



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



Visit us online at <<http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org>>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cwgcsar/>

Follow us on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/VA\\_SAR\\_CWG](https://twitter.com/VA_SAR_CWG)

*Volume 15, Issue 1*

*January-March 2022*

## ***President's Comments: Ross H. Schwalm***

On February 4 and 5, I attended the VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond, VA. I procured for the chapter the latest version of "Genealogical, Burial, and Service Data for Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Virginia." This book is the second edition and there is also updates provided since printing. This book will be provided to the Compatriots who are selected as the Grave Marking and Grave Registration leaders.

I attended two workshops. The first was the VASSAR 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. We were given information on the resources available from the NSSAR committee and on what plans are in the works within Virginia. When given the floor for comments, I indicated that Prince William County wants to build a memorial to the Virginia Continental and militia units from the county. I was given verbal comments from several Compatriots including the new State President that they want to help with this project.

The second workshop I attended was on Membership. State Vice President Ernie Coggins asked me to provide comments on how our chapter was able to grow. Registrar Mike Blyth provided me comments and I added others for my talk to the workshop. President Richard Rankin of the George Washington Chapter and Compatriot Dale Corey also provided comments which are closely related to what we do in our chapter. Membership is a top priority for the state this year. Look for more information as the State President has recently transmitted his plans for 2022-2023.

During the Annual Meeting during Chapter President Reports, I mentioned the County Memorial project. The chapter was given 4 ribbons which were presented to the chapter at the March meeting.

I attended the Youth Oratory Contest and heard three great speeches. While the judges were deliberating, VASSAR Eagle Scout of the Year sponsored by our chapter, Christina Alvarez, was given her Eagle Trophy. I was able to meet her and wished her well at the National Competition.

Compatriot Tim Cline (our Eagle Scout Award Coordinator), Vice President Leamon Duncan and I attended Troop 1919 Eagle Court of Honor on February 23. One of our own compatriots, Jacobi Henderson, was a recipient of an Eagle certificate and patch. I provided the attendees of around 60 people along with many more via Zoom from all over the country comments on the importance of service to the community, the state and the country. I related this to my service in the military and how this was taught to me by the many veterans in my family all the way back to the American Revolution. Several veterans approached me after the event to thank me for my reminder of service to these Eagle Scout leaders as well as to those in attendance.

I have officially retired from work on February 28 and hope to have more time in support of my three non-profit history and genealogy organizations.

The Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation hosted a panel discussion at the Tin Cannon Brewing Company in Gainesville, Virginia at 6:00 PM on March 2, 2022. Panelists included local historians who were asked various questions and provided responses from various perspectives as veterans and citizens of Prince William County. I participated as a panelist, along with historians William “Billy” Griffith, John N. McDonald and Kevin Pawlak, with Mr. Pawlak serving as moderator. The questions covered the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Persian Gulf War. I entertained the audience of 30 people with a photograph of my first visit to Prince William County Manassas Battlefield Park in 1973. I also provided a short-handled axe “liberated” from an Iraqi self-propelled 122-millimeter howitzer during Desert Storm. Mr. McDonald displayed the collection of World War II uniforms he acquired while working as the lead historian at Rippon Lodge which was owned by a descendant of the Blackburn family who served in the US Navy during World War II. Significant discussion and questions by the audience revolved around the American Revolution in Prince William County. Many were unaware of this history which included the early days of forming militia and then Continental line units as well as Dumfries as a Hessian prisoner of war site in 1777. I also covered the Marine Corps history in the county. These events are free to the public and the owners of Tin Cannon Brewing Company were pleased with the turnout and the history offered. The panel discussion ended at 8:00 PM and informal discussions continued well into the night until closing time.

I participated in the Battle of Great Bridge Tour offered by American History LLC on March 18, 2022. The tour was sold out at 44 people and the tour guide was SAR Norfolk Chapter Compatriot Pat Hannum, Lt. Col USMC Retired. The tour mustered at Woodlands Resort in Williamsburg and Mr. Hannum narrated a prelude to the battle on the way to the tour’s first stop at the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Norfolk. Here we learned how the city was shelled by the British Navy in retaliation of Virginia and North Carolina troops firing on British ships in the Elizabeth River. The shelling made the town unlivable for civilians including loyalists to the Crown, those in support of the Revolution and those neutral to either side. The Virginia and North Carolina troops added to the misery by burning down other structures so the British would not be able to use the city as a staging area. This action in southern Norfolk was the last part of the campaign to evict Lord Dunmore from Virginia. The next stop was Kemp’s Landing which was the location of the first engagement in the campaign. The British troops chased the Virginia militia away from Kemp’s Landing with one volley. The last stop on the tour was the Great Bridge Museum and Battle Site. The tour group was split into four groups and docents conducted detailed briefings while walking around the battle site area. The tour included a visit to the Great Bridge Museum which was very educational.

Compatriot Keith Rouleau and I attended the 9<sup>th</sup> American Revolution Conference organized by American History LLC in Williamsburg, VA. We met other SAR members from Georgia, Alabama, and Virginia. The conference leader was Bruce Venter who opened the conference with introductions of those who donated funding and books to the book sale. His comments included a by name mention of Ross H. Schwalm as President of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association and as President of the Col. William Grayson Chapter of the SAR. This led to many attendees and speakers introducing themselves to me which allowed me to talk about both JSHA and SAR activities. A notable attendee was Rob Orrison of the Office of Historic Preservation for Prince William County. James Kirby Martin opened the conference with a briefing related to how the historiography of the American Revolution has changed over the last two centuries. He made the case that much of what is being written now is not supported by the primary sources and therefore has no place in the body of knowledge of the Revolution. He encouraged all to go back to the primary source original documents to make your case in support of your hypothesis. Sometimes, the evidence is just not there. He left academia and is now free to tell the truth vice a list of facts and myths to be memorized as gospel. Eric Schnitzer, National Park Service Historian at Saratoga Battlefield Park gave his myth buster briefing of the truth behind what really happened at the Saratoga battle which is not what has been taught for decades even by the signage and markers currently in use. The rest of the conference speakers essentially laid out the same unofficial theme of “Context, Context, Context,” and sorted out good creative non-fiction writing from story-telling which is often not supported by original source documents. The last professional historian and professor, Dr. Michael Gabriel, Kutztown University and JSHA Director, gave a presentation on plunder, the legal basis of plundering, and the economics of the system of selling plunder to fund the Continental Army needs and to reward the officers and men who helped capture the plunder in the first place. He admitted several times that the records are not sufficient to get an exact accounting of how much the plunder system generated for the units and governments involved in receiving the benefits.

I attended the Prince William County American Revolution Memorial Planning Meeting on March 23, 2022, along with Compatriot Dave Button. We met with Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation Division Manager Robert Orrison at William’s Ordinary. We discussed the memorial actions to date and some of the next tasks in the project. First topic was a quick review of locations. We developed an analysis matrix to define the advantages and disadvantages of each site for the memorial as well as a priority for each site to help determine a path forward. The matrix refinement was given to me for action. As we collect information, we can build out the information in the matrix. Mr. Button took the task to visit with Kline Memorials in Manassas to get a rough order of magnitude dollar figure on an obelisk type monument. Mr. Orrison took the task to engage with the Dumfries Town Manager and the Dumfries Mayor to gauge their level of support to the project. There is immediate and mid-range changes that are happening in Dumfries that forces the memorial committee to speed up its recruitment of volunteers and support from SAR, DAR, and other strategic partners. We have a draft Memorial Committee Structure which includes an Incubator Committee for ideas for consideration, an Executive Committee of senior leaders from the county and towns of Dumfries and potentially Woodbridge, a Land Acquisition sub-committee, a Design sub-committee, a Planning, Budgeting and Financial Management sub-committee, a History sub-committee, a Fund Raising sub-committee and a Communications sub-committee.

The second topic of discussion was follow-on actions necessary from the Colonel William Grayson Vigil. Mr. Orrison shared the county’s report on the tomb repairs done in 2014. He is gathering estimates on fixing the current crack in the tomb. I was tasked with contacting Good Shepard Housing Foundation about replacing the

flag at the tomb site. This was done on March 23, and we are awaiting further information as the two Foundation points of contact are both on vacation. We intend to retire the current flag as part of the flag replacement. This will be a SAR and DAR event.

The third topic of discussion was the upcoming meeting on March 31, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss options for the future of William's Ordinary. I was invited to participate in this discussion and will attend the meeting. I proposed that William's Ordinary set aside space to have an America250 information desk for the county. The vision is to have the Chapter Flag and our 250th Flag on display and have volunteers from SAR, DAR, and others support the county in manning this desk. The county no longer has a tourism or visitors bureau. Mr. Orrison has requested two new employees for the Office of Historic Preservation to focus on marketing and providing tours of the various history sites in the county. I was asked to brief this idea at the March 31 meeting.

I attended a virtual event entitled a "Community Conversation on Building Community through Historic Preservation" sponsored by America250. This event provided ideas on how to engage the community in order to preserve historic places, structures and even paper reports/photographs/artifacts via digitization. Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation is engaging the community on what should be preserved and what should be remembered with many different programs. The Chapter has been included in building a monument to the soldiers and militiamen who served the cause of the American Revolution. Additionally, I will be serving on a new committee to generate ideas and actions to preserve the historic building known as William's Ordinary. Significant modern creep is happening in Dumfries, Virginia that could doom the historic roads and buildings if actions are not taken. This thought was part of the discussion virtual event. Chapter compatriots are encouraged to visit [www.america250.org](http://www.america250.org) for additional information about America250.

Compatriots Dave Button and I attended Jim Piecuch's lecture on "Light Horse Harry Lee in the War for Independence" on March 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The event at the Old Manassas Courthouse, sponsored by the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division was well attended. The lecture was a summary of Lee's life. Highlights includes some of Lee's famous and infamous events.

I attended a veteran's breakfast at Jubilation in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Jubilation is an over 55 community and hosts this breakfast as an outreach to veterans. The event was organized by Marine Corps Veteran Tom Dempsey who is a resident of Jubilation. His son, Marine Corps Major Brian Dempsey provided the lecture on his assignment at Quantico as the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Capability Officer. His lecture included videos from several operations showing the capabilities that UAVs bring to the warfighters. He had models of several different type 1 small UAVs. After the lecture, the attendees were treated to a flying demonstration on the grounds of Jubilation to show real time video capabilities of a small inexpensive UAV. Over 20 veterans attended the breakfast along with representatives from Jubilation who were available to provide information on the facility and to give tours. This breakfast is a monthly event free to veterans.

On March 27, I delivered remarks at the National Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at the Historic Fairfax Courthouse Memorial Plaza in Fairfax, Virginia, which you can read here:

[Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR - Posts | Facebook](#)

## [Upcoming Events](#)

April 9, 2022: Eight-Chapter Meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge, 11:00am, [Graves Mountain Lodge](#), Syria, VA.

April 10, 2022: Multiple Patriot Grave Marking, 2:00 pm, New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 12942 Lutheran Church Road, Lovettsville, VA.

April 12, 2022: 246th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves, 10:30am, Halifax, NC.

April 16, 2022: Joint Patriot Grave Marking (Rev War and 1812).

Host/POC: George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR/Paul Walden at [PaulWalden@live.com](mailto:PaulWalden@live.com).

Location: Flint Hill Cemetery, 2845 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22181

April 23, 2022: James Monroe's 264th Birthday Celebration at His Birthplace, 10:00am, 4460 James Monroe Highway (State Rt. 205) just outside of Colonial Beach.

April 24, 2022: 3:00 pm, Patriots' Day, Location: Lexington Minutemen Memorial Arlington National Cemetery Sec 1-297-34. Event Level: National.

Host/POC: Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia SAR/Wm Forrest Crain at [wfcrain@comcast.net](mailto:wfcrain@comcast.net).

April 28, 2022: James Monroe's 264th Birthday Celebration at His Tomb, 11:00, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

April 30, 2022: 11:00 am. Patriot Grave Marking - Francis Summers

Host/POC: Co-hosted by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, VASSAR and the Henry Clay Chapter NSDAR.

Location: Summer's Cemetery 6250 Lincolnia Road (RT 613), Alexandria, Virginia

May 14, 2022: CWG Chapter Meeting, Sat., 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155

May 14, 2022: Time TBA – Commemoration of General Joseph Martin (formerly Raid at Martin's Station).

Event Level: National. Host/POC: Col. James Waller Chapter/Martin's Station Chapter.

Location: Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main St., Martinsville, VA.

May 20, 2022: 11:00 am - Naturalization Ceremony at Patrick Henry's Red Hill

Host/POC: Patrick Henry Chapter, Virginia SAR/Mark Day, at [oscmbb64@msn.com](mailto:oscmbb64@msn.com).

Location: Patrick Henry's Red Hill, 1250 Red Hill Road, Brookneal, VA 24528

May 21, 2022: 11:00 am – Joint Patriot Grave Marking & Plaque Dedication (Rev War and 1812)

Host/POC: Norfolk Chapter, Virginia SAR/Ken Hawkins [drklhawkins@gmail.com](mailto:drklhawkins@gmail.com)

Location: Cedar Grove Cemetery, 238 E Princess Anne Rd, Norfolk, VA.

May 30, 2022: 11:00 am - National Memorial Day Parade.

Event Level: National. Host/POC: George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR/Paul Walden at PaulWalden@live.com. Location: National Mall, Washington, DC

June 4, 2022: 11:00 am – 241st Commemoration of Wayne's Crossing

Host/POC: Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia SAR/Wm Forrest Crain at wfcrain@comcast.net.

Location: Spirit of Loudoun Revolutionary War Memorial, Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 E Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176

June 11, 2022: 1:30 pm - Col. William Preston Memorial Dedication

Host/POC: Fincastle Resolutions / Rupert Cutler at rupert.cutler48@gmail.com

Location: 57 South Center Drive Daleville, VA 24083

June 18, 2022: 10:00 am – Genl. Daniel Morgan Commemoration

Host/POC: Col James Wood II Chapter, Virginia SAR/Dale Corey at dale.corey@comcast.net.

Location: Mount Hebron Cemetery, 305 E Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA

June 25, 2022: 11:00 am - 241st Commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary

Host/POC: Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia SAR, Location: Freedom Park, 5537 Centreville Road, Williamsburg, VA

July 4, 2022: 9:00 am - Independence Day and March to the Tomb of George Washington

Event Level: National. Host/POC: George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR/Paul Walden at PaulWalden@live.com. Location: George Washington's Mount Vernon



## **Registrar's Report: Mike Blythe**

### **New Members Approved in January – March 2022:**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Patriot</b>
<b>Gary E. Bresnahan</b>	19 Jan 2022	<b>John Rutledge</b> who served as President and Commander-in Chief of SC, 1776-78; SC Governor 1779-82; and member of the Continental Congress 1774-76.
<b>Christopher Canterbury</b>	7 Jan 2022	<b>John Canterbury</b> who served as a Soldier in the Virginia Militia under Captain Benjamin Logan and Captain Martin.
<b>Jonathan S. Hey</b>	19 Jan 2022	<b>Jonathan Eddy</b> who as a Colonel led the attack on Fort Cumberland, Nova Scotia, in 1776, and led the defense of Machias in 1777.
<b>Joshua A. Hey (Junior)</b>	19 Jan 2022	<b>Jonathan Eddy</b> who as a Colonel led the attack on Fort Cumberland, Nova Scotia, in 1776, and led the defense of Machias in 1777.
<b>John P. Hey (Junior)</b>	19 Jan 2022	<b>Jonathan Eddy</b> who as a Colonel led the attack on Fort Cumberland, Nova Scotia, in 1776, and led the defense of Machias in 1777.

We have five new member applications in the pipeline – as of 20 February, two are pending review at the National Headquarters and two are with the State Registrar.

### **Supplemental Applications approved January – March 2022**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Patriot</b>
	None	

Five supplemental applications are pending review at the National Headquarters, and one is with the State Registrar.

For 2021, we had fifteen new member applications approved and one supplemental. This compares to sixteen new member and fourteen supplementals in 2020.

## *Chapter Activities and News*

### **January 15, 2022: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting**

Chapter officers for 2022 sworn in by VASSAR 1st Vice President Bruce Meyer.

<http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org/governance.html>

### **January 15, 2022: National Parks Conservation Association's Manassas Service Day**

Compatriot Dave Peterson participated in the National Parks Conservation Association's Manassas Service Day. "We built 60 yards of 'cow high and hog tight' split rail fence up the hill from the Brawner Farm."





## January 22, 2022: Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration - Middletown, Virginia

Chapter Vice President, Leamon Duncan, participated in the Rev. Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration event hosted by the SAR Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia SAR. Compatriot Duncan presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath and participated as a member of the Virginia SAR Color Guard in support of the event. Compatriot Duncan's wife (Marsha Duncan), a member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hamill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, provided photography support. Other CWG members present were Ken Morris and Marc Robinson, both as dual members.



CWG Vice President Leamon Duncan

## February 4, 2022: Sons of the American Revolution Support Military Promotion Ceremony

Members of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution had the honor of participating in the promotion ceremony for Chaplain (Colonel) J. Mark Morgan. Chaplain (Colonel) Morgan is assigned on the Headquarters Department of the Army staff. The ceremony was held at the historic Pohick Church in Lorton, Virginia. Pohick was the first permanent church in the colony to be established north of the Occoquan River, sometime prior to 1724 and is where George Washington frequently attended services. The presiding officer over the ceremony was Chaplain (Major General) Thomas L. Solhjem, 25<sup>th</sup> Chief of Chaplains, United States Army.

Members of the Virginia SAR came from across Virginia to support the ceremony. SAR support to the ceremony aligns with one of the National Society's Patriotic Goals to support our Veterans who sacrifice so much in the service to our great Nation. SAR support for the event was organized and led by Leamon Duncan, Colonel William Grayson Chapter. Supporting elements included Mike Weyler, Colonel William Grayson; William (Bill) Schwetke, Culpeper Minutemen; Dale Corey, Allan Phillips, and Chip Daniels, Colonel James Wood II; and David Cook and Forrest Crain, Fairfax Resolves. In addition to SAR support, the Reverend Tom Costa and his wife Susan also supported the event. The Reverend Costa portrays the Reverend Lee Massey, Pohick Church's first Rector.



(L-R) Chip Daniel, David Cook, Mike Weyler, Leamon Duncan, Chaplain (COL) Mark Morgan, Tracey Morgan, Susan Costa, Rev. Dr. Tom Costa, Bill Schwetke, Dale Corey, Allan Phillips, Forrest Crain)



**February 4, 2022: Chapter sponsored Eagle Scout, Christina Alvarez, places first in VSSAR scholarship contest**

[Accomplished Eagle Christina A. Wins SAR Scholarship – We Own Adventure](#)

**February 5, 2022: Memorial Service for William “Billy” Lee, George Washington’s Mount Vernon**

Compatriots from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia SAR, gathered to support the Memorial Service for William “Billy” Lee, General Washington’s personal valet. The event was sponsored by the George Washington Chapter and well attended with members of the DAR and CAR. President Ross Schwalm presented the chapter wreath, Vice President Leamon Duncan and Past-President Mike Weyler participated in the color guard in colonial uniforms. It was a most outstanding (and chilly) day at George Washington’s Mount Vernon.



**William “Billy” Lee**

NSSAR Patriot P-234885

William “Billy” Lee was born around 1752 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and was purchased in 1768 by General Washington. He accompanied General Washington as his valet, or “Val de Chambre” in many of his engagements during the American Revolution, including the Battle of Monmouth and at the surrender at Yorktown. He later accompanied then President Washington to the first capital in New York City. He married Margaret Thomas in the early 1780s. Upon Washington’s death in 1799, he was freed and remained on the Mount Vernon estate. He died here in 1828 and is buried in the Slave Burial Ground.



L-R: Leamon Duncan, Ross Schwalm, Mike Weyler

**February 6, 2022: Ceremony to Honor Rev. Townsend Dade, Jr. , Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville, MD**

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) participated in the joint grave marking ceremony in honor of Rev. Townsend Dade, Jr., hosted by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution and General William Smallwood Chapter, Maryland SAR. CWG Vice President Leamon Duncan presented the Chapter wreath, carried the Chapter Colors in the Color Guard and participated in the firelock salute. CWG Past-President Mike Weyler participated in the Color Guard and also represented the Order of Founders and Patriots (OFPA).



(L-R ) Compatriots Mike Weyler and Leamon Duncan pictured with the CWG wreath.



**February 21, 2022: Ceremony Honoring the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier, Alexandria, Va.**

Compatriots from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) joined forces with other Chapters from the VASSAR, DAR, and CAR to support the ceremony honoring the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier held at his tomb on the grounds of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA. The Chapter wreath was presented by the CWG Vice President, Leamon Duncan. All four CWG compatriots participated in the VASSAR Color Guard.



L-R: CWG Compatriots Andrew Mills, Leamon Duncan, Mike Weyler, Jack Mills.



## February 21, 2022: George Washington Birthday Parade, Alexandria, Virginia

Compatriots of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) participated in the annual George Washington Birthday parade in Alexandria, VA. The event was well-attended and supported by Chapters of the VASSAR, DAR and CAR. Compatriots Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, Leamon Duncan, and Mike Weyler were the supporting element from the CWG Chapter.



Andrew Mills (front row – center), 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Leamon Duncan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Mike Weyler, Jack Mills.

## February 21, 2022: George Washington Birthday Celebration, Mount Vernon Estate, Virginia

Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) Compatriot Jon Huddleston attended the annual birthday celebration of George Washington at the Mount Vernon estate.

The activities featured drill and ceremony by the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, The Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps, and a wreath-laying ceremony at Washington's tomb by the Military District of Washington Commander with the President and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Two temporary exhibits stood out at the Education Center: several of General Washington's swords and a Masonic apron that was made in France and is believed to have been presented to George Washington at Mount Vernon in 1784 by the Marquis de Lafayette.



Compatriot Jon Huddleston at Washington's Birthday Commemoration



**February 23, 2022: Troop 1919 Eagle Scout Court of Honor VFW Post 1503, Dale City, VA**

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) presented four NSSAR Eagle Scout Certificates of Recognition and SAR-Scout Partnership patches to the newest Eagle Scouts of Troop 1919 in Prince William County, Virginia. What made the ceremony even more special was that one of our own compatriots, Jacobi Henderson, was a recipient of a certificate and patch. Jacobi was also supported by his parents. Jacobi's mother is a member of the Prince William Resolves Chapter of the NSDAR. CWG President Ross Schwalm delivered remarks at the ceremony that re-enforced the new Eagle's commitment to service both to others and to the Nation. The Chapter's Scout Program Chairman, Compatriot Tim Cline, presented the certificates and CWG Vice President Leamon Duncan in Continental uniform assisted.



L-R: CWG Compatriot Tim Cline, CWG President Ross Schwalm, Benjamin Dries, Eric Domingo, Dominic Jimenez, Jacobi Henderson, CWG Vice President Leamon Duncan.

## March 5, 2022: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting

Cadet Owen Wolf, a Junior at Battlefield High School, was recognized as the winner of the annual Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Enhanced Junior Reserved Officer Training Corps (JROTC) competition at the 5 March 2022 Chapter meeting. Cadet Wolf advanced to the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) competition taking third place at the state level.

Cadets nominated for this competition are judged on their leadership, performance in JROTC, academics and extra-curricular activities, and a personally composed essay on the topic “How JROTC has prepared me to be a better citizen of the United States of America”.

Along with the Bronze Medallion and Certificate, Cadet Wolf received a \$100.00 Check.



(L-R) Cadet Owen Wolf, Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Ross Schwalm



The Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) inducted three new members into the Chapter, from (L-R) John Hey, Jon Hey, and Chris Canterbury. CWG President Ross Schwalm administered the oath.



Congratulations to Compatriot Michael Wilson on his Lifetime Membership in the NSSAR. Compatriot Wilson received his NSSAR Lifetime Membership certificate from CWG President Ross Schwalm.



**March 9, 2022: Troop 189 Eagle Scout Court of Honor, John F Pattie, Sr, PTCO, Montclair, VA**

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) presented two NSSAR Eagle Scout Certificates of Recognition and SAR-Scout Partnership patches to the newest Eagle Scouts of Troop 189 in Prince William County, Virginia. CWG President Ross Schwalm delivered remarks at the ceremony that re-enforced the new Eagle's commitment to service both to others and to the Nation. The Chapter's Scout Program Chairman, Compatriot Tim Cline, presented the certificates.



L-R: CWG Compatriot Tim Cline, Nicholas Choplin, Logan Choplin, CWG President Ross Schwalm

## March 12, 2022: Vigil at the Tomb of Colonel William Grayson, Woodbridge, Virginia

It was neither a "rainy night in Georgia" nor the terrible winter at Valley Forge in 1777-78, but it was a cold, wet, rainy, snowy, windy day here in Northern Virginia. However, that did not stop the Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) from honoring its namesake, Colonel William Grayson, on the 232nd anniversary of his death, March 12, 1790. Chapter President Ross Schwalm presented the chapter wreath. Other wreath presenters included Mike Weyler representing the Order of the Founders and Patriots, John Thomas from the SAR Fairfax Resolves Chapter, and Beth Atkinson representing the Bill of Rights Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



L-R: CWG Compatriots Jack Mills, John Callaway, Ross Schwalm, Leamon Duncan, Andrew Mills.

Video: [Vigil at the Grayson Tomb - YouTube](#)



## March 17, 2022: SAR Fire Safety Commendation and Medal awarded to Lieutenant Jason Kim

Compatriots Paul Serzan and William C. Collier presented the SAR Fire Safety Commendation and Medal to Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Lieutenant Jason Kim at Fire Station 40, 4621 Legato Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The citation reads:

Lieutenant Jason Kim is assigned as a relief officer in the 7th Battalion where his assignments range from rural Clifton to urban Fair Oaks and wherever he is, he explores, asks questions, and sets the example for his crew. He is also a member of the Hazardous Materials Response Team and is training to ride in command of the Hazardous Materials Unit at Station 40. Also trained as a paramedic, he is a true all-hazards officer, and he takes all his roles very seriously. He also serves as a mentor to the new fire fighters and paramedics. Lieutenant Kim's outstanding sustained performance of duty reflects great credit on himself, the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department and the entire Fire Safety Profession.



(L-R) Compatriot Bill Collier, Lt. Jason Kim, Compatriot Paul Serzan

## March 19, 2022: Multiple Grave Marking Ceremony, Stephenville, Virginia

Compatriots from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) participated in the multiple grave marking ceremony for Patriots John Nicholas DeLong, John Grim/Krim, Jacob Kline, John Krider, and Nicholas Samsell. The ceremony was hosted by the Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia SAR. The ceremony was held at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Stephenville, VA.



(L-R) Compatriots Weyler, Duncan, Corey, and Hartman



**March 19, 2022: Honoring President James Madison, Montpelier Station, Virginia**

Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) Secretary Dave Button presented the Chapter wreath to honor the anniversary of President James Madison's birth (March 16, 1751).





**March 19, 2022: Virginia SAR Multi-Chapter Color Guard Workshop, Middletown, Virginia**

Chapter Vice President Leamon Duncan participated in the Virginia SAR Multi-Chapter Color Guard Workshop hosted by the Colonel James Wood II Chapter. The workshop was well attended and provided a wealth of information and hands-on practice of musket drills and firing salutes. Well done Compatriots! Huzzah!





## March 20, 2022: Plaque Dedication and Grave Marking Ceremony, Vienna, Virginia

Compatriots from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) attended the plaque dedication and grave marking ceremony for Colonel Charles Broadwater and Lt Col Charles Lewis Broadwater at the Broadwater Family Cemetery in Vienna, Virginia. The event was hosted by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia SAR. The CWG Chapter Vice President, Leamon Duncan, presented the Chapter wreath, participated in the Virginia SAR Color Guard, and the musket salute conducted in honor of these two Patriots. Compatriot Duncan was accompanied by his wife, Marsha Duncan, a member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter, NSDAR. Mrs. Duncan provided photography support to the event. CWG Past-President Mike Weyler presented the Order of Founders and Patriots wreath and participated in the Color Guard. Other CWG members included Marc Robinson (dual) and Dale Corey (dual). All were in Continental or militia uniform. The event is well attended by members of the CAR, DAR, and ancestors from the Broadwater family.





**March 21, 2022: SAR Emergency Medical Service Commendation and Medal Awarded to Capt. John W. Streeter**

Compatriot Bill Collier presented the SAR Emergency Medical Service Commendation and Medal to Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Captain John W. Streeter at Fire Station 38, 6001 O'Day Drive, Centreville, VA 20120.

The citation reads:

Captain John W. Streeter III serves the residents of Fairfax County and members of the department in the capacity of EMS403, A-shift. Captain Streeter's continuous outstanding performance of duty as a leader, mentor, and provider is an example for all to emulate. Captain Streeter trains one on one with the advanced life support interns assigned to the battalions, provides continuing education to all personnel in his assigned stations, leads the battalion in the Battalion Chief's absence, liaises with local hospitals, serves on the departments Emergency Medical Services Review Committee, and teaches for the Fire and Rescue Academy. Captain Streeter's performance is a great credit to himself, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the entire Emergency Medical Service profession.



(L-R) Captain Streeter, Compatriot Bill Collier

**March 24, 2022: A visit to NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky**

Compatriot Greg Burch, and his wife, Cris, recently visited SAR Headquarters and received a personal tour of the library, genealogist's offices, and spaces where the new museum will be built.



**March 27, 2022: National Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance, Historic Fairfax Courthouse Memorial Plaza in Fairfax, Virginia**

Three VASSAR Chapters and the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America conducted a National Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at the Historic Fairfax Courthouse Memorial Plaza in Fairfax, Virginia. Fairfax Resolves Chapter President David Huxsoll served as the Emcee. Remembrance comments were delivered by Compatriots Larry McKinley, Micheal Weyler, Ross H. Schwalm and Jim Cordes. Color Guard for the event was provided by the VASSAR State Color Guard consisting of Compatriots Ken Bonner, Dave Cook, William Forrest Crain, Darrin Schmidt and Barry Schwoerer. Wreaths were presented by Fairfax Resolves, Sgt maj John Champe, Col William Grayson and the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. The 250th Anniversary Flag was flown at this event.



## *Historical Notes: The Prayer at Valley Forge*



The Prayer at Valley Forge

Arnold Friberg painted "The Prayer at Valley Forge" in 1975 in time for the Bicentennial of American Independence. The painting has become a modern icon. Friberg visited Valley Forge during the winter to immerse himself in the conditions faced by Washington and the American patriots.

The original story of Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge may be apocryphal, having originated with an account by Reverend Nathaniel Snowden which began to circulate in the early 1820s. Reverend Snowden recounted that one of Washington's soldiers, a man named Isaac Potts testified to him:

*"I tied my horse to a sapling and went quietly into the woods and to my astonishment I saw the great George Washington on his knees alone, with his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He was at Prayer to the God of the Armies, beseeching to interpose with his Divine aid, as it was ye Crisis, and the cause of the country, of humanity and of the world.*

*"Such a prayer I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying. I went home and told my wife. I saw a sight and heard today what I never saw or heard before, and just related to her what I had seen and heard and observed. We never thought a man could be a soldier and a Christian, but if there is one in the world, it is Washington. She also was astonished. We thought it was the cause of God, and America could prevail."*

Many historians question Reverend Snowden's story, if not that Washington was a man who prayed. There are numerous examples of Washington invoking the blessings and protection of the Almighty, including at the time of his leaving the Army:

*"I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my Official life, by commending the Interests of our dearest Country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them, to his holy keeping."*