

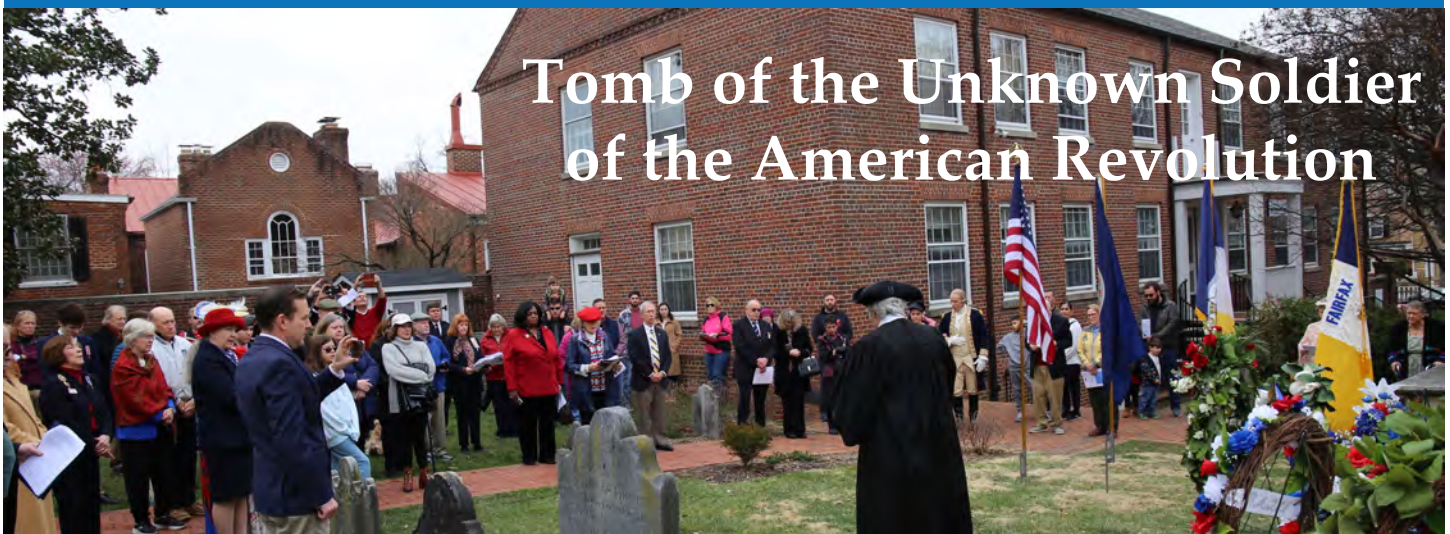


George Washington Chapter Newsletter in Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 25, Issue 4

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

April, 2023



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution

Old Presbyterian Meeting House Alexandria, Virginia

February's activities were so many and so rewarding that there's still more to share! Prior to kicking off the George Washington Birthday Parade, February 20, 2023, the George Washington Chapter continued its long running tradition of co-sponsoring with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter NSDAR and the City of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee a special celebration and wreath presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution. (Old Presbyterian Meeting House Churchyard.) President Rand Pixa welcomed the assembled representatives. Ernie Coggins (GW Chapter), President of the Virginia Society, brought greetings from VASSAR. Greetings were also brought by Laurie Nesbitt, Regent of the Virginia DAR. A short keynote address was given by George Seghers, Grand Marshal of the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Parade and

Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Wreaths were placed at the Tomb by, among others, President Coggins and Regent Nesbitt, President Pixa, and by the President of the V.S.C.A.R. The Virginia Society Color Guard presented the Colors and rendered honors at the Tomb.

Greetings were brought by Laurie Nesbitt, Regent of the Virginia DAR and Ernie Coggins (GW Chapter), President of the VASSAR.



(Con't on Page 4)

President's Corner

Compatriots:

Short version: Put our values and ideas forward! Volunteer now to support the activities of the Chapter. The Chapter's committees, especially Youth Activities, 250th Anniversary, and Color Guard need all of us.

Longer version: The Chapter lives and brings meaning through the volunteer efforts of its Compatriots. There is the obvious truth that the more ideas and effort we devote to our shared objectives, largely through our committees, the more we will accomplish to share and perpetuate the founding principles for which our Patriot ancestors came together.

If it's been a while, you might like to reacquaint yourself with our mission, <https://www.gwsar.org/mission>, and how the Chapter's standing committees established by our bylaws align with our objectives, <https://www.gwsar.org/resources/Documents/GWSAR%20Bylaws%2020121110.pdf>. The Standing Committees include Amenities, Flag, Program, Public Relations, Audit, Youth Activities, Awards, Scouting, Property Management, and Graves.

Many of the Committees are already very successful, but they can always use the efforts of interested Compatriots. Not detracting from any of them, let's take this opportunity to turn the spotlight on three that are either reorganizing or just forming.

First to Youth Activities. The Nation's youth are our future citizens. Many are not imbued with our history and first values; we have an opportunity to remedy the circumstance. Thanks to the efforts of Chairman Marty Johnson, the Scouting Committee is prospering and carrying out an excellent and expanding program. And thanks to the efforts of Jeff McCoy our Chapter's JROTC outreach is vigorous and robust. Past President Jay Henn has continued sound liaison with the C.A.R.



and DAR. But, in other areas of youth outreach, we have been lagging. The Bylaws provide:

Youth Activities Committee -

Responsible for handling all chapter relations with private and public schools in the Northern Virginia area, including, but not limited to:

Good Citizenship Awards, the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, the Joseph H. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, and the Children of the American Revolution.

Hence there is great opportunity for youth engagement by developing our own Knight Essay Contest, Rumbaugh Oration Contest, and the kind of direct classroom experiences in which other VASSAR Chapters have grandly succeeded.

We have been without a Youth Activities Chairman for some time. Now we have one; Marty Johnson has volunteered to chair the Committee while continuing to oversee the Scouting Committee. He has a lot of initiative and ideas, but he cannot bring them to fruition without an active committee. He needs everyone who sees the benefit of imbuing youth with our ideals to help him. Please reach out to Marty at mjvt@aol.com to explore how to advance our Chapter's engagement with youth.

And as a further thought regarding Scouting, Marty notes, we can use Counselors for our Merit Badge Workshop with Troop 996 on the following Merit Badges: American Heritage, Genealogy, and Law. Training to be a Merit Badge Counselor will be provided; this would only involve a couple of hours on June 3rd.

Second, we have a brand new ad hoc committee, the 250th Anniversary Committee. The focus date is July 4, 2026. Many of us pridefully remember the excitement of the Bicentennial in 1976. This is every bit as big and will be the memorable patriotic event for a whole new generation. If all we want to communicate is with sparklers, it's three long years away. If we want to put a spotlight on that July

(Continued next Page)

President's *(from Page 2)*

4th and all of the simmering events 250 years ago that paved the road to Independence and Revolution, we really have to get moving. The Revolution did not spring forth on July 4, 1776; our commemoration shouldn't try to spring forth in 2026 either.

I am happy to report that Compatriot Edgar Bates has volunteered to chair our 250th/Semiquincentennial celebration; he has been joined by a founding group of committee members. The SAR and VASSAR have begun planning; please see <https://america250sar.org/> for a high level discussion of the topic, but what our Chapter-level development or what our celebration will look like has just begun. There is no doubt that Edgar would welcome all of the help and ideas we can muster. Please contact him at e.a.bates@att.net to explore ideas and volunteer your support to make the 250th Anniversary and all of the events leading up to it truly memorable.

Third, our Chapter needs a much expanded Color Guard, available to support all of our Chapter events. It was for that reason that Chapter Vice President Bill Wilson invited the Commander and Deputy Commander, Chris Melhuish and Dale Corey, of the VASSAR Color Guard to address our March Chapter meeting. We have four members of the VASSAR Color Guard and two Compatriots who frequently don hunting shirts, but they are unable to provide Color Guard support at all of our events. By Chris Melhuish's quick calculation, if our Color Guard were proportionate to other chapters', we would have 26 Chapter Compatriots in the Color Guard. Hopefully, many of us will answer the call and muster with the Color Guard. And remember, joining the Color Guard would not commit you to more events than you would choose.

Both Chris' and Dale's enthusiasm was contagious; they point out that there is no easier way to engage members of the public and to open doors to share our historic and

Revolutionary messages than to wear a colonial-era uniform. Doing so cannot help but to remind the public of the volunteerism and sacrifices of our forefathers. If you would like to explore the possibilities of joining the Color Guard, please contact Bill Wilson at billwilsongwvp@comcast.net and he will help you make all of the necessary connections.

Each of our Patriots volunteered, made sacrifices, and made an indelible contribution. Please volunteer to put theirs and our Chapter's values into action.

Fraternally,
Rand Pixa, President
George Washington Chapter



Commander Chris Melhuish and Deputy Commander Dale Corey of the VASSAR Color Guard, addressed the March Chapter meeting on expanding the GW Chapter Color Guard. Below--GW Chapter VP Bill Wilson presents Houdon busts to each speaker.



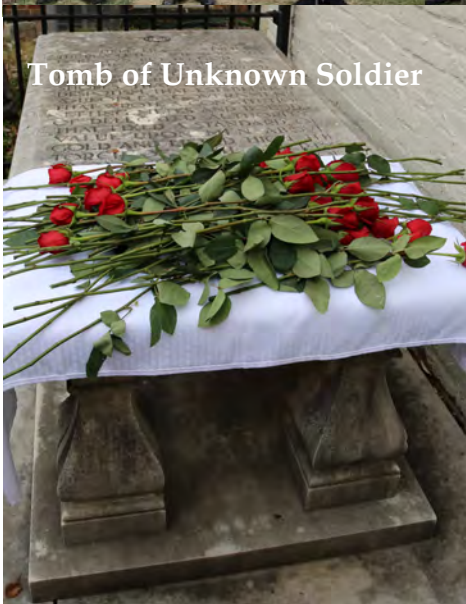
Unknown Soldier *(con't from Page 1)*

Following Prayers lead by the Rev. Tom Costa (in his role as the Revolutionary era minister to George Washington, the Rev. Lee Massie), the members of the lineage societies and the general public were invited to place red roses on the Tomb.

The Old Presbyterian Meeting House churchyard is the resting place of many patriots of the Revolution and the Church sanctuary was the location of Alexandria's memorial services on the death of General Washington.



*Rev. Tom Costa as
Rev. Lee Massie.*



*Left: GW
Chapter
President,
Rand Pixa
giving remarks
and right:
presenting
Chapter
wreath.*



*Wreaths were presented
by Laurie Nesbitt, Regent
of the Virginia DAR,
Ernie Coggins (GW
Chapter), President of the
VASSAR and The
Virginia Society C.A.R.*



Support for the Children of the American Revolution

The George Washington Chapter works closely with many other lineage organizations to achieve our common educational, historical, and patriotic goals. In particular, through the years your Chapter has been a strong supporter of the programs and activities of the Virginia Society, Children of the American Revolution (V.S.C.A.R.).

The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution, founded in 1895, is the oldest patriotic youth organization in our country. Membership is open to descendants of patriots of the American Revolution until they reach the age of 22. Members gain valuable leadership experience in sponsoring events, conducting meetings, following parliamentary procedures and standard protocol, and serving as delegates and speaking before groups at local, state and national conferences. In addition, the C.A.R. serves as an important pipeline for future SAR and DAR members. V.S.C.A.R. members are active and contributing participants in many of our Chapter events,

Newly-installed VASSAR President (and past GW Chapter President) Ernie Coggins with First Lady Diane Coggins, brought greetings to the 96th V.S.C.A.R. Conference on behalf of the Virginia Society. Ernie and Diane were joined in Richmond by several GW Chapter members and their wives, including Past President Jay Henn and Past Chapter First Lady Bonnie Henn.



including the George Washington Birthday Parade, the National Memorial Day Parade, and the July 4th March to the Tomb at Mount Vernon. We are especially delighted to announce that during this past year, using the theme *"Patriots of the Roundtable"*, the President of the V.S.C.A.R. (a Junior Member of the George Washington Chapter), raised over \$30,000 to support several high-visibility projects for the Yorktown Battlefield Unit of the Colonial National Historical Park. The accompanying photos provide a glimpse of George Washington Chapter attendance at the 96th V.S.C.A.R. State Conference, held in Richmond February 24-26, where the proceeds of the State Project were presented to representatives of the National Park Service.

We encourage you to keep an eye out for opportunities to support the C.A.R.'s programs and activities. And remember, your children, grandchildren, and other young family members are likely eligible to join. Get them signed up today!



GW Chapter members Rodney Schmidt (a Past President of the National Society Children of the American Revolution) and Jay Henn are flanked by Sir Alec the Marshall (left) and Sir Michael of Elston (right). Some of you may notice a striking resemblance between Sir Michael and our own past GW Chapter and past Virginia Society President Mike Elston.

Photo Credits to Darrin Schmidt, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, VASSAR.

March Chapter Meeting Awards



Above--Past GW President Paul Walden for his service as Chairman of the Public Education Committee. Left--Jamie Callender as Webmaster of the Year for 2022.



Fairfax Co., Va. Sheriff's Office Life Saving Award

Before noon, December 13th, 2022, Master Deputy Sheriff Jason Strasser was passing by a 7-11 convenience store in Fairfax County, Va. when he observed a crowd forming and a commotion centered around a parked vehicle. He immediately pulled into the parking lot to determine if the situation required law enforcement or emergency medical intervention. Members of the crowd indicated that they were familiar with a man at the scene and had already administered two doses of Narcan, which is used to treat a known or suspected opioid overdose emergency. The man was still displaying overdose symptoms so Master Deputy Sheriff Strasser administered a dose of agency issued Narcan nasal spray. Almost immediately, the subject awakened, began breathing normally, opened his eyes and soon began speaking clearly with Master Deputy Sheriff Strasser. For his swift and skilled intervention during a medical emergency Master Deputy Sheriff Strasser was awarded the SAR Life Saving Award at the GW Chapter's March meeting at historic Gadsby's Tavern in Old Town Alexandria, Va.



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

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

<i>President</i>	<i>Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Bill Wilson: 301-523-2690</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Scott Walker: 703-216-4798</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Scot Bryant: 703-922-4431</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319</i>

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form 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).

Immediate Past President:

Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805

***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 sbryant.sarmail@gmail.com*

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.



April through the years with George Washington

- 1732** on the 5th--Washington baptized.
- 1743** on the 12th--Death of Washington's father, Augustine Washington.
- 1759** on the 7th--George and Martha Washington, along with her two children, Patsy and Jacky Custis, arrive at Mount Vernon.
- 1783** on the 15th--Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty to end Revolutionary War.
- 1789** on the 16th--Washington leaves Mount Vernon to become president.
- 1789** on the 30th--Washington inaugurated as first president of the United States.
- 1792** on the 2nd--Washington approves legislation establishing U.S. Mint.

Prince William County Police Department

14 Law Enforcement Commendation Awards

From January through December of 2022 several officers in the Prince William County Police (PWC) Department went above and beyond the call of duty many, many times. The George Washington Chapter was pleased to recently present 14 of these public servants with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Award. A brief summary highlighting their heroics follows.

Eight of the officers responded to an active shooter case that included treating a gunshot victim found in a separate location and a second victim of the shooting, also needing emergency medical assistance, was then reported in yet a third location. Emergency medical aid was provided by police officers there as well. The officers demonstrated professionalism to protect the innocent plus save lives at multiple scenes with multiple gunshot victims requiring immediate medical attention.

In a stabbing case, three PWC police officers responded to a dispatch at a residence. The stabbing suspect was determined to be inside the residence as was a victim who had been stabbed multiple times. The suspect was confronted by the officers and taken into custody. The officers then located

the victim and began providing emergency first aid. The victim was later flown to Fairfax Hospital where they ultimately survived. The officers' quick thinking and experienced teamwork at an evolving scene led to the apprehension of a violent criminal being taken off the streets.

Three PWC police officers responded to yet another shooting case later in the year. A female gunshot victim, screaming for help from a second-story window, let officers know that the shooter was inside the home. Officers instructed the victim to toss a door key down. An entry team formed using a ballistic shield and rifles. Once the team opened the door, the officers challenged the suspect who was ultimately apprehended. The officers then located a second victim upstairs who had multiple gunshot wounds requiring emergency medical assistance. Both victims survived due in large part to the officers' unhesitating willingness to expose themselves to extreme risk to rescue the victims.

These commendable acts of bravery and sacrifice for the benefit of others is in the highest traditions of the Sons of the American Revolution!



Past GW President Dave Thomas, GW Chapter President, Rand Pixa, MPO Robert Gudaitis, MPO George Kimble, Officer Scott McBride, Officer Jason Byrne, Officer Stephen Kuhn, Lieutenant Colonel Jared Phelps, Chief of Police Pete Newsham, and GW Chapter Public Service Awards Committee Chairman, John Blair.

Fairfax City, Va. Police Department

Life Saving Award

Lt. Michael Duncan and Master Police Officer Donnie Poore responded to a wooded area behind Fairfax Circle, December 31, 2022, where a 9-year-old boy was behaving erratically. The juvenile's parents notified police that he had recently assaulted them, and they were seeking the assistance of officers concerning their son. The officers located the juvenile on an embankment next to a creek in a wooded area. He was threatening to jump off the

embankment onto the rocks and creek below. The officers defused the situation by using de-escalation tactics and by building a rapport with the child. Ultimately, the child calmed down and agreed to retreat from the embankment. Due to the officers' peaceful conduct and exercising patience to calm the child down, he was safely reunited with his parents. The professionalism and demonstrated expertise of these officers saved the life of a distressed child.



GW President Rand Pixa , MPO Donnie Poore, Lt. Michael Duncan, Major Dan Grimm, Chief Erin Schaible, and GW Chapter Public Service Awards Chairman, John Blair.

James Madison's Birthday Wreath Laying



Past GW President Tom Roth, Awards Chairman John Blair, GW President Rand Pixa and Past GW President Richard Rankin with President Biden's wreath at left and with GW Chapter wreath at right.



March 18, 2023 Dr. William Brown Epitaph Dedication Ceremony

The George Washington Chapter and the VASSAR Knight-Patty Trust Fund financed the purchase and installation of a new epitaph next to Dr. William Brown's grave site at Pohick Church. Pohick Church leaders, the GW Chapter, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter and the St. Andrew's Society participated in this event. Dr. William Brown was a Revolutionary War Surgeon of the 2nd VA Regiment, who later became the Physician General of the Continental Army.



Mike Elston, NSSAR Chancellor General; State President, V.S.C.A.R.; Richard Rankin, Past President, George Washington Chapter; Dr. Lynn Ronaldi, Rector, Pohick Episcopal Church; Matt Kuldell, Pipe Major, St. Andrews Society; Forrest Crain, President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter; and Thomas Wright, President, St. Andrews Society of Washington DC.

Virginia Committee of Correspondence

On Sunday March 12 the Col. William Grayson Chapter held a commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the formation of the Virginia Committee of Correspondence at Col. William Grayson's Tomb. During a mild snowfall. President Pixa presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter. In addition, other GW



Chapter Members participated as follows: VASSAR President Coggins brought greetings on behalf of the Virginia Society, Chancellor General Mike Elston brought greetings on behalf of the President General and presented a wreath, Will Elston, President, brought greetings and presented a wreath on behalf of the VA Children of the American Revolution, Isaac Bodge presented a wreath on behalf of the Light Horse Harry Lee Society of the V.S.C.A.R. VASSAR President Coggins designated this as a State Event and a Presidential Initiative.

Upcoming Events

Apr 8--Saturday: Chapter Meeting
10:30 am: Tour GW National Masonic Memorial

12:45 pm: Luncheon Meeting
Executive Diner
1400 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA

Apr 12--Wednesday: 10:30 am
247th Commemoration of the
Halifax Resolves
70 Market Street
Halifax, NC

Apr 13--Thursday: Thomas Jefferson
Birthday Commemoration at Monticello
Charlottesville, VA

Apr 22--Saturday: 10:00 am
James Monroe Birthplace
Commemoration
4460 James Monroe Highway
Route 205
(Westmoreland County
South of Colonial Beach)



For up to date George Washington Chapter
events, please see

<https://www.gwsar.org/Events>

(log in for all events and details) or email
billwilsongwvp@comcast.net.

Please see the VASSAR calendar for upcoming
statewide SAR events:

<https://vssar.memberclicks.net/calendar>

Apr 28--Friday: 11:00 am
James Monroe Birthday Observance
President Monroe's Tomb
Hollywood Cemetery
Richmond, VA

May 13--Saturday: 11:30 am
Chapter Meeting
Pavilion C, Fort Hunt Park
8999 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, VA
Meeting and catered barbecue for
Chapter families

May 20--Saturday: 2:00 pm
27th Annual Patriots' Day in
Alamance County
Alamance Battleground
State Historic Site
5803 South N.C. 62
Burlington, NC

May 29--Monday: 12:45 pm
Memorial Day Parade
The National Mall
Washington, DC



Benjamin Rush: Doctor of the Revolution

*Submitted by Compatriot
John Haseltine*



Benjamin Rush was born on December 24, 1745. He grew up in the small town of Byberry just 12 miles from Philadelphia. When Ben was only six, his father (John Rush) unexpectedly died. His mother then sent him to live with an aunt and uncle so that he could receive a better education. He went on to study at the College of New Jersey. After receiving his bachelor's degree, Rush returned to Philadelphia and decided to study medicine. In June 1768, he finally received his medical degree and became a well-known doctor in Philadelphia. However, his expertise in medicine would not be his only major contributions to his country.

When he returned to Philadelphia in 1769, Dr. Rush quickly put his new skills to good use. He wrote numerous papers on medical techniques, politics, and the abolition of slavery. He eventually became a chemistry professor at the College of Philadelphia, where he published the first American textbook on chemistry. His activities eventually caught the eyes of the Sons of Liberty. In 1776, Dr. Rush met a man named, Thomas Paine. Paine was very impressed with Rush's writings on the political situation that was brewing in the colonies and urged him to join the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Dr. Rush did so in June of that year.

On July 4th, Benjamin Rush voted on the resolution of Independence and signed the Declaration. Almost immediately after, he left Philadelphia and joined the Continental Army where he was appointed, Surgeon-General. However, this appointment led Rush into a nasty dispute between himself and George Washington. Rush was highly

critical of the Continental Army's medical service under the Administration of Dr. William Shippen. When Rush accused Dr. Shippen of poor management, Washington deferred to Congress. And when both the Congress and Washington sided with Shippen on the matter, Rush angrily resigned in protest. He would never forgive Washington for this. His unresolved conflict with George Washington would ultimately end Dr. Rush's direct involvement in the Revolutionary War.

In 1778, Benjamin Rush returned to Philadelphia where he resumed writing medical papers. He wrote specifically on the study of medical care and mental health. He became a major supporter of the US Constitution and advocated for more scientific education, building more public medical clinics, and the abolition of slavery. By 1789, Rush had become a leading pioneer in the studies of physiology and psychiatry. In 1797 he was appointed as Treasurer of the Mint, a position he held until his death on April 13, 1813.

Due to his poor relationships with other founding fathers (namely, George Washington, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin), the contributions made by Benjamin Rush were largely forgotten in the aftermath of the Revolution. However, Rush's research and medical papers were instrumental in many advances in the scientific community. Today, he is remembered as both a founding father and revolutionary medical doctor whose studies saved thousands of people in the United States.

Sources:

<https://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/features/brush.html>

<https://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/rush.html>

<https://www.americanheritage.com/paradoxical-doctor-benjamin-rush>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20040126092811/>

<http://deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/author/RushB.htm>



New Members in GW Chapter



Above: GW Registrar Rich Sherman, David James Harrity, Terry Edison Zerwick and GW President Rand Pixa.

David James Harrity was born in March 1967 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Several years later his parents divorced, and he was raised by his mother and stepfather. Thereafter, moves to Oklahoma and then Arkansas found him graduating high school in Sherwood, AK. He soon joined the U.S. Navy and after bootcamp in Great Lakes, IL he was assigned to advanced training in the Navy's nuclear power program. During his more than 10 years of military service, Machinist Mate Petty Officer Harrity served aboard the USS South Carolina (CGN-37) becoming an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, attended the University of Oklahoma, and later served on the USS Shenandoah (AD-44) before his honorable discharge in 1995.

David began his post-Navy career as a consultant with engineering firms supporting the Portsmouth Gaseous

Terry Edison Zerwick was born in 1945 and grew up in suburban Maryland, served in the U.S. Navy, and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in accounting and finance. In 1971 he married Kay Whitby, who hails from Maryland's Eastern Shore, and they have a daughter Amy who lives with her husband in the Washington area. Terry became a CPA in 1972 and for the next 40 years helped people with taxes, financial planning, and estate matters. His retirement has allowed him over the past 10 years to pursue full-time his lifelong interest in history and family genealogy.

Terry is a member of the Alexandria Historical Society, a friend of the Carlyle House, a life member and past president of the 30-year-old Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, and a member of the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia.

(Continued next Page)

New Members *(con't from Page 13)*

David Harrity--continued

Diffusion Plant in southern Ohio and the D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, Michigan. Around this time, he completed his bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, NJ.

He then shifted his attention to information technology services, serving as a consultant with leading firms such as Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, Sogeti USA, CSC and SAIC, before accepting a position in the civil service with the U.S. Department of Education and receiving a Master's in Management of Information Technology from the University of Virginia.

Since January 2017, he has been a member of the Senior Executive Service in the federal government, attended executive education at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and now serves as the Deputy Associate Chief Information Officer for Corporate IT Services at the General Services Administration (GSA).

After living in 11 states, David has settled down (for now) with his wife Nancy in the historic mid-century modern community of Hollin Hills south of Alexandria. He enjoys listening to his more than 1,800 vinyl records, supporting the Virginia Mayflower Society and local civic association, and finding excuses to travel to a Frank Lloyd Wright home or building, and drop into another record shop.

Terry Zerwick--continued

He is also an art collector, student of art history, maker of American colonial furniture, and avid gardener.

Two years ago, he published a book about letters he transcribed and annotated that had been written during the Civil War by his great-great-grandfather, Dr. Lafayette Butler, who served as a Union Army surgeon. Terry is now working on a book about his parents and their ancestors based on extensive family memorabilia, online resources, and research by genealogy experts.

While looking into his ancestry, Terry discovered that—via Dr. Butler's wife's family—he is a direct descendant of an intrepid Revolutionary War hero, Anthony Carner, born 1752 in NC but served in PA. Per an 1818 affidavit, he participated in the battles of Brandywine, Monmouth, and Germantown where he carried General Francis Nash off the battlefield. Honorably discharged at Valley Forge, he reenlisted and by a circuitous route ended up serving in the Navy. After the British captured the frigate on which he served, he laid in a prison ship for five months, escaped, went back into action on another frigate, and was captured again. A prisoner again on a British sloop of war, he led a mutiny, took possession of the vessel, and as its captain sailed the prize into Havana. He died in 1834 in Centre Co., PA.

A Reminder . . . Beat the Heat!!

May Chapter Meeting

National Memorial Day Parade

4th of July March to the Tomb



**Yours, fraternally,
Rand Pixa**

Last September your Board of Managers unanimously approved a good-looking way to beat the heat at summer events, such as marching in the National Memorial Day Parade or on the Fourth of July. The health and safety measure adds a new option for participants—khaki trousers with SAR blue polo shirt, topped by a straw hat or boater. The new outfit is in addition to customary Revolutionary-era civilian attire or uniform, or blue blazer, tie, and khaki trousers. The new option also has the advantage of providing a smart, uniform look for our marchers.

If you want to wear the new outfit, now is a good time to get ready by ordering the shirt and hat. If you already have a blue SAR-logo polo shirt, great. **(More on Page 15)**

GWC America 250 Kick-off



America250 is a multiyear effort to commemorate the semiquincentennial, or 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States. The non-partisan U.S. Semiquincentennial



Commission was created by Congress with the mission to lead a comprehensive and inclusive celebration to honor our Country's first 250 years. The commemoration period began in 2020, culminates on July 4, 2026, and officially concludes in 2027. The Sons of the American Revolution have organized the America250 SAR Project Committee to promote the commemoration on the national, state, and local levels and encourages Chapters to organize their own 250th Anniversary Committees and to develop their own plans of action focused on celebrating America's 250th anniversary with Patriotic, Historical and Educational programs which raise the awareness of Americans about our past and helps strengthen our democracy. The intent is to

not only leverage many existing programs (i.e., Color Guard, Essay Contest, etc.) and align with other opportunities that are already being planned by like-minded organizations, but also to seek out new and unique opportunities where the SAR can make a positive contribution. The George Washington Chapter America 250 Committee is looking for volunteers to develop engagement strategies, identify potential venues/events and organize new initiatives. If you are interested in joining the committee and promoting the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, please contact Edgar Bates e.a.bates@att.net

A Reminder . . . (from Page 14)

But if you need one, please order from the SAR store. Also, below, you will find links for three alternative sources of boater straw hats--boaters may be preferable because they can be had with a blue and red band to match the shirt and SAR logo, but the straw hat is your call.

Links:

SAR polo shirt: (pictured above, \$45). Please call the SAR Store to order (502-589-1779) since the SAR Store online is temporarily unavailable due to an online fraud attempt.

Hats (3 moderate-cost options; many others are available; this is not an endorsement):

Hats.com [https://www.hats.com/mens/shop-by-fabric/straw/straw-boater?](https://www.hats.com/mens/shop-by-fabric/straw/straw-boater?nosto_source=cmp&nosto=710514051)
[nosto_source=cmp&nosto=710514051](https://www.hats.com/mens/shop-by-fabric/straw/straw-boater?nosto_source=cmp&nosto=710514051)
(pictured on Page 14)

Berkeley hats <https://berkeleyhat.com/straw-boater-hat.html>

Amazon https://www.amazon.com/ZAKIRA-Straw-Boater-Handmade-Navy-Yellow-Navy/dp/B073WF3KJ2/ref=cs_sr_dp_2?crid=GBPD18HKTNQA&keywords=zakira%2Bstraw%2Bboater%2Bhat%2Bhandmade%2Bin%2Bitaly&qid=1671810953&srefix=Zakira%2Bstraw%2Caps%2C60&sr=8-1&th=1



The Interesting Bland Brothers

William G. and Thomas H. Bland are each fascinating to talk to and they have stories to tell. Though there are some head-turning similarities between them, they are unique in their own ways. For instance, though they were both attending East Carolina University at the same time, Tom decided to join the Army Reserve. Bill joined the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve. Tom stayed in the Army Reserve for 28 years and reached the rank of Major. Bill stayed in the Marine Corps Reserve for six years and reached the rank of Sergeant. Yet, Bill maintains he was higher ranked as a Sergeant than Tom was as a Major, "Because I was in the Marine Corps," jokes Bill.

When asked about their experiences with "Twin Whammies" (including when one brother is thought to be the other), story after story unfolds. Most people cannot believe their own eyes when they see one (or is it the other?) or both at the same time. Bill tells the tale of once being recognized by a gentleman who thought Bill was Tom while Bill was having trouble securing a rental car. The gentleman said not to worry, "Tom, you can borrow my car," and he handed Bill his keys. Another time Bill was at the Convention Center in Washington, D. C. and had to get somewhere quickly when he was stopped by a man at a wall-mounted pay phone (remember those?!) because the man on the telephone thought Bill was Tom. Even after Bill showed the man his driver's license with the name William G. Bland, he still insisted Bill was Tom. Those are but two of Bill's funny accounts of mistaken identity. Tom tells the story though of bumping into an acquaintance once who turned out to be rather irritated at Tom because "Tom" had ignored the man at a recent event; "Like I didn't know him." Tom futilely tried to explain to the man that, "You must have seen my twin brother," but, again, the man couldn't believe his eyes which told him Bill was Tom.

Tom is the older of the two (which Bill likes to make very clear) by seven minutes. They grew up in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Their father was a member of SAR, and their mother was a founding member of a DAR chapter, in North Carolina. Their deep family history is recognized and recorded well before the American Revolutionary War and even centuries before their ancestors arrived in Jamestown on the second wave of ships.

Tom and Bill are very active members of Pohick Church, American Legion, Masons, and other service and historic preservation organizations. They both joined the George Washington Chapter in May 2005 and have been active chapter stalwarts since.

When asked what advice they would give to new chapter members or members who may have joined the chapter years ago but wish to become more engaged now, Tom suggested, "Become involved in the programs that the chapter offers. Because then their membership will become more meaningful and even more rewarding."



(L-R) Bill and Tom Bland, George Washington Chapter members since 2005, attended the March 11, 2023 Chapter Meeting together at historic Gadsby's Tavern, in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

(Photo credit: Tom Roth)



GW Chapter Family BBQ Picnic

Save the Date!



Saturday, May 13, 2023, 12PM

The May 2023 Chapter Meeting will be held at Fort Hunt Park which was originally part of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. The park is located off the G. W. Memorial Parkway. (Just a silver dollar's throw from Mount Vernon.) The luncheon portion of the meeting will include BBQ sandwiches and sides. Plus, what picnic would be complete without something sweet to eat for dessert?

Bring the family!
Children of all ages are welcomed to this event!

Mission BBQ will be supplying pulled pork, pulled chicken and beef brisket BBQ sandwiches. Side dishes such as coleslaw, baked beans and mac-n-cheese will be included. There will also be cookies (at least!) for dessert! The lunch is "BYOB". (Bring Your Own Beverages: Soft drinks, water, Beer and/or Wine. No hard liquor, per Park Service restrictions.)

The meeting portion of the day will include youth focused:

- Eagle Scout Award presentation,
- J. R. O. T. C. Award presentation, and
- New (5 Years Old!) Member induction.

Fun treats and activities for the children are being planned dependent upon registration. So, sign up and bring them along!

Come out and meet your fellow compatriots, talk to committee chairmen and committee members to find out more about their programs. There are many ways to lend your support! Learn how. (Did you know that the GW Chapter is already actively working on the celebration of the Nation's 250th birthday in 2026 as well as the GW Chapter's 70th anniversary next year?)

Let's get together!



With its close proximity to Washington, DC, Fort Hunt became an ideal location for one of the most secretive group of programs in American history. Code-named after its post office box in Alexandria, 1142, Fort Hunt became a secret interrogation center for high value German POWs.

