



May 2023

May 29th, 2023, Monday (2:00 pm) - National Memorial Day Parade - District of Columbia

Event Level: National

Host/POC: George Washington Chapter VASSAR / Dave Thomas.

Location: National Mall, Washington, DC.

Firing Event: No

Color Guard: Provided by the West Potomac High School JROTC Color Guard Unit.

Heat Index: 78F

Details: Participants should muster no later than 1:00 pm on the Mall, 7th St., between Madison Dr., and Jefferson Dr. The length of the parade is approximately 1.5 miles. Participants will also need to factor in the distance to and from parking sites to determine the total miles walked in this event (perhaps 3 miles total). The George Washington Chapter, VASSAR, continues with its tradition of organizing SAR parade participation in the District of Columbia in support of the DC Society SAR.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Davenport, Elston, Schmidt, Whitney.



May 29th, 2023, Monday (1:00 pm) - Memorial Day Commemoration, Middletown,

VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Col. James Wood II Chapter VASSAR / Dale Corey.

Location: Middletown Veterans Memorial, 8050 Main St., Middletown, VA.

Firing Event: **Yes** (fired by the VFW unit)

Event Color Guard Commander: Osborn.

Heat Index: 76F

Details: Color Guard muster at 12:15 pm.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Bayliss, Buck, Carrigan, Christensen, Cook, Cordes, Corey, Daniels, Hall, Osborn, Phillips, Reynolds, Robinson, Tyler.



May 29th, 2023, Monday (11:00 am) - Memorial Day Commemoration, Culpeper, VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: VFW / Keith Price. Supported by Culpeper Minutemen Chapter VASSAR / Jameson.

Location: Culpeper National Cemetery, 305 U.S. Ave., Culpeper, VA.

Firing Event: No

Event Color Guard Commander: Schwetke.

Heat Index: 75F

Details: Color Guard muster no later than 10:15 am.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Crain, Hamill, Jameson, Schwetke.

May 29th, 2023, Monday (11:00 am) – Memorial Day Commemoration, Winchester, VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Col. James Wood II Chapter VASSAR and the American Red Cross / Dale Corey.

Location: Winchester National Cemetery, 401 National Ave., VA.

Firing Event: Yes

Event Color Guard Commander: Osborn.

Heat Index: 76F

Details: Color Guard muster no later than 10:15 am. Safety checks will be conducted by Paul Christensen. Three volley salute will be fired after the wreath presentation.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Bayliss, Buck, Carrigan, Christensen, Cook, Corey, Cordes, Daniel, Hall, E.Moore, P.Moore, Osborn, Phillips, Reynolds, Robinson, Tyler.



May 29th, Monday (11:00 am) - Veterans Park Memorial Day, Abingdon, VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Gen. William Campbell Chapter VASSAR / John Gullion.

Location: Veterans Memorial Park, Lt. Billy Webb Ave., Abingdon, VA.

Firing Event: **Yes**

Event Color Guard Commander: Johnson.

Heat Index: 70F

Details: Color Guard muster at 10 am.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Britton, Carr, Gullion, Humphreys, Johnson, Richmond, Saunders, Shaver.



May 29th, 2023, Monday (11:00 am) - Memorial Day Commemoration, Halifax, VA

Event Level: **National**

Host/POC: Dan River Chapter VASSAR / Gary Hall.

Location: Halifax County War Memorial, Halifax, VA.

Firing Event: **No**

Event Color Guard Commander: Hall.

Heat Index: 71F

Details: Gary Hall gave the keynote address.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Hall.



May 29th, 2023, Monday (10:00 am) - Inaugural Memorial Day Parade, Norfolk, VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Larchmont-Edgewater Civic League / Mike Crockett. Norfolk Chapter VASSAR/ Bob Bruce.

Location: Larchmont, Norfolk, VA.

Firing Event: No

Event Color Guard Commander: Melhuish.

Heat Index: 77F

Details: This event marks the inaugural Memorial Day Parade in Norfolk, and includes the mayor of Norfolk, SAR (Norfolk Chapter SAR) and the DAR (Great Bridge Chapter, VADAR) as participants. Concludes with wreath laying, playing of Taps by US Navy bugler, and a bagpipe Lament, at LUMC.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Melhuish.



May 29th, 2023, Monday (10:00 am) - Memorial Day Parade, Marion, VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Glen Forest Chapter VADAR.

Location: Marion, VA.

Firing Event: No

Details: Colonial attired VASSAR Guardsman to ride the DAR parade float.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Britton.

May 29th, 2023, Monday (10:00 am) - Memorial Day Observance Leesburg, VA

Host/POC: Sgt. Maj. John Champe Chapter VASSAR / B.Schwoerer.

Location: Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 E. Market St., Leesburg, VA

Firing Event: No

Event Color Guard Commander: Bonner.

Heat Index: 78F

Details: Color guard muster no later than 9:15 am. This annual observance commemorates citizens of Loudoun County who have lost their lives in battle serving the United States, as well as recognize the brave military men and women who serve our country today.

Conducted at the historic Loudoun County Courthouse, this ceremony is hosted by Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk, and includes the reverent laying of wreaths at several war memorials on the courthouse grounds. The Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter will lead the presentation of society wreaths at the 'Spirit of Loudoun' statue, commemorating Loudoun Counties' military contributions to the War for Independence.

This year, Leesburg welcomes U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Dr. Robert C. Holcomb as the guest speaker.

At the conclusion of this observance, society participants at the 'Spirit of Loudoun' statue are invited to place flags on the graves of Loudoun County veterans at the Old

Stone Methodist Church and Mount Zion Cemeteries nearby. Event flyer at this link: [Leesburg](#)

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Bonner, Sink, Weyler.



May 29th, 2023, Monday (10:00 am) - Memorial Day Commemoration, Colonial Williamsburg, VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Colonial Williamsburg & Williamsburg Chapter / John Lynch.

Location: In front of the Governor's Palace, Colonial Williamsburg.

Firing Event: **Yes** (by Colonial Williamsburg Reenactors)

Event Color Guard Commander: Lynch.

Heat Index: 72F

Details: Color guard muster at 9 am (pending approval, in CW employee parking lot near the Governor's palace.) Plan for a few minutes of drill in the parking lot to refresh skills. This event is a popular one. It is also important because the color guard can loiter in the area after the ceremony, and presents an excellent opportunity to educationally interact with the public. This year we are likely to be able to post the colors in ground stakes and march off.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Adolphi, Brown, Doucette, Dunaway, Hodges, Lynch, Miller, Thompson, Westenberger.



INFORMATION: May 29th, 2023, Monday - Memorial Day Commemorations

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Various

Locations: Various

Details: Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed annually on the last Monday in May. It honors those who died serving in the United States military. In the United States, Memorial Day weekend starts the summer season, and Labor Day weekend ends the summer. Most government and business offices will be closed on this Day. Armed Forces Day honors those currently serving in the military, and Veterans Day honors men and women who have previously served in the United States armed forces.

The National Moment of Remembrance: On May 3, 2000, a “National Moment of Remembrance” was established. This is observed at 3 pm local time on Memorial Day to pause and remember those who died in defense of our Nation. The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Major General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War.

May 28th, 2023, Sunday (2:00 pm) - Wreath Laying at Patrick Henry's Gravesite, Red Hill Plantation, Brookneal, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: Patrick Henry Chapter, Virginia SAR / Mark Day.

Location: Patrick Henry's Red Hill, 1250 Red Hill Road, Brookneal, VA.

Firing Event: Yes

Event Color Guard Commander: Bonner.

Heat Index: 65F

Details: Over the past two years ceremonies have been conducted by first by the State and then by the Chapter to honor the birthday of Patrick Henry at Red Hill. These

programs were conducted at the grave site. State President Thomas had designated the 2021 Event on of his Presidential Initiatives. The 2022 event was planned and conducted by the Patrick Henry Chapter however then State President Meyer and the representatives of several other Virginia Chapters, along with members of the State Color Guard attended. This year's event will be similar to last years with a program, a speaker, and appropriate honors. DAR and C.A.R. participation will also be encouraged. The Red Hill National Memorial will provide refreshments for the participants and attendees.

Inscribed on Patrick Henry's tomb: *"His fame his best epitaph"*.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Bonner, Daniel, Day, Hall, Phillips, Schwetke.



May 27th, 2023, Saturday (10:30 am) – 243rd Commemoration of the Battle of Waxhaws (Buford's Massacre), Buford, SC

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Francis Marion Chapter SCSSAR / Greg Ohanesian, 843-479-7193.

Location: Buford Battleground, 262, Rocky River Rd., Lancaster, SC.

Firing Event: Yes (provided by local reenacting group)

National Color Guard Commander: Lyles.

Heat Index: 59F

Details: This is a national-level event sponsored by the General Francis Marion Chapter, SCSSAR. The Battle of Waxhaws (also known as Buford's massacre) took place during the American Revolutionary War on May 29, 1780, near Lancaster, South Carolina, between a Continental Army force led by Abraham Buford and a mainly Loyalist force led by British officer Banastre Tarleton. Buford refused an initial demand to surrender, but when Tarleton's cavalry attacked his men, many threw down their arms to surrender. Buford apparently attempted to surrender. However, the British commanding officer Tarleton was shot at during the truce, causing his horse to fall and trap him. Loyalists and British troops were outraged at the breaking of the truce in this

manner and proceeded to fall on the rebels. While Tarleton was trapped under his dead horse, men continued killing the Continental soldiers, including those not resisting. Little quarter was given to the patriots/rebels. Of the 400 or so Continentals, 113 were killed with sabers, 150 so severely injured they could not be moved, and the British and Loyalists took 53 prisoners. "Tarleton's quarter" became a common expression for refusing to take prisoners. In some subsequent battles in the Carolinas, few of the defeated were taken alive by either side. This 'Battle of Waxhaws' became the subject of an intensive propaganda campaign by the Continental Army to bolster recruitment and incite resentment against the British. Equally plausible accounts of the battle by soldiers from both sides describe Tarleton as having no part in ordering a massacre as he had been trapped under his horse. When freed, he immediately ordered thorough medical treatment of American prisoners and wounded. Video here: [Buford's Massacre](#)
Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Bonner, LeViner, Melhuish, Schwetke.



May 27th, 2023, Saturday (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) - 41st Plumb Alley Day, Abingdon, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: Gen. William Campbell Chapter VASSAR / John Gullion.

Location: Plumb Alley, Abingdon, VA.

Firing Event: No

Event Color Guard Commander: Johnson.

Heat Index: 62F

Details: Plumb Alley Day is the largest fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Abingdon, and every nickel raised is donated to kids' groups in our area. Some 6,000 - 8,000 residents and visitors are expected on Abingdon's Plumb Alley on Saturday, May 27 when the Kiwanis Club holds its Annual Plumb Alley Day. The festival, rated one of the largest one-day events in this Southeast, runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Britton, Combs, Gullion, Johnson, Richmond, Shaver.

May 21st, 2023, Sunday (2:00 pm) - Patriot Multi-Grave Marking, Hillsboro, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: Williamsburg and Sgt Maj John Champe Chapters VASSAR / Gary Dunaway & Barry Schwoerer.

Location: McIlhenny Family Cemetery, Grovers Mill Lane, near Hillsboro, VA. (**GPS:** 39.206923, -77.697656)

Firing Event: Yes

Event Color Guard Commander: Schwoerer.

Heat Index: 78F

Details: Patriot multi-grave marking ceremony for Captain William H. Parker and Captain James McIlhenny. VASSAR research located these two patriot graves in a badly neglected family cemetery. Directions: Take Rte. 690 north out of Hillsboro about one mile turn right on Grovers Mill Lane. Where road curves to right, there is an easement lane on left. Cemetery is about 300 feet on left. Color Guard muster at 1 pm.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Bonner, Carrigan, Christensen, Corey, Daniel, Dunaway, Lynch, Osborn, Phillips, Schwoerer, Sink.

INFORMATION: May 20th, 2023, Saturday - Armed Forces Day Celebrations

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Various

Location: Various

Details: First observed on May 20, 1950, the day was created on August 31, 1949, to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches – the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard – following the consolidation of the military services in the U.S. Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the separate Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Days, but the separate days are still observed, especially within the respective services.

May 16th, 2023, Tuesday (4:00 pm) - VASSAR Color Guard Support to DAR

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: Blacks Fort Chapter DAR / VASSAR POC Mac Johnson.

Location: Washington County Public Library, 205 Oak Hill Street, Abingdon, VA.

Firing Event: No

Event Color Guard Commander: Johnson.

Heat Index: NA - Indoors

Details: VASSAR Color Guard support requested for an indoor VADAR event.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Britton, Johnson, Richmond.



May 13th, 2023, Saturday (10:00 am-4:00 pm) - Fort Loudoun Day, Winchester, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: French & Indian War Foundation, fiwf.org / VASSAR POC Corey.

Location: Fort Loudoun, 419 N. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA.

Firing Event: TBA (subject to available VASSAR guardsmen)

Event Color Guard Commander: Corey.

Heat Index: 75F

Details: Flag raising will be conducted at noon with a musket salute. "Col. James Wood," founder of Winchester, will be present.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Corey, Reynolds, E.Robinson, M.Robinson.

May 13th, 2023, Saturday (10:00 am) - America's First Frontier (formerly the Raid at Martin's Station), Ewing, VA

Event Level: National

Host/POC: Martin's Station Chapter VASSAR / Tom Coker.

Location: Wilderness State Park, 8051 Wilderness Road Trail, Ewing, VA.

Firing Event: **Yes**

Event Color Guard Commander: Coker.

Heat Index: **86F**

Details: Participants desiring to present a wreath must deliver it to the appropriate area near the monument not later than 9:30 a.m. on May 13th. Compatriots wearing period, Militia or Continental Line dress are limited to the area in front of Information Center and the SAR Monument. After the wreath laying ceremony, the above are restricted to areas in front of the Information Center in order to be in compliance with WRSP rules. Parking fees will be waived only for Compatriots wearing period attire. Compatriots wearing Continental uniform (not militia) will be asked to leave the Fort area immediately after the wreath laying ceremony to preserve the 1775 frontier impression. Wreaths may be dedicated to a specific Organization, an individual patriot, or anything else deemed appropriate.

[Registration](#)

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Carr, Coker, Combs, D.Davenport, Gullion, Hamilton, Richmond, B.Schwetke, D.Schwetke.

May 12th, 2023, Friday (11:00 am) - Naturalization Ceremony at Patrick Henry's Red Hill National Memorial, Brookneal, VA

Event Level: **Chapter**

Host/POC: Patrick Henry Chapter VASSAR / Mark Day.

Location: Patrick Henry Red Hill National Memorial, 1250 Red Hill Road, Brookneal, VA.

Firing Event: **No**

Event Color Guard Commander: Corey.

Heat Index: **86F**

Details: Patrick Henry's Red Hill held a Naturalization Ceremony on 12 May beginning at 11:00 am. The Patrick Henry Chapter, VASSAR was asked to provide a Color Guard for the event. 30 New American citizens were sworn in by The Honorable Norman K. Moon, Senior United States District Judge. Program was emcee'd by Hope Marstin, CEO of Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation with The Honorable Jason Miyares, Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia as the guest speaker.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Corey, Daniel, Day, Driscoll, Hall, Phillips, B.Schwetke, D.Schwetke, Sink.



Photo courtesy Debra Ferrell

INFORMATION: May 11th, 2023, Thursday (7:00 pm) – Color Guard Committee Meeting

Host: VASSAR Color Guard Commander.

Location: Zoom Conference (details provided to the Committee)

Details: The VASSAR Color Guard Committee held its second meeting of the year to discuss and amend qualifications for the State Color Guard Bronze Medal.

May 9th, 2023, Tuesday (6:30-8:00 pm) - Color Guard Training Workshop, Abingdon, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: Gen. William Campbell Chapter VASSAR / John Gullion.

Location: Veterans Park, Abingdon, VA.

Firing Event: No

Event Color Guard Commander: Gullion.

Details: Color Guard training provided.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Britton, Carr, Combs, Gullion, Johnson, Richmond, Saunders, Shaver.

Tennessee SAR Color Guard Attendees: Two.

Virginia DAR Attendees: Two.

May 3rd, 2023, Wednesday (5:30 pm) - Veterans Dinner, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC:

Location: Shenandoah University, 1460 University Dr., Winchester, VA.

Firing Event: No

Event Color Guard Commander: Corey.

Details: Indoor event where the VASSAR Color Guard has been asked to present the Colors.

Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees: Corey, Daniel, Jameson, Phillips, Tyler.

