



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter



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Celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Virginia Society, SAR!

*Volume 16, Issue 4*

*April 2015*

## Past President Bob Carr Receives the Patriot Medal!



**Above:** Past President Bob Carr proudly displays the certificate and Patriot Medal. The Patriot Medal is awarded by the Virginia Society for long, faithful and outstanding service at the state and/or the chapter level.

### Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**May 9:** Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

**September 12:** Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

### Events Information

**April 11** - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia, 6 p.m.

**April 13** - Celebration of Thomas Jefferson's birthday, Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC (DCSSAR event).

**April 18** - Patriots and Pathfinders Day celebration and wreath laying ceremony, Natural Tunnel State Park, Virginia, 10 a.m.; Sponsored by the Overmountain Men Chapter.

**April 25** - Commemoration of President James Monroe's 257<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Monroe birthplace farm, Colonial Beach, VA, 10 a.m.

**April 28** - Annual wreath-laying ceremony at President James Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond.



## President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

**Last Month.** Our March chapter meeting was a well-attended and spirited affair.

Vice President Bodge set the stage early leading a toast to the Virginia Society in recognition of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Following the induction of two new members, VASSAR Second Vice President Mike Elston made two awards of the Virginia Society. Julia Carr was the recipient of the Martha Washington Medal for outstanding service to the SAR. We were also proud to witness chapter Past President (2011, 2012) and former VASSAR Assistant Secretary Bob Carr receive the Patriot Medal for his long, faithful and outstanding service to the chapter and to the state society. In his remarks, Bob credited our successes to getting new members involved right away with the governance, committees, and initiatives of the society, and he spoke of his satisfaction in witnessing the effectiveness and stimulation it has made. Congratulations Bob!

Immediate Past President Scott Wagoner was awarded the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal in recognition of his service to the chapter the previous three years. Recall, Scott was inducted to the chapter September 2010, and soon after was put to work as an officer. (Interestingly, Ernie Coggins and I were also among that group of eleven new members inducted that day.) We are grateful for Scott's service!

We were honored to have Chief Inspector Guy Cottrell of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service who gave us a very interesting lesson on the history of the service -- one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in America. We presented Chief Cottrell with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and certificate in recognition of his outstanding service and accomplishments in law enforcement.

The Chapter made another good showing at the National History Day competition held at Mt. Vernon High School on March 7. My special thanks to Youth Activities Chairman Rich

Sherman for coordinating our participation and to Compatriots Dave Thomas, Carlisle Bean, Dale Killinger, and Tom Bland for volunteering their time as judges.

On March 10, the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter of the DAR celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We received invitations from Regent Penny Kales and three of our members were lucky enough to attend the affair. DAR Liaison Chairman Jay Henn, accompanied by his wife, Bonnie, went to convey our greetings and congratulations. Also attending the celebration were Scott and Debbie Wagoner and Paul and Peggy Wagoner. As you may know, Peggy Wagoner and Julia Carr are both members there.

On March 16 Montpelier hosted a celebration commemorating James Madison's birthday. Compatriot John Blair attended the celebration and presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter.

**Upcoming Events.** Remember, there will be no regular chapter meeting in April. Instead, you all are invited to attend the VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala sponsored by the George Washington Chapter.

One of President Reverdy Wright's initiatives is that we all place added emphasis on chapters and activities west of the Blue Ridge. You will note below two opportunities coming up in April and May. In addition, the calendar is too full for me to attend everything, so I've noted where I need volunteers. If you are able to attend any of these events, please let me know.

**April 11** - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, honoring General Earl Anderson, USMC (ret). I hope you've made your reservations and will see you there!

**April 13** - Celebration of Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC (DCSSAR event). **Notify me if you can attend.**

**April 18** - Patriots and Pathfinders Day celebration and wreath laying ceremony at Natural Tunnel State Park, 10 a.m.; sponsored by the Overmountain Men Chapter. **Notify me if you can attend.**

**April 25** - Commemoration of President James Monroe's 257<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Monroe

birthplace farm, Colonial Beach, VA, 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided afterward at the Moose Lodge nearby. I plan to attend and hope to see some of you there.

**April 28** - Annual wreath-laying ceremony at President James Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. (subject to change by the Army which conducts the ceremony). **Notify me if you can attend.**

**May 9** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club. Our guest speaker will be a historian from the Naval History and Heritage Command.

**May 9** - Wreath laying ceremony at Martin Station Monument, Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, VA. Continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m., the Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. **Notify me if you can attend.**

**May 25** - Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC. Mark your calendar! This is a fun opportunity you don't want to miss.

*Dwight Whitney*

Chapter President

*The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 280 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings 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.*

*Present officers are:*

<i>President:</i>	<i>Dwight Whitney: 540-349-2375</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Gregory Bodge: 770-789-3252</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Paul Walden: 703-347-9770</i>
<i>Registrar:</i>	<i>Dave Thomas: 703-583-8791</i>

*Immediate Past President:  
Scott Wagoner: 571-239-3221*

**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 Richard Gilliland. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to [newsletter@gwsar.org](mailto:newsletter@gwsar.org) or call 202-870-3762.*

## Happy Anniversary!

April 2<sup>nd</sup> marks the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the George Washington Chapter. Since 1954 we have seen our chapter grow in membership and in the significance of our service to the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. On this occasion, it is fitting to reflect a little on our history.

The SAR began its activities in Alexandria on February 16, 1940 when the President and Secretary of the Virginia society met with members of the Society living in the area who had signified their interest in forming a chapter in the city, so closely identified with the life of General Washington.

As a result, The Virginia Society at its February 22, 1940 annual meeting at Williamsburg, chartered the General George Washington Chapter, to meet in Alexandria.

This early Chapter dissolved itself into the Headquarters Chapter in mid-1951. The present Chapter was chartered by The Virginia Society on April 2, 1954 under the title of The George Washington Chapter. Why the military title was dropped does not appear on the record. There were

fourteen charter members and Robert V.H. Duncan was our first chapter president.

Until March, 1976, the Chapter functioned without either a written constitution or bylaws, governed only by the applicable provisions of the Constitutions and Bylaws of the State and National Societies. On March 6, 1976 the membership ratified the January 10, 1976 version of the Chapter's Constitution and Bylaws. The current version was amended and ratified by the membership November 10, 2012. (This version is due to be published in the 2015 Directory).

From fourteen members then, to over 275 members now, the George Washington Chapter is the Virginia Society's largest chapter and one of the largest SAR chapters in the world. Our members are active in preserving history, honoring patriots, and passing on the Spirit of '76 to the youth in Alexandria and the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County.

## From the Secretary

Updates and time sensitive information are sent to the membership via email as necessary. However, if I do not have your email address, you are not receiving these emails. If you fall in to this category, please send me your email address at [sargw.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:sargw.secretary@gmail.com)

*Ernie Coggins*

Secretary



## From the Editor

It is an honor to serve in the role of newsletter editor and I look forward to interacting with all of my fellow compatriots to make this newsletter useful and interesting. Please submit stories, photos and suggestions to [newsletter@gwsar.org](mailto:newsletter@gwsar.org). I will

do my best to include them in future issues.

*Richard Gilliland*

Editor

## Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report two new members and one supplemental application were approved by NSSAR. There are four new member applications in review and two supplemental applications in review by NSSAR. Two new members were inducted at the February 14 meeting: Robert Allen and Mark Burns.

### New Members Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Josh Daniel Martin	John Van Doren
Kevin Louis Rogers	Pouncey Bunch

### Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Robert August Whitehead	Henry Fowlkes

### New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
John Robert Edwards	James Huie
Tom Searle Jackson	Henry Barker
Jacob Alec Martin	John Van Doren
John Dillon Martin	John Van Doren

### Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

*Dave Thomas*

Registrar

# New Member Biographies

## KEVIN LOUIS ROGERS



Compatriot Rogers was born and raised in Charlottesville, VA. He received a B.S in Administration of Justice with a

minor in Government from George Mason University.

After working for his father's commercial masonry company since graduating from George Mason, Kevin recently took a position with Better Living Building Supplies located in Charlottesville, VA.

He and his wife Jessica have a beautiful 6 year old daughter named Abbey. He is a member of the War of 1812 and enjoys traveling, golf, tennis, UVA sports, and spending time with his family.

Kevin's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Pouncey Bunch, who during the Revolutionary War provided to the cause. Kevin is also a member of the *Society of the War of 1812*.

Please welcome our newest member Compatriot Kevin Rogers.

## RICHARD ERNEST RANKIN, JR.



Compatriot Richard Rankin was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and raised in

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He received a B.S. in Business Administration from American University in Washington, DC. He later received an MBA in Corporate Finance from American University.

Richard is currently a Managing Director for Brandywinecreek Associates LLC, a consulting firm specializing in risk management and insurance advisory services. Richard is a licensed Virginia insurance agent.

Richard is also a Board Member and Treasurer of the Falls Church City Cable Access Corporation. Additionally, he is a club officer of the DC Chapter of the American Revolution Round Table (ARRT).

In his spare time, Richard is the Club President of the Helen Burkett Toastmasters Club in Falls Church.

His daughter, Christina Morgan, recently announced her engagement and plans to marry next year.

Richard's membership in the Society is based on his decent from Patriot George Fisher, who during the Revolution, served as a Private in the Philadelphia County (now Montgomery County) militia, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

Please welcome our newest member Compatriot Richard Rankin.

## Did You Know?

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), author of the Declaration of Independence and the third U.S. president, was a leading figure in America's early development.

During the American Revolutionary War (1775-83), Jefferson served in the Virginia legislature and the Continental Congress and was governor of Virginia. He later served as U.S. minister to France and U.S. Secretary of State, and was Vice President under John Adams (1735-1826).

Jefferson, who thought the national government should have a limited role in citizens' lives, was elected President in 1800. During his two terms in office (1801-1809), the U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory and Lewis and Clark explored the vast new acquisition.

Although Jefferson promoted individual liberty, he was also a slave owner. After leaving office, he retired to his Virginia plantation, Monticello, and helped found the University of Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

## George Washington Quotes

*"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."<sup>2</sup>*



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/thomas-jefferson>

<sup>2</sup> <http://brainz.org/50-best-george-washington-quotes/>

## April Dates in History

### *American Revolutionary War*

April 1770: Repeal of the Townshend Acts and the Quartering Act by the British. The only duties on imports into the colonies are for tea.

April 1775: Massachusetts Governor Gage is ordered to enforce the Coercive Acts and suppress the "open rebellion".

April 18, 1775: General Gage orders British soldiers to destroy the colonist's weapons depot in Concord. Paul Revere leaves Boston to warn colonists.

April 18, 1775: Shots fired at Lexington and Concord where weapons depot destroyed. "Minute Men" force British troops back to Boston. George Washington takes command of the Continental Army.

April 23, 1775: The Provincial Congress in Massachusetts orders 13,600 American soldiers to be mobilized and volunteers begin a year long siege of Boston which is held by the British.

April 27, 1777: American troops under Benedict Arnold defeat the British at Ridgefield, Connecticut.

April 1-30, 1779: In retaliation for Indian raids on colonial settlements, American troops from North Carolina and Virginia attack Chickamauga Indian villages in Tennessee.

April 8, 1780: British attack Charleston, South Carolina.

April 4, 1782: Sir Guy Carleton replaces General Clinton as the new commander of British forces in America.

April 12, 1782: Paris Peace talks begin.

April 11, 1783: Congress officially declares the end of the Revolutionary War.

# ERMC CG, French DSG Honor Lafayette During Medical Conference

In March 2015, Compatriot Brigadier General Norvell V. Coots, Commanding General of the U.S. Army's Europe Regional Medical Command (ERMC), attended a conference in Paris. At the end of the conference, he was invited by the French Deputy Surgeon General to lay a wreath at the tomb of the Marquis de Lafayette and duplicate the scene of General John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing laying a wreath there in 1917. It was during this 1917 ceremony that Lt. Colonel Charles M. Stanton, speaking for General Pershing, uttered the famous remark, "*Lafayette, nous ici!*" (Lafayette, we are here!).



**Top:** ERMC Commanding General BG Van Coots and French Deputy Surgeon General MG Patrick Godart lay a wreath at the tomb of the Marquis de Lafayette in Paris March 13, similar to a ceremony held by Gen John J. Pershing during WWI.

**Right:** Photograph of the 1917 wreath-laying ceremony by General Pershing. Lafayette assisted the United States and is considered one of the heroes of the American Revolution.

**Bottom:** Attendees of the ceremony included COL Nicolas Granger-Veyron (third from left), executive officer to the French Surgeon General and former liaison officer to the U.S. Army Medical Command; BG Coots; MG Godart; and BG Remi Macarez, director of research, Office of the Surgeon General. BG Coots was in Paris March 11-13 to present information about the U.S. Warrior Transition System during Patient Care Pathways Seminar.

## Highlights of the March Chapter Meeting



**Above:** Chief Postal Inspector Guy Cottrell receives the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and certificate from President Dwight Whitney and Awards Committee Vice Chairman Paul Wagoner.



**Above:** President Dwight Whitney presents immediate past President Scott Wagoner with a gavel plaque commemorating his term as president in 2014. Scott also received the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal.



## Highlights of the March Chapter Meeting (Continued)



**Above:** President Dwight Whitney swears in our two new members (L) Richard Rankin and (R) Kevin Rogers.



**Above:** Julia Carr, wearing the VASSAR Martha Washington Medal, poses with Mike Elston.

## Other March Highlights



**Above:** At the celebration for the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter DAR celebration, Regent Penny Kales poses with (L-R) Compatriots Paul Wagoner, Scott Wagoner, Carl Floyd (Williamsburg Chapter), Jay Henn, and Jack Sweeney (Fairfax Resolves Chapter).



**Above:** Chapter Past President Larry Lisle (R) and VASSAR President Reverdy Wright (L) were on hand for the Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse March 14.

## Other March Highlights (Continued)



**Above:** Five members (four shown) of the George Washington Chapter attended the History Day Contest, which was by far the largest contingent from any chapter in the area.

Over 300 presentations were made by students in a wide variety of categories. An extremely interesting event!

# Future Events 2015

April 11 - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Reservations required, no later than April 3<sup>rd</sup>. \*\*

April 13 - Celebration of Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC (DCSSARevent). ‡

April 18 - Patriots and Pathfinders Day celebration and wreath laying ceremony; at the Block House at Natural Tunnel State Park in Scott County, Virginia, 10 a.m.; Sponsored by the Overmountain Men Chapter. ‡

April 25 - Commemoration of President James Monroe's 257<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Monroe birthplace farm, 4460 James Monroe Highway, Colonial Beach, VA, 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided afterward at the Moose Lodge nearby. †

April 28 - Annual wreath-laying ceremony at President James Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery, 412 South Cherry Street, Richmond. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. (subject to change by the Army which conducts the ceremony). †

**May 9 - Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. \*

May 9 - Commemoration of the Raid at Martin's Station, Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, Virginia. †

May 25 - National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC. \*\*

June 27 - July 1 - 125th Annual SAR Congress, Louisville, Kentucky. †

July 4 - 54rd Annual Independence Day Ceremonies, 10 a.m., George Washington's Mount Vernon, Virginia. \*

August 7-8 - Atlantic Middle States District Meeting, Bridgewater, New Jersey. †

August 12-17 - SAR-DAR Bermuda Gunpowder Plot Commemorations in Bermuda. \*\*

**September 12 - Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. \*

September 17 - Constitution Day at Montpelier, Orange, Virginia. †

September 18-19 - VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Roanoke, Virginia. †

September 24-26 - NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky. †

October TBA - Point Pleasant Days, Point Pleasant, West Virginia. ‡

October 3-4 - Battle of Kings Mountain, Kings Mountain, North Carolina. ‡

**October 10 - Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. \*

October 14 - The President General's Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at 3:15 p.m., Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. \*\*

October 17-18 - Yorktown Victory Celebration. †

November 11 - Veterans' Day Ceremony at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, Virginia. \*

**November 14 - Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. \*

December 5 - Commemoration of *The Battle of Great Bridge*, Chesapeake, Virginia. †

**December 12 - Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. \*

December 12 - Wreaths Across America, Alexandria National Cemetery. ‡

**January 9 - Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia.

## Legend:

\* Chapter event;

\*\* Chapter-sponsored state or national event;

† VASSAR/NASSAR event in which GW members are encouraged to participate;

‡ Other SAR event of significance that GW members should consider attending.

# VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala

## April 11, 2015 at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia



On Saturday April 11, 2015, VASSAR will award the *Gold Good Citizenship Medal* to General Earl Edward Anderson, USMC (Ret.). The reception and receiving line for the honoree will begin at 6:00 p.m. The program and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m.

General Anderson (born June 24, 1919), was the youngest active-duty Marine ever promoted to the rank of General and the second active-duty Marine Naval Aviator to be promoted to a 4-star rank. He was promoted to General on March 31, 1972 and became Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps on April 1, 1972. During his 35-year Marine career, he has served in combat actions in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

With the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific, Anderson and the *Yorktown* were transferred there, where they participated in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign, the Salamaua-Lae campaign, and the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. He was serving on the *Yorktown* when it was sunk during the Battle of Midway. During this period of time, he was promoted to first lieutenant in December 1941 and captain in May 1942. Following his rescue from the *Yorktown*, Anderson returned to the United States where he served briefly

with Marine Corps Base San Diego, California, and then with the 2nd Marine Division.

He was ordered to flight training at Naval Air Station Dallas, Texas in the spring of 1943. He was promoted to major in May 1943 and was awarded the gold wings of a naval aviator at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida in October 1943. His next assignment was as a flight instructor at Marine Corps Air Station Edenton, North Carolina. He remained there until December 1944, when he returned to duty in the Pacific Area and assumed command of Marine Bomber Squadron 443. He later served as the executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group 61 (MAG-61) in the consolidation of the Northern Solomon Islands and the recapture of the Philippines.

In November 1945 Anderson returned to the United States and served in a wide variety of post-war assignments including as a student at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia; Administration Officer, Division of Aviation, Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC); and as the Administration Assistant to the Assistant Commandant for Air, HQMC. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in July 1949 and assigned to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, where he served in various branches while a post-graduate student at The George Washington University Law School.

In the summer of 1952 Anderson was ordered to Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, where he served as the Executive Officer for Marine Aircraft Group 16 until the spring of 1953 when he was ordered to Korea. In Korea, Anderson was the Commanding Officer, Marine Observation Squadron 6 (VMO-6), and later became the Assistant Chief of Staff G-1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Upon his return to the United States he was assigned as the Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 26.

During May 1956, Anderson was assigned back to [MCS](#), Quantico, Virginia, where he served first as an instructor, then Chief of the Air Section, Marine Corps Educational Center. He was promoted to [Colonel](#) in October 1957 and, during the summer of 1959, was ordered to the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He graduated in June 1960 and was ordered to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, where he served as the Staff Legal Officer until July 1961. He then assumed command of Marine Aircraft Group 36, Santa Ana, California, where his group participated in more than 13 separate amphibious and field exercises.

In 1970 he was appointed as the USMC member on the Board of Directors of the United States Olympic Committee and, in March 1971, was designated by the Secretary of Defense as the United States member of the Executive Committee of the Conseil International du Sport Militaire. In 1974 he was elected by the General Assembly to be the first Vice President. He served as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Armed Forces Relief and Benefit Association (an insurance company catering to military service members) from 1972 to 1975. He was promoted to Lieutenant General in June 1971 and assumed duty as Commanding General Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic (FMFLant), Norfolk, Virginia, in July 1971. In April 1972 he was named the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and promoted to General. At the age of 53, he became the youngest active duty Marine to be promoted to the rank of 4-star general in the history of the Marine Corps.