



George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 22, Issue 9

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

December, 2021

November GW Chapter Meeting



President Roth presented Past President Ernie Coggins with an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of an additional award of the Virginia Society Medal. Ernie is completing his term as an at large member and is rotating off the Board of Managers after 7.5 years. Ernie was originally selected to fill a partial term as Secretary and went on to serve a full term in that office. He is expected to be elected as First Vice President of VASSAR next year.

Top Left: President Roth opened the meeting while also attempting to run the live stream of the meeting by Zoom. Right: Immediate Past President Jay Henn, as Chairman of the nominating committee, reviewed the slate of committee nominees for 2022 Chapter officers. Richard Rankin was elected as President, Rand Pixa as Vice President, Bill Wilson as Treasurer, and Scott Walker as Secretary for 2022. Tom Roth was elected to a 3 year at large term on the BOM. Richard, Bill, Scott, and Tom are shown below.



(L) We also inducted Robert Hoyt as a new member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

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President's Corner

Compatriots & Friends.

A year seems to travel past swiftly and yet, looking back, how very much has happened in the past twelve months.



Last December when I first put on the President's Ribbon, I said that it was a humbling experience to be wearing what had been worn by so many distinguished compatriots before, and how honored I felt to be Captain of our great team. None of that has changed. It is the hard work of so many talented team members that has made it possible for us as a Chapter to revive most of our traditional events despite the malice of the COVID-19 virus. Most of this has been covered in previous editions of this Newsletter in more detail. We have successfully held Chapter Meetings in our normal meeting months. January–April meetings were entirely virtual through Zoom, and much thanks are due to Rand Pixa and Bill Wilson for their hard work to make that happen. In May, September, October, and November, we were able to hold live meetings, which were also broadcast via Zoom to allow more of our members to participate. By the time you read this, we will have held our annual dual December Chapter meeting with the George Mason Chapter.

The Alexandria Washington's Birthday Parade and related events were not held in 2021, but thanks to the creativity of Vice President Rankin we held a substitute event, which may become regular, and presented a wreath at George Washington's Tomb on his actual Birthday, February 22, during a sleet storm.

The National Memorial Day Parade took place this year through pre-filming of separate parade units, and we participated with a good size marching group representing several states and chapters.

On July 4th we were able to hold the annual March to the Tomb at Mt. Vernon and related ceremonies with a large crowd; and on September 18, we sponsored again the President General to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Despite supply chain issues with the grave markers, we were able, through the efforts of Paul Walden, to hold a dual grave marking at the Wilkes Street Complex in October.

Our final signature event was our Wreath Presentation at George Washington's Tomb on Veterans Day, which was cosponsored with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR.

All of these projects and many others were made possible through the hard work of numerous compatriots. Many of our colleagues were honored in the past year by the National and Virginia Societies for their service, and many of our colleagues have been honored in the recent past by my predecessors in ways that make it difficult for me to adequately thank them, except by expressing my thanks and gratitude on behalf of the Chapter.

However, our November meeting is the time customarily for recognizing service, and I presented or announced a number of awards to compatriots at that time.

Richard Rankin (Chairman), Rand Pixa, Jamie Callender, and Dave Thomas were awarded Certificates of Distinguished Service for their work as a committee (appointed by President Henn in 2020) that developed our new Wild Apricot based Website, Membership Management, and Online payments system. Dave and Rand will receive their certificates on a future date.

I presented Secretary Bill Wilson with the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal (Pineapple Medal) in recognition of his work as Secretary and with running our various Zoom meetings in 2021. I also announced the award of the Pineapple Medal to Marty Johnson, our Eagle Scout

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November GW Chapter Meeting (from Page 1)



Left: President Roth awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to our Chaplain Don Reynolds. Don served as Chapter President in 1996, and subsequently as President of the Virginia Society. He has continued active in the Chapter all of that time in many capacities and was last September made an Aide de Camp to the President General. Don also is the sponsor for our meetings at the Belle Haven Country Club.



Right: President Elect Richard Rankin was awarded the Virginia Society Medal in recognition of his service as Chapter Vice President during the second COVID year.



Left: Secretary Wilson attended and ran the Zoom portion of the meeting from his laptop on site. Right: Also, Secretary Bill Wilson was awarded the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal for his service as Secretary and in helping develop our Zoom Communication capabilities. President Roth also announced that Marty Johnson and Larry Lisle have been awarded this medal in recognition of their service respectively as Chapter Eagle Scout Committee Chair and for representation of the Chapter at SAR events in North Carolina.



Left: Richard Rankin (Chairman), Rand Pixa, Jamie Callender, and Dave Thomas were awarded Certificates of Distinguished Service for the work on the Online Payment committee in 2020 into 2021 developing our new Wild Apricot based website, and membership management system. (Tom is holding Rand & Dave's certificates.



President Roth presented our participation streamer earned by Larry Lisle's attendance at the 2021 Alamance Battlefield Patriot's Day celebration to Master at Arms Covert Beach.

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November GW Chapter Meeting *(from previous Page)*



Left: Dr. Mark Edward Lender joined by Zoom and gave a very enlightening talk on the debates of George Washington's military leadership surrounding what is commonly called the "Conway Cabal".

Right: Vice President Richard Rankin announced the presentation of the traditional Houdon bust of George Washington to our guest speaker, Dr. Lender.



Above Left: Jack Coulter as leader of our Wreaths Across America campaign made a pitch for contributions and donations. Right: President Roth presented Compatriot Craig Batten his Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal (plus 3 Oak Leaf Clusters). The medal was awarded (finally) by the NSSAR for over 160 hours of volunteer service to the national Society in connection with the PRS project in 2020.

We were also very pleased to have our valiant Newsletter Editor, Pete Farley, drive up from the Williamsburg area to join us for the meeting.



December 7th Mt. Vernon Event

Don Francisco and Jack Coulter enjoying Doug Bradburn who hosted an Open House with his wife Nadeen in the Bradburn President's Residence at Mount Vernon Estate.



Veterans Honored at Sunrise at Mount Vernon

On the afternoon of November 11, for the fourth year in a row (excluding 2020 because of the pandemic), the George Washington Chapter honored veterans residing at the Sunrise Assisted Living facility in Alexandria by presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation and lapel pins. Past President Paul Walden gave an introduction and history of Veteran's Day, and the Reverend Dr. Tom Costa, recipient of the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal, led the group in prayers for the Armed Forces. Tom's wife, Susan, led the group in singing the National Anthem. This year, 20 veterans were honored, which is by far the largest group at Sunrise we've honored. To add interest to the event, Compatriot Walden brought in a display of newspaper front pages for the first Armistice Day in 1918, as well as newspaper front pages announcing the end of the Civil War, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.



Residents of Sunrise observe the ceremony.



Susan Costa, Rev. Tom Costa, and Compatriot Paul Walden.



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

"Perhaps there never was another man, whose personal character and conduct exercised an influence, so powerful and so beneficial, on the destiny of a great nation."--James Grahame

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 nyyno7@cox.net or call 703-585-3163.

George Washington Chapter at Great Bridge

This is an annual National Event sponsored by the Norfolk Chapter. President General Davis Wright and VASSAR President Jeff Thomas were in attendance and spoke. George Washington Chapter Members present were Mike Elston – Chancellor General; Ernie Coggins, VASSAR 2nd VP; Tom Roth, GW President, VASSAR Historian



December through the years with George Washington

- 1776** on the 25th--Washington crosses the Delaware River.
- 1776** on the 26th--Victory at the Battle of Trenton.
- 1783** on the 23rd--Washington resigns his military commission at Annapolis.
- 1791** on the 15th--Ratification of the Bill of Rights.
- 1792** on the 5th--Electoral college unanimously elects Washington to his second term as President.
- 1799** on the 14th--Death of George Washington.
- 1799** on the 18th--Funeral and burial of George Washington.

Veteran's Day at General Washington's Tomb



Clockwise from top left: President Roth and Vice President Rankin shown here with the Chapter's Wreath; Richard Rankin, Chapter Vice President served as Master of Ceremonies; GW Chapter Chaplain Don Reynolds presented the invocation; The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the First Vice President of the Light Horse Harry Lee Society V.S.C.A.R.; Don Francisco (SFC USA Ret.) Fifer in Residence at Mt. Vernon and Member of the George Washington Chapter performed the National Anthem; Members of the VASSAR Color Guard, led by VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner, presented the Colors during the Ceremony.

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General Washington's Tomb *(from previous Page)*



Left: Tillie Cassidy, Regent of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR, presented remarks on behalf of the DAR. Right: Tom Roth, President of the George Washington Chapter, presented remarks on behalf of the SAR.



Above left: Laurel Wessman (Commander, USN ret.), Kate Waller Barrett Chapter NSDAR, and Don Francisco (SFC USA ret.), George Washington Chapter, VASSAR, presented the Wreath at George Washington's Tomb. Right: Tillie Cassidy and Tom Roth presented red carnations at General Washington's Tomb, followed by other members of the SAR, DAR, CAR, and the general public.



Left: Barbara McJoynt, Past Regent Kate Waller Barrett Chapter NSDAR, continued her decades long tradition of reading George Washington's Prayer for the Nation. Right: We were also honored by the presence of Jeff Thomas, President, VASSAR, as well as the President of Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution shown here in front of Washington's Tomb.



Upcoming Events

December 11, 2021–Saturday: 12 Noon
Joint Meeting George Mason/ George Washington Chapters

Installation of 2022 Officers
Mount Vernon Country Club
5111 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22309

Hybrid Zoom Meeting (*please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab; On-line luncheon payment option available on Chapter Website*).

December 18, 2021–Saturday: 9:30 am
Wreaths Across America (WAA)

Alexandria National Cemetery
1450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria
The starting time, attendee limitations & C19 protocols may be subject to change, prior to December 18.

For information contact: Jack Coulter, WAA Coordinator at cojack2@cox.net

January 8, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am
George Washington Chapter Hybrid Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, VA

Speaker: Bill Welsch

"Christmas Night 1776: How Did They Cross the Delaware" (*please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab; On-line luncheon payment option available on Chapter Website*).

February 5, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am
George Washington Chapter Hybrid Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, VA

Speaker: Doug Bradburn, *President & CEO of Mt. Vernon* (*please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab; On-line luncheon payment option available on Chapter Website*).

February 5, 2022–Saturday 3:30 pm
Memorial Service for Patriot William Lee (*George Washington's manservant*)

Slave Cemetery
Mt. Vernon Estate

For more information: please contact Paul Walden at paulwalden@live.com

February 11-12, 2022–Friday & Saturday:
2022 Virginia SAR Annual Meeting Omni Hotel

Richmond, Virginia

Further details forthcoming.

February 19, 2022–Saturday:
241st Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan

South Boston, VA

Further details forthcoming.

February 21, 2022 –Monday: 11:00 am
Wreath Laying at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House for Unknown Revolutionary Soldiers

Joint SAR/DAR ceremony.

February 21, 2022–Monday: 1:00 pm
Alexandria's George Washington Parade
Details for both Monday, February 21 events will be forthcoming in January

February 22, 2022–Tuesday: 9:00 am
George Washington's 290th Birthday Wreath Laying

Washington's Tomb
Mt. Vernon Estate.

Ceremony will end at 9:30 am

Please register your attendance on our Chapter Website



Prince William County Police Department

Public Service Awards Presentations



Chief Peter Newsham, Glenn Spencer, President Tom Roth, Sgt. James Krisner, Officer Ivan Torres, Officer Ravinder Mehta, Officer Adam Bear and John Blair.

First Responders to the Four Seasons Event



The Quaking Aspen
Attempted Suicide Event

Left: Glenn Spencer, President Tom Roth, Officer Jason O'Sullivan, Chief Peter Newsham & John Blair.



PW Co. PD Intelligence Unit

Glenn Spencer, President Tom Roth, 1st Sgt. Sarah Rolle, Sgt. Ian Oakes, Master Police Officer Barry Krohn, Chief Peter Newsham & John Blair.

Corner (from Page 2)

Committee Chairman since 2018, and to Past Chapter and VASSAR President Larry Lisle, who has represented us, and placed wreaths on our behalf, at so many events in North Carolina since he relocated there.

At that meeting, I announced the award of the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal to 2021 Treasurer Rand Pixa, who continued his work to implement the new Wild Apricot billing system, and to develop our Zoom capability. In October, I also awarded a Bronze Roger Sherman Medal to VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner in appreciation of his and the Color Guard's participation in so many of our events in the past two years.

Ernie Coggins received an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second award of the Virginia Society Medal. Ernie is now rotating off the Board of Managers after 7 and a half years. He has received just about every service award available at the Chapter, State, and National Levels, and has been a valued mentor and passionate adviser to me and to many other volunteers in this Chapter. We wish him well as he transitions into his new role as VASSAR First VP in 2022, and likely President in 2023.

I also awarded the Virginia Society Medal to Chapter Vice President Richard Rankin for all of his hard work as Vice President in 2022, and for even being willing to take on the job in the second year of the COVID pandemic.

Finally, I was delighted to be able to award the NSSAR Distinguished Service Medal (Chapter) to our Chaplain Don Reynolds. Don served as Chapter President in 1996 and as VASSAR President a few years later. He has continued to serve our chapter in many ways since that time, and was recently made an Aide de Camp by the President General. Don also is the sponsor of our meetings at Belle Haven Country Club. This award is unique in that it can only be awarded one time for Chapter Service to an individual, and a Chapter President can only award it once a term.

As a fitting conclusion to the year, over the Thanksgiving holiday, I presented the Lydia Darragh Medal to my mother, Marjory Jarboe Roth. This medal, named after a Patriot who crossed British lines to deliver critical information to General Washington, is intended to recognize the assistance of the ladies who work behind the scenes supporting SAR programs. Her constant support, as well as deep interest in family history and genealogy, first inspired me to learn more about my own family history and led me to this place today.

In closing, there are numerous other volunteers who should be thanked, and I need to particularly mention our Newsletter Editor Pete Farley who has worked so hard on our Newsletters since 2018, and Jack Coulter who has been handling our Chapter Scrapbooks for just as long. Both have recently announced their retirement from those positions in the very near future and will be sorely missed. Thanks to all of you who have been a part of the George Washington Chapter in 2021, and best wishes to Richard Rankin as he begins his term for 2022.

Best wishes . . .

Tom Roth, III

President,

The George Washington Chapter



On November 27, Tom presented the Lydia Darragh Medal to his mother, Marjory Jarboe Roth.

New GW SAR Member Biographies

Jonathan Jordan was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia and earned his BA at Oglethorpe University in 1994. A job opportunity for his then girlfriend, now wife, brought them to the DC area in 1998. After a brief stint with the Arlington County Fire Department (where his engine company was among the first to arrive on the scene of the Pentagon attack on September 11th), he joined the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington DC in 2002. Over the past two decades, he has worked in various investigative and intelligence roles and is currently assigned as a Detective to the Homicide Branch.

In addition to working lots of overtime, raising two rambunctious boys, and driving his lovely wife crazy by buying too many books, Jonathan is also an occasional poet whose work has appeared in *The Potomac Review*, *Modern Age*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Chronicles*, *Carolina Quarterly* and many other cultural and literary publications.

After arriving in the area, Jonathan was struck by the abundant history in the region, particularly in his new home in the

Old Dominion. The fact that a simple day trip might take him driving past such mythic places as Mount Vernon and Monticello, Manassas and Spotsylvania, quickly revived his ardent boyhood love of history. So he began his own family research, gathering stories from older relatives and delving into the rabbit-hole of genealogy. Among his many fascinating discoveries, he learned that he is a descendant of Patriot Stephen Pace, who was himself a descendant of Richard Pace, one of the Ancient Planters of the early Jamestown colony. Stephen Pace was born in North Carolina in 1747 and served in the North Carolina Line of the Continental Army in the Revolution. After the war, Stephen Pace's family migrated to South Georgia, where he passed away in 1822.

Jonathan looks forward to membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. He looks most of all to set an example for his sons in our forgetful age, striving to give them not just the assurance of a bright future, but the rooted gift of a wonderful history and heritage, as well.

Grant Kuhnsman grew up in Great Falls, VA. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from James Madison University in 2012 and a Master of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University. Since matriculating into the workforce, Mr. Kuhnsman has spent over a decade supporting federal intelligence agencies. He is passionate about emerging technology adoption and how new technologies can advance, protect, and steward US interests and equities around the world.

Mr. Kuhnsman currently resides with his wife, Katharine, at their home in Bethesda, MD. Prior to moving to Maryland in 2019, Mr. Kuhnsman volunteered for several years with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department as an emergency vehicle operator and licensed medical technician. He enjoys spending time with

family, to include his best bud and dog, Houston.

Mr. Kuhnsman was drawn to GWSAR after witnessing firsthand the many positive impacts the organization has made and continues to make in our community. He is most excited about programs to recognize local first responders and events that assist newly naturalized citizens to our great nation.

Grant's ancestor, George Gilbert, was born in Montgomery Co. PA in 1753. He served as a sergeant in the 3rd Co., 4th Btln. of the Philadelphia Co. militia. He died in PA in 1838 at the age of 85.



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Member Biographies *(from previous Page)*

Robert Townsend Hoyt was born in Syracuse NY and grew up near Valley Forge. He attended college at Penn State and Princeton before entering a career in Construction Management. Previously with Lehrer Cumming, he recently joined Critical Project Services LLC in Sterling as a senior project manager. His career brought him to Virginia in the 1990s where he met his wife, Patricia; they have four children who are all in college now. His hobbies have included biking, swimming and backpacking and he volunteers with the Boy Scouts. His father and brother are members of the SAR in Philadelphia. Patricia is in the DAR.

Rory's patriot is David Niles from Middleborough Massachusetts, who joined the Revolution in April 1775 at the age of 17,

and stayed in the Continental Army for 8 years and 2 months, rising to the rank of Sergeant. He was at Boston and the battle of Saratoga and possibly Monmouth, but spent most of his time at West Point, New York, building and then defending that fort. When he was discharged in June 1783, at the age of 26, he kept his discharge certificate which was signed by George Washington. He had married a local girl from New York and they had two daughters, but he and his wife both died within two years. His daughter kept the discharge certificate in the family for 135 years, and then it was given to the Smithsonian around 1920. It is one of two discharge certificates in the Smithsonian Collection.



In 2013 two new George Washington members are being sworn in by Kent S. Webber, President of the VASSAR.