

George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 22, Issue 4

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

April, 2021

George Washington Chapter & NSSAR Special National Congress in Northern Virginia

One of the significant SAR events that occurred in our community in March was the Special National Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Special National Congress was held on March 13 in the Westfield Marriot in Chantilly, Virginia. The limited purpose of the Congress was to make some amendments to the NSSAR Constitution to address some issues which came to light after the COVID-19 based cancellation of the 2020 National Congress. These amendments permit virtual voting and attendance at future Congresses if needed. The George Washington Chapter had a very prominent and active role in the Congress, in addition to the four members of our chapter who served as Delegates from the Virginia Society. The NSSAR By-laws Committee and the Special Congress Organizing Committee were both chaired by Mike Elston, a past VASSAR and George Washington Chapter President. VASSAR 2nd VP and past George Washington Chapter President, Ernie Coggins, was Chairman of the Special



Deputy Chairman and VASSAR Assistant Secretary Tim Diquino and Ernie Coggins, Committee Chairman (and GW Chapter Past President) on the right.

Congress Credentials Committee. GWC President Roth assisted as one of the Deputy Chairmen of the three-member Credentials Committee. Will Elston, a member of the George Washington Chapter, and Chaplain of the Virginia C.A.R., served as Deputy Chairman of the IT Committee, and kept the recording and live streaming of the Congress in operation. Former President General and George Washington Chapter Member, Joe Dooley, also served as Delegate from the Virginia Society to the Congress. The Special Congress was a very short event, but had very important results, and required much planning, especially in light of the COVID-19 related restrictions. Thanks to all participants.



(Con't on Page 8)

President's Corner

Compatriots:

*"Earth with joyful welcome
clothes herself for spring;
greeted with life reviving
her returning king:
flowers in every pasture,
leaves on every bough,
speak of sorrows ended;"
Welcome, Happy Morning,*



Venantius Fortunatus (c. 609)

The 6th century Gallo-Roman Bishop/Poet Fortunatus expressed with great brio the optimism Eastertide normally brings, but did not last Spring. This Spring, current events from the increasing pace of COVID vaccination to Governor Northam's easing of gathering restrictions appear to justify a cautious optimism that we will soon be able to greet each other again in person, while remembering those we have lost in the past year.

Our April 10 Chapter meeting will feature Gabriel Nevelle discussing his book *Captain William Croghan's Detachment & the Ten Crucial Days*, which details the role of the 8th Virginia Regiment (Winchester) in the Trenton-Princeton Campaign.

First, let me thank our very hardworking Online Payments Committee (Richard Rankin, Rand Pixa, Jamie Callender, and Dave Thomas) for their hard work in the past year in researching and developing our exciting new website and online payment and management functionality through the Wild Apricot Platform. I hope you have reviewed the more detailed email sent to you in late March with more information. Please check out the new website at <https://gwsar.org>

Going forward, we are actively planning for our annual July 4 celebrations at Mt. Vernon and the President General's wreath presentation at Arlington National Cemetery, although the form those will take is to be determined. There is also a possibility that a pre-recorded form of the

National Memorial Day Parade will be held, and I hope we will be able to provide more information shortly regarding possible SAR participation.

Despite COVID and all of the limitations that still imposes on us, all VASSAR and its Chapters are working through them to remain as active as ever, if not more so. There will be numerous opportunities for participation virtually and possibly live in the coming weeks and months. Please review the list of upcoming events in this newsletter and on our new website for further information.

There are also numerous opportunities for personal involvement. We are looking for members who might be interested in assisting in all of our Chapter activities, and encourage you to reach out to me or to our other officers if you have an interest or questions. Our contact information is found in this newsletter.

Here are a few specific areas in which opportunities exist:

Public speaking: members who would be interested in making presentations regarding the SAR, and the revolutionary period in schools and to civic groups either virtually or in person and, in particular, presentations based on the VASSAR Patriots Chest and Flag Chest Programs. These are scripted presentations of objects provided in the Chests.

IT: As we move forward with more live activity, we will be looking for members who can help us with recording and live broadcast through Zoom, or other platforms, of these events for a wider audience. We are looking for people with computer experience who can help with website maintenance.

Photography: We encourage all of our members to record their experiences and to share them with us so that we can memorialize the events in our scrapbooks, newsletters, and website. We also need members who are willing to serve as photographers for chapter events and to serve as photo editors

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President's (from Page 2)

(helping to select and edit photos for chapter publications).

Public Relations: We are looking for a member who can be responsible for reaching out to local media outlets, keeping them abreast of our activities and encouraging attendance at our public events.

Color Guard and Colonial Attire:

Participation in SAR Events in Colonial Military Attire (or even civilian attire) is strongly encouraged by the SAR at all levels and enhances both our visibility in the community and your Chapter's credit (Americanism Award Points) within the Virginia and National Societies. I wish to particularly encourage members to consider participation at the chapter and state level in colonial uniform in the VASSAR Color Guard.

March has been a remarkably busy month for the George Washington Chapter. We actively participated in numerous National, State, and Local SAR events. On March 20, we participated virtually in the excellent Commemoration of Patrick Henry's "*Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death Speech*". This event was sponsored by the Richmond Chapter. I presented a wreath virtually on behalf of the chapter; Richard Rankin, Ernie Coggins, and Rand Pixa also attended. On March 16, the Birthday of President James Madison was celebrated. The public Montpelier commemoration was limited to a team from the United States Marine Corps, who presented a wreath on behalf of President Biden. However, our own John Blair arranged for a wreath to be delivered to Montpelier on behalf of the Chapter, and can be seen in the video of the event available on the Montpelier Facebook page. The Virginia Society also held a virtual commemoration on March 16 in honor of President Madison. I presented a wreath virtually on behalf of the Chapter. Paul Walden also participated by delivering greetings and presenting a wreath symbolically on behalf of the War of 1812 Society in Virginia. Richard Rankin, Jamie

Callender, and Rich Sherman also attended.

Saturday, March 13, turned out to be an "all-hands on deck" day for the George Washington Chapter. The March Chapter Meeting, Special NSSAR Congress, Virginia History Day, and the annual *Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse* all occurred on the same day. Our Chapter was in turn represented by active participants at each event. Our very well attended March Chapter meeting (32 virtual attendees) featured a very well received talk on the Battle of Guilford Courthouse by Dr. John R. Maass based on his new book: *The Battle of Guilford Courthouse: A Most Desperate Engagement* (Military). Thanks need to go to Past Chapter President Dave Thomas, and compatriot Hank Foresman, who participated as judges in this year's virtual Virginia History Day Competition. The event this year involved several days of review of virtual submissions. Following his attendance at our Chapter meeting, former VASSAR and George Washington Chapter President, Larry Lisle, presented a wreath on our behalf at the Virtual Battle of Guilford Courthouse Commemoration. This major National SAR event was also attended by Richard Rankin.

Finally, the National Society held a Special National Congress on March 13 in the Westfield Marriot in Chantilly, Virginia, for the purpose of making amendments to the NSSAR Constitution. This Special Congress is addressed in more detail in another article in this Newsletter. I would like to express my thanks to all of the George Washington Chapter members who actively participated to make the Special Congress a successful event.

I look forward to seeing and hearing from youall* in the near future.

Tom Roth, III
President of
The George Washington Chapter

**Tom insisted this was correct in NC.*



New George Washington Chapter Website

Compatriots,

Our Chapter has modernized its website with new and improved features. You can start now to enjoy the public view of the updated website by going to

<https://gwsar.org>

During the next couple of weeks, we will send you an e-mail inviting you to establish a password associated with your e-mail address. It's quick and easy to set up. Once you are set up, you will be able to log in to view members-only content including upcoming Chapter meetings, the Chapter roster with built-in messaging to other members, videos of past meetings, and archival records, as well as VASSAR and NSSAR material.

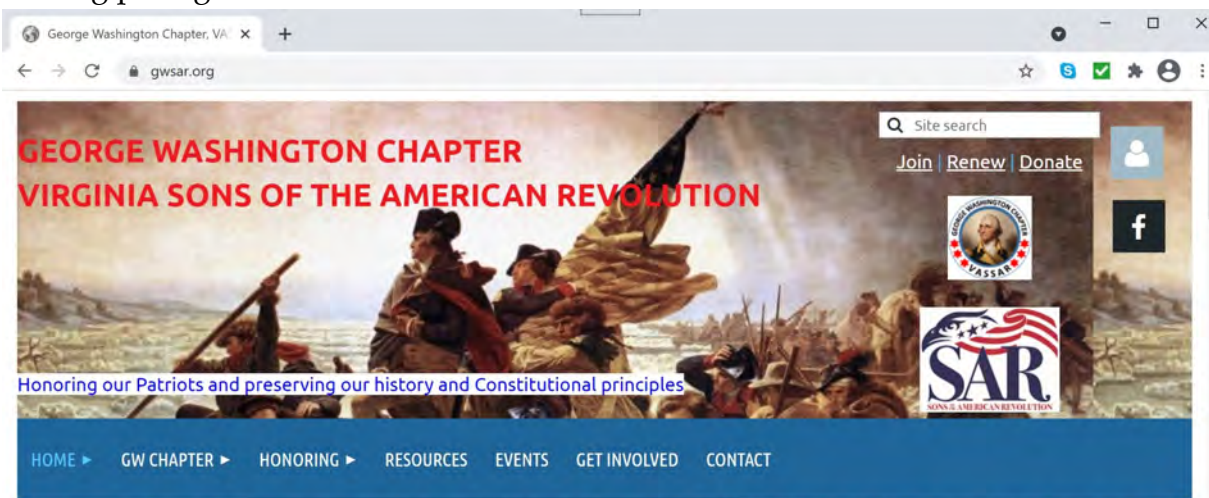
A key feature of this website is that members will be able to make online e-payments of annual dues renewals, event payments, and donations to the Chapter's checking account. That is significant because it eliminates writing checks, mailing checks to the right address, and adding postage.

The Wild Apricot system approved by our Board of Managers also supports meeting and event management, RSVPs, Chapter history archives, and other features. The Board of Managers has decided to gradually introduce this functionality over the coming months to provide additional service alternatives to members.

While the online system is intended to provide a level of convenience to the many who have requested online capabilities, we will maintain our traditional methods of Chapter business (e.g. accepting checks as payment of dues and other fees) by not compelling any member to use the new online capabilities if he chooses not to do so.

Your Board of Managers adopted this new Wild Apricot cloud-based software to help simplify and automate our Chapter administrative tasks for the convenience of members. We hope you start enjoying its benefits by visiting

<https://gwsar.org>



Recognized as Best 2019 & 2020 VASSAR Website



Welcome to GWSAR

[JOIN US](#)

[GET INVOLVED](#)

If you have questions or need assistance with the new website, please contact webmaster@gwsar.org



James Madison's 270th Birthday Anniversary.

Zoom Wreath Laying Ceremony at Madison's Gravesite, Montpelier

Among the presenters were:



John Blair, GW Chapter member arranged for the GW Chapter wreath to be presented.

Below--The Marines placed a wreath from President Biden.



VASSAR Virtual Birthday Celebration later same day.



Tom Roth, President of the George Washington Chapter.

Paul Walden, President, Virginia Society, War of 1812 (also GW Chapter Past President)



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

"... I wish the Constitution which is offered had been made more perfect, but I sincerely believe it is the best that could be obtained at this time ..."--To Patrick Henry, September 24, 1787

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.

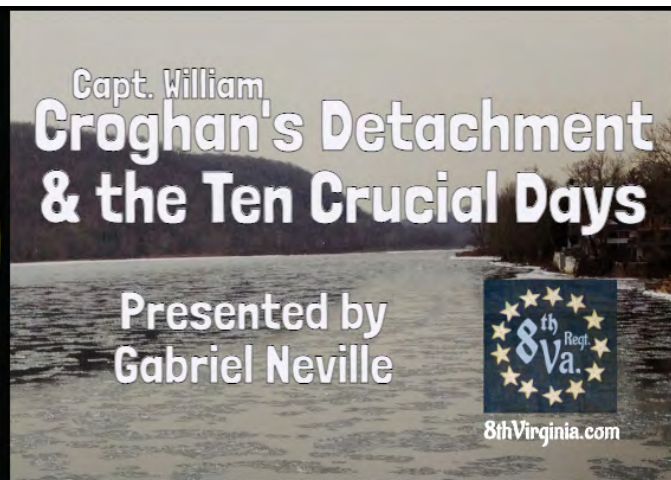
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April GW Chapter Guest Speaker

Gabriel Neville

In 1776, one-third of the 8th Virginia Regiment was detached to reinforce George Washington in the north. Departing Winchester, the regiment traveled to Alexandria, then turned north to Philadelphia. The 8th Virginia participated in key engagements that saved the Revolution at Trenton, Assunpink Creek and Princeton. When New England troops on short enlistments went home, the 8th Virginia stayed on and became the core of a new, professional Continental Army.

Gabe Neville has spent decades studying the 8th Virginia Regiment and will share his original research on Captain William Croghan's detachment for the first time ever!



April through the years with George Washington

- 1732** on the 5th--Washington baptized.
- 1743** on the 12th--Death of Washington's father, Augustine.
- 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 Mt. 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.

Upcoming Events

April 5, 2021–Monday: 8:00 am
VASSAR Public Service Awards
Alexandria City Fire Dept. Headquarters
900 Second Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
The presentation will include a Life Saving Award and attendance will be limited due to COVID-19 protocols.

April 10, 2021–Saturday: 11:00 am
George Washington Chapter Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Speaker: Gabriel Neville
"Captain William Croghan & the 8th Virginia Regiment during Ten Crucial Days in 1776-1777"

April 11, 2021–Sunday: 11:00 am
VASSAR Onsite Wreath Laying
Observing Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
Tuckahoe Plantation
Thomas Jefferson's Boyhood Home
Tuckahoe, Virginia

April 12, 2021–Monday: 10:00 am
245th Commemoration of the
Halifax Resolves
Virtual Zoom Presentation by the NCSAR
Visit NC State SAR website to register:
www.ncssar.org/ecwd

April 13, 2021–Tuesday: 11:00--12:00
Pending NPS Approval
Thomas Jefferson's 278th Birthday in DC
Jefferson Memorial--DCCSAR Host
Limited Attendance--The VASSAR President represents Virginia

April 16-18, 2021–Friday-Sunday:
National Society C.A.R. National Conference

Please note: members need to have an account on www.nscar.org website to register

April 17, 2021–Saturday: 11:00 am
Culpeper Minute Men Chapter
Dedication of new granite Patriot Marker for General Edward Stevens
Masonic Cemetery, North Main Street
Culpeper, Virginia

April 24, 2021–Saturday:
Pending Final Decision
James Monroe Birthday event

May 1, 2021–Saturday: Memorial Day
Parade Taping
Venue & details will be forthcoming

May 8, 2021–Saturday: 11:00 am
George Washington Chapter Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Speaker: Elizabeth Maurer
Topic: *The Real Martha Washington*

May 16, 2021–Saturday: 2:00 pm
Wreath Laying for 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Alamance
Alamance Battleground State Historic Site
5803 NC 62 South, Burlington, NC

May 28, 2021–Friday: VASSAR
Commemoration of the 285th
Anniversary of Patrick Henry's Birthday
Details will be forthcoming from VASSAR

DEADLINE--Newsletter submissions, April 23, 2021.
PLEASE send all information by that date--Thanks



The George Washington Chapter Needs You !!

The Chapter needs a few good photographers to help us in our efforts to send out information (**with Photos**) to all our members.

The pay does not exist but the back-slapping, recognition, handshakes (*after Covid19*) and admiration will be earth-shattering.

Please contact one of the Chapter officers and begin your extraordinary adventure.

Thank you from the Editor

NSSAR & GW Chapter (from Page 1)



Top photo 2nd from left standing is Joe Dooley and in front kneeling is Ernie Coggins, both GW Chapter members. Bottom photo sitting on left is Mike Elston, young man in blue blazer, tan khakis is Will Elston and far right is GW Chapter President Tom Roth, again all GW Chapter members



Bottom left--Mike Elston, moving adoption of the Bylaws Committee Report--son Will Elston is operating the video camera. (Both GW Chapter members.) Right NSSAR Color Guard Preparing to retire the colors.



Alexandria Deputy Receives State Level Award

The Sons of the American Revolution recently recognized Deputy Myrna Juarez for her efforts in aiding a critically injured motorist. On March 5, John Blair of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented Deputy Juarez with an award from the Virginia State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Deputy Juarez received the award for her response, while off duty, to a major crash on I-95.



Above: Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Deputy Myrna Juarez and John Blair.

On June 30, 2017, just before 6AM, Deputy Myrna Juarez was driving to work when she witnessed a motor vehicle crash on the I-95 Express Lanes near Woodbridge. She saw a car overturn and then saw a person on the road. She immediately pulled into the emergency lane and ran to the crash scene. No other first responders were present and she could see that the victim, a man who had been ejected from the car, had a head injury. Deputy Juarez called 911 and then directed the passenger to keep pressure on the victim's head until medics arrived. When the Virginia State Police arrived, the victim was unresponsive and not alert. Deputy Juarez obtained gloves

from the Virginia State Trooper and she also applied pressure to the victim's head injury. Once EMS arrived on the scene, medics took over treatment and airlifted the victim to INOVA Fairfax Hospital.

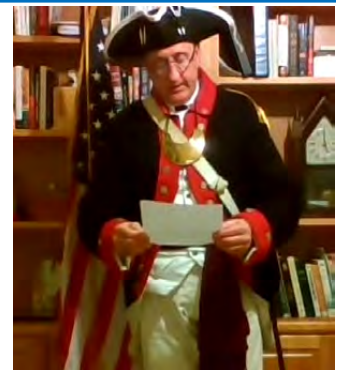
Even though she was off-duty, Deputy Juarez never hesitated to take action and did her best to help a critically injured crash victim. For her actions that day, she was awarded the *Sons of the American Revolution Life Saving Award*.

Madison (from page 5)



Bill Schwetke, past VASSAR President and member of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter.

Ken Bonner, Fairfax Resolves Chapter



Right are a few of the virtual attendees at the James Madison Birthday Celebration.



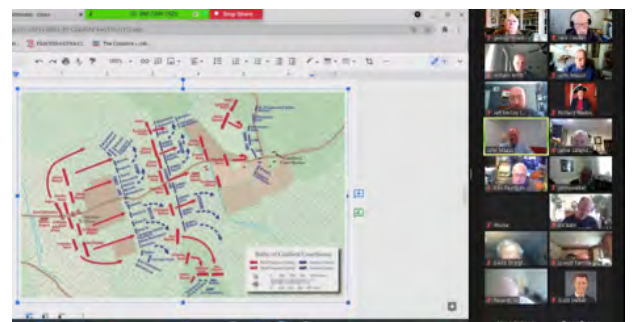
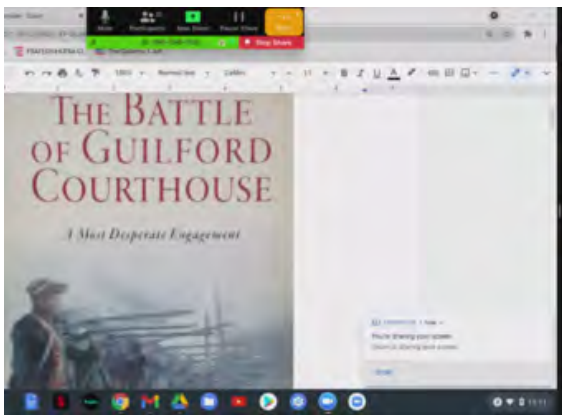
George Washington March Chapter Meeting

Various Screenshots by Jack Coulter

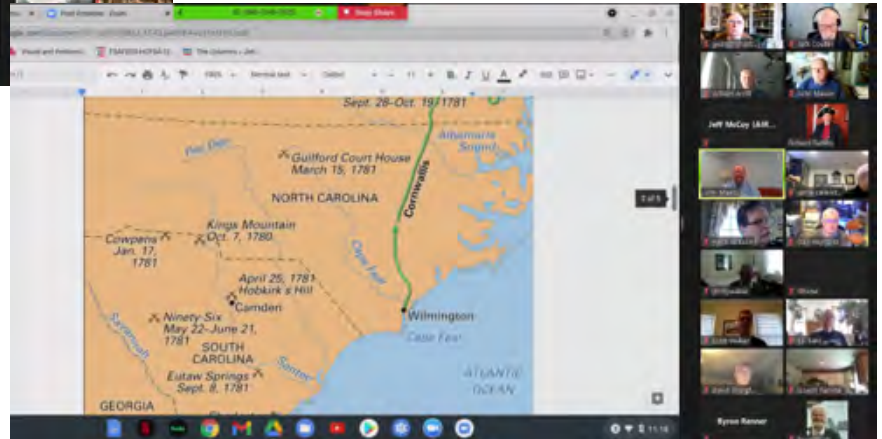


Chapter Vice-President Richard Rankin (far left, 2nd row down) gave the greetings since President Tom Roth was attending another SAR meeting.

Giving Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Guest speaker John Maass is in 2nd row over, 3rd down.



These three groupings are from Guest speaker John Maass on "The Battle of Guilford Courthouse"



Making Waves Through History



Project Patrons

The Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution invites you to become a General, Colonel, Captain or Private, by supporting State President Catie Wasenko's fundraising project to reproduce four (4) regimental battle flags at the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum!

Great Bridge Museum, located in Chesapeake, Virginia, was the site of the December 9, 1775 Battle of Great Bridge. V.S.C.A.R. will be working with the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum to raise funds to reproduce the flags to be displayed in cases. They are: The King's Colours, The 14th Regiment of Foot Colours, The 2nd Virginia Regiment Flag and The Culpeper Minutemen Flag.

We appreciate your support of the State Project! Donors will be recognized in the State Conference Banquet Program at the following levels:

\$500.00 - General	\$100.00 - Colonel
\$50.00 - Captain	\$25.00 - Private

Name to be listed in the conference program: _____

(or you may choose to remain anonymous)

Person/Organization making the donation:

_____ S.A.R./DAR/C.A.R. Chapter or Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

E- Mail Address: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to V.S.C.A.R., Inc.

Mail form and checks to:

Rebecca Slaughter, Senior State Treasurer
14333 Ferndale Road, Dale City, VA 22193

Thank you for your generous support!

Pass the Tricorne Hat -- You may also make your contributions to the project by check payable to "George Washington Chapter, VASSAR" and mailed to Rand Pixa, Treasurer, George Washington Chapter, 4614 Upland Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310; these virtual-hat contributions will be consolidated and forwarded to V.S.C.A.R.

