



George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 24, Issue 6

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

September, 2022

61st Annual March to the Tomb--July 4, 2022



Above -- Tilly Cassidy (Regent of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter NSDAR (2020-2021)) finally receiving her Martha Washington Medal from former GW President Tom Roth.



Rand Pixa speaking at the ceremony.



Right -- VASSAR President Bruce Meyer and GW President Richard Rankin at the tomb.

(Con't on Page 3)

President's Corner

Compatriots:

September promises to be an exciting month for member participation, with three major events:



We return to Belle Haven Country Club on Saturday, September 10th for our Chapter Meeting & Luncheon. The newly installed President General, Bruce Pickette and his wife, Rita, will be joining us. PG Pickette will be sharing remarks about his leadership goals during his term. Please register early on-line for this popular event, as we expect a large turnout. As a reminder, the September luncheon costs are now \$ 45.00 per attendee under the new catering contract.

After the luncheon, we travel to Arlington National Cemetery for PG Pickette laying the national wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The VASSAR Color Guard Commander and Honor Guard will be present. Please join us for this annual patriotic event.

The following weekend of September 16-17 will be the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting at the Woodlands Resort & Conference Center in Williamsburg. This two night conference will accommodate our partnership with the Virginia C.A.R. with events at Yorktown.

Over the summer, thanks to Compatriot John Blair, the chapter was able to honor and recognize 19 members of the Prince William County Fire & Rescue Services in Manassas; with one receiving a Bronze Good Citizenship Award; and two awards were SAR Heroism Awards.

On July 4th, our chapter conducted the 61st Annual Wreath Laying at George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. Our registered member & guest tally was 138 SAR, DAR and CAR member attendance. Our Vice President, Rand Pixa, served with distinction as the Master of Ceremonies. This year, we invited vocalist, Theresa

Giason, to sing the National Anthem. The 2022 VASSAR winner of the Rumbaugh Oration Contest, Lauren Bradshaw, presented her stirring oration. We were joined by the Old Line Fife & Drum Corps who provided our marching music to the Tomb Grove. The entire event has been recorded and posted on our chapter website for viewing, at your convenience.

Our annual Chapter Summer Planning Meeting was held at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. This was our chapter's first meeting at this scholarly venue; and this hybrid meeting did not disappoint. We heard presentations about our Public Safety Awards, the PRS updates, the 2022 Americanism Report, the 2022 Budget Status and discussion topics relating to Forgotten Patriots in Virginia and consideration of lighter SAR attire during humid summer events. I want to thank all the presenters for their preparations and leading the discussions during each respective Q&A session.

As we move into the Fall season, we look forward to seeing you at our chapter luncheons and VASSAR events. We very much appreciate your support and participation in our chapter and SAR.

Please visit our chapter website www.gwsar.org and go to the "Events" tab to register for upcoming meetings; pay for lunch on-line; or make a donation to our chapter—all with one easy click.

Fraternally,
Richard E. Rankin
President
George Washington Chapter



March to Tomb (from Page 1)



Lauren Bradshaw, Virginia SAR Rumbaugh Oration Contest winner, delivering her address.



Color Guard at the ready.



Ernie Coggins & Theresa Giason -- Theresa Giason sang the National Anthem at the ceremony.



GW Secretary Scott Walker & VASSAR President Bruce Meyer.



Rev. Tom & Susan Costa.

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Commemoration at Pohick Church on July 23, 2022



Ernie Coggins, Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, and Bill Bland attended. Ernie spoke on behalf of the Virginia Society as First VP and received the medal from the Fairfax Resolves Chapter as a member of their charitable arm, the 1774 Society. Richard Rankin presented a wreath on behalf of the GW Chapter and led the SAR recessional.



The George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society SAR, and the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia will be conducting a Grave Marking Honoring John Chapman Hunter, American Revolution Patriot and Defender in the War of 1812 and William Whitaker, Defender in the War of 1812--11:00 am, Saturday, 15 October 2022-- Flint Hill Cemetery, 2845 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton, VA (2 miles west of Vienna)

Geocoordinates: 38.882058, -77.293596

Please let us know if you can attend and if you are planning to present a wreath by submitting this form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYwZszSdQ5-geG834KTTEUdDS-R7Hs_gQqUi0xXOqplfEMdw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Questions: Contact Paul Walden, PaulWalden@live.com or (703) 346-2091

September GW Chapter Guest Speaker

President General C. Bruce Pickette



President General's Wreath-Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier September 10, 2022 4:15 PM Arlington National Cemetery

This signature annual event is at the core of the George Washington Chapter's activities and a cornerstone of our effort to honor two-and-a-half centuries of Patriots and those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Please join the President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and your fellow Compatriots to pay tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



"A citizen, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

*Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee,
December 26, 1799.*

President	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Vice President	Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001
Treasurer	Bill Wilson: 301-523-2690
Secretary	Scott Walker: 703-216-4798
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 250 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:
Tom Roth: 703-739-8811

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 **temporarily** 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.

On September 4, Paul Walden, Flag Chairman for the GW Chapter, presented the Jaguar/Land Rover of Alexandria dealership with a flag certificate for their very prominent display of the U.S. Flag. This very large flag can be seen by thousands of motorists on the Capital Beltway near the Van Dorn exit. In the photo, Paul Walden presents the certificate to Darshan Patel, Internet Sales Manager for the dealership.



Compatriot Don Francisco Awarded the DAR's Founders Medal for Education



On July 1, 2022, as part of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution's 131st Continental Congress, NSDAR President General Denise Doring van Buren presented George Washington Chapter member Don Francisco with the prestigious Mary Smith Lockwood Medal for Education. The DAR National Board of Management established the four Founders Medals in 1995 - in the categories of Heroism, Youth Achievement, Patriotism, and Education - to honor the four women recognized as Founders of the DAR and to recognize other outstanding American citizens who give unselfishly of themselves to their community, state, and Nation. The Lockwood Medal for Education honors an individual who has shown outstanding achievement through service and leadership in

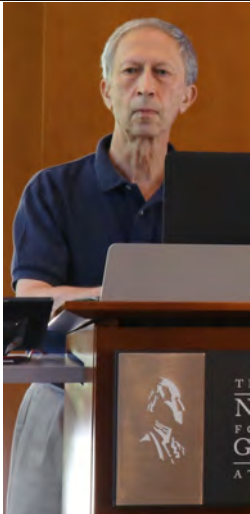
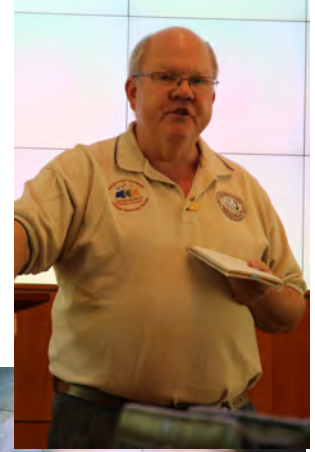
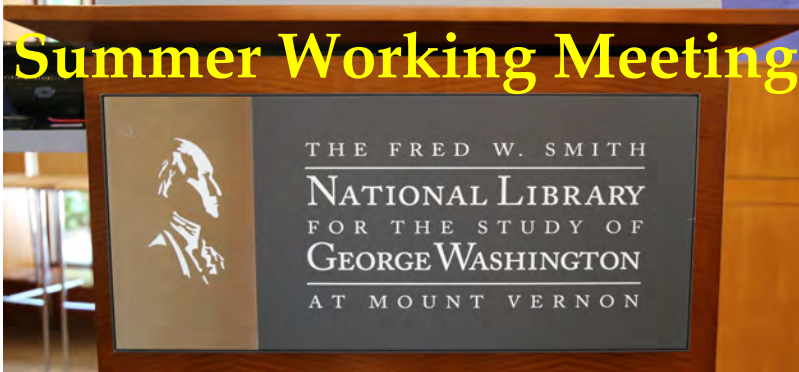
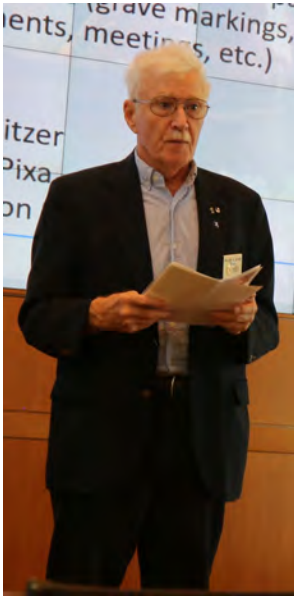
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By signing the Declaration of Independence, the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless. Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.



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.



The GW Chapter Summer Planning Meeting was held at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. This was our chapter's first meeting at this scholarly venue -- and this hybrid meeting did not disappoint.



Tom Roth, in his former-President capacity caught up with Dave Thomas to present three certificates, respectively a Certificate of Appreciation for service and support in execution of the 2018 VASSAR Annual Meeting, the certificate accompanying the VASSAR State Service Medal in recognition of Dave's service as VASSAR Registrar in 2018, and the November, 2021 Certificate of Distinguished Service for Dave's service as a member of the GWSAR special committee on electronic payments and website modernization.

Daniel Morgan Commemoration in Winchester



Right -- GW President Rankin flanked by former GW Presidents Ernie Coggins & Tom Roth

Marking of the Grave of Patriot John Wallace



Upcoming Events

Sept 10: Chapter Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club, 11:30 am, with
President General Bruce Pickette

Sept 10: PG Pickette presenting NSSAR Wreath

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Arlington National Cemetery, 4:15 pm

Sept 16-17: VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting

Woodlands Hotel & Suites, 105 Visitor
Center Drive, Williamsburg, VA

Sept 17: Vigil at George Washington's Tomb by PG Pickette and National Color Guard

Sept 16: Alexandria City Constitution Day Ceremony

City Hall, Alexandria, VA

Sept 29-Oct 1: NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting

Louisville, KY

Oct 1: Culpeper Muster Day

Culpeper, VA

Oct 7: 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain

Kings Mountain National Military Park,
2625 Park Rd., Blacksburg, SC

Oct 7-9: Commemoration of the Battle of Point Pleasant

Point Pleasant, WV

Oct 8: Chapter Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club at 11:30 am;
*Michael Crawford, The Continental Navy, Part
1: The Origin of the Continental Navy*

Oct 15: Joint Grave Marking, GWC & War of 1812 Society

11:00 am, Flint Hill Cemetery, 2845 Chain
Bridge Road, Vienna (Oakton), VA

Oct 19: 241st Commemoration of the Battle of Yorktown

10:30 am, Yorktown, VA

Nov 11: Veterans Day Wreath Laying at General Washington's Tomb

Mount Vernon

Nov 12: Chapter Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club at 11:30 am

*Michael Crawford, The Continental Navy, Part
2: The Naval Career of John Barry*

Dec 3: Wreaths Across America

Alexandria National Cemetery

Dec 3: 247th Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge

11:00 am, Great Bridge Battlefield &
Waterways Museum, 1775 Historic Way,
Chesapeake, VA

Dec. 10: Joint Chapter Meeting (George Washington & George Mason Chapters)

Army-Navy Club, Arlington, 11:30 am



**Note: Details for events are updated on the Chapter website at www.gwsar.org.
Please remember that you must be logged in to view SAR members-only events in
addition to public events.**

National Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2022



Left -- Richard Rankin (President George Washington Chapter), Davis Wright (NSSAR President General), National C.A.R. President, Bruce Meyer (VASSAR President), William Elston (V.S.C.A.R. President), Joe Dooley (past NSSAR President General). Will Elston and Joe Dooley are also members of the George Washington Chapter.



Right -- GW President Richard Rankin, Alexandria City Police Deputy Carmen Zygmunt, GW Compatriot John Blair, and Alexandria City Police Sheriff, Sean Casey.



New Member Biographies

Eric Norman Atkisson was born in Houston, Texas and grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He enlisted in the Army Reserve when he was 17 and graduated from the Ammunition Specialist Course in 1990, on the same day that Iraq invaded Kuwait. During his first semester of college that fall, Eric's reserve unit was mobilized and deployed to Saudi Arabia, a week before Operation Desert Storm commenced. During the war Eric served at the largest ammunition supply point in military history, in the desert near Hafir-al-Batin. His reserve unit was one of the last to come home.

Eric went on to graduate from Ripon College in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in history and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Wisconsin National Guard. After completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning in 1995, he moved back to Texas; among other duties he served as a public affairs officer in the Texas National Guard. In 2002, just days after assuming command of a personnel services detachment in Texas, his unit was mobilized for deployment overseas. The Iraq War commenced within an hour of his plane landing in Kuwait, in March of 2003.

From 1999 to 2006, Eric was an assistant professor of military science at Texas State University-San Marcos. After that he worked in public affairs at U.S. Army South in San Antonio, a job that took him to numerous locations in Central and South America. In 2009 Eric, his wife Jianying [JIN-YING], and daughter Sophie moved to Alexandria, Virginia, and Eric did a year of active duty at the Pentagon followed by a deployment to Basrah, Iraq from 2010 to 2011, as public affairs officer for the 36th Infantry Division.

After returning home he transferred to the Virginia National Guard and went to work as a public affairs specialist at the Patent and Trademark Office, where ten years later he now manages a growing

communications division of nearly 20 employees. He retired from the National Guard in 2014 at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In addition to his bachelor's degree from Ripon College, Eric has a master's in political science from Texas State University-San Marcos and a master of fine arts in creative writing from George Mason University. A graduate of the Defense Information School's Public Affairs Office Course and the Army Command and General Staff College, he also has an advanced professional certificate in public relations and corporate communications from Georgetown University.

He is the published author of over a dozen articles, essays, and short stories, and is currently researching and writing about his grandfather, Morris McCullough, who served as a Canadian infantryman in World War 1 and as a U.S. Navy Reservist in World War 2. Eric recently took command of the Lincoln-Cushing Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and is a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

His patriot ancestor is John Fuller of Bennington County, Vermont, a 5th-great-grandfather who was 14 years old when the first shots of the war were fired at Lexington. From the age of 16 to 21, John served in a variety of militia units raised in and around Bennington County in response to various alarms and in defense of the frontiers. Some of those units were commanded by "Green Mountain Boys" like Jonas Galusha and Seth Warner, close associates of Ethan Allen. John's father Elijah also served with the Green Mountain Boys. John Fuller died in 1842 at the age of 81 and is buried in Shaftsbury Center, Vermont with his wife Elizabeth.



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New Member Biographies *(from previous Page)*

Andrew Jackson Bush was born in Huntington, West Virginia, and grew up in Portsmouth, Ohio. He earned a BS from the Ohio State University, an MS from Wright State University and a PhD in statistics and research design from Ohio State in the bicentennial year of 1976. During his doctoral education, Andrew received the Alumni Award for Graduate Student Research and Creative Achievement as well as the Flesher Fellowship Award for Outstanding Scholarship.

Andrew taught mathematics for five years in public schools, followed by statistics and research design for over twenty years at the graduate level. He has held tenured faculty positions at both the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. In his career he has received awards for teaching and research excellence, including the University of Memphis Distinguished Teaching and the Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Research Awards.

In addition, Andrew has had thirteen years of fulltime hospital research experience including serving as Deputy Director of Health Services Research and Director of Clinical Data Management for the Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation in

Memphis, Tennessee. Additionally, he has held a state level elected office in the Tennessee Health Management Systems Society.

Andrew has published many peer-reviewed research articles, coauthored several books, teamed with other researchers on projects, made research presentations at national and international professional meetings and served on a number of graduate student committees. In 2009, Dr. Bush retired from his roles of Professor of Biostatistics and Professor of Physical Therapy at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and assumed the role of Emeritus Professor in the College of Medicine at UTHSC.

In addition to his academic work, he has an Honorable Discharge from the Ohio National Guard as an infantry Staff Sergeant. He also holds an FCC Extra Class amateur radio license. In retirement, he enjoys exploring his own ancestry and helping others with their research.

Andrew's patriot ancestor, Patrick Kendrick, was born around 1730 in Stafford County, Virginia, and died in Russell County, Virginia, in 1805. He served in the Revolutionary War under Captains William Russell and James Montgomery of Washington County, Virginia.

Don Francisco Award *(from Page 6)*

promoting education outside the formal education process.

In her presentation remarks, President General van Buren highlighted - among many of Don's exceptional achievements - his remarkable interactions with visitors (particularly of the younger generation) while on duty at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

The George Washington Chapter is extremely proud to count Don as an SAR, VASSAR, and George Washington Chapter member. Our membership has been blessed to have witnessed

Don's magic with audiences - young and old alike - as he uses music, humor, and a deep personal honesty to educate and entertain. Please congratulate him on receiving this award at your next opportunity.

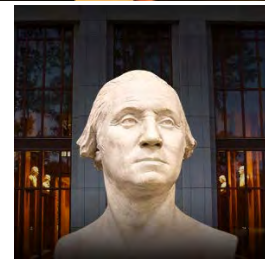


May GW Chapter Meeting



Left -- GW Registrar Rich Sherman and new member Eric Norman Atkisson as GW President Richard Rankin does the honor of the swearing-in.

Right -- Cadet Kyle Lovejoy receiving our chapter's Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award (he also won at the VASSAR level). Kyle's father is on the left next to GW President Richard Rankin. Compatriot Jeff McCoy, ROTC Awards Chairman, is on the right.



Left -- Jack Coulter and former GW President Tom Roth

Right -- Guest Speaker Prof. V. Scott Kaufman gave talk on Francis Marion, who played a key role in the American patriots' victory over the British, yet that role is oftentimes ignored. This talk gave General Marion his just due, pointing out how his use of guerrilla tactics against one of the world's superpowers was important to America's independence.

