

THE BULLETIN



*VIRGINIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
SEPTEMBER 2023*

VIRGINIA SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BULLETIN



1 SEPTEMBER 2023

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#3

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**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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**R. Wayne Rouse
10 October 1942 - 25 May 2023**



This edition of the VASSAR Bulletin is dedicated to the memory of our friend and compatriot R. Wayne Rouse. Wayne will be remembered for his love of and dedication to the Virginia Society of Sons of the American Revolution.



The Virginia Society Color Guard firing a 21- gun salute to honor R. Wayne Rouse

On June 26, 2023, the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution conducted ceremonies to commemorate the passing of Compatriot R. Wayne Rouse. He was the Virginia Society's State Secretary for over ten years. In addition to his role as Secretary, he was the State's Awards Committee Chair. Compatriot Rouse and his wife, Cheryl (known as Wink) were fixtures in the Virginia Society for a number of years. He was an inspirational leader who worked tirelessly to ensure the Virginia Society was amongst the leaders in the National



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Society, Sons of the American Revolution. He was born October 6, 1942, in Washington, D.C., to Robert and Louise Rouse. He graduated from Suitland High School in Maryland and joined the United States Marine Corps in 1960, serving in the Reserves until 1968. Compatriot Rouse had a full career with the Potomac Electric Power Company, retiring in 1968, when he began his service as a volunteer firefighter at the Clinton, MD, Volunteer Fire Department and then La Plata, MD, Volunteer Fire Department, serving until 1978. He was a dedicated and well-decorated member of the Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter of the Virginia Society in Fredericksburg, VA, serving as an officer and committee member. Compatriot Rouse was a member of the Freemasons. He joined the



Presentation of Colors to honor R. Wayne Rouse



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Laurel Wreath Lodge 149 in Laurel, MD, and then Stafford Masonic Lodge 279 following his move to Virginia. After relocating to Atlanta, Georgia, in 2019, he joined the Sandy Springs Masonic Lodge 124. He was a member of the National Sojourners, Inc. with Fredericksburg Chapter 545 in Virginia and then Dobbins Chapter 434 in Marietta, GA. Rouse was outgoing, selfless and had the ability to make friends wherever he went.

To honor his memory, four events were held, beginning with a ceremony at the Regester Chapel United Methodist Church in Stafford, VA, where he had worshiped for years. This was presided over by Pastor Lyle Morton. The Virginia Society State Color Guard was led by Commander Chris Melhuish (*Jamestown Chapter*) who was the escort for Wink Rouse throughout the day. At the church



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services, State Color Guard Adjutant Dale Corey (*Colonel James Wood II Chapter*) presented an American Flag to honor the memory of a great compatriot and U. S. Marine Corps veteran. He was escorted by Sentinels William Schwetke (*Culpeper Minutemen Chapter*) and Ken Bonner (*Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter*), leading a procession of close friends Lisa Prosser, Joe Rezash and NSSAR Chancellor General Michael Elston (*George Washington Chapter*). They were followed by Wayne's son Paul carrying the urn with escort, NSSAR Vice President General, Mid-Atlantic District Colonel Peter Davenport, U.S. Army (Ret.) (*George Mason Chapter*) and Chris Melhuish escorting Wink Rouse to their positions of honor. Eulogies were presented by Prosser, Rezash and Elston, showing respect and adoration for the fallen compatriot. The service was attended by over 130 friends and family who showed up to pay their final respects. At the end of memorial service, a procession of the Virginia Society State Color Guard led the family and friends to a reception held to honor the memory of the compatriot.

Services then followed with a processional escorted by the Stafford County Sheriff's Department at the Old Andrew Chapel Cemetery a few miles away. A SAR Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremony was performed and led by State Secretary Tim Dioquino (*Fairfax Resolves Chapter*) to commemorate the passing of a brother compatriot. Virginia Society State President Ernie Coggins (*George Washington Chapter*) presented greetings and a brief presentation of the accom-



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plishments of Compatriot Rouse. Additional Virginia Society State officers participating were First Vice President William Greaf (*Williamsburg Chapter*), State Chancellor Eric Monday, Esq. (*Fincastle Resolutions Chapter*) and National Trustee Jeff Thomas (*Fairfax Resolves Chapter*). During the ceremony, Coggins presented the widow with a pink rose and during the wreath presentation, individual red roses were presented to the urn by Davenport, Elston, Coggins, and Chapter Secretary John Carberry (*Col Fielding Lewis Chapter*). The Virginia Society State Color Guard Musket Squad then fired a three round salute followed by the playing of "Taps" by Chapter Past President Charles Jameson (*Culpeper Minutemen Chapter*). Virginia Society State Color Guardsmen participating in the ceremony included Chris Melhuish (State Color Guard Commander), Dale Corey (State Color Guard Adjutant), William Schwetke (Event Color Guard Commander), Gary Dunaway (Honor Guard Commander, *Williamsburg Chapter*), Barry Schwoerer (Musket Squad Commander, *Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter*), Ken Bonner, Paul Christensen (*Colonel James Wood II Chapter*), Dave Cook (*Fairfax Resolves Chapter*), Jim Cordes (*Fairfax Resolves Chapter*), Forest Crain (*Fairfax Resolves Chapter*), Chip Daniel (*Colonel James Wood II Chapter*), Mike Dennis (*Culpeper Minutemen Chapter*), John Hamilton (*Col Fielding Lewis Chapter*), Gary Hodges (*Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter*), Charles Jameson, Paul McComb (*George Washington Chapter*), Larry McKinley (*Fairfax Resolves Chapter*), Andrew Mills (*Colonel William Grayson Chapter*), Ken Morris (*George Mason Chapter*), Allan Phillips (*Colonel James Wood II Chapter*), Darrin Schmidt (*Fairfax Resolves*



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Chapter), Mark Sink (Sgt Major John Champe Chapter), Mike Weyler (Colonel William Grayson Chapter) and Michael Wilson (Colonel William Grayson Chapter).

(Photographs courtesy of Virginia Society State Historian Thomas Roth III.)



Compatriot Wayne Rouse as he will be remembered by all those of us that were touched by him.



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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REPORT FROM
133rd NSSAR CONGRESS**



*2023 NSSAR Congress re-
port for the Virginia SAR
Trustee R. Bruce Meyer*

Orlando Congress hosted by the Florida Society was an outstanding event. The Compatriots of Florida have much to be proud of. The 2023 congress was only my second time attending; my first was Sarvannah at both the only down side was the heat. I arrived Saturday evening, a little late for the reception but I did enjoy the SAR trivia game that evening in the hotel lounge. Although I missed the first round, the game was fun and it gave me a chance to meet some of the Compatriots attending congress.

Sunday started with a meeting of the Trustees, several things were announced. These included increasing the national dues, a new SAR educational outreach app for your mobile phones, new Social media guide, a Public relation guide and some hype for the upcoming Battle of Point Pleasant in October 2023. After the meeting finished several Committees held meetings until lunch.

The annual SAR memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. located at St. Luke's United Methodists Church, several of the Virginia Delegation attended, I took a side trip to St. Cloud to see family. I did return in time to attend the Oration Contest, it was inspiring to see such bright students compete.



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Monday morning started at 7am with the Council of State President breakfast, followed by 8am the Council of Youth Programs. The Compatriots of the Virginia Society were well represented with 18 delegates, of these several are committee members, chairs or officers of NSSAR.





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Congress 1st session began at 9am with the National Color Guard presenting the colors followed by many greetings and introductions. Following these were reports of the committees, these can be found in the Congress Report Book, its 185 pages also can be found on the National SAR website, you must log in to view. During the lunch break many Virginia compatriots attended the Youth Awards lunch. The afternoon session of congress was a continuation of committee reports. Monday night the Compatriots of the Virginia Society got together for dinner at the Capital Grill near the hotel, always one of the most enjoyable unscheduled events but a Virginia tradition. Monday night was the induction of minuteman of 2023. After the ceremony the annual awards ceremony was held, Virginia had an outstanding year. A complete list will be published with the Bulletin. I am happy to report that the Virginia Society remains the best in the SAR!



Tuesday was another early start with the Middle Atlantic State breakfast. It is the time for campaigning by candidates for NSSAR officers. This year each position had only one candidate, all gave a very short stump speech.



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The Tuesday session started in earnest with a discussion of the executive committee's recommendation for a national dues increase of \$15.00. The explanation for the need was given and the case for an increase was very strong. Sighting increasing cost of operation due to inflation, combined with a decrease in the rate of the SAR growth. In the last three years the SAR has struggled to maintain our membership levels stubbornly hovering around thirty-three thousand. The delegates asked several questions respecting alternatives until the lunch break. After a break the session continued with debate concerning the due increase, one proposal to stretch out the increase over 3 years was found to be out of order because no congress can bind the future congress to increase the dues, each would need to take up an increase. After more deliberation the issue was passed with 2/3 approved (more like 90%). One change was to extend the current rates for life membership until August 1st 2023, after that date the cost of a life membership cost will reflect the increase.

The 2nd issue that generated debate was a recommendation for funding improvements to the office and workspace at the museum in Louisville. This was approved after some debate. Topping off the day, Senator Scott of Florida was inducted into the SAR. The session ended early; I can not recall exactly when but the 2023 -2024 NNSAR officers were elected by acclamation as none had an opponent.

The rest of the day I attend the Council of State President Meeting. The council was given presentations on the training developed for new compatriots, the most recent topic was NNSAR medal and awards. Another presented the new educational outreach app. This app can be found at the Apple app store and the android apps store. Several other offers in 2023. All of this information and more can be found in the congress report book.



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The Banquet Tuesday night PG C. Bruce Picket presented several awards to Compatriots who have rendered service to the SAR in support of the PG goals. The evening program on the Colonial history of Florida was very educational. The dinner was good and the company of fellow compatriots from other states was enjoyable.

Wednesday was the final session of congress the Trustees were sworn in for 2024 more donations were announced. The congress received over 200k in donations to the Society's different funds. After the final session was completed the Trustees meeting was held. No new issues were brought up and the meeting was done in 15 minutes. That afternoon Compatriots attended the Last Naval Battle tour and commemoration. Also available were Family search presenta-



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tion, organize a family event and the Youth Video Contest task force. The youth video contest is being trialed in several state societies. The program has no champion in Virginia, yet!

The final event was the Installation banquet Wednesday night. Outgoing PG Picket presented a few more awards. Dinner was served. After dinner President General John L. Todd took his oath of office, George Washington's ring was escorted and presented to PG Todd. Our New President General acceptance speech in which he set his priorities for 2023 -2024.

The National Congress ended on a very high note. Having attend last year and being at the spring and fall leadership it has been inspiring to see the National SAR is moving forward in educational outreach, online guidance, strong and even new youth programs, creating training for new compatriots and looking ahead to the achieving a national dues renewal system. Given the content produced in 2023 I am confident we will see improvement and growth in 2024.



Respectfully submitted,

R. Bruce Meyer Trustee

Virginia SAR 2023 -2024



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133rd NASSAR CONGRESS**



***First Vice President's
Report on the 2023 Congress
1st Vice President
Bill Greaf***

This should have been my third Congress but was my first because of Covid episodes. It was good to see and talk with many compatriots I only see on Zoom. The Congress conducted its business, including raising the national dues for the first time in over ten years, in a timely manner. It was also good to see the formal ceremonies including the installation of the national officers and the Washington ring ceremony. Select committees had meetings, which allowed us to get business accomplished faster than on Zoom or email.

Virginia received many awards and more than one other state society officer congratulated me and was impressed with how we managed to win so many awards each year.

While the compatriots can be serious, they also can have fun at the Congress. While on a tour of the Kennedy Space Center, I found myself and another compatriot singing along with the Beach Boys, "Good Vibrations". We joked about it each time we were in a meeting and later I found out he was a Vice-President General. Unlike other organizations I have been part of, the SAR national officers do not expect to be treated in a special manner.

I highly encourage everyone to attend a Congress. The 2024 Congress will be in Lancaster PA.



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*Second Vice President's Report on
the 2023 Congress
2nd Vice President
Mike Weyler*

For Virginia, the most significant session of the 2023 Congress was the annual presentation of awards to individuals, Chapters and State Societies. Virginia continued to shine, being the recipient of numerous awards, which were reflections of the work that our compatriots did during the last year to advance the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution.

While the total list of awards received by our chapters and state is to be posted on MemberClicks, one chapter in particular gave the Virginia delegation a significant reason to be proud. Having been chartered only last year, our Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter, while small but growing, won the PG's Cup for chapter sizes less than 50. Chapter President Ken Bonner and Vice President Barry Schwoerer have in a short time marked out a significant place as a winner, not only in Virginia, but now nationally. Congratulations, compatriots in the Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter.



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For me, the Congress is also an opportunity to renew a number of acquaintances from past Congresses and national committees on which I serve. Since Congress exposes each compatriot to a broader perspective on the SAR than one can get from chapter or state meetings, I would encourage all of our compatriots to consider attending future Congresses.



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**Third Vice President Report on
Youth Awards Luncheon, 2023 SAR
Congress (Orlando, Florida)**

*Third Vice President
Darrin Schmidt*

A highlight of my attendance at SAR Congress is always the Youth Luncheon where the winners of the NSSAR's Youth Contests are recognized for their talent and effort. To say these youth who participate in the contests are inspiring is an incredible understatement.

Hundreds of SAR Compatriots, their wives, and many guests filled the ballroom at the Orlando Rozen Plaza Hotel to support this year's group of youth winners and be awed by their accomplishments. Each winner presented their entry with appropriate style. The National Orations Contest winner was one of six participants that competed at the oration finals on Sunday night. Having suitably impressed the judges, the winner presented a very eloquent speech at the lunch focused on [Deborah Sampson's](#) service to the Continental Army and how she was ultimately honorably discharged after the discovery that she was a woman. Patriot Sampson was the first woman to receive recognition for her service. What a way to pave the path for women in military service today!

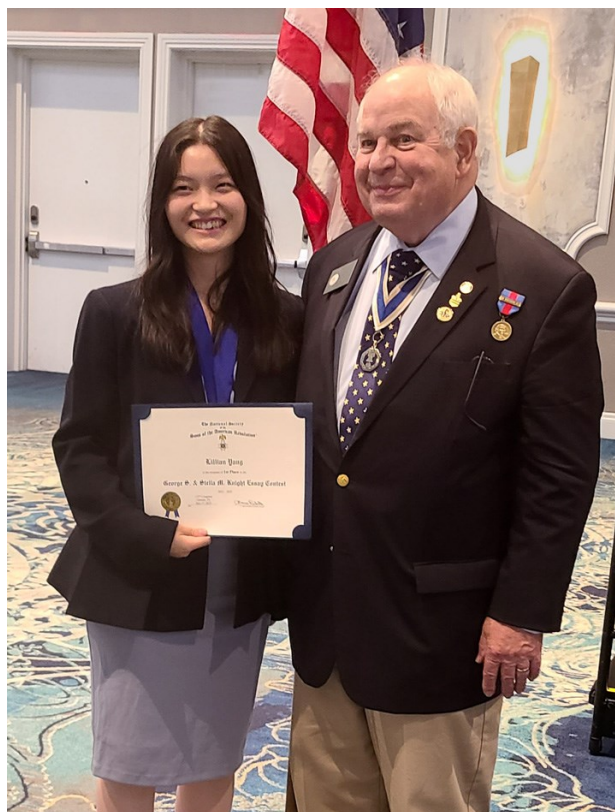
The SAR ROTC winner was a young lady whose essay described her experience with the program and how the Code of Conduct served her well and helped her to make the right decisions. She said she was proud to have been able to rely on the Code and military values even in the face of personal cost to her. The winning essay from the SAR Eagle Scout Contest was a well written composition on the Battle of Camden



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The winning essay from the SAR Essay Contest focused on religion during the Revolutionary War period, how it fostered a sense of community and ultimately advocated for liberty and built support for the War. This topic is not often explored by our youth winners.



National Essay Chairman Ernie Coggins (VA) with the winning essayist, Yang Rollman (AK)



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award. This year's speaker was actually the winner from 2019, but he wasn't able to attend the function then. Like many good teachers, he was a dynamic speaker, but this one also brought music to his classrooms. Lacking a music program, he took the opportunity to teach students some of the standard Americana songs that many of his students had not yet learned. He opened his presentation by inviting everyone to join him in a rendition of God Bless America. Other songs he incorporated into his classes included America the Beautiful, the National Anthem, and others.

As the National SAR-N.S.C.A.R. Liaison Committee Chairman, I must say that while the Youth Luncheon is always entertaining and educational in various ways, my primary function is to introduce our Children of the American Revolution guests and show SAR's support for this year's president's project. I'm happy to report that we had excellent representation from the C.A.R. this year as they took time off between their Regional Tour destinations (that is, their own nationwide publicity campaign) to support the SAR and its youth programs. C.A.R. members and senior leaders were placed throughout the audience where they could interact with as many of our SAR Compatriots as possible. It was a pleasure to see them all in Orlando.

Included in the guest list was Senior National President Diana Brokaw and National President Victoria Smith, and it was the latter that moved the audience with a speech about her national project. Miss Smith gifted President General Pickette with C.A.R. "swag" including beach balls and bears for his grandkids, a C.A.R. hat for him, and a handy duffle to carry it all home. The SAR's C.A.R. Liaison Committee then presented Miss Smith with a check to support her project.



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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REPORT FROM
133rd NSSAR CONGRESS
AWARDS**



Youth Awards Luncheon, 2023 SAR Congress (Orlando, Florida)

The table centerpieces were decorated straw hats that highlighted Florida's "Cracker Cattle," American breed that originated in Spanish Florida (later the state of Florida). At the end of the lunch, the hats were designated to go home with the youngest person at each table. Unsurprisingly, the youth award winners and C.A.R. members in attendance were the primary recipients of these hats. (See picture).

All the participants and award recipients received a standing ovation and round of applause for their achievements and participation in the SAR Youth Programs. I look forward to attending again next year.



The C.A.R. attendees sporting their "Cracker Cattle" straw hats at the luncheon



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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Friday, 28 July, 2023

**2023 Awards and Recognitions
Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution:
Society, Chapters, and Compatriots
133rd Congress in Orlando**

Compatriots of the Virginia Society (including dual members):

We did exceptionally well at our Congress in Orlando. I would like to recognize all of you for your outstanding efforts. We should be proud of our accomplishments this year but strive to do even better next year. During the Awards Ceremony, I made frequent trips to receive our awards from President General Pickette, and he commented favorably on Virginia's accomplishments.

I was very proud to accept a number of the awards listed here on your behalf. It was an honor.

Ernie Coggins
President
2023-24

There are two sections. The awards and recognitions that we received on Monday evening in Orlando are listed first. Then there is a listing of Public Safety, Heroism, and Life Saving Chapter awards.

The following awards are a continuing program to recognize Chapters and their Outreach Education programming efforts. The requirement to receive the **President General's Education Outreach Streamer** is for the compatriots of a chapter to do a certain number of new Historical Presentations or to present an existing presentation in a new venue or to a new audience. President General's Education Outreach Streamer.

**Colonel James Wood II Chapter
Colonel William Grayson Chapter
Culpeper Minutemen Chapter**



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- **Dan River Chapter**
- **Fairfax Resolves Chapter**
- **Fort Harrison Chapter**
- **General Daniel Morgan Chapter**
- **General William Campbell Chapter**
- **George Washington Chapter**
- **James Monroe Chapter**
- **Lt. David Cox Chapter**
- **Norfolk Chapter**
- **Richard Henry Lee Chapter**
- **Sgt Major John Champe Chapter**

THE OHANESIAN HISTORY PRESENTATIONS AWARD FOR CHAPTERS (cash award). This award is presented to the Chapters based upon membership size whose members collectively, orally make the most presentations on any aspect of the American Revolution to classes or groups in schools (K-12) in their respective geographic service area.

- *Chapter: 10 - 49 members*

Winner: General William Campbell Chapter, Virginia SAR



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C.A.R. ACTIVITY AWARD AND STREAMERS: To the State Society which has documented their work with the Children of the American Revolution over the past year and have completed the filing process for entering this award.

- **Winner: Virginia SAR**

COUNCIL OF YOUTH PROGRAMS POSTER CONTEST: The following Society participated in the Americanism Poster Contest and receives a Participation Streamer.

- **Virginia SAR**

SGT MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST: The following Society participated in the Sgt Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest and receives a Participation Streamer.

- **Virginia SAR**

JOSEPH S. RUMBAUGH HISTORICAL ORATIONS CONTEST: The following are those Societies that participated in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Orations Contest and will be receiving a Participation Streamer.

- **Virginia SAR**

The following Society participated in the **ROTC/JROTC Contest** and receives a Participation Streamer.

- **Virginia SAR**

The following Society participated in the **George S. & Stella M. Knight Contest** and receives a Participation Streamer.

- **Virginia SAR**



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The following Society participated in the **Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Scholarship competition** and receives a Participation Streamer.

- **Virginia SAR**

THE WINSTON C. WILLIAMS SAR MAGAZINE AWARD: To the Compatriot or Society which was the most co-operative in supplying usable magazine material.

- **Winner: Virginia SAR**

THE PAUL M. NIEBELL, SR. AWARD: To the State Society of 500 or more members with the best news publications with fewer than 10 pages. (Cash Award)

- **Winner: *The Bulletin*, Virginia SAR, William David Carpenter – Editor**

THE CARL F. BESSENT AWARD: To the editor of the most outstanding Chapter newsletter. Multiple sheet (Cash Award).

- **Winner: *The Magazine*, Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia SAR, Dave Westenberger – Editor**

THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY STEPHEN TAYLOR AWARD: To the compatriot, who by his research and writings, has made a distinguished contribution to the preservation of the history of the American Revolutionary era and its Patriots.



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- **Winner: James Bish of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, Virginia SAR**

THE LIBERTY MEDAL AWARDS: The **Bronze Liberty Medal** is presented to those Compatriots who have recruited 10 new members over a period of time. Those receiving additional Liberty awards will receive oak leaf cluster awards which are shown in parentheses.

- **Maynard H. Berryman Williamsburg Chapter**
- **Martin L. Keesecker Colonel James Wood II - Dual Member (WV)**
- **Lorance D. Lisle George Washington Chapter**
- **William O. Ritchie, Jr. Jamestown HQ Chapter - Dual Member (DC)**

- **Marc E. Robinson Colonel James Wood II Chapter**

For those who have received the **Bronze Liberty Medal** in a previous year and have recruited an additional 10 or more new members will receive **Oak Leaf Cluster awards**.

- **Donald F. Reynolds George Washington Chapter**
- **Randolph G. Atkins, Jr. Fort Harrison Chapter**
- **Richard J. Rossin (2) Nansemond Indian Patriots Chapter--Dual Member (NY)**
- **Michael J. Blythe (2) Colonel William Grayson Chapter**



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- Connor L. Jackson George Washington Chapter – Dual Member (NH)
- Hans E. Jackson (6) George Washington Chapter – Dual Member (NH)
- Barry F. Schwoerer Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter
- Michael E. Johnson Colonel William Grayson Chapter
- Richard M. Sherman George Washington Chapter
- Ray V. Cassell II Lt. David Cox Chapter
- David E. Cook (2) Fairfax Resolves Chapter
- Thomas M. Taimi (2) Jamestown HQ Chapter
- Andrew S. Doss Colonel George Waller Chapter
- Turner L. Wilkerson, III Williamsburg Chapter – Dual Member (OH)
- Gary O. Green Culpeper Minutemen Chapter – Dual Member (NC)

Additional levels of the Liberty Medal have been added this year. These new levels represent sponsorship over a time and are reached when the Liberty Medal recipient crosses both the threshold of his next Liberty Medal and the new category of the Liberty Medal.

The first of the new categories is the **Silver Liberty Medal** and it is presented to those compatriots who through their continued efforts have crossed the next qualification for an Oak Leaf Cluster for the Liberty medal and have over time have passed the sponsorship number of over 100 new compatriots in the SAR.



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- **Barry F. Schwoerer** **Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter**
- **Thomas M. Taimi** **Jamestown HQ Chapter**
- **David E. Cook** **Fairfax Resolves Chapter**
- **Hans E. Jackson** **George Washington Chapter – Dual Member (NH)**
- **Richard J. Rossin** **Nansemond Indian Patriots Chapter – Dual Member (NY)**

GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORLAND AWARD: To the outstanding SAR Veterans Volunteer for service to Veterans.

- **Winner: Dale E. Corey, Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia SAR**

STATE VETERANS SERVICE AWARD: To the State Society based upon the percentage of their Chapters submitting reports for the USS Stark Memorial Award.

- **Winner: Virginia SAR**

THE ADMIRAL WILLIAM R. FURLONG MEMORIAL AWARD &

STREAMERS: To the State Societies which have fulfilled the qualifications of awarding Flag Certificates during the previous year.

- **Virginia SAR**

Society that completed **100% involvement of their Chapters in the Admiral William Furlong Memorial Award** receives a “Special” recognition this year with an additional certificate.



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- **Virginia SAR**

U.S. FLAG RETIREMENT AWARD: To the State Society and at least 50% of its Chapters must present at least one NSSAR U.S. Flag Retirement Certificate to a person or organization who qualifies during the previous calendar year.

- **Winner: Virginia SAR**

THE LIBERTY BELL AMERICANISM AWARD AND STREAMER: To the Chapter, based upon size which presents evidence of best implementing S.A.R. resolutions and principles.

- **10 - 49 members Winner: Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter, Virginia SAR**
- **100 - 199 members Winner: Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia SAR**

THE ALLENE WILSON GROVES AWARD AND STREAMER: To the State Society, based upon size which presents evidence of best implementing S.A.R. resolutions and principles.

- **1,000 members and up Winner: Virginia SAR**

OFFICERS' STREAMER AWARD: To State Societies whose president and national trustees have attended both preceding trustees' meetings and the previous Annual Congress.

- **Winner: Virginia SAR**



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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PRESIDENT GENERAL'S STATE SOCIETY AND CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

COMPETITION AWARDS:

- **Chapters: 10 – 49 Winner: Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter, Virginia SAR**
- **States: 1,000 and up Winner: Virginia SAR**

THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S CUP: To the Chapter(s) based upon size which presents evidence of the most complete program of activities.

- **Chapters:**
- **'1 – 49 Winner: Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter, Virginia SAR**
- **100 – 199 Winner: Col James Wood II Chapter, Virginia SAR**
- **200+ members Honorable Mention:**

Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia SAR

SAR Public Service and Heroism Commendations (Data are presented as recorded in Award publication.)

2022-23 Award Recipients

This section contains data concerning comemdations for:

- ★ **Emergency Medical Services**
- ★ **Fire Safety**
- ★ **Heroism**
- ★ **Law Enforcement**
- ★ **Life Saving**



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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Special Recognitions The following state societies and its chapters have presented Award Commendations to one or more recipients in each of the five categories:

Georgia Maryland Ohio Texas Virginia

The top three reporting state societies were:

The Virginia Society: 116

The Texas Society: 35

The Florida Society: 25

Emergency Medical Services Commendation

George Washington	Matthew McClurg LT	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Kenneth Creighton Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Courtney Davis LT	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Thomas Hunt Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
Fort Harrison	Molly Karabinus Paramedic	Harrisonburg Rescue Squad
Fort Harrison	Travis Karicofe EMS Officer	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Wilson Wilmer CAPT	Clover Hill Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Colonel James Wood II	Patrick Corey EMT	
Culpeper Minutemen	Richard Cluff Chief	Fauquier EMS Dept.
Fairfax Resolves	Michael C. Pickering Tech	Fairfax Co. Fire & Rescue Dept

Fire Safety Commendation

George Washington	Jeremy Moore CAPT	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Aaron Kearns Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	A.J. Aquinto Tech II	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Mike Mishler LT	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	James Spengler Tech II	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	John-Michael Payette Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Alex Scheatzle Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Kevin Dodson LT	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue



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George Washington	Stephen Melville Tech II	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Nick Gonnella Tech II	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Rahil Nawaz Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Joey Melvin CAPT	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Eric DiBucci Tech II	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
George Washington	Liliana Daigle Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
Fort Harrison	Fiona Albertson Tech.	Rockingham Co. Fire & Rescue
Colonel James Wood II	John Petrie Paramedic	Lord Fairfax EMS
Culpeper Minutemen	Steven Beasley LT	Lake of the Woods Vol. Fire & Res- cue
Fairfax Resolves	Jovan A. Reid FF	Fairfax Co. Fire & Rescue Dept

Heroism Commendation

Patrick Henry	Connie Peresada	
Fort Harrison	John Painter Officer	Bridgewater College PD
Fort Harrison	Matthew Papotnik	Officer Bridgewater PD
Fort Harrison	J.J. Henderson Officer	Bridgewater College PD
Fort Harrison	Craig Lam Officer	Elkton PD
Fort Harrison	Stephen Morris Deputy Chief	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	David Gayhart CAPT	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Joseph Weaver LT	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Andrew Bauserman LT	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Matthew Bauserman LT	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Larry Bennington LT	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Chase Coffey Master FF	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Jared Quesenberry Master FF	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Chris Snyder Master FF	Harrisonburg FD
George Washington	Jordan Flasher Tech I	Prince William Co. Fire & Res-
cueFort Harrison	Joshua Lohr Master FF	Harrisonburg FD
Fort Harrison	Stephen Burrows Officer	Harrisonburg PD
Culpeper Minutemen	Nathan Earnshaw Deputy	Culpeper Co. Sheriff's Office
Culpeper Minutemen	Michael Mawdsley SGT	Culpeper Co. Sheriff's Office
Culpeper Minutemen	Wesley Spicer Detective	Culpeper Co. Sheriff's Office



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George Washington
George Washington
SGM John Champe

Cager Mackaravitz Tech II
Michael Spaeth Deputy
Camron Gentry
Deputy First Class

Prince William Co. Fire & Rescue
Cameron Co. Sheriff's Office

Loudoun Co. Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement Commendation

SGT Maj. John Champe
SGT Maj. John Champe
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Colonel James Wood II
Colonel James Wood II
Colonel James Wood II
Culpeper Minutemen
Office
Fairfax Resolves
Fairfax Resolves
Fairfax Resolves
Thomas Nelson Jr.
Dept
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
George Washington

Randall M. Pieper Master Trooper
William Nugent Officer
Brooke Wetherell Detective
Chris Watson LT
Dean S. Worcester RET
Gary Benedict Jr. Chief
Charles Edward Long RET
Melvin White Deputy

Tu Farhan CAPT
Steve Elbert CAPT
Thomas Kyle Master Deputy
Mathew Forini Deputy

Bikeramjit Gill Detective
Keith Burkholder Detective
Patrick DiGirolamo Officer
Robert Gudaitis MPO
George Kimball MPO
Scott McBride Officer
Michael Miller Officer
Jason Byrne Officer
Abigail Pollard Officer
Richard Toke SGT
Samuel Harman Officer
Justice Agyare Officer
Briana Huber Officer
Brian Centifonti Officer
Jason Weber Officer

VA State Police
Middleburg PD
Harrisonburg PD
Harrisonburg PD
20th Judicial District of VA
Middletown PD
Front Royal PD
Culpeper Co. Sheriff's

Vienna PD
Fairfax Co. Sheriff's Office
Fairfax Co. Sheriff's Office
Isle of Wight Sheriff's

Alexandria PD
Alexandria PD
Fairfax Co. PD
Prince William Co. PD
Prince William Co. PD
Prince William Co. PD
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Prince William Co. PD



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George Washington
George Washington
George Washington
iff's Office
George Washington

Stephen Kuhn Officer
Brittany Turner Officer
La Tanya Ervins

Prince William Co. PD
Prince William Co. PD
Director Alexandria Sher-

Carmen Zygmunt
Master Deputy Alexandria City Sheriff's Office

Life Saving Commendation

Patrick Henry
SGM John Champe
SGM John Champe
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Fort Harrison
Culpeper Minutemen
Culpeper Minutemen
Thomas Nelson Jr.
iff's Dept
Thomas Nelson Jr.
iff's Dept
George Washington

Robert Lyon
Stephen Meyer Officer
Matthew Wolfe Officer
Charles Grubbs LT
Isabella Stunda Officer
Kris Whitesell CAPT
Matthew Bauserman LT
Brett Briddle Master FF
Roy Garber Master FF
Chad Smith Master FF
Tyler Burgoyne Master FF
Robert Hilley Master FF
Tyler Phillips Master FF
Rodney Easle FF
Joel Bradley FF
Morgan McComas CAPT
Andrew Bauserman LT
Donne Barb Master FF
Jonathan McKinney FF/Medic
David Cole MPO
Julia Cole MPO
Benjamin Nicholson CPL

Johnnie Boone Deputy

Michael Duncan LT

Leesburg PD
Leesburg PD
Harrison PD
Harrison PD
Harrison FD
Harrison PD
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Harrison PD
Harrison PD
Isle of Wight Sher-

Isle of Wight Sher-

Fairfax Co. PD



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George Washington	Donnie Poore MPO	Fairfax Co. PD
George Washington	Jeffrey Taylor CAPT	Alexandria FD
George Washington	Jason Sharpe LT	Alexandria FD
George Washington	Antonio Trizol FF	Alexandria FD
George Washington	Joseph White FF	Alexandria FD
George Washington Office	Andrew Arvelo PGC	Fairfax Co. Sheriff's
George Washington	Aloysius Asonglefac SGT	Alexandria PD
George Washington	Kellie Medeiros Officer	Alexandria PD
George Washington Office	Jason R. Strasser Master Deputy	Fairfax Co. Sheriff's
Norfolk	Cathleen T. Hawkins Ret	

This concludes the listings of awards and recognitions received by the Virginia Society and its Chapters and Compatriots at the 133rd Congress in Orlando, Florida Saturday through Thursday, 15 – 20 July 2023.

Any omissions are regretted.



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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IN MEMORIAM**



*Remembering those compatriots who passed in January to June 2023.
They will always live in our hearts.*

<i>LAST</i>	<i>FIRST</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>CHAPTER</i>
Chase	Paul	Alan	3/17/2023	Col. William Grayson
Epperly	John	Moyer	1/7/2023	Col. William Grayson
Sheffield	Walter	Alexander	1/25/2023	Col. Fielding Lewis
Thomas	Donald	William	2/2/2023	Williamsburg
Dunn, Jr.	James	Carroll	2/8/2023	Williamsburg
Lathrop	John	Gardner	2/13/2023	Col. James Wood II
Schultz	Lea	Stanley	2/14/2023	Thomas Jefferson
Taylor	Ellis	Trice	3/25/2023	Thomas Jefferson
Hogge	Maryus		4/1/2023	Williamsburg
Hadden	Robert	Lee	4/20/2023	Fincastle Resolutions
Moore	Everett	Arthur	4/24/2023	Col James Wood II
Baldwin	Donald	W	4/17/2023	George Washington
Wolfe	Robert	Chester- field	1/17/2023	Gen William Campbell
Jarvis	Richard	Leroy	10/19/2022	Richmond
Rouse	Robert	Wayne	5/25/2023	Col Fielding Lewis
Vickery	Joseph	William	5/7/2023	Overmountain Men



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NEW MEMBERS
JANUARY—JUNE 2023**



These individuals joined the Virginia Society between
January and June 2023 listed by their Chapter

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE APPROVED	NSSAR #
<i>Col Fielding Lewis</i>			
Thomas	Baker	6/23/2023	227082
Terry	Rensel	1/27/2023	225144
<i>Col George Waller</i>			
Colton	Bowles	5/5/2023	226427
Hunter	Conner	5/5/2023	226431
Nash	Conner	5/5/2023	226430
Jonathan	Errichetti	5/5/2023	226429
William	Errichetti	5/5/2023	226428
Joshua	Martin	5/5/2023	226432
Ronald	Martin	5/5/2023	226433
<i>Col James Wood II</i>			
James	Cridge	6/9/2023	226960
Robert	Garrett	4/14/2023	226055
David	Hagstrom	6/23/2023	227084
James	Lovelace	6/23/2023	227083
Gary	Molchan	5/5/2023	226426
Roy	Thomas	6/9/2023	226966
Chase	Tyler	5/5/2023	226422
Walker	Tyler	5/5/2023	226423



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FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE APPROVED	NSSAR #
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Col William Grayson

Jeffrey	Brown	5/12/2023	226546
James	Collier	6/2/2023	226870
Aidan	Davies	2/10/2023	225281
Harry	Fulwiler	2/17/2023	225373
Harry	Fulwiler	2/17/2023	225374
William	Groth	4/14/2023	226059
Matthew	Kendle	5/5/2023	226424
Harper	Shimp	1/27/2023	225143
David	Williams	3/17/2023	225647
James	Williams	3/17/2023	225646

Dan River

Lander	Anderson	6/9/2023	226965
Stan	Conner	6/2/2023	226869
Giles	Crews	5/26/2023	226769
Mark	Estes	3/3/2023	225490
James	Landrum	3/10/2023	225547
John	Preston	6/9/2023	226959
William	Preston	6/9/2023	226958
James	Upchurch	4/28/2023	226317



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FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE APPROVED	NSSAR #
<i>Fairfax Resolves</i>			
Marshall	Bruehler	4/21/2023	226208
Joseph	Cherry	1/27/2023	225140
Jefferson	Feaganes	2/17/2023	225369
Jefferson	Feaganes	2/17/2023	225370
Adam	Foltz	2/17/2023	225367
Kenneth	Foltz	2/17/2023	225366
Carson	Harter	6/9/2023	226964
Michael	Harter	6/9/2023	226962
Quintin	Harter	6/9/2023	226963
Thomas	Harter	6/9/2023	226961
Caden	Kodadek	4/28/2023	226311
John	Kodadek	4/28/2023	226309
Jonathan	Kodadek	4/28/2023	226310
Kevin	Kodadek	4/28/2023	226312
Anthony	MacDonald	6/23/2023	227081
David	Peters	5/19/2023	226647
Thomas	Shaw	4/28/2023	226308
Eric	Simmons	4/28/2023	226314
Evan	Simmons	4/28/2023	226315
John	Simmons	4/28/2023	226316
Alexander	Terrill	3/31/2023	225849
Liam	Terrill	3/31/2023	225850
Wallace	Terrill	3/31/2023	225848



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FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE APPROVED	NSSAR #
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Fincastle Resolutions

Douglas Keith Berry		5/26/2023	226770
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Fort Harrison

Lawrence	Dury	4/14/2023	226061
Christopher	Walker	3/24/2023	225756
James	Watkins	4/14/2023	226060

Gen William Campbell

Kevin	Combs	5/5/2023	226416
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George Washington

Patrick	Bays	1/20/2023	225051
Ryan	Carrado	4/14/2023	226054
Robert	Gomez	5/19/2023	226646
David	Harrity	2/10/2023	225275
Richard	Schmitz	5/19/2023	226645
Thomas	Summers	1/20/2023	225053
James	Taylor	1/20/2023	225050
Terry	Zerwick	1/20/2023	225054



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FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE APPROVED	NSSAR #
<i>Nansemond Indian Patriots</i>			
Michael	Ralston	4/14/2023	226058
David	Ralston	4/21/2023	226205
David	Ralston	4/21/2023	226206
Michael	Slough	3/31/2023	225846
<i>Norfolk</i>			
Gilbert	Bostwick	6/30/2023	227145
Richard	Crouch	3/3/2023	225489
Graham	Hatch	1/27/2023	225142
Matthew	Kuhr	2/17/2023	225375
John	Ray	4/14/2023	226053
<i>Patrick Henry</i>			
William	Hawkins	4/21/2023	226202
Robert	Ricketts	4/14/2023	226052
William	Stokes	2/17/2023	225368
<i>Richard Henry Lee</i>			
Charles	Williams	2/10/2023	225282
Christopher	Williams	2/10/2023	225283
Clayton	Williams	2/10/2023	225284



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NEW MEMBERS
JANUARY—JUNE 2023**



FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE APPROVED	NSSAR #
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Richmond

William	Morgerson	1/20/2023	225049
George	Mosby	1/20/2023	225047
Cory	Brumagin	4/14/2023	226057
Gregory	Surpless	4/14/2023	226056
Zachory	Drisko	4/21/2023	226207
Ralph	Spaulding	4/21/2023	226203
Thomas	Veech	4/21/2023	226204
Anthony	Ennas	4/28/2023	226313

Sgt Maj John Champe

Isaac	Workman	2/10/2023	225279
Warner	Workman	2/10/2023	225276
Warner	Workman	2/10/2023	225277
Warner	Workman	2/10/2023	225278
John	French	3/31/2023	225847
Douglas	Greenwood	4/7/2023	225952
Douglas	Greenwood	4/7/2023	225953
David	Welker	5/5/2023	226425



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NEW MEMBERS
JANUARY—JUNE 2023**



FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE APPROVED	NSSAR #
<i>Thomas Jefferson</i>			
David	Cauffield	1/20/2023	225048
Lester	Wilson	5/5/2023	226421
<i>Thomas Nelson Jr</i>			
Matthew	Abbitt	5/26/2023	226771
Samuel	Tate	2/17/2023	225372
<i>Virginia Society SAR</i>			
Dale	Crisp	2/3/2023	225187
<i>Williamsburg</i>			
Alfred	Collins	5/5/2023	226417
Alfred	Collins	5/5/2023	226418
Alfred	Collins	5/5/2023	226419
Charles	Collins	5/5/2023	226420
Sean	Heuvel	2/3/2023	225186
William	Mason	2/17/2023	225371
Ryan	Myers	2/10/2023	225280
Patrick	Shaver	1/27/2023	225141
Donald	Thomas	2/2/2023	225192



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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&
DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



DAR & SAR Relations



For more than a century, the members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution have dedicated themselves to historical preservation, promotion of education, and encouragement of patriotic endeavor. These objectives should sound familiar as they align with the National Society Sons of the American Revolution dedication to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to our future generations.

In Virginia, the DAR and SAR have been working together for years promoting the shared objectives of our Societies. Whether through ties of friendship or family, members of our two societies have been marking grave sites, commemorating national and local milestone events, and educating young and old about the history of our country's founding.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, in July of 2022, established the DAR/SAR/S.R. Relations Committee to promote a congenial and harmonious working relationship with SAR and S.R. for the betterment of our shared objectives. The committee renders support and assistance in the area of



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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&
DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



community-centered events and mutual membership growth and fosters shared goals of historic preservation, education and patriotism. Reporting extends to documenting the number of SAR/S.R. Medals of Distinction awarded and to whom, as well as the names of the medals.

Most recently the DAR has established The Hannah White Arnett Medal, for Distinguished Service to NSDAR, to recognize the many compatriots from the SAR and S.R. who serve alongside the DAR in Sparkling Service to America. There are three levels of recognition: chapter level (bronze), state level (silver), and national level (gold).



Ketocin Chapter DAR sponsored 2022 Wreath's Across America. Color Guard support provided by multiple chapters from the Virginia SAR.



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&
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AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



To further the National Society objectives for the DAR/SAR/S.R. Relations Committee, State Regent Laurie Nesbitt appointed

Kecia Brown, keciabrown@me.com, as the Virginia State Committee Chairman and Anita Bonner, anita.l.bonner@gmail.com, as the Virginia State Committee Vice-Chairman.



Memorial Weekend 2023, where Daughters from across the state of Virginia joined the Patrick Henry Chapter VASSAR in commemorating the 287th Anniversary of Patrick Henry's Birthday.



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&
DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



What can Virginia SAR do to enhance cooperation between societies?

It's all about the Chapter engagement:

- Join in commemorative events such as historic markings or Wreath Across America.
- Offer to provide the SAR Color Guard to add additional flare to one of the DAR celebrations or chapter meetings.
- Invite DAR members to your Independence Day Parade or ask if you can participate in their parade.
- Offer to give a program to a DAR chapter meeting or ask if one of their members has a program to present at your chapter meeting.





VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLOR GUARD



By Chris Melhuish, Captain, USN (ret.), VASSAR Color Guard Commander



VASSAR Color Guard Musket Volley. Photo credit: Dale Corey

What is the VASSAR Color Guard?

Let's shed a little light on what it is. The VASSAR Color Guard (shorthand: "the Guard") is, in practice, not a discrete body of men assigned to the State Color Guard Commander. Instead, the Guard consists of two principal elements: first, a state color guard staff (i.e., the Color Guard Committee), which establishes promulgates, and monitors color guard policies and standards for all VASSAR color guard activities; and second, colonial-attired Compatriots assigned to VASSAR chapters who volunteer their time to participate in color guard related events sponsored/endorsed by our society. These events may be at the chapter, state, or national level. There are also public service events (think: outreach) where a non-SAR organization requests VASSAR color guard support. We participate in several of these. In 2022, VASSAR guardsmen supported over 127 in-



VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLOR GUARD



State and out-of-State events.

Put another way, if a chapter asks for VASSAR color guard support, it is essentially asking other chapters for assistance. Think of the difference between a Minuteman and a regular Continental soldier. One is on call and the other is assigned to a unit that can order him what to do, where to go, and when. We are more like Minutemen in this respect. The state color guard staff acts as a clearing house for color guard requests and employs a centralized schedule for guardsmen (and all Compatriots) to access and review. A point of clarification: the term "color guard" can be a little confusing in VASSAR. In the winter of 2021, we modified the old color guard model that saw a large number of flags carried by a color guard unit and we created a new (additional) group called the "Honor Guard," which is used at events where many flags are paraded. The premise for this modification is to keep the principal focus on the Colors (i.e., US, VA, and lead SAR flags), and to parade/display all other flags with the honor guard. In some respects, this streamlining places our color guards into a more traditional/conventional model. In addition to the color and honor guards, we also use a musket squad, where properly certified guardsmen handle and fire black powder, and we may also use sentinels. All these fall under the broad collective, "VASSAR Color Guard." Or the Guard, as noted earlier.

Today's Guard is advancing along many fronts.

Firstly, eighteen recruits joined the Guard in the first half of 2023, taking us to 135 guardsmen (as of the beginning of July). To our new members – welcome aboard.

Thanks to Compatriots Bruce Meyer, David Carpenter, and John Gullion, the transfer of web-based information from the previous system was flawlessly transferred to MemberClicks, and we now enjoy a professional web-based



VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLOR GUARD



source of VASSAR color guard information. [See: <https://www.virginiasar.org/the-color-guard>]

As you know, VASSAR was reorganized into four regions, and the color guard organization followed suit. Each VASSAR region has a Regional Color Guard Commander who reports directly to the State Color Guard Commander and Vice Commander/Adjutant. The Regional Color Guard Commanders have broad authority to execute policies and direction issued at the state level. (For chapter presidents, this is an important point to take note of – I encourage you to establish a working relationship with your respective Regional Color Guard Commander if you have not already done so.)

We have accomplished several significant milestones over the past year. These fall into three broad areas:

Standardized State-wide training

- Developed formal training standards involving the safe handling and firing of black powder.
- Revised the "VASSAR Color Guard Handbook," particularly its safety annexes.
- Supported the professional production of five color guard training videos for NSSAR use.
- Issued distinctive cockades and firelock safety wallet-sized cards to certified guardsmen.
- Expanded the number of training workshops for our guardsmen to attend.

Improved Insurance and Accident-Incident procedures

- We renegotiated a general liability insurance policy with a carrier that better suits our activities (i.e., Lockton Affinity).
- We developed and refined VASSAR Accident-Incident procedures for use by the ExCom and chapter presidents.
- Printed and issued Accident-Incident wallet-sized cards for all guardsmen (available for all chapter leadership).



VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLOR GUARD



- Established a VASSAR Media Liaison Team to respond to all media queries concerning any significant accidents or incidents at a VASSAR event. Contact information is posted on the VASSAR website, FB and Dispatch home pages.
- Opened State Color Guard Commander-to-Commander dialogues with adjacent states about liability insurance. In some cases, we have provided advice and assistance on how to obtain coverage. We have also exchanged Certificates of Insurance (COI), where available.

OutReach



Combined VASSAR – French Navy Color Guard at the Battle of the Capes commemoration September 2022. From left to right: Bill Schwetke, Ken Bonner, Premier Maître Aline Oger, French Navy, and Brett Osborn. Photo credit: Timothy Ahlgrim, Norfolk Chapter.



VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLOR GUARD



- For the first time, we integrated active-duty French military members into our color guards for special events. This unique arrangement will continue, and this international outreach is significant.
- We support multiple "same day" public events across the Commonwealth (Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day, etc.). For example, 45 individual guardsmen supported ten Memorial Day events this year. Our guardsmen are the most visible element of our Society to the public – some might say we are the "Face of the SAR" and are proud of our Patriot citizen-soldier ancestors who served to help found this nation.



Photo credit: Tim Ahligrim



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
BRETT OSBORN**



Member of the SAR since March 2003, when he joined in Georgia. He moved to Winchester and became a charter member of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter when it was chartered in November 2007. Brett has been an active member of the organization since his induction. He has served as Color Guard Commander, Vice President and President of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter. He served in the United States Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel and has been an active supporter of veterans and veterans affairs since being inducted into the society.

He joined the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution in March 2003. In his early days, he joined the color guard and has been a mainstay as a SAR color guardsman ever since. He served in the Georgia Society Color Guard for five years and in the Virginia Society Guard since 2007. He has been the Colonel James Wood II Chapter Color Guard Commander and in 2017, the Virginia State Color Guard Commander. Over the years, he has attended ten national leadership meetings and five National Congresses. He has been an active par-



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
BRETT OSBORN***



participant in the color guard as a Continental Artilleryman; and Colonial Soldier, as a Continental infantryman, rifleman and as a militiaman. Over the years, he has been involved in 425 color guard events to include 138 nationals. He regularly represents the Virginia Society and the Colonel James Wood II Chapter at national events in Massachusetts (Patriots Day), Georgia (Battle of Kettle Creek), South Carolina (Cowpens), as well as many other out of state color guard events. He has been an active participant in a multitude of National, State and Chapter events within the Commonwealth. In 2022, he was selected to serve as the Virginia Society Northern Virginia Region Color Guard Commander.

He has been a member of the National Color Guard Committee since 2017 and was selected as the National Color Guard Training Officer. As Training Officer, he was asked to prepare and produce a national instruction video to train the color guard. This included films on musketry, safety, flag etiquette and protocol, marching discipline and ceremonial procedures for bladed weapons. Brett is a highly decorated compatriot, earning many of the medals available to members of the society. In addition to his activity at the chapter and state, he is a member of four NSSAR Committees to include the Color Guard Committee since 2017, Rumbaugh Orations from 2019, Veterans from 2018 and is the Chair of the Reenactor and Living History Liaison from 2017 to present. He has been an active NSSAR contributor to the following national funds: George Washington Fellow, Rumbaugh Orations Americanism, Friends of the SAR Library and the Eagle Scout Fund.



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BRETT OSBORN**



A student of history and proud veteran, he belongs to the following organizations: Clan Ferguson Society of North America, Mayflower Society (member of the Mayflower Guard), Museum of the American Revolution (Founding Member), American Legion, Disabled American Veteran, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Korean War Veteran Association, Reserve Officer Association and the German Society, NSSAR. Brett is a proud member of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter, the Virginia Society and the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

He epitomizes what a compatriot strives to achieve. Perpetuating the memory of the colonial era, the Revolutionary War, our Founding Documents and the ancestors who made this country possible. He is active in teaching children and relating the importance of the era to all he comes in contact with.





**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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CRITIC'S CORNER**



Review of 1776 by David McCullough

James R Poplar III is a retired Navy Commodore and 1st Vice President of the Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Although published in 2005 by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough as we approach the 250th anniversary of our Republic perhaps it is time to read or re-read this seminal work that focuses on perhaps the most critical year - 1776 - in the birth of this then nascent nation.

The book is a companion to McCullough's earlier [biography](#) of [John Adams](#), and focuses on the events surrounding the start of the [American Revolutionary War](#). While revolving mostly around the leadership (and at times indecisiveness) of [George Washington](#) keeping mind that our first Commander-in-Chief never commanded an army, In addition, Congress was impatient and at times Washington had to literally beg for supplies and troops as he went up against the most powerful army at the time consistently primarily of professional Hessian soldiers.

At the onset, Washington often did not have a grasp of military strategy or tactics and had to be rescued often from his often-reckless plans by subordinates. McCullough bluntly terms him "indecisive and inept" as a battle commander but praises his perseverance and clear-eyed recognition of his own and his army's faults.

Key Revolutionary War battles detailed in the book include the [Battle of Dorchester Heights](#), the [Battle of Long Island](#), and the [Battle of Trenton](#). The activities of the [Second Continental Congress](#) and the signing of the [Declaration of](#)



VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CRITIC'S CORNER



It really is a miracle that the Continental Army survived so many early debacles to fight another day. At several points, fog, and storms (perhaps by divine intervention) saved the rebels from imminent disaster. British generals, who often likened the war to a fox hunt, frequently failed to "bag" Washington and his army when they had the chance. The British also seriously misjudged the resolve of America's "rabble in arms." Typical was the general who crowed, "If a good bleeding can bring those Bible-faced Yankees to their senses, the fever of independency should soon abate."

McCullough's "1776" reminds us as always in America's wars that it is its citizen soldiers rather than "windy politicians" who have always paid the price of our freedom with their blood and sacrifice. One of the first to recognize this was Thomas Paine, whose famous words – "These are the times that try men's souls" - were inspired by the sight of Washington's frayed army in retreat, which against all odds triumphed over a superior foe.

Even if you have previously read "1776" it deserves attention as a constant reminder that our freedom came with a heavy price paid by those patriots who sacrificed it all for the nascent experiment of Democracy founded by these immortal words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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TRI-CORNER
COMMITTEES**



Tri Corner Report Americanism, Revolutionary War Patriot Graves and Veterans Affairs Committees

AMERICANISM

The Americanism contest is basically a report to national of how we are meeting the objectives of the overall objectives of the society. The State Americanism Committee is comprised of Dale Corey (Chair, dale.corey@comcast.net), Randy Atkins (randatkins@hotmail.com), Gary Dunaway (ormazd72@gmail.com), Marc Robinson (mrobin2001@gmail.com). At this time, let's discuss Tabs 1 and 2 of the Americanism Contest.

Tab 1 – Media

1A – Website. You are given 100 points for having a social media/ website that is owned by the SAR. If your chapter has one of these, then you get credit for it. The only stipulation is it must have been updated after 1 July of the contest year. For this year



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that means 1 July 2023.

1B – Advertisement in the SAR magazine. If your chapter places an advertisement in the SAR magazine, then you get 20 points per column inch.

1C – Publicity through print, social and broadcast media. Where the SAR is prominently pictured, depicted or described. You get 50 points per article. If on broadcast media, it can only count once a day and if aired continuously, you may count up to 30 days of the article. An article posted by any organization can only be posted one time in this tab. Social media can only be counted the day they were posted. There is a 5,000 point maximum for chapters. Points over and above that can be counted towards the Virginia State Total.

Tab 2 – Speakers Bureau

2A – Speakers Bureau that has been established for at least six months by the end of the contest year. It must be advertised on a website, social media or a publication with contact information provided. You will receive 25 points for this tab.

2B – Classroom Presentations – Historical, Educational and Patriotic supporting the goals and objectives of the SAR presentations give



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to school-age children are counted as 25 points with 5 points if a compatriot giving the presentation is wearing colonial attire. Points are counted per presentation, not presenters. Presentations given to different classes or groups are counted separately. Request is made for number of attendees and SAR presenter.

2C – Historic, Educational and Patriotic Programs supporting the goals and objectives of the SAR are presented to a group. They can be either SAR or Non-SAR. You earn 25 points for Non-SAR and 10 for SAR presentations with a 5 point bonus for at least one compatriot wearing colonial attire. Points are earned per presentation, not number of presenters. Need number of attendees and SAR presenter.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES

The Revolutionary Graves Committee is responsible for recognizing, honoring and registering patriot graves within the Commonwealth of Virginia. At the present time, we have three (3) programs we are pursuing in support the NSSAR goals.

We would like to have a biography posted at the Patriot Research System, NSSAR for every patriot ancestor of the each Virginia Compatriot and for those patriots who are buried in Virginia. The Patriot Graves and Registration Form is completed for patriots who do not have a biography posted on the PRS. To find additional information, please contact either Dale Corey,



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dale.corey@comcast.net, Virginia State Patriot Graves Committee Chair, Randy Atkins (randyatkins@hotmail.com, Fort Harrison Chapter, Central Region), John Lynch (cslasov@aol.com, Williamsburg Chapter, Eastern Region), or Jamie Callendar (jamiencallendar55@gmail.com, George Washington Chapter, Northern Region) for assistance.

We have several graves throughout the commonwealth that need registering at the PRS. If you would like to assist, please contact Dale Corey, dale.corey@comcast.net.

The Patriot/Compatriot Grave Marking Medal Program. If you or a known compatriot has participated in 15 patriot or compatriot SAR grave marking events, then you or they are eligible for the appropriate grave marking medal. If you believe you are eligible, contact Dale Corey, dale.corey@comcast.net.

Tab 3 – VETERANS AFFAIRS

The USS Stark Contest is a reflection of how we are meeting the goals of the National Veterans Committee of the NSSAR. The Virginia State Veterans Affairs Committee is Dale Corey (Chair) dale.corey@comcast.net, William Schwetke (schwetke.sar@gmail.com), Forrest Crain (wfcrain@comcast.net), Kevin Combs (kcombs_nch@yahoo.com). For Sections 1 and 2, you need to be assigned as a member of the Veterans Administration Council for the area within which you are located. For most sections of the Stark Report, you will report mileage, time spent and if you were in colonial attire.



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Committee

State Chairman

American Heritage Chair

2nd VP)

American Heritage VC Central

William Haskins

American Heritage VC East

Carl Strock

American Heritage VC North

Ken Bonner

American Heritage VC Southwestern

Battle of Great Bridge

Robert Bruce

Crossing of the Dan

Garry Lee Hall
(Pass responsibility:
Michael Geisinger)

Raid at Martins Station

Thomas Coker

Revolutionary War Graves

Dale Corey

Yorktown Day

Gary Hodges

Community Affairs Chair

(3rd VP)

Community Affairs VC Central

Chris Yohn

Community Affairs VC East

Gary Hodges

Community Affairs VC North

Tom Hamill

Community Affairs VC Southwestern

Pat Kelly

Flag Recognition

Ken Morris



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2023—2024

Committee

State Chairman

Good Citizenship

Edmund Davidson

Operation Ancestor Search

Barry Schwoerer

Partners in Patriotism & Veterans Affairs

Dale Corey

Public Education

Paul Walden

Public Safety and Heroism

William Collier

2024 Atlantic Middle States Conference

2031 National SAR Congress

Mike Elston

America 250th

Tim Dioquino

Americanism

Dale Corey

Communications Chair

David Carpenter

Council of Past Presidents

Bruce Meyer

Forgotten Patriots

Mike Taimi

Resolutions

Eric Monday

Revolutionary War Graves Preservation

Thad Hartman

Revolutionary War Graves Publications

Mike Lyman

Virginia SAR Color Guard Commander

Chris Melhuish

Eagle Scout

Ken Hawkins

George & Stella Knight Essay

Richard M. Sherman

History Day Support

Keith Rouleau



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF
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2023 – 2024**



Committee

Joseph E. Rumbaugh Orations

Patriot Chests

Poster & Brochure Contests

ROTC/JROTC

SAR/CAR Liaison

Youth Activities Chair

Youth Education

Youth VC Central

Youth VC East

Youth VC North

Youth VC Southwestern

State Chairman

Darrin M. Schmidt

James Russell

Thomas Hamill

Spurgeon Keith

Larry McKinley

(1VP)

Mark Day

Jim O'Kelley

Jim Russell

Darrin Schmidt

Spurgeon Keith