

**UPDATE (11/23/24): December 7th, 2024, Saturday (11:00 am) - Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge, Chesapeake, VA**

**Event Level:** National

**Hosts/POCs:** Great Bridge Chapter VASSAR / Don Fergusson; VADAR Great Bridge Chapter / Lisa Davis.

**Location:** 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, VA.

**Firing Event:** Yes

**Event Color Guard Commander:** Collins.

**Details:** Firing detail will be VASSAR certified Color Guardsmen. Commemoration will be at the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum. The Guest Speaker for this event will be Cheryl Wilson, the Executive Director of the Virginia American Revolution 250th Commission.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Adolphi, Badamo, Daniel, Dunaway, Jameson, Lynch, R. Miller, Morris, Schmidt, B. Schwetke, Thomas, Thompson.

**North Carolina SAR Color Guard attendees:** Conner.

**Virginia DAR Color Bearer:** Raitt.

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**UPDATE (11/22/24): December 8th, 2024, Sunday (5:00 pm) - 56th Abingdon Annual Christmas Parade, Abingdon, VA**

**Event Level:** Chapter

**Host/POC:** The Kiwanis Club of Abingdon organizes the parade. VASSAR POC / John Gullion.

**Location:** Abingdon, VA.

**Firing Event:** No

**Event Color Guard Commander:** Combs.

**Details:** Assembly time 3:30 pm.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Combs, Farris, Parsons

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**December 8th, 2024, Sunday (5:00 pm) – Support to the 14th Annual Gold Star Family Gala, Chesapeake, VA**

**Event Level:** Public Service

**Host/POC:** Honor and Remember Organization / George Lutz, the founder and Gold Star father.

VASSAR POC: Melhuish.

**Location:** Chesapeake Conference Center, 700 Conference Center Dr., Chesapeake, VA. (Change from previous years.)

**Firing Event:** No

**Event Color Guard Commander:** Melhuish.

**Details:** Please note the change of venue. This will mark the twelfth consecutive year the VASSAR Color Guard has supported this annual public service event. It is held to honor and remember our fallen servicemen and women at the Gold Star Family Gala. Several hundred people typically attend this event. Only a small Color Guard is usually provided: two musket men and two flag bearers (US and the Honor & Remember flags). We would also like to add a VASSAR fife and drummer to the team this year.

The NSSAR President General's June 29, 2010, Resolution stated in part, "...be it resolved that the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution supports legislation to establish a unique national flag to honor and remember those who have given their lives in military service for our great nation, the United States of America...and it further resolved that the United States Congress is urged to adopt House of Representatives Bill 1034 to select the 'Honor and Remember Flag' which has been created by Honor and Remember, Incorporated, to serve as a national symbol."

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** J. Brown, Melhuish, Thompson.

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**UPDATE CANCELED (12/8/24): December 9th, 2023, Saturday (7:00 am) - Culpeper Commemoration of Battle of Great Bridge, Culpeper, VA**

**Event Level: Chapter**

**Host/POC:** Culpeper Minutemen Chapter VASSAR / TBA.

**Location:** Culpeper Minuteman Monument, Yowell Meadow Park, Culpeper, VA.

**Firing Event: Yes**

**Event Color** Firing commences at Sunrise. Breakfast to follow at Frost Cafe.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Corey, Daniel, B. Schwetke, Wilson.

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**INFORMATION: December 16th-17th Wreaths Across America**

**Event Level: National**

In 2022, Wreaths Across America (WAA) and its national network of volunteers placed more than 2.7 million sponsored veterans' wreaths on headstones of our nation's service members at 3,702 participating locations. This was accomplished with the support of more than 5,000 sponsorship groups, corporation contributions, and in-kind donations from the transportation industry across the country. The wreath-laying that began more than 30 years ago is still held annually on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as "the world's largest veterans' parade." Every year the convoy of trucks, local law enforcement, staff, and supporters stop at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities along the way to talk about the Wreaths Across America mission and remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

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**December 13, 2024, Friday, 11:00 am, Wreaths Across America, Berryville, VA**

**Event Level: National**

**Host/POC:** Col. James Wood II Chapter, VASSAR, Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter VASSAR, and Ketoctin Chapter VADAR, Chip Daniels, Allan Phillips

**Location:** 67 North Hill Lane, Berryville, VA

**Firing Event: Yes**

**Event CG Commander:** Phillips

**Details:** Wreaths Across America ceremony with DAR at gravesite of General George Washington's niece, daughter of Fielding Lewis.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Daniel, Phillips, Schwoerer, Tyler.

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**December 14th, 2024, Saturday (11:00 am) - Wreaths Across America, Purcellville, VA**

**Event Level: National**

**Host/POC:** Col. James Wood II, Sgt Maj John Champe Chapters VASSAR, and Ketoctin Chapter VADAR.

**Locations:** (1) Ketoctin Baptist Church, 16595 Ketoctin Church Road, Purcellville, VA.

(2) North Fork Baptist Church, 38130 North Fork, Purcellville, VA.

(3) North Hill Cemetery, Clarke County, VA.

**Firing Events (3): Yes** (at two cemeteries)

**Event Color Guard Commander:** Sink first event, Corey second event.

**Details:** Wreath Ceremony with CAR, DAR, Veterans Groups, local scouts, wreaths placed on graves of veterans.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Bonner, Carrigan, Christensen, Corey, Daniel, Osborn,

Philips, Reynolds, E. Robinson, M. Robinson, B. Schwetke, B. Schwoerer, J. Schwoerer, Sink Van Deusen, Watts, Workman.

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**NEW (9/28/24): December 14th, 2024, Saturday, (1:00 pm) - Mathews, VA Christmas Parade**

**Event Level: Chapter**

**Host/POC:** Richard Henry Lee Chapter, VASSAR, Michael Rhodes, Chapter President

**Location:** Parade muster ground is at Thomas Hunter Middle School, 378 Church Street, Mathews VA 23109

**Firing Event: No**

**Event CG Commander: TBD**

**Heat Index: NA**

**Details:** The Mathews VA 250 Committee is preparing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Gwynn's Island in 2026. Richard Henry Lee Chapter is an integral part of the Mathews 250 Committee. Our active participation in major community events such as the Christmas Parade is welcome currently. This year the parade coordinator would like the SAR Color Guard to be the flag bearers at the head of the parade. Typical participation is 50 to 70 entrants including floats, high school band, service clubs such as Kiwanis and Key Clubs, antique vehicles, local celebrities such as town mayor, authors and artists, first responders, fire trucks, and of course Santa. Parade will muster at Thomas Hunter Middle School, 378 Church Street, Mathews VA 23109 at noon. The parade route is 1.2 miles in length. Proceeds from the middle school down Church Street to Main Street (.4 miles), then left on Main Street to Buckley Hall Road (.2 miles), and then left on Buckley Hall Road to Chesapeake Bank - Mathews at 10458 Buckley Hall Road (.6 miles). Total parade time - roughly 1 hour. Several excellent small-town restaurants in the downtown area for food and refreshment. Though it is not a firing event, we would like to have one- or two-Color Guard members with muskets. If so, then I would ask that the Color Guard event commander take care of safety check procedures.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:**

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**NEW (9/20/24): December 14th, 2024, Saturday (about 2:00pm) – Patriot Grave Marking for William Wilkison following Wreaths Across America (WAA), at North Fork Baptist Church, Purcellville, VA**

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**UPDATE (11/22/24): December 14th, 2024, Saturday (6:00 pm) – Leesburg Holiday Parade, Leesburg, VA**

**Event Level: Chapter**

**Host Chapter:** Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter, VASSAR, Barry Schwoerer

**Location:** Parade goes down King Street from Ida Lee Park, to Fairfax Street, Leesburg, VA.

**Firing Event: No**

**Event Color Guard Commander: NA**

**Details:** The Leesburg Holiday parade assembly will be at Ida Lee Park starting at 4:00 pm. The parade float offered to the SMJC will be entered. The float can accommodate 4-6 riders. DAR and CAR typically join the chapter. Other SAR Chapters invited and encouraged us to join. Colonial attire, militia or Regimental uniforms preferred. Parade length approximately 1 mile.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Bonner, Christensen, Schwoerer, Sink, Workman.

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**December 15th, 2024, Sunday (1:00 pm) - Wreaths Across America, Front Royal, VA**

**Event Level: National**

**Host/POC:** Col. James Wood II Chapter VASSAR and Boy Scout Troop #4

**Location:** Prospect Hill Cemetery, Prospect St, Front Royal, VA.

**Firing Event: No.**

**Event Color Guard Commander: Corey.**

**Details:** Wreaths placed on veterans graves.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Carrigan, Christensen, Corey, Daniel, Phillips, Reynolds.

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**December 20, 2024, Friday, (10:00 am) - Commemoration Marker for Elisha Marks**

**Event Level:** Chapter

**Host/POC:** Ketoclin Chapter VASDAR and Colonel James Wood II Chapter VASSAR, Chip Daniel, Allan Phillips

**Location:** Ketoclin Baptist Church & Cemetery 16595 Ketoclin Church Road, Purcellville, VA 20132

**Firing Event:** Yes

**Event CG Commander:** Corey

**Details:** Commemorative Marker Dedication for Elisha Marks, gravestone says George Elisha Marks was a Captain in the Loudoun County Militia. Muster time for Color Guard is 9:00 am. This Commemorative Marker is being added by Kathy Cuchin, Vice Regent for a Colorado Chapter of DAR.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Christensen, Carrigan, Corey, Daniel, Dennis, Jameson, Osborn, M. Robinson, B. Schwetke, Schwoerer, Sink, Van Deusen.

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**New (12/21/2024): December 27, 2024, Friday, Memorial Services for Compatriot Stephen Boulton, VASSAR Color Guardsmen**

**Host/POC:** Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter VASSAR, POC: John Hamilton

**Location:** Zoan Baptist Church, 5888 Plank Rd, Spotsylvania, VA 22407

**Firing Event:** **Yes**

**Color Guard Commander:** Osborn

**Details:** Compatriot Stephen Boulton was a member of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter and a member of the VASSAR Color Guard. Viewing will start 11:00 am at the Zoan Baptist Church and service at 12:30 pm. Color Guard muster will be 10:30 am. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens, 3702 Loren Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22408. The Prince William Fire Department Color Guard will take the active role in the church. The VASSAR Color Guard will provide SAR flags, and a Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter wreath posted in place in the church. Indoor flag stands are required if you are bringing a flag. No weapons in the church. VASSAR Color Guardsmen may be sentinels in support of the Fire Department Color Guard.

**Virginia SAR Color Guard Attendees:** Carrigan, Christensen, Corey, Daniel, Davenport, Hamilton, Hodges, A. Mills, J. Mills, Osborn, Schwoerer, Tugman.

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