



# Col. William Grayson Chapter *Sons of the American Revolution* —*Newsletter*—



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*Volume 10, Issue 2*

*March - April 2017*

## ***COLONEL GRAYSON, PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PATRIOT REMEMBERED***

On 12 March 2017, the 227<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Colonel William Grayson, a celebration of his life was held at his tomb in Woodbridge, Va. Colonel Grayson was arguably the most significant Prince William County Patriot of the American Revolution. Pre-Revolution he was a lawyer and statesman, the only signer of the Leedstown Resolutions, a protest against the Stamp Act and an act that was a major step toward independence. He was selected as the Commander of the very first Minuteman Company in all of Virginia and as war broke out was selected as General George Washington's Secretary then Aide-de-Camp. Promoted to Colonel, he recruited a Prince William County Battalion, wintered at Valley Forge and fought in several battles.

Post war Grayson was elected to the Continental Congress, was President of the Congress in 1788 and was sent to the Virginia Convention to consider the

ratification of the Constitution. He would not sign the Constitution because it did not contain protections for the rights of citizens. After ratification without his signature, Grayson won election as one of the first senators from Virginia. He died in office in 1790. After his death, the Bill of Rights was passed and contained the very protections for which Grayson fought. The Bill of Rights contained the very protections Grayson fought.

The celebration of Grayson's life was sponsored and organized by the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution who placed a wreath on Grayson's tomb and eulogized Colonel Grayson. The Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Melyssa Stratton-Webb, Regent, made comments and placed a wreath. The American Flag, Virginia Flag, and SAR flag were presented by SAR members Paul Chase and David Adamy in Continental Uniform and by Jacob Schwoerer, Cub

Scout from Den 8, pack 2013 from Aldie, Va. The Honorable Richard Anderson, Delegate for District 51, Virginia House of Delegates and by Ken Morris for American Legion Post 1799 made comments. Barry Schwoerer, Vice President, Colonel William Grayson Chapter of SAR dressed in a Revolutionary war Militia uniform conducted the celebration. "Taps" was played by SSGT John B. Greear, U.S. Army (Retired). After the celebration, Mr. Schwoerer inducted Delegate Richard Anderson into the Sons of the American Revolution.



Del. Richard Anderson (L) and Barry Schwoerer.



Color Guard Retiring Colors.



The Enemy is Over There, Sir.

## *President's Message*

WOW! The last two months have been busy. Chapter members have traveled all over Virginia, to North Carolina and Delaware representing the Chapter and contributing to telling the NSSAR message of Patriotism, the commemoration of Revolutionary History and stimulating an interest in History amongst our young people.

Highlights of this two month period include Commemoration of our Chapter namesake, Colonel William Grayson, at the tomb of the Colonel and his brother, Patriot Spence Grayson. The winter chill was reminiscent of what Revolutionary soldiers experienced at Valley Forge where Colonel Grayson was Aide-de-Camp to General George Washington. Details of the commemoration are in the lead article for this newsletter.

For the first time in our chapter history, we had elementary-school students participate in the Americanism Poster Contest. We awarded certificates, checks, and ribbons for the first, second, and third place finishers. It was rewarding to see how supportive students were for each other and the winners when we visited the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Virginia Studies class at Buffalo Trails Elementary School in Aldie, Va. Compatriots also gave their time as judges for the annual Virginia History Day contest. It is amazing to see the capability our young people have in regards to video production, developing websites and producing documentaries.

At the annual Joint Chapter meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge, I rolled out the uniform of my Patriot Ancestor, a gunner on the Connecticut Navy Man-of-War Oliver Cromwell. I will now participate in the NSSAR, VASSAR and Chapter Color Guard activities in uniform.

Thank you to all Compatriots who represented our chapter at a wide variety of events this past two months.

T. Michael Taimi

## Chapter Activities

**1 March: Presentation to Buffalo Trace Elementary School's 4th-grade class.** "What is a Patriot, What did my Patriot do?" "The equipment and clothing of a Rev. War militia soldier." The presentation was to prepare the class for the SAR 2017 Poster Contest. Speaker's Bureau member Barry Schwoerer made the presentation.

**2 March:** Mark Almquist visited the Bull Run Warrior Retreat where he met with Kimberly Gayton to discuss SAR Volunteer opportunities.

**3 March:** Paul Chase and Barry Schwoerer visited veterans at the business location of "Semper K-9." Semper K-9 trains service dogs for soldiers returning from the battlefield with PTSD. Our visit was to determine if Semper K-9 was an organization the Chapter could support with donations or personal time.

**4 March: Virginia History Day.** Keith Rouleau led the VASSAR team of judges and in the presentation of awards for students completing projects with Revolutionary War subject matter. CWG Chapter members Dave Button and Barry Schwoerer participated as judges.

**8 March:** Mark Almquist visited the Bull Run Warrior Retreat where he met with John Dominick (Co-Founder) and Steve Nance to discuss SAR Volunteer opportunities.

**11 March:** Two cub scouts presented colors under the command of Sergeant-at-arms Paul Chase at our Chapter meeting. The scouts received Certificates of Appreciation and medals. Scout Den 8, Pack 2012, Aldie, Va.

**12 March: Commemoration of Colonel William Grayson** at the family tomb in Woodbridge, VA. David Adamy and Paul Chase in Continental Uniform, Barry Schwoerer in militia Uniform. Twenty-five persons representing SAR, DAR, American Legion, and Cub Scouts attended the event. A Cub scout in uniform (also a chapter Junior Member), Jacob Schwoerer, participated in the presentation of colors (Scout Den 8, Pack 2012, Aldie, Va.). The scout received a Certificate of Appreciation and a medal. George Ax presented a wreath for the Chapter. Delegate Richard Anderson made remarks, and the SAR inducted him as a member. Two local newspapers published a summary of the event.

**15 March: Serve our Willing Warriors** at the Bull Run Warrior Retreat Town Hall meeting. Barry Schwoerer attended the town hall and visited with Retired Navy Captain and new Executive Director, Jeffrey K. Sapp.

**16 March: President James Madison birthday**, Montpelier, Va. Barry Schwoerer represented the Chapter and presented a wreath.



Madison Birthday 2017: Barry Schwoerer.

**18 March: Battle of Guilford Court House commemoration**, Greensboro, N.C. Ken Morris represented the Chapter and presented a wreath; Barry Schwoerer attended in Militia uniform. The ceremony was conducted indoors due to inclement weather.



Uniformed participants at Guilford Courthouse exemplify the many variations in Rev. War Uniforms.

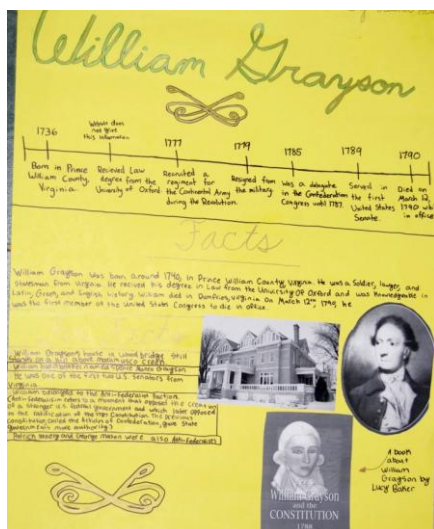
**18 March:** CWG Speaker's Bureau member Paul Chase briefed the Caesar Rodney Chapter of the Delaware SAR on "Revolutionary War Prisoners of War."

**22 March:** Mark Almquist attended a Town Hall for Volunteers at the Bull Run Warrior Retreat.

**1 April: Dedication of the Yorktown Museum of the American Revolution** and celebration of the Contribution of Virginia to the Revolutionary cause. Paul Chase attended in Continental uniform.

**5 April:** Funeral for Mrs. Kristjana Bridfjord Dimon, wife of Charter member George "Hork" Dimon, Colonel USAF (Ret). Barry Schwoerer represented the chapter to express condolences on behalf of the Chapter to a Veteran and Charter member of our Chapter. The funeral was at Arlington National Cemetery.

**6 April: Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest.** Mike Taimi and Barry Schwoerer presented 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards to children from Mr. Powell's 4th Grade Virginia Studies Class at Buffalo Trails Elementary School, Aldie, Va. Thirty-one students created posters about a Person of the Revolution. Chapter members Thomas Warzywak, Greg Mason and Mrs. Mason, Barry Schwoerer and Mrs. Schwoerer judged the posters. The winners received a certificate of appreciation, an outstanding citizen pin, ribbons, and money orders (\$50 for 1st, \$25 for 2nd, \$15 for 3rd). Mr. Powell will probably participate in the poster contest in 2018. Winners were: Alana Hess for Colonel William Grayson, Yasmin Mardini for Daniel Morgan, Jake Moskowitz for Patrick Henry. The poster for Colonel Grayson was given particular scrutiny to ensure judges were not biased because it was for our Chapter Namesake. All judges agreed it was the best.



Poster about William Grayson by Alana Hess.



Alana Hess, First place winner, is presented the first place ribbon by Barry Schwoerer.

**8 April:** Barry Schwoerer formally presented SFC Henry McFarlin U.S. Army an NSSAR Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate at the Bull Run Warrior Retreat. McFarlin also received the Operation Ancestor Search certificate.



SFC Henry McFarlin and his wife.

**8 April: Commemoration of Halifax Resolves, Halifax, NC.** Paul Chase represented the Chapter in continental uniform with Sword as part of the VASSAR Color Guard.

**15 April Joint Chapter Meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge.** Chapter participants were: Mike Taimi (Continental Navy uniform), Paul Chase (Continental Uniform), Barry Schwoerer, Mark Almquist, Ken Morris and Thad Hartman. Mike Taimi and Paul Chase participated in Color Guard presentation and retirement of colors.



Joint Chapter Meeting  
at Graves Lodge.  
L-R Mike Taimi, Paul Chase.

**18 April: Patriot Grave-marking of Charles Divers.** Paul Chase participated in the marking of Patriot Charles Divers grave on the Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Va. Paul was in Continental Uniform with a sword and participated in the musket volley by rendering a sword salute during the volley.



Musket Volley for Patriot Charles Divers. Paul Chase on far left

**21 April:** Mike Taimi and Barry Schwoerer met with Elizabeth Bays, Senior President Col. Wm. Grayson Chapter C.A.R., to discuss CAR/SAR coordination and possible joint projects. Mrs. Bays announced that the Col Wm Grayson Chapter CAR planned to hold a CAR Grave Marking ceremony at the Grayson tomb. She asked for assistance.

Subsequently, we have provided Mrs. Bays with points of contact for the grave site, buglers and the program/biographical information used for the commemoration of Col Grayson on 12 March. Barry Schwoerer obtained grave site property owner's permission signatures on the CAR Grave-Marker Request forms. The date is yet to be determined. CAR will mark graves of Spence Grayson and William Grayson. Our Chapter will provide Color Guard and other support as necessary. Judge Potter provided additional biographical information on Col Grayson to Mrs. Bays, and he has agreed to coordinate an opportunity for him to present a talk on Col Grayson to the Col Grayson CAR Chapter.



**22 April:** Kevin Schwoerer, Flag Committee Chairman, presented a Flag Certificate to the Schenkel family of Aldie, Va. for proper display of the Flag of the United States. He also presented NSSAR Certificates of Appreciation for Military Service to Adam and Trisha Schenkel, both USN (Ret). Barry Schwoerer acted as photographer and as a Navy veteran visited with Navy Veterans Adam and Trisha Schenkel.



L-R: Trisha Schenkel and Kevin Schwoerer.

**24 APRIL: First Responder Awards At Fire Station 40, Fairfax, Va.** The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution rewarded Technician Eric Provow and Master Technician Joel Kobersteen for Outstanding service to their community. Bill Collier of the SAR Chapter presented awards at a monthly fire chief's meeting in front of the peers of the men recognized.

The SAR presented the Emergency Medical Service Commendation Award to Technician Eric Provow who has served with distinction with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for over twelve years, after serving a career in the United States Marine Corps. He is serving as an Advanced Life Support Preceptor trainer for new firefighters and during his off duty time instructs at the Fire Academy, Technician Provow consistently sets the example for all to follow. He also volunteers for multiple organizations, Willing Warriors, Strength and Honor Motorcycle Club, Fairfax County Police Santa Ride, and he was the assistant organizer for the Officer Down Memorial Ride. He is a true professional and credit to his community. Technician Eric Provow's sustained service brings great credit to himself, his community, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the entire Emergency Medical Service Profession.

The SAR presented the Fire Safety Commendation Award to Master Technician Joel

Kobersteen who has served with distinction with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for over seventeen years. During his extensive fire service career, he has served in many capacities, including a firefighter, paramedic, and engine driver. Throughout his career, he has been an exemplary role model and mentor to the firefighters he has worked alongside. In addition to responding to emergencies, he also serves our community by coordinating the Fairfax County Muscular Dystrophy Association. He has raised over a half a million dollars for Muscular Dystrophy. He also volunteers and cooks at the Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp for children. Master Technician Joel Kobersteen's sustained service brings great credit to himself, his community, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the entire Fire Safety Profession.



Bill Collier & Technician Eric Provow.



Bill Collier & Master Technician Joel Kobersteen.

**28 Apr:** Thad Hartman and Mike Taimi make a recon trip to Trinity Methodist Cemetery in Alexandria to prepare for a Grave Marking ceremony for Patriot James Campbell.

Thad Hartman Examines Campbell Headstone.



**28 APR: President James Monroe Commemoration at his grave in Richmond, VA.**

Dave Button represented the Chapter in laying a wreath at the gravesite of President James Monroe at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA



Dave Button at President James Monroe's tomb.

**29 APR: President James Monroe Birthplace Commemoration.** Mike Taimi and Barry Schwoerer represented the Chapter in laying a wreath at the birthplace of President James Monroe in Chesapeake Beach, Va. Mike Taimi was in the uniform of a Continental Sailor, Barry Schwoerer in the uniform of a Militia soldier. Both Barry & Mike participated in the Color Guard.



James Monroe birthplace commemoration Color Guard  
Barry Schwoerer & Mike Taimi; 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from left.

## **NEW MEMBER STATUS**

### **NEW MEMBERS APPROVED**

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PATRIOT</b>
Judah R., Grant J., & Jackson P. Broussard	3/10/2017	Claude Broussard; Louisiana Militia
Albert C., Trafton C., Lincoln R., and Landon A. Parr	3/11/2017	Francis Duke; Patriotic Service, Commissary
Scott M. Reid	3/11/2017	John Tomblin; Virginia Continental Line
Richard I. Underwood	3/11/2017	Isham Bobbitt, North Carolina Militia
Wayne H. Nickum	3/24/2017	Thomas Nickum; Pennsylvania Militia
Roy W. Richey	3/24/2017	Robert Ritchie; Pennsylvania Rifleman
Eric H., Kenneth L., & Steven C. Wadlin	3/24/2017	Isaac Johnson; Virginia Continental Line
Charles T., Michael J., and Thomas S. Bourgeois	4/14/2017	Michel Bourgeois; Louisiana Militia
Michael J. Edwards	4/14/2017	Donato Bello; Louisiana Militia
Christian B. Harris	4/28/2017	Samuel Swing; New Jersey Militia