presented a wreath on behalf of the GW Chapter. Editor Pete Farley also attended the Spencer's Ordinary commemoration earlier on that Saturday Morning.



Above: Williamsburg Color Guard.

Left: Governor Patrick Henry giving his acceptance speech to the cheers of the assembled Patriots.

Right: Fife and Drum at the entrance to the Palace.

Below: Editor Pete Farley, GW President Tom Roth and the esteemed Mr. Patrick Henry as he accepted our well-wishes.

