



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



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April-June 2024

President's Comments: Michael Wilson

Since our last meeting I have had the pleasure of representing our chapter at several state and national SAR events, Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution events, Patriotic-heraldic society event, and an Honor Flight event. As I travelled over the great commonwealth of Virginia, the three most remarkable events I have had the pleasure in attending were: (1) the first Patriot Burial Roadside Marker dedication for a Revolutionary War Patriot and U.S. Congressman, (2) National Society Sons of the American Revolution Gold Good Citizen Medal presentation to Mr. Freedom by NSSAR President General, John Dodd, and (3) the Honor Flight – Top of Virginia Mission #20.

The Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, along with the Richmond Chapter, honored Revolutionary War Patriot Major Joseph Eggleston, who served in Lighthorse Harry Lee's Legion, by placing the first 'Patriot Burials marker' in partnership with the Pomeroy Foundation, on Sunday, November 05, 2024. This was one of three Patriot Burial markers to be placed within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Pomeroy Foundation Patriot Burials Marker Grant Program was established to assist SAR state societies and is a national marker program to commemorate historical points of significant interest in the Revolutionary War period while recognizing those Patriots who fought in or contributed to America's independence.

Meeting and speaking with Enes Kanter Freedom, a former player for the Boston Celtics (2022) honored with a NSSAR Gold Good Citizen Certificate and Medal on Sunday, May 26, 2024 (Gunston Hall, Lorton, VA by PG Dodd) for his acts of heroism during his time in the NBA and his charitable endeavors off the court, was incredible and a true honor. PG Dodd said it best, "[Mr. Freedom] is a thoughtful and gracious man. Just as our Patriot Ancestors pledged their 'lives, fortunes and sacred honor' in the Declaration of Independence, so too, Mr. Freedom has sacrificed much for his principles. We are lucky to have him as a Naturalized Citizen...". Mr. Freedom, with a warm smile and gentle handshake, graciously shared his childhood stories and patriotic

pride with the attending audience and showed why he was selected and so deserving of such high honors by our national society.

In closing, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter Annual 2025 Officer elections are around the corner. Any compatriots interested in *Chapter Presidency* or various officer positions within the chapter should email myself or chapter secretary, Dave Button. Nominations will be finalized and presented at the October 12th meeting held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 7589, Manassas, VA.

In addition, please join me in giving a warm welcome and congratulation to our newest chapter members: Jerry M. Couretas, Dylan Cogan, Jesse Inestroza, Harry “Mac” McClaren, and Randal Bush.

Finally, thank you! You, the great compatriots of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, for your continuous support and generous donations to the chapter and the chapter Youth programs. Your contributions go a long way in helping assist us in awarding Youth contestants with financial scholarships and awards. Monthly donations or annual contributions can be sent to our chapter Treasurer, Jeff Windland (jkwind@aol.com).

Events Attended

April – June 2024

- 8th April '24 – Wakefield School to present Peter Findler SAR Chapter Certificate – History Teacher of the Year 2024, Plains, VA. Attire: Blazer and Bowe-tie; Attendees: Dave Button
- 9th April '24 – Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Memorial Day in Washington D.C. (Zoom) meeting at 8pm (EST)
- 19-21 April '24 – The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (NSCAR) 2024 National Convention, Arlington Capital View Hotel, Arlington, VA.
- 20th April '24 – James Monroe Memorial Foundation 266th Birthday Celebration Ceremony at 5th President James Monroe's Birthplace House, Westmoreland Co., VA. Attire: Colonial w/ musket; Participated in VASSAR Color Guard; Presented CWG Wreath and Flag; CWG Attendees: Dave Button and Dr. Michael Weyler
- 25th April '24 – Battlefield High School (BHS) Awards Ceremony and Change of Command, Gainesville, VA. Attire Blazer and Bowe-tie; CWG Attendee: John Callaway; Awardees Cdt Kim and Cdt Sabharwal
- 27th April '24 – Annual Multi-chapter Meeting VASSAR, Grave's Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA. Attire Colonial w/musket; CWG Attendees: Georg Ax Sr.; Thad Hartman; Dr. Michael Weyler
- 4th May '24 – Revolutionary War Weekend at Mount Vernon, VA. CWG Attendees: Ross Schwalm.

- 11th May '24 – VA Society Order of Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA) Grave marking Ceremony Honoring Founder Edmund Scarborough, Hedra Cottage, Belle Haven, VA. Attire Blazer and Bowe-tie.
- 15th May '24 – NSSAR VTC PRS Volunteer (Zoom) Meeting at 8pm (EST)
- 26th May '24 – NSSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Award, Gunston Hall, Lorton. CWG Attendees: Dr. Michael Weyler, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, and myself all in colonial attire
- 27th May '24 – NASAR National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C.
- 28th May '24 – Culpepper Minutemen meeting, Warrenton Bible Fellowship, Warrenton, VA. Attire: Blazer and Bowe-tie Was by CMM at the last moment
- 1st JUN '24 – Honor Flight, Shenandoah University, Winchester; VASSAR Color Guard Event
- 1st JUN ;24 – 243rd Anniversary of General Anthony Wayne's Crossing of the Potomac, Loudoun Co. Courthouse, Leesburg.
- 2nd JUN '24 – Patriot Burials Roadside Marker Dedication – Honoring Major Joseph Eggleston, Historic Grub hill Church, Amelia
- 8th JUN '24 – 248th Anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, Gunston Hall, Lorton. CWG Attendees: Dr. Michael Weyler, Andrew Mills, Chuck Mills, Jack Mills, and myself in colonial attire. George Ax Sr. attended in civilian attire.
- 14th JUN '24 – Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution (VSCAR) Flag Day and Retirement Ceremony, Great Falls Church Library, Great Falls. CWG Attendees Jerry Couretas and myself.
- 21st Jun '24 – Providence Society C.A.R. officers' installation, Fairfax County, VA. CWG Attendees: Jerry Couretas and myself.
- 23rd Jun '24 – Grave Marking Chief Justice John Marshall, Shockoe Hill Cemetery, 320 Hospital St, Richmond, VA.
- 23rd JUN '24 – VASSAR Board of Management (BOM) meeting (Zoom)
- 25th JUN '24 – NASSAR Genealogist General Forum (Zoom)

Vice President's Report: Andrew Mills

There are times during the calendar year where we feel overwhelmed by the number of events the SAR hosts. The adage of "so much to do, so little time" fits in very well here. Between Memorial Day weekend and Flag Day, there are numerous events which can take us across the region. However, this year there were a handful of events which held significant meaning to me.

The first event was an annual tradition my family started in 2020 after joining the SAR. Over the Memorial Day weekend, we go to the Dumfries Cemetery and place flags at the graves of the Patriots buried there. To date, we can identify 15 of the 20 graves at the cemetery and place flags there. Through this tradition, we have noticed other people have begun to mark the Patriot graves as well on Memorial Day. It is truly heart-warming to know our small contribution has led to others in our community to follow this example and remember the service of the first Patriots.

The second event was the Gold Citizenship Award Ceremony at Gunston Hall. For those in attendance, we had the privilege of meeting Ennes Kantor Freedom, a former NBA basketball player who is a human rights activist. While many celebrities and athletes claim to do things, Mr. Freedom (who legally changed his last name to Freedom) puts his money where his mouth is. For those who do not know, there is a bounty on him from the Turkish government because he shed light on human rights violations occurring within his home country. In addition, he was black balled by the NBA for speaking out against China and the human rights abuses there. When asked what message he would give to young people about how they should live their lives to counter the materialistic message being sent out daily, he responded, "Faith, family, and Freedom. These are the three most important parts of our lives. Without these, you cannot be happy." This is significant to us in the SAR, as it was faith, family, and freedom which were at the core of many Patriots reasons for fighting.

The third event was the unveiling of the Prince William Resolves plaque in Dumfries. Joined by Ken Morris and Ross Schwalm, we represented VASSAR amongst so many other local dignitaries. It was interesting to learn the history of the Resolves as Prince William County was the first to issue these Resolves and everyone else in the state followed our example. Despite Fairfax County being better known for their Resolves, we can take heart in knowing Prince William's was first. Huzzah!

Finally, there was the Commemoration of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. It can never be overstated how important this document was, as it served as the blueprint for the Declaration of Independence. However, as this Commemoration was occurring, the naturalization of new citizens was also occurring at Gunston Hall. Some of these new citizens come to witness our event, but what is more significant is that we see in them the heart of the Revolution.

Our Patriot ancestors fought not only for freedom and liberty for themselves, but for those yet to come. It was because of their courage and sacrifice we have our nation today. So let us look at our events and try to remember the meaning behind them. It is not just for commemorations, but a chance for us to reflect upon why our ancestors chose to fight, the forces which gave them the strength and conviction to see the conflict through to the end, the results of their successes, and an opportunity to honor their legacy.

Registrar's Report: Mike Blythe

We have had one new member approved and registered this quarter. Jerry Maynard Couretas of McLean is a descendant of Patriot Isaiah Maynard who served as a Member of the Committee of Safety for Westchester County, New York in 1776-1777. He is also recognized for selling beef to the Army in 1777. In the American Revolution, local committees, sometimes called committees of correspondence, committees of inspection, committees of observation or committees of safety, were different resident groups of Patriots that became a shadow government; they took control of the Thirteen Colonies away from royal officials, who became increasingly helpless as the war drug on. The historian, T. H. Breen, writes that "proliferation of local committees represented a development of paramount importance in the achievement of independence," because the committees were the first step in the creation of "a formal structure capable not only of policing the revolution on the ground but also of solidifying ties with other communities." The network of committees was also vital for reinforcing "a shared sense of purpose," speaking to "an imagined collectivity—a country of the mind" of Americans. They led to popular politics in America – ordinary people would no longer trust a body of just wealthy, educated men to lead them.

As of 14 June our chapter has 9 new member applications pending review at State or National. The process is taking longer as we enter the summer months. An application will generally spend two months at State – the State Registrar has applications from 30 chapters to review – and another three months at National before it is reviewed.

Please consider submitting a supplemental application. Our desire is to document as many lines to the Patriots as possible. The current application fees are \$100 (NSSAR), \$12 (VASSAR), and \$15 (CWGC).

Finally, if reelected, 2025 will be my last year as the chapter's Registrar. If you have an interest in genealogy and would be interested in becoming the Registrar, let me know so that we can start working together on future applications (mblythe@comcast.net).

Color Guard Commander's Report: Andrew Mills

It is summer, which means it is hot. Guardsmen and Chapter members should always remember to pay close attention to the weather when going out to events. Please be sure to bring extra water with you and if something is proving to take too large of a toll on your body, let someone know immediately.

If anyone is interested in joining the Color Guard, please email the CG Commander Andrew Mills at fedallgen@yahoo.com. We do have some extra pieces of colonial clothing which can be borrowed if needed for an event.

Upcoming Events

Note: All events subject to change or cancellation; monitor e-mails and vssar.memberclicks.net for changes

July 4, 2024: 9:00 am, Independence Day and March to the Tomb at George Washington's Mount Vernon, VA

July 6th, 2024: 10:00 am – Commemoration of the Battle of Green Spring, Williamsburg, VA. Church on the Main, 4644 Yeardley Loop, Williamsburg, VA.

July 9, 2024: 248th Anniversary of the Battle of Cricket Hill, to take place on Saturday, July 9th at 11:00 am at Morningstar Marinas, 249 Mill Point Road, Hudgins, VA 23076.

July 10-16, 2024: Annual NSSAR Congress in Lancaster, Pa., NASSR EVENT (NATIONAL)

July 17- 18, 2024: Multiple events 250th Commemoration of the Fairfax Resolves, Alexandria

July 18, 2024: 250th of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves, George Mason's Grave, Gunston Hall at 9:30 AM

July 18, 2024: 250th Anniversary Signing of the Fairfax Resolves-George Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon at 11:30 AM

July 18, 2024: 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Fairfax Resolves, Pohick Church at 3:00 PM

July 19, 2024: Fairfax Resolves Plaque Dedication at Christ Church, Alexandria, Va at 3:00 PM

July 20, 2024: Plaque Dedication at George Washington's Alexandria Town House, Alexandria at 10:00 AM

August 10, 2024: Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Leesburg. 11:00am, Location: Loudoun County Courthouse, Spirit of Loudoun Rev War Memorial, 18 East Market St., Leesburg, VA.

August 17, 2024: Nansemond Indian Pow Wow, 12:00 pm, Location Mattanock Town, 1001 Pembroke Lane, Suffolk, VA. Host/POC: Nansemond Indian Patriot Chapter VASSAR. This is a two-day Native American cultural celebration, including music, dance, food, and crafts. The Pow Wow is located at the end of Pembroke Lane, which runs off Godwin Boulevard (across from Oakland Elementary School) in the Chuckatuck area of Suffolk.

August 24, 2024: George Daniel Flohr's moment dedication, Wytheville, VA at 10:00 AM

September 7, 2024: 243rd Commemoration of the Battle of the Capes at 11:00 AM

September 13-14, 2024: VASSAR Semi-Annual Conference

Event Level: State

Host/POC: VASSAR Secretary Tim Dioquino - timdio@live.com

Location: Woodlands Hotel and Suites, 105 Visitor Center Dr. Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

September 15, 2024: SAR Vigil at Washington's Tomb

Event Level: National

Host/POC: NSSAR Color Guard / Scott Collins

at 8:00am, Location: George Washington's Mount Vernon, Alexandria, VA

September 22, 2024: This is VASSAR President William Greaf's designated state event to honor Robert Carter III who manumitted his slaves. From 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Event Level: State. Northumberland Courthouse, 220 Judicial Place, Heathsville, VA 22473

September 24, 2024: Colonel William Campbell Muster to Kings Mountain at 6:00 PM

Event Level: State. Abingdon Muster Grounds, 1780 Muster Place, Abingdon, Virginia 24210

Chapter Activities and News

April 10, 2024: SAR flag certificate presented to The Merit School of Manassas



Compatriot Dave Button (R) presented the SAR flag certificate to The Merit School of Manassas. The school flies the flag 24/7 and lighted at night.

April 20, 2024: James Monroe's 266th Birthday Celebration

CWG Chapter President Michael Wilson, together with Compatriots Dave Button and Mike Weyler, participated at a wreath laying ceremony at the reconstructed birthplace of President James Monroe at Colonial Beach. Over 40 heritage organizations and chapters participated in the wreath laying ceremony to celebrate the birthdate of the Fifth President of the United States.



(L-R) Compatriots Dave Button, Michael Wilson, Mike Weyler

April 22, 2024: Osbourn Park High School High School ROTC Awards



ROTC Cadet Mario Reyes (L) received a SAR ROTC award of medal and certificate at Osbourn Park High School on Monday, April 22, 2024. The award was presented by Compatriot Dave Button (R).

April 25, 2024: Woodbridge Senior High School ROTC Awards



ROTC Cadet Austin Williams (L) received a SAR ROTC award of medal and certificate at Woodbridge Senior High School on Thursday, April 25, 2024. The award was presented by compatriot Dave Button (R).

April 28, 2024: James Monroe's 266th Birthday Celebration at His Tomb, Richmond, VA.

Compatriot Dave Button presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter's Wreath at the commemoration of the birthdate of President James Monroe at the site of his tomb at the historic Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. Approximately fifty organizations, including representatives from the state and local governments, were there presenting their wreaths on this the 264th anniversary of President Monroe's birth.



May 18, 2024: CWG Chapter Meeting Highlights, Manassas, Virginia

Adrianna Cline was recognized as 1st Place Winner of the Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Program Eagle Statue and Patch.



Adrianna Cline (L) receives award from CWGC President Michael Wilson (R)



Tim Cline (L) receives the Eagle Scout Recognition Medal from CWGC President Michael Wilson (R)



CWGC President Michael Wilson (L) presents award to Twisha Sinha (R), 1st Place Winner of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest (chapter and state)

Peter M. Findler, the CWGC and VASSAR winner of the Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher 2024 contest, was the guest speaker and read his essay *Revolutionary Resilience: The Importance of Teaching the American Revolution*



Peter M. Findler speaks on Revolutionary Resilience

May 26, 2024: Gold Good Citizenship Medal Presentation, Gunston Hall, Virginia



Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, supported our Compatriots of the George Mason Chapter in the presentation of the Gold Citizenship Medal to Enes Kantor Freedom. In attendance at this national event were President General John Dodd, Treasurer General Michael Elston and a number of Compatriots from SAR, DAR, and CAR. In attendance from our Chapter were President Michael Wilson, Vice President Andrew Mills, Quartermaster Jack Mills, and former Chapter President Mike Weyler.

The SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal is awarded for outstanding and unusual patriotic achievement and service of national importance to persons of prominence on a national level in the areas of government (including military service), religion, education, business and other professions, and other fields of endeavor. Enes has used his international platform as a successful professional basketball player to promote America's First Amendment freedoms in the United States and throughout the world.

May 27, 2024: National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, D.C.



CWG Chapter President Michael Wilson (2nd from left) carried the U.S. National Flag in the annual National Memorial Day Parade

May 30, 2024: SAR flag certificate presented to The Merit School of Prince William



Compatriot Dave Button presented the SAR flag certificate to The Merit School of Prince William. Until recently, the flag now being flown by the school flew from the tank a parent of one of the pupils. The parent presented the flag after returning from deployment.

June 1 – 2, 2024:

On June 1, CWG Chapter President Michael Wilson attended an Honor Flight (which celebrates America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials). Compatriot Wilson assisted the VASSAR Color Guard at Shenandoah University in Winchester as VASSAR provided presentation of colors and a walk of honor for veterans boarding the buses for Washington D.C.

On the same day, Compatriot Wilson participated in the VASSAR Color Guard, presented the CWG Chapter wreath and flag at the Sergeant Major John Champe and Fairfax Resolves Chapter 243rd Anniversary of General Anthony Wayne's Crossing of the Potomac.

On June 2, Compatriot Wilson travelled to Amelia, VA to participate in the SAR Patriot Burials Roadside Marker Dedication Honoring Major Joseph Eggleston. President Wilson presented the CWG Chapter wreath.



CWG Chapter President Wilson (3rd from L)



June 4, 2024: Prince William County Supervisors Honor Adoption of the Prince William Resolves

Compatriot Ross Schwalm joined Leah Schmid, Regent of the Prince William Resolves Chapter, DAR at a meeting of the Prince William County Supervisors. The Supervisors approved a Proclamation honoring the adoption of the Prince William Resolves on June 6, 1774.



Compatriot Ross Schwalm (3rd from left)

June 6, 2024: 250th Anniversary of the Prince William Resolves, Dumfries, Virginia



June 6, marked the 250th Anniversary of the Prince William Resolves. This document was the first to repudiate Parliament for taxation without representation and urged the ban on importing goods from England. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR was proud to the support the Prince William Resolves Society, DAR, in the unveiling of a new plaque dedicated to this event. Vice President Andrew Mills (R) and former Chapter President Ross Schwalm (L) were present for the event along with Ken Morris (George Mason Chapter) and Jim Bush (Culpeper Minutemen Chapter).

June 8, 2024: 248th Anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, Lorton, Virginia

Colonel William Grayson Chapter members Andrew Mills, Mike Weyler, Michael Wilson, Chuck Mills, Jack Mills and George Ax Sr. joined other VASSAR Chapters in commemorating the event.



June 8, 2024: Prince William Resolves Celebrated in Dumfries, Virginia



Compatriots Ross Schwalm (L) and George Ax Sr. (L) supported the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation event celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Prince William Resolves.

June 14, 2024: Compatriot Charles Wagner's Toast to the Flag on Flag Day

Compatriots Charles Wagner and James Williams collaborated in producing this stirring and timeless “Toast to the Flag”.



<https://fb.watch/lgpulgqj9d/>

Historical Notes:



George Mason

The Fifth Virginia Convention met in Williamsburg on May 6, 1776. There were three power groups represented at the Fifth Convention. The more conservative group represented the wealthy planters. The second group was made up of the political philosophers, George Mason, George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The third group was a mainly from western Virginia and included radicals, such as Patrick Henry, who had supported independence earlier than 1775.

On May 15, the Convention declared that the government of Virginia as “formerly exercised” by King George in Parliament was “totally dissolved.” On June 7, Richard Henry Lee, one of Virginia's delegates to the Continental Congress, following the instructions of the Virginia Convention, proposed that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved.” While the Continental Congress debated Richard Henry Lee’s proposal, the Virginia Convention adopted George Mason's “Virginia Declaration of Rights”

A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free convention which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government.

Section 1. That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

Section 2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants and at all times amenable to them.

Section 3. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration. And that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community has an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

Section 4. None of mankind is entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services; which, not being descendible, neither ought the offices of magistrate, legislator, or judge to be hereditary.

Section 5. That the legislative and executive powers of the state should be separate and distinct from the judiciary; and that the members of the two first may be restrained from oppression, by feeling and participating the burdens of the people, they should, at fixed periods, be reduced to a private station, return into that body from which they were originally taken, and the vacancies be supplied by frequent, certain, and regular elections, in which all, or any part, of the former members, to be again eligible, or ineligible, as the laws shall direct.

Section 6. That elections of members to serve as representatives of the people, in assembly ought to be free; and that all men, having sufficient evidence of permanent common interest with, and attachment to, the community, have the right of suffrage and cannot be taxed or deprived of their property for public uses without their own consent or that of their representatives so elected, nor bound by any law to which they have not, in like manner, assented for the public good.

Section 7. That all power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights and ought not to be exercised.

Section 8. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions a man has a right to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses, to call for evidence in his favor, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury of twelve men of his vicinage, without whose unanimous consent he cannot be found guilty; nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; that no man be deprived of his liberty except by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers.

Section 9. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 10. That general warrants, whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, or whose offense is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive and ought not to be granted.

Section 11. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the ancient trial by jury is preferable to any other and ought to be held sacred.

Section 12. That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

Section 13. That a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

Section 14. That the people have a right to uniform government; and, therefore, that no government separate from or independent of the government of Virginia ought to be erected or established within the limits thereof.

Section 15. That no free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

Section 16. That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other.