



George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter



George Washington

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Volume 22, Issue 1

January, 2021

December in The George Washington Chapter



Wreaths Across America

Left--Alexandria National Cemetery--GW Compatriots Richard Rankin, Jack Coulter, John Brigden & Rand Pixa.

Bottom Left--Quantico National Cemetery--GW Past President Jay Henn.

Bottom Right--Arlington National Cemetery--GW Compatriot Harry C. (Mike) Hoffman IV, son Harry C. Hoffman V, at grave-site of Harry C. Hoffman III.



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President's Corner



Compatriots:

Let me thank you all again for the honor and opportunity to serve as President of the George Washington Chapter. Being inducted by

VASSAR President Bill Schwetke at our December Chapter meeting, and donning the ceremonial neck ribbon worn by so many distinguished predecessors, was a humbling experience. Of course, I am merely Captain of our great team including our other 2021 Officers: Richard Rankin, Vice President; Rand Pixa, Treasurer, and Bill Wilson, Secretary. We will also continue to have the services of our outgoing President Jay Henn (2023) who will be stepping into a three year at-large term on Board of Managers, along with Ernie Coggins (2021) and Dave Thomas (2022). Our Chapter is currently the largest in the Virginia Society. Indeed, approximately 1 out of 10 members of VASSAR are members of our Chapter. This is an honor but more importantly an opportunity. As President, with your help, I commit to working with all of you to ensure that the George Washington Chapter continues to be at the forefront of the pursuit of the historical, educational, and patriotic objectives of the Virginia and National Societies.

Last year at this time we could not imagine the COVID-19 Pandemic and the course the year 2020 would take. I think we, and other VASSAR Chapters, successfully exercised tremendous energy and creativity in finding new ways to hold our events and meetings. We learned to pivot gracefully from live events to virtual events to hybrid functions, and back on short notice as the vagaries of COVID-19 and government regulations required. You stayed with us, and demonstrated your support as well through a large and rapid response when it came time to renew your memberships and by substantially

increasing your donations to the Chapter.

As we begin this new year of 2021, we will continue to pursue a robust Chapter program with the flexibility and imagination required by the COVID-19 Pandemic and, hopefully, as the year progresses, we will more and more be able to see each other in person. Discussions are underway about making permanent the inclusion of a virtual component in our programming going forward, and of adopting possible on-line payment systems to make payment for membership, lunch fees, and charitable donations to the Chapter simple. Please also remember that there are opportunities for solo at home participation such as working with Jamie Callender to update the PRS Membership Database.

Planning and conducting a robust Chapter Program—including Youth Awards, Public Safety Awards, Grave Marking, and other activities—requires the support and participation of many Chapter members. Jay Henn was able last year to fill the very large shoes of several long time committee chairmen who were stepping down. However, there is more to be done in finding new volunteers to fill some positions that need to be filled, to assist existing chairmen by providing additional members for their committees and to lead other possible new efforts. This will be a priority for our leadership team. Given COVID restrictions and our commitments to all of our long-standing events (such as the George Washington Birthday Parade (cancelled this year), the National Memorial Day Parade, Fourth of July at Mount Vernon, the President General's Wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Veterans Day Wreath Presentation at George Washington's Tomb), any new initiatives will necessarily be dependent on the level of involvement from Chapter members.

To better plan for the coming year, toward the end of January I will be holding a

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President's Corner (con't)

Virtual Winter Planning Meeting. More information on this meeting will be forthcoming, and I encourage all members to attend. Past Winter Planning Meetings have been great opportunities for newer members to learn more about the activities and operation of the Chapter. If you are interested in becoming more active in the Chapter, providing suggestions on potential new activities, or just interested in what is going on, then please join us for this meeting. It's true what they say: "the more you put in, the more you get out".

I would also like to summarize some the activities of our very busy December despite the new COVID-19 restrictions, and would like to thank all of our Compatriots and friends who were able to participate both in person and remotely.

The 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge was conducted on December 5, 2020 with a limited live attendance, but had a large remote attendance. Chapter President Jay Henn represented the Chapter and presented a wreath remotely. On December 10, we participated in a socially distanced Public Safety Awards Ceremony at the Alexandria Police Headquarters. We joined with the Alexandria Police and presented the NSSAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Investigator Steven Matthews, and the NSSAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal to Detective Betty Sixsmith. The Silver Good Citizenship Medal is the highest award for public service given at the State Level by the SAR. Detective Sixsmith's award was unanimously approved by the VASSAR Awards Committee. VASSAR President Schwetke presented the award to Detective Sixsmith on our behalf. Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, Ernie Coggins, John Blair, David Kuhnsman, and Glenn Spencer also attended. On Saturday December 12, we held our annual joint meeting with the George Washington Chapter to install our officers for 2021. VASSAR President Bill Schwetke addressed the meeting with a talk about the Battle of Great Bridge and

the significant participation of Free African-American sentry and patriot Billy Flora in that Battle, following which he reconfirmed the officers of the George Mason Chapter, and installed the new 2021 Officers for the George Washington Chapter. President Schwetke also inducted three new members of our Chapter--Scott Walker, son Andrew, and father Jimmy. Jay Henn was honored with the Virginia Society Medal in recognition of his many years of distinguished Chapter Service. In addition, outgoing Treasurer Richard Rankin presented Bonnie Henn with a \$500.00 donation by our Chapter to the Daughters of the American Revolution in memory of her mother Virginia Cazin Thuma. Mrs. Thuma was a member of the Lane's Mill Chapter of the National Society DAR. Bonnie is a member of the Phillis Wheatley Chapter of the National Society DAR and an Organizing Member and Honorary Regent of the Lane's Mill Chapter.

Thanks to our WAA Committee Chairman Jack Coulter, our Chapter participated extensively in Wreaths Across America Project. We were able to raise \$2,005 in donations for wreaths and our members placed wreaths at three national cemeteries. Mike Hoffman participated in the WAA Family Day (Dec. 13) at Arlington National Cemetery. On Saturday, December 17, 2021 at Alexandria National Cemetery, Richard Rankin, Jack Coulter, John Brigden, Rand Pixa, and Ernie Coggins placed wreaths. President Jay Henn placed wreaths at Quantico National Cemetery, Sunday, December 20.

Many thanks for your continued support of the GW Chapter. Do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our Chapter officers throughout the year with comments, ideas, or concerns. With your help, 2021 will be another banner year. Best Wishes for a Happy New Year to you.

Tom Roth, III
President of The George
Washington Chapter

December in The GW Chapter (con't)

Alexandria Police Department Awards

Detective Betty Sixsmith of the Alexandria Police Department received the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal for her actions in combatting a human trafficking case. She was able to identify the suspect in April 2016, informed the FBI Task Force, and led them through a lengthy investigation that would not come to a conclusion until January 2020.

The suspect had lured several women into a hotel under his control and forced them into prostitution. The most heinous of his crimes was torturing a baby boy belonging to one of the women. The FBI Special Agent credited Sixsmith for her thorough investigation of the case with great tenacity. When sufficient evidence was obtained, the suspect was arrested and convicted. He faces a prison term of over 15 years.

Awards Committee Chair John Blair said that this was the most depraved case that he had reviewed during his years of service.



Left to Right--Awards Committee Chair John Blair, Detective Betty Sixsmith, VASSAR President Bill Schwetke, Awards Committee member Glen Spencer.



Left to Right--Bill Schwetke, Steven Matthews, Betty Sixsmith, John Blair, Glen Spencer, Tom Roth, Awards Committee member Dave Kuhnsman, Alexandria Police Chief Michael Brown. Chapter Treasurer Richard Rankin was present, but not shown.

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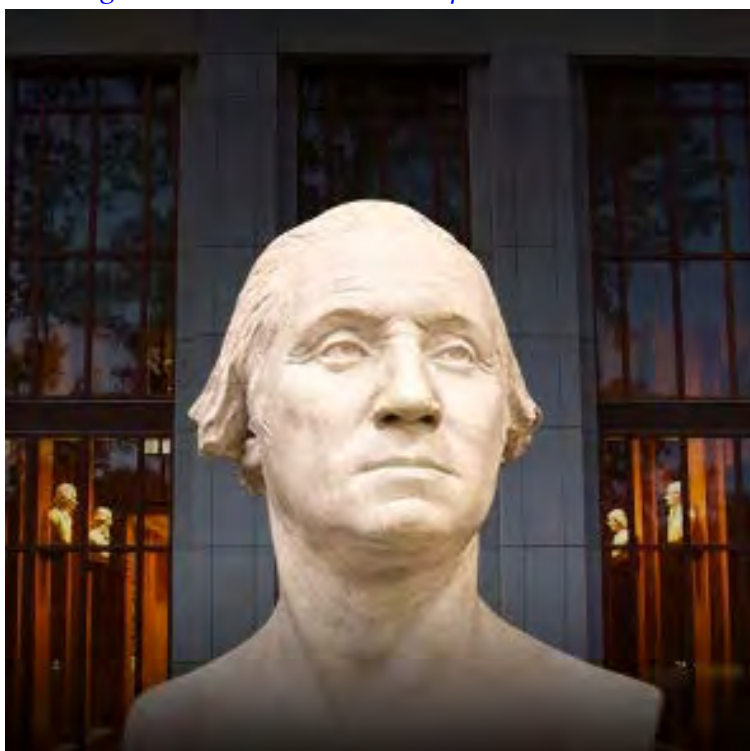
December in The GW Chapter (con't)

Alexandria Police Investigator Steven Matthews received the Law Enforcement Commendation Award as a result of two arrests in 2020, which he accomplished with great professionalism. In August he was involved in vehicle pursuit when the homicide suspect fled Alexandria in a stolen car. Matthews apprehended the dangerous suspect in an unfamiliar neighborhood in Prince Georges County without resorting to violent action. In October Matthews was able to negotiate the surrender by another homicide suspect. His patience and persistence in telephone negotiations with the suspect were key to the peaceful surrender.

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Left to Right--Awards Committee Chair John Blair, Investigator Steve Matthews, Chapter VP Tom Roth.



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

*"This great man fought against tyranny; he established the liberty of his country. His memory will always be dear to the French people, as it will be to all freemen of the two worlds."--Napoleon Bonaparte--
February 9, 1800.*

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.

December in The GW Chapter (con't)

George Washington/George Mason Joint Meeting



Left--GW President Jay Henn inducts new member Scott Walker as Rich Sherman observes. Scott's son Andrew and father Jimmy were inducted (virtually) at the same time.

Right--GM President Ken Morris presents Lydia Darragh Medal to his wife Liz, who also received the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Recognition Bronze Medal.



Above--VASSAR President Bill Schwetke was guest speaker & Right--Tom Roth presents Washington Houdon bust to Bill as thanks for presentation.



Above--Jay Henn with display of the attendees via Zoom. Secy. Bill Wilson is seen in upper left and Treas. Rand Pixa in lower left.

Above--VASSAR President Bill Schwetke installs officers of GM Chapter--Joe Dooley as Registrar, Tom Kiess as Secretary, Fritz Barth as Vice President and Ken Morris as President. Not present were Ralph Lewis, Treasurer & Rev. Eugene Thomas, Chaplain. Current NSSAR Chancellor General (2019-2021) Pete Davenport (VASSAR Pres. in 2019) is seated at right.

December in The GW Chapter (con't)

George Washington/George Mason Joint Meeting



Clockwise from above top left (1) VASSAR President Schwetke installs officers of GW Chapter -- Richard Rankin, Vice President, Tom Roth, President. Rand Pixa (Treas.) and Bill Wilson (Secy.) were inducted virtually. (2) Past President Jay Henn was presented certificate by President Tom Roth acknowledging Jay's service as President, as Jay's wife Bonnie looks on. (3) GW Vice President Richard Rankin announced upcoming SAR events. (4) Past President Jay Henn was presented with ceremonial gavel by President Tom Roth as memento for his Presidential service.

December in The GW Chapter (con't)

George Washington/George Mason Joint Meeting



The GW Chapter, by means of a Board Resolution, gave Richard Rankin an opportunity to present a check to Bonnie Henn in memory of her mother who was also a member of the DAR.

The resolution reads as follows:

We, the George Washington Chapter, SAR in recognition of the many years of devoted service by Bonnie Thuma Henn, member of the Phillis Wheatley Chapter of the National Society DAR, seek to honor her service and dedication by presenting to the National Society DAR, a donation of \$500.00 in the name and memory of her recently deceased mother, Virginia Cazin Thuma, a member of the Prince William Resolves Chapter of the National Society, DAR.

January through the years with George Washington

1759 on the 6th--Washington marries Martha Dandridge Custis.

1777 on the 3rd--Victory at the Battle of Princeton.

1788 on the 16th--Washington is named chancellor of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

1801 on the 1st--George Washington's slaves are freed by his widow, Martha.

Upcoming Events

January 9, 2021–Saturday:
George Washington Chapter
Meeting-11:30 am

Speaker: David Muraca.

VP-The George Washington Foundation
(Kenmore & Ferry Farm)

Virtual only, by Zoom.

February 5- 6, 2021–Friday-Saturday:
Virginia Society 2021 Annual Meeting
General membership attendance on
Saturday--*Virtual only; details to be
provided.*

*Very limited in-person attendance Friday
& Saturday*

Omni Richmond Hotel
100 S. 12th Street,
Richmond, VA 23219

By prior invitation only.

February 13, 2021–Saturday:

George Washington Chapter
Meeting-11:30 am

Time & location to be confirmed.

March 13, 2021–Saturday:

George Washington Chapter
Meeting-11:30 am

Time & location to be confirmed.

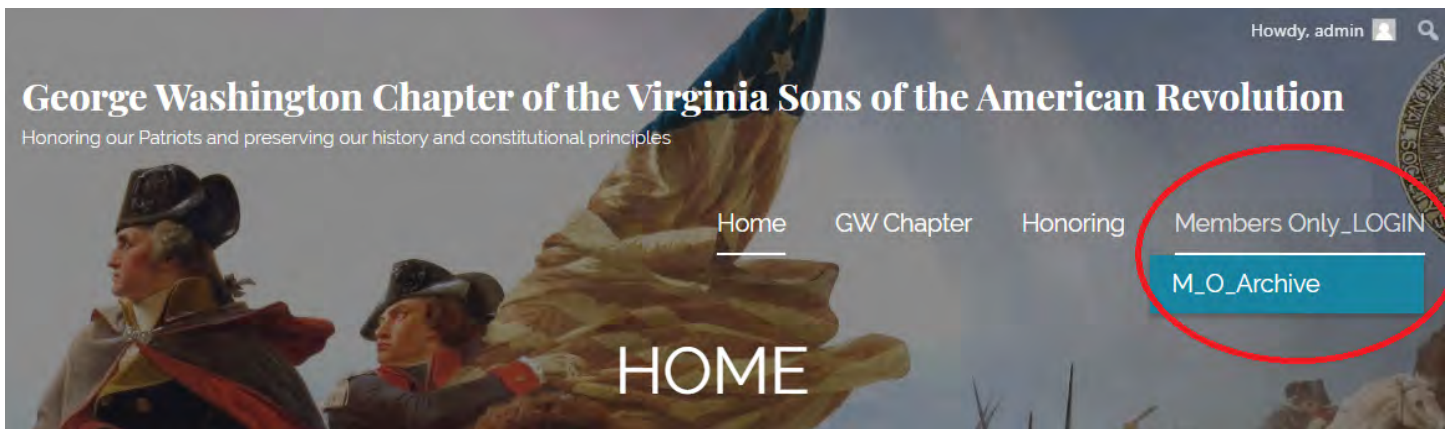
*Below: Received the new and
improved SAR logo today,
January 8th, from Mr. Don
Shaw, Executive Director at
SAR Headquarters, Louisville,
KY.*

*Will work it into the front page
banner in next issue.*



Members Only Section of GWSAR.ORG

It's There For You!



In case you have never established a Members Only linkage, or you have forgotten your username & password, I am here to remind you of how you do it and what you'll find there when you visit this part of the George Washington Chapter's website.

Go to our Chapter website and click on the Members Only Login link (far right side) at the top of the Home page on the Chapter's website and then use either your website account (username and password) or social media account to gain access. For those that either don't have an account or have forgotten their username and/or password, I can help you with that if you send me an email at:

WEBMASTER@GWSAR.ORG

I will need to verify who you say you are, so include your full name, email and phone number you provided for your GW Chapter membership and your State and/or National SAR numbers, if you know them. With this information, I can verify your account and then provide you with your password so you can gain access.

There is also another sign on option if you have a social media account (Google / Twitter / LinkedIn / Instagram / Amazon / Microsoft / Yahoo). The website will use your social media account to verify who you are thus providing easy and seamless access. I use a Google Chrome browser and am thus always logged into my Google account, so I use the "Login With Google" button and I get right in without having to remember another username and password. Use whichever option you are most comfortable with.

After gaining access to the Members Only site, you have access to the following information:

- Membership Directory – the latest and historical versions dating back to 2013
- References - SAR Brochure / Application Form / Grave Markings Research Material
- Reports – Americanism / Committee
- GWSAR Business – Approved Budgets / Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

This is your section of the website and it can host anything you think is important to share exclusively with the members of this Chapter. If you have some ideas, please share them.

Jamie Callender, Webmaster