



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

Volume **17**, Issue **3**

July - September 2024

President's Comments – Michael Wilson

Over the summer I have had the pleasure of representing you and the great Compatriots of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter at several different *Sons of the American Revolution* (SAR) events throughout the great state of Virginia and neighboring states.

This year's 134th Annual Congress (NSSAR) was held at the Marriot at Penn Square, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Where I and my family were well received by the National officers and their wives, as this was mine and my family's first time attending. The most memorable event, by far, was Friday night's *Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration* finalist contest. It was a true delight to witness such talent as each finalist "*perpetuates the stories of patriotism, courage, and tragedy*" in-person. Each presentation was amazing! Then we learned that the first-place winner had just fifteen minutes to prepare because of travel delays; this was jaw-dropping. All six days were full of business sessions, tours, Memorial Services and voting. Our chapter was recognized and awarded the *President General's Education Outreach Streamer*, while the students and teacher that competed and won our Chapter's *Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher contest*, *The Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout contest*, *Outstanding JROTC Cadet*, and the *Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration* contest – *also placing first at State*, were recognized as National finalists in their respective categories. Dr. Michael Weyler, Chuck Mills, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills and their families were all elegantly stylish in their formal attire with decorations as compatriot Jack Mills carried the Georgia State flag as he participated in the NSSAR Color Guard opening ceremonies for the *President General's Banquet*, Sunday, July 14, 2023.

The next 135th Annual Congress will be hosted by the Connecticut Society in 2025; and in 2026 it will be hosted by North Carolina Society.

This year's VASSAR 2024 Semi-Annual was held at the Lodge Colonial Williamsburg; our chapter hosted seven workshops the weeks prior to the event, and we were recognized for our "*exemplary service [in] ensuring*

the success of the 2024 Semi-Annual meeting.” The Virginia Society Board of Management graciously awarded our chapter with a *Resolution of Thanks & Commendation* certificate. And during the *President’s Awards Banquet* held on Saturday night, September 14th, I had the honor of receiving Michael Blythe’s *Liberty Medal Certificate with Oak leaf Cluster*, which I plan to present to him on October 12, 2024, during our Chapter meeting, at the VFW in Manassas, 11am – 1pm. Congratulations Mike!

With school now back in session, I look forward to working with our *Youth Awards Program* Chairmen and Committee members as we search Prince William County for the next contestants in the *George & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest, Middle School Brochure Contest, Elementary School Poster Contest, or the Eagle Scout & Scholarship or ROTC/JROTC Cadet Recognition programs*. The Youth Award Programs promotes character, increases our youth’s confidence in themselves, and promotes critical thinking skills, all while fostering civic responsibility.

And don’t forget about the *Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the Year*. We need great teachers to award, too! Print out a Youth Award Program (digital) flyer and distribute amongst various communities and churches. We need your support.

Lastly, our Americanism report is looking good but needs your entries! If you have participated in **Color Guard activities, National Historical site memorials and celebrations**, given **speeches/lectures** to the SAR, DAR or CAR chapters, other civic groups, other youth organizations or other entities, or even **financially contributed** to any of the society programs, please let George Axe (gaxsr39@outlook.com), our Americanism Report Chairman, or myself (mbwilson@icloud.com) know. Each compatriot’s activities count as shown in the 2023 National Americanism results. For example, our chapter was ranked 10th out of 23 submissions for chapters of 150+ members within the National Society, with a total score of 8,711 last year. While third place went to an Alabama Society chapter with a total of 11,640, a difference of 2,930 points can set us apart in a National Society competition.

As we approach the fall season, our chapter treasurer, Jeff Windland, has by now sent each compatriot an email or letter informing us that our society membership dues are now payable via [MemberClicks](#), PayPal, or by check. Chapter dues are still \$20, while State dues are \$30 and National dues are \$50. If you are a National Life Member, you should not have to pay the \$50 dues fee. Membership dues are due before December 31, 2024.

In closing, please join me in giving a warm welcome and congratulations to our newest chapter members: *John W. Collier, Dr. David L. Whittington, Brody L. Tuthill, Lanny Y. Tuthill, Scott B. Tuthill, Matthew R. Mosley, Robert F. Wagner and Stephen A. Stoops*. Also, the Board of Managers will be presenting the 2025 Colonel William Grayson Chapter Officer slate at the October 12, 2024, meeting, held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 7589, Manassas during the hours of 11am – 1pm. It is still not too late to submit your name for one of the various Officer positions or committees.

Finally, thank you! You, the great compatriots of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, for your continuous support and generous donations to the chapter. All monthly donations or annual contributions can be sent to our chapter Treasurer, Jeff Windland (jkwind@aol.com).

Events Attended

Since JUL 2024

- 25th Jul'24 – NSSAR Genealogy Zoom Meeting – (Michael Blythe also in attendance)
- 4th Jul'24 – The 63rd Annual Independence Day March to the Tomb and Wreath-laying Ceremony, Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon, VA in Colonial attire and participated in the Color Guard march to the Tomb. This was a National Sponsored event.
- 4th Jul'24 – American Celebration Living History Day, First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line, Mount Vernon, VA – Colonial attire. Re-enacting the life as a colonial soldier (Historical presentation).
- 7th Jul'24 – Culpeper's Original Courthouses, the Stamp act Protest, and the Culpeper Resolves Historical Marker, Museum of Culpeper History, Culpeper, VA in blazer and tie with wreath. This was a Chapter Sponsored event.
- 11th- 15th Jul'24 – 134th Annual Congress NSSAR Congress, Lancaster, PA. This was a National Sponsored event.
- 15th Jul'24 – VASSAR 2024 Semi-Annual Planning Committee meeting, Lancaster, PA
- 27th Jul'24 – VASSAR 2024 Semi-Annual Planning Committee (Zoom) meeting
- 3rd Aug'24 – Awarded Compatriot Robert Brunner the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate, Lake Manassas Health and Rehabilitation Center, Gainesville, VA
- 9th Aug'24 – Attended C.A.R. Providence Officer Induction, Fairfax County, VA
- 11th Aug'24 – 1st Virginia Convention & 248th Anniversary of the First Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Virginia, Leesburg, VA in Colonial attire with wreath and flag. Read parts of the Declaration of Independence to the audience. This was a Chapter Sponsored event.
- 14th Aug'24 – VASSAR 2024 Semi-Annual Planning Committee (Zoom) meeting
- 26th Aug'24 – (Hosted) VASSAR Semi-Annual Veterans Affairs (Zoom) Workshop
- 26th Aug'24 – (Hosted) VASSAR Semi-Annual Americanism (Zoom) Workshop
- 27th Aug'24 – (Hosted) VASSAR Semi-Annual 'Hosting a Day Long Genealogy (Zoom) Workshop
- 28th Aug'24 – (Hosted) VASSAR Semi-Annual Pomeroy Grant Program (Zoom) Workshop
- 29th Aug'24 – (Hosted) VASSAR Semi-Annual Grave Marking (Zoom) Workshop

- 3rd Sep'24 – (Hosted) VASSAR Semi-Annual MemberClicks (Zoom) Workshop
- 5th Sep'24 – VASSAR Color Guard Committee (Zoom) meeting
- 7th Sep'24 – DAR 9/11 Wreath-Laying Ceremony, Pentagon Chapter, NSDAR, 9/11 Memorial, Pentagon, VA in blazer and tie with wreath.
- 11th Sep'24 – American Legion VA Boys & Girl State Banquet, Middleburg, VA. Promoting SAR Youth Programs and recruiting potential candidates.
- 11th Sep'24 – (Hosted) VASSAR Semi-Annual PRS & Virginia SAR – Related Patriot Program (Zoom) Workshop
- 13th – 14th Sep'24 – VASSAR Semi-Annual meeting, Colonial Williamsburg, VA
- 13th Sep'24 – Participated in VASSAR Semi-Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony, Colonial Williamsburg, VA. This was a State sponsored event.
- 13th Sep'24 – Attended VASSAR Semi-Annual Board of Management meeting, Colonial Williamsburg, VA
- 14th Sep'24 – Dr. John M. Galt, Judge Joseph Prentis, and Dr. Anthony T. Dixon Grave Marking Ceremony, Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA in blazer and tie with wreath and flag. This was a State sponsored event.
- 16th Sep'24 – PWC Rev War memorial Fund Raising (Zoom) meeting
- 19th Sep'24 – VASSAR Color Guard (Zoom) meeting

Upcoming Events to Attend

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

- 21st Sep'24 – Commemoration of the Founding of the Fairfax Independent company of Volunteers, Fairfax Resolves, Ft. Belvoir, VA – Colonial Attire
- 21st Sep'24 – President General (NSSAR) Wreath Laying at Tomb of the Unknown, Arlington, VA – Colonial Attire
- 22nd Sep'24 – Commemoration of Robert Carter III, James Monroe Chapter, Heathsville, PA – Colonial Attire, wreath and flag

- 28th Sep'24 – Commemoration of John Champe's Death near Ft. Prickett, Prickett's Fort Cemetery, Fairmont, WV – Colonial Attire, wreath and flag

For information on statewide events, go to the VASSAR website virginia-sar.org/vassarpress22/ and click on calendar. (You may have to set up an account, your login is your national SAR membership number.) As events are posted by various chapters, they will appear.

Vice President's Corner – Andrew Mills

The 134th Congress took place this past July in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and was a time which saw compatriots from across the country and, in some cases, from other parts of the world come together in solidarity to discuss the upcoming year for the Sons of the American Revolution.

The largest area of contention dealt with the issue of the application fees being raised. This topic proved to be a raucous and contentious issue as members weighed both the pros and cons of the fee raise. While many acknowledged the need to raise these fees as a method to help pay for the staff who works on these applications at the National Headquarters, others pointed out how this fee raise, in addition to last year's dues raise, can have an adverse effect on our organization as it can price current members out and prevent them from renewing their membership, but also make prospective members think twice about joining. The final vote on this measure was 127 in favor to 124 against.

The closeness of this vote highlighted the importance and value of every member's vote along with their participation in the SAR. As we get ready to bring 2024 to a close and start to think ahead for 2025, we should consider how our individual talents can best help the Chapter in the New Year. Is your hobby genealogy? Are you artistic? Perhaps you want to join the Color Guard. There are many opportunities available for you to help the Chapter. When compatriots take an active part in their Chapter, they discover how much fun there is coming out to events and the satisfaction of seeing a particular project come to completion.

Please consider looking at your personal calendars at home and seeing if you could volunteer a little time to the Chapter in many of our amazing committees or attend an event hosted by our Chapter or another Chapter. Your engagement with Chapter activities gives all of us more unity and strength as a Chapter and ensures the legacy of our Patriot ancestors lives on in the heart of our community.

Registrar's Report - Mike Blythe

We welcome several new compatriots to the chapter whose applications were approved this summer: Stephen A. Stoops resides in Montclair and is a descendant of Peter Thompson who served as a private in the New Hampshire Militia.

Lanny Tuthill and his son, Scott, and grandson, Brody of Dumfries. Their patriot ancestor is Nathan Tuthill who served in the Suffolk County, New York, Militia, 1st Regiment of Minute Men and signed the Suffolk County Association in Brookhaven in 1775.

John W. Collier, grandson of Bill Collier, a descendant of William Winchester who was a member of the Committee of Correspondence in Maryland.

To date, nine new members have joined the chapter in 2024. Currently, there are three new member applications pending review, as well as nine supplemental applications.

As of 1 September, the cost of applying to the SAR increased to \$257: \$150 NSSAR new member application fee, \$50 first year's dues, \$12 VASSAR, and \$45 Col William Grayson Chapter. Junior Member applications increased to \$107: \$75 NSSAR application fee, \$5 first year's dues, \$12 VASSAR, and \$15 Col William Grayson Chapter.

Muster Role – Color Guard Commander - Andrew Mills

The Color Guard was in exceptional form over the summer as our members repeatedly answered the call of duty when asked to support events throughout Virginia and beyond. During the 134th Congress, held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Compatriot Michael Weyler and I took part in the memorial service for compatriots who passed away over the last year. The march from the Convention Center to Trinity Church (distance of half a mile) saw almost seventy-five members of the National Color Guard march through the streets of Lancaster while the church bells rang out patriotic notes throughout the city. Inside the church, the organist played many patriotic songs, including the Star-Spangled Banner at the end of the memorial.

During Congress, Compatriots Ray Hawkins and Bud Wagner represented our Chapter at the Commemoration of the Essex Resolves.

On August 3, Compatriots Ray Hawkins, Bud Wagner, Bill Groth, and Jack Mills joined Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills in the Shootout for Soldiers Lacrosse Tournament Opening Ceremonies. Despite the arrival of a summer thunderstorm, our guardsmen were able to support the Battlefield High School JROTC as an honor guard for the event.

Perhaps the greatest support provided by our guard during the summer months was the March to the Tomb on the Fourth of July at Mount Vernon. Guardsmen of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter made up half of the guardsmen at the event and each participant had an important role at the event. Commander Mills was the Color Guard Commander for the event. President Wilson served as a musket man with the Color Guard wearing his Continental uniform. Compatriot Ray Hawkins had the honor of carrying the America 250th Flag, while Compatriots Mel Hurley, Jack Mills, and Ross Schwalm were joined by Glenn Moss of the John Paul John Chapter to be tomb guards during the wreath and carnation laying at the tomb of General George Washington.

Huzzah for the Guard! Huzzah!

CWG VASSAR, SAR ROTC, Jr. ROTC, Sea Cadets Activities 2024 to date – John Callaway

Presentations made:

10 February 2024, Cadet MSgt Yashvir Sabharwal of Battlefield High School, was presented the SAR Enhanced JROTC Cadet Chapter award by Virginia SAR President Ernie Coggins, joined by Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Michael Wilson (R) and JROTC Program Chair John Callaway (L), at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond. The award consists of a Bronze Medallion, Certificate, and check for \$100.00.

Cadet Sabharwal was also presented the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) Silver Medallion, Certificate, and check for \$1000.00 for his first place finish in the State Competition. VASSAR will be entering Cadet Sabharwal into the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) competition in May.



Virginia SAR President Ernie Coggins, joined by Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Michael Wilson (R) and JROTC Program Chair John Callaway (L), presents the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) JROTC Enhanced Cadet Chapter and State Awards to Cadet Sabharwal, Battlefield High School at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond.

9 April 2024, Cadet Captain Oscar Arroyo, American Military Academy, Puerto Rico, was presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by the school's Senior Military Instructor, LTC Ricardo Alonso, for the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR.

No Photo is available.

22 April 2024, Cadet Mario Reyes, Osbourn Park High School, was presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Chapter Secretary Dave Button. Chapter Compatriots Ross Schwalm, Charles Wagner, and John Callaway were also in attendance.



Cadet Mario Reyes, Osbourn Park High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Secretary Dave Button during the Osbourn Park High School awards ceremony 22 April 2024.

24 April 2024, Cadet Justin Harris, Freedom High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, JROTC Program Chairman John Callaway.



25 April 2024, Cadet Austin Williams, Woodbridge High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter Secretary Dave Button.



25 April 2024, Cadet Cameron Kim, Battlefield High School, was presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Michael Wilson. The Colonel William Grayson JROTC Programs Chairman, John Callaway assisted.



25 April 2024, Cadet MSgt Yashvir Sabharwal, Battlefield High School, is presented A certificate of achievement for his nomination to the SAR Enhanced JROTC Cadet Competition by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR, President Michael Wilson. The Colonel William Grayson JROTC Programs Chairman, John Callaway assisted. As a side note Cadet Sabharwal was promoted to Cadet Major and assumed command of the Unit.



30 April 2024, Cadet Sgt Jacob Rodriguez, Gar-Field High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, JROTC Programs Chairman John Callaway during the Gar-Field High School awards ceremony.



2 May 2024, Cadet SMSgt Ben Jensen, Unity Reed High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Chaplain and Past President Richard Potter. Cadet Jensen was also presented with a Certificate of Achievement for nomination to the SAR Enhanced JROTC Cadet Competition.



2 May 2024, Cadet Seaman Dianella Rivermann, Potomac High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, JROTC Programs Chairman John Callaway.



3 May 2024, Cadet Major Jorge Valerio Carbot, Antilles Military Academy, Puerto Rico, was presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by the school's Senior Military Instructor, LTC Victor Morales, for the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR.

No Photo is available.

10 May 2024, Cadet Tyler Peeler, CD Hylton High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, JROTC Programs Chairman John Callaway.



21 May 2024, Cadet Captain James Lee, Forest Park High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Past President Ross Schwalm.



23 May 2024, Cadet Camden Chambers, Quantico Middle/High School, is presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal by Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Past President Ross Schwalm.



Upcoming Events

October 3rd, 2024, Thursday - Fall Leadership, Louisville, KY. **Event Level: National**

October 12, 2024: CWG Chapter Meeting will be held at the VFW Post at 9304 Centreville Road in Manassas. The meeting will begin at 11:00 with the time from 10:30 until 11:00 being for arrival, registration, and conversation. The speaker of the hour will be Mr. Stephen Wilson who will be speaking on the topic History of St. John's Church leading to March 23, 1775 and Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech.

October 17, 2024: Thursday (10:30 am and 1:30 pm), Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour, Mount Vernon, VA. This event is part of a continuum of Lafayette 200th Anniversary events, co-hosted with the American Friends of Lafayette and Mt. Vernon. This will be a reenactment of Lafayette's visit to Mt Vernon in 1824. Much of what was said has been transcribed verbatim will enhance the reenactment. The event will occur at the Old Tomb.

October 19, 2024: Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown, 9:15 am. Yorktown, VA.

National event. Hosted by the Virginia SAR including a wreath laying at the grave of Gov. Thomas Nelson Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church, 111 Church St., in Yorktown and followed by the Yorktown Victory parade. Rev War uniforms preferred, Standard SAR civilian attire ok.

October 21st, 2023, Saturday (11:00 am) - Culpeper Minutemen Muster, Culpeper, VA. **Event Level: State**

November 2, 2024: Annual Northern Virginia Veterans Parade; Sat., 11 a.m. in Old Town Manassas, Va.

November 11, 2024: Veteran's Day Wreath laying at the tomb of George Washington, Mount Vernon Estate.
Event Level: National

November 16, 2024: CWG Chapter Meeting will be held at the VFW Post at 9304 Centreville Road in Manassas. The meeting will begin at 11:00 with the time from 10:30 until 11:00 being for arrival, registration, and conversation.

December 7, 2024: Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge. Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Historical Foundation, 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, VA. **National event.**

December 16 -17, 2024: Wreaths Across America. **National event.**

Chapter Activities and News

June 23, 2024: Chief Justice John Marshall Grave Marking, Richmond, VA



(L-R) Dr. Michael Weyler and Michael Wilson

July 4, 2024: March to the Tomb of George Washington

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was well represented as many members came out for the March to the Tomb at Mount Vernon. Compatriots Michael Wilson, Andrew Mills, Ray Hawkins, Jack Mills, Ross Schwalm and Mel Hurley participated with the Color Guard or Honor Guard.

Marching with other members of the SAR were Compatriots Dave Button and Chuck Mills.



Leading the SAR column was our CWG Commander Andrew Mills (R) and VSSAR President Bill Greaf (C).



Compatriots Dave Button (L) and Ray Hawkins (R)

July 10-16, 2024: 134th SAR National Congress, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

CWG President Michael Wilson, CWG Vice President Andrew Mills, Quartermaster Jack Mills, Compatriot Chuck Mills, and Compatriot Mike Weyler represented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter at the 134th SAR Congress.



National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution President General Dodd presented a folio reportedly owned by Napoleon Bonaparte to Congress. While not part of the American Revolution, Napoleon did say, "They wanted me to be another Washington."



The Virginia Delegation

Virginia was well represented at the 134th Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

July 14, 2024: Completion of Repairs on the Grayson Tomb

Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Michael Wilson announced that repairs on the Grayson Tomb have been completed.



July 18, 2024: Firefighters Receive SAR Fire Safety Commendation Award

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter awarded the SAR Fire Safety Commendation award to two Firefighters from the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Fire and Emergency Services. They were Firefighter Freddie Holzberger and Firefighter Bradley Stouffer. Their citations read:

Firefighter Fred Holzberger is Fort McNair Station 46 “go to guy.” In less than a year of service, he has successfully completed operators’ licenses for all department apparatus. His attention to detail and leadership by example is exhibited by continual volunteering to man various shifts and completing all assigned and unassigned tasks to completion. Firefighter Holzberger performance of duty is a great reflection not only to himself, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Fire & Emergency Services and the entire Firefighting profession.

Firefighter Bradley Stouffer is one of the few members of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Fire & Emergency Services Station 161 than can perform all roles in the engine company. He consistently assumes the role of acting officer in the Company. Firefighter Stouffer participates in several organizational committees such as the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus committee where he ensured that all department members have proper SCBA equipment fit and are certified to operate their equipment. In addition he also serves as a mentor to newly assigned firefighters, assisting them in quickly becoming fully qualified members of the Station. Firefighter Stouffer also serves as the Vice President of the local Firefighters Union in assisting members with their professional needs. Firefighter Stouffer performance of duty is a great reflection not only to himself, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Fire & Emergency Services and the entire Firefighting profession.



(L-R) Bradley Stouffer, Compatriot William Collier, Freddie Holzberger

August 3, 2024: Shootout for Soldiers Lacrosse Tournament.

Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter Color Guard took part in the opening ceremonies of the Shootout for Soldiers lacrosse tournament. Forty veterans were taking part in the game which followed the ceremonies.



(L-R) Buddy Wagner, Jack Mills, Andrew Mills, Ray Hawkins, Bill Groth

August 11, 2024: 1st Virginia Convention & 248th Anniversary of the First Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Virginia, Leesburg, VA

Compatriot Michael Wilson, accompanied by his lovely family, read portions of the Declaration of Independence at the event.



September 11, 2024: 9-11 National Day of Remembrance, Fairfax, VA



Compatriot George Ax Sr. attended a 9/11 National Day of Remembrance Ceremony at the Woodleigh Chase Community in Fairfax, VA.

September 13, 2024: Col. William Longborn Grave Marking, New Kent, Virginia

Compatriot George Ax Sr. represented the Chapter at the Col. William Longborn Grave Marking on 13 September 2024 at Saint Peters Episcopal Church, New Kent, VA.



September 14, 2024: Dr. John M. Galt, Judge Joseph Prentis, and Dr. Anthony T. Dixon Grave Marking Ceremony, Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA



L-R Ken Morris, Dr. Michael Weyler, Michael Wilson, George Ax Sr.

September 14, 2024: SAR Color Guard Annual Vigil at the Tomb of George Washington

On September 14, The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard conducted a day long vigil at the Tomb of George and Martha Washington. SAR members from as far away as Michigan, Georgia and Texas participated in the annual event. After posting the U.S. and Washington Commander-in-Chief's flag, the Compatriots were divided into groups which stood fifteen-minute tours throughout the day. Compatriots Andrew Mills and Jack Mills from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter represented Virginia at this National event.

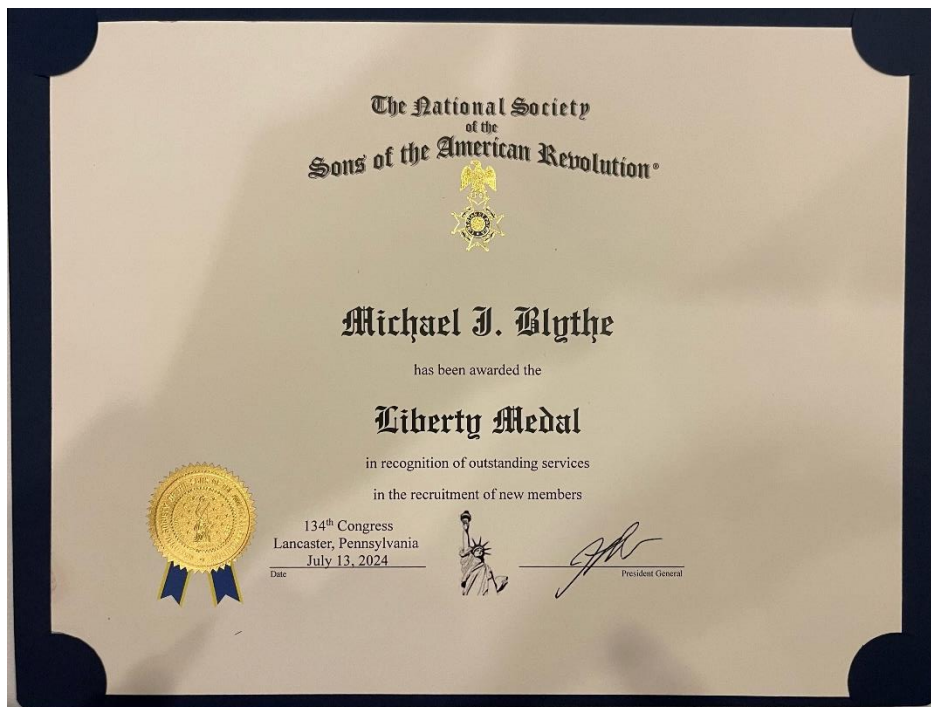


(R) Compatriots Andrew and Jack Mills at the Washington Tomb Vigil

September 13 - 14, 2024: VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, Va.

Compatriots Michael Wilson, George Ax, Sr., and Mike Weyler attended the VASSAR General Membership meeting

Compatriot Michael Blythe, CWG Chapter Genealogist and Registrar, was awarded the Liberty Medal Certificate and Oak Leaf Cluster for his “outstanding services in recruiting new members” to the chapter and the SAR.



The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was recognized for “exemplary service, in the manner of true Virginia Gentleman, ensuring the success of the 2024 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Society.”

Historical Notes:



Grave of the Marquis de Lafayette

This photograph, provided by CWG Chapter Compatriot George Raymond, is of Lafayette's grave near the American embassy in Paris. Lafayette is one of eight honorary citizens buried here. The grave site is maintained by the embassy.

The Marquis and the Spy



An enslaved man in New Kent County known as James Armistead, learning that slaves who served the American cause could apply for freedom when the war ended, asked his owner William Armistead, an ardent

Patriot, if he could volunteer to serve with the Marquis de Lafayette's army defending Virginia against the British invasion of 1781. William Armistead agreed.

Lafayette, a long-time opponent of slavery who once wrote to George Washington, "I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of America if I could have conceived that thereby I was founding a land of slavery," found James Armistead very able and offered him a dangerous mission, namely to become a spy on the British. Posing as a runaway slave, Armistead made his way to the camp of the traitor Benedict Arnold at Portsmouth. Armistead offered his services as a guide and forager. The British accepted him.

James Armistead must have been a very persuasive individual because not only did he earn the trust of Benedict Arnold, but he also soon gained the trust of General Lord Cornwallis. Cornwallis made Armistead an orderly, which put him in the rooms where British military plans were being discussed. He passed that information to fellow spies who sneaked through the lines to deliver the intelligence to Lafayette.

In a strange turn of events, Lord Cornwallis now asked Armistead to spy on the Americans. He took up the offer and was now in the position of being able to supply the Americans with accurate information about British plans and capabilities, while feeding the British misinformation. Armistead's reports to Generals Lafayette and Washington were vital to the American victory at Yorktown.

After Yorktown, Armistead returned to the plantation on which he was enslaved. Although Virginia passed a manumission act in 1782 allowing any slave who fought in the Revolution to apply to become free, subsequent legislation limited manumission to slaves who had carried guns and been soldiers. James did not serve as a soldier, but as a spy, and so was not eligible for emancipation. His first petition was ignored.

James Armistead tried again in 1786. This time his petition was strongly supported by his owner William Armistead, now a member of the House of Delegates, and by a personal testimonial from the Marquis de Lafayette in favor of granting freedom based on service during the war. On January 9, 1787 James was declared a free man. Upon receiving the news he added "Lafayette" as his surname and was thereafter known as James Armistead Lafayette. James Armistead Lafayette became a successful farmer near Richmond. He was later granted an annual pension for his service during the Revolutionary War.

In 1824, the now sixty seven year old Marquis de Lafayette returned to the United States at the invitation of President James Monroe. His year-long tour of all 24 states was a magnificent patriotic celebration. He would be escorted between cities by the state militia, and would enter each town through newly built triumphal arches to be welcomed by huge crowds. There were special events, patriotic speeches, and celebratory dinners.

One of the cities Lafayette visited was Richmond. While making his way through the throngs of people in Richmond, he suddenly ordered his carriage to stop. He had seen his old comrade in arms James Armistead in the crowd. The Marquis de Lafayette left his carriage and made his way on foot through the crowd. After a separation of over forty years the two old veterans embraced.

