



The Richmond SAR Newsletter

Published by the Richmond Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution



April 2020



COVID-19 Outbreak Shuts Down Chapter Programs and Activities for Foreseeable Future Willow Oaks Country Club Closed for Luncheons.

Compatriots – I can only report what you undoubtedly know for yourself, there will likely be no Richmond SAR luncheons or dinners until at least early September due to public meeting prohibitions in place by gubernatorial directive. As a rule, our Chapter does not meet in the months of June, July and August anyway, which gives us precautionary time even if the Governor's directive is lifted sooner than June 10. Planning for this July's 2020 SAR National Congress in Richmond continues, albeit cautiously. From various messages I've read, NSSAR expects the show to go on as scheduled in July or to look at it another way, the NSSAR Congress has not been cancelled yet.

We wish you good health, safety, strength and, above all, plenty of virus resistance.
And we hope to see you soon.

Sincerely -
Dennis C. Peterson
Chapter President
April 9, 2020

COVID-19 TAKES A TOLL WITH CANCELLATIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR OBSERVANCES IN 2020



April 2018



The Annual James Monroe birthdate commemorations at Hollywood Cemetery and at his Westmoreland County birth site have been cancelled this year. Similar commemorations at James Madison's Montpelier and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello were also called off. Re-enactors observing Benedict Arnold's raid on Richmond from Westover Plantation and at Historic St. John's Church barely got their programs in before the prohibition of public meetings.



**VASSAR Recognizes Chapter 2019 Achievements at March 12 Luncheon;
Supplemental Certificate Awarded to Compatriot James Russell**



**William Haskins is Richmond Chapter Registrar
as well as Registrar for VASSAR.**





Flags Inspired A New Country

We were pleased to welcome VASSAR's 1st Vice President Jeff Thomas of Fairfax as our guest speaker March 12. He shared a fascinating history of significant flags used during the Revolutionary War and presented the Chapter with a speaker's kit which we can use to educate 4th Grade history classes. A Compatriot wishing to assist with this program should please advise a Chapter officer and we will follow up with needed details.



**Parliamentary Move Blocks Discussion of Name Change Charter Amendment; Vote Not Taken.
Charter Changes Concerning Members 85 Plus and Past Chapter Presidents Approved.
NSSAR and VASSAR Dues Now Required for All.**



VASSAR 1st Vice President Jeff Thomas talked about the many flags which united an emerging nation.
Willow Oaks Country Club announced temporary shut down shortly after March 12 luncheon.



Honoring Our Patriot Ancestors

The Richmond Chapter Memorial Fund

Howard Bartholf – *James Varian,
Gilliam Bertholf, Jacobus Bartholf*

Mark S. Brennan, Sr. – *Hendrick deHart*

Peter Broadbent – *Lt. Richard Talbott*

Roderick D. Brown – *Judge Benjamin Waller;*

Richard Spencer Burke – *Hendricus Deyo*

A Brian Cowardin .– *John Cowardin*

Lewis Taylor Cowardin – *John Cowardin*

Douglas Cumins – *George Philip Keister*

Ronald James DePue, Sr. – *Benjamin DePue*

Lowell K. Flickinger – *Pvt. Ralph Cherry*

David Paul Griffith – *James Griffith*

Robert E. Halpern – *Ens. James Sproul*

John A. Harler – *William Sommerville*

Vincent Warrick Kern – *Lewis Hott; Michael Hott*

Dana K. Law – *Pvt Henry Law*

Robert E. Lusk, Jr – *Lt. Reese Bowen, Lily McIlhaney*

Brian K. Miller – *Abel Sholes; Theophilus Avery*

Brent Dean Morgan – *Fauntley Muse*

Dennis C. Peterson - *Capt. John Wyatt*

Lester N. Oberg III – *James Monroe*

Irvin Owings III – *Richard Owings*

Harry A. "Hal" Raddin, Jr. – *Bemjamin Bullard Raddin*

James G. Ralls, Jr – *Samuel Huckstep*

Daniel Renfro - *Victor Renfro*

Mack T. Ruffin, III – *Benjamin Denson*

Donald M. Schwartz – *Joseph Walkup*

Art H. Taylor, III – *Silas Call*

Cullen C. Walker, Jr. – *Paul Carrington*

Alfred B. Whitt – *Thomas Harrison*

Your \$10 donation to this special fund helps honor your Patriot Ancestors and supports the programs and work of the Richmond Chapter of VASSAR.



Jan 9 Annual Awards Luncheon Recognizes Community and SAR Service, Rising Leaders and Patriotism



David Fuller
Hanover Sheriff's Citizen's Advisory Board



Investigator Troy Payne
Hanover Sheriff's Dept.



We honored retired Goochland County Sheriff James Agnew (upper left) for his public service career. Woody Funeral Homes President Lacyn Barton accepted SAR Certificate (upper right) for demonstrating commendable respect and care for the American Flag. Benedictine College Prep Cadet James H. Wentzel was introduced as Winner of Chapter Rumbaugh Orations Contest (lower left). Past President Dana Law thanks Chapter Officers for service in 2019. L to R: Dana Law, Theodore McConnell, John Harler, Beau Robertson, Christopher Yohn. (Not pictured: William Bray, Robert Halpern)

January 9, 2020



Charles Purkins (L) and Mark Slauter (R) are the newest members of the Richmond SAR. Our first in 2020.

Following introductions by Registrar William Haskins, the SAR oath was administered by VASSAR President William Schwetke.

Your Chapter on the go.....



Outgoing VASSAR President Peter Davenport congratulates Smithfield HS JROTC Cadet Barrett Ferguson for recognition in the VASSAR JROTC Enhanced Cadet Program. They met at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond Feb. 8. Cadet Ferguson was nominated by former Richmond Chapter JROTC and ROTC program leader John Harler who matched a Chapter cash award with one of his own.



Although the annual birthdate commemorations honoring President James Monroe were cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 crisis, work on reconstruction of his boyhood home near Colonial Beach is nearing completion. The Richmond SAR is a proud financial contributor to the program.



Chapter President Dennis C. Peterson represented the Richmond SAR at the Annual Leedstown Resolves ceremony in Westmoreland County on February 22.

Richmond SAR Orations Contest Finalists



John Daniel Herrera, Hanover HS,
1st Place - Essay



James Henry Wentzel,
Benedictine College Prep,
1st Place - Orations

Competitors in the Chapter Essay and Orations Contests had their work and performances expertly evaluated by a panel of volunteer judges.

For the Rumbaugh Orations Contest, seen above, the judges met at the Henrico's Gayton Library where they heard finalists John Herrera and James Wentzel deliver their oratory. The judges were (L-to-R) Compatriots Richard Clark II, Brian Miller and Joe Wadle. The Essay Contest judges did their evaluations from home. They included Chris Yohn.

The Knight Essay Contest winner was John Daniel Herrera of Hanover HS who also competed in the Orations Contest.



**The Richmond Chapter
Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution**

**2019-2020
Chapter Leadership**

Officers and Executive Committee

Dennis C. Peterson, President denny234@verizon.net

William M. Haskins, Jr. – 1st Vice President/Registrar

Christopher T. Yohn – 2nd Vice President

William J. Bray, Jr. – 3rd Vice President

Mark Samples – Secretary

Dennis C. Peterson, Acting Treasurer

Brian K. Miller – Chancellor

Rev. Theodore “Ted” McConnell – Chaplain

Harry “Hal” Raddin – Chapter Surgeon

Board of Managers

Dana K. Law, Jr. – Chairman Pro Tempore

Howard Bartholf

Peter Broadbent, Jr. Esq.

John Harler, MD

Merle “Beau” Robertson

(all Past Chapter Presidents have voting privileges on BOM)

Learn more about the Richmond SAR at

richmondchaptersar.org

virginia-sar.org

The Richmond SAR Board of Managers January 25, 2020



As required by our Charter, the Annual Meeting of the Richmond SAR Board of Managers was held Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, this time at Monument Heights Baptist Church courtesy of Past President Howard Bartholf. The nearly three-hour meeting produced a balanced budget, approval of three Charter and By-Laws Amendments and a resignation speech from a former Chapter Program leader. Pictured L-to-R: Brent Morgan and Dennis C. Peterson (seated), Standing are: Howard Bartholf, Chris Yohn, Brian Miller, William Bray, Theodore McConnell, Mark Samples, William Haskins, Beau Robertson and Richard Clark II. Attending but not pictured, Peter Broadbent and Dana Law.

To the Richmond SAR:

Today is the 245th anniversary of Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech.

You, more than anyone, know the importance of Mr. Henry's speech and the effect it has had on the world. As people, even today, struggle for their individual rights and liberties they use Mr. Henry's words to find inspiration and to guide their protests.

My fellow amazing coworkers could not let this momentous anniversary go unnoticed . They worked hard to create our first-ever virtual "Liberty or Death" reenactment.

Here is the link on our YouTube channel:

https://youtu.be/G_F8jejP2tw

We hope this video will be a source of education and entertainment for all those working from home and a great history lesson for children who are out of school.

And, while March 23rd is all about Mr. Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech staff and I are drawing strength from another one of his speeches. In 1799 Mr. Henry gave his last public speech at Charlotte Court House, Virginia in which he spoke against the Kentucky and Virginia Resolves. At that time the newly formed United States were in danger of falling apart. And once again, Mr. Henry using his incredible gifts gave a speech that brought people together.



He said, "United we, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs."

While we weather this storm, we sincerely appreciate the encouragement from everyone in the St. John's Church Foundation family.

We will continue to reach out and keep in touch. Take care!



**Sarah F. Whiting / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH FOUNDATION
E: swhiting@historicstjohnschurch.org**

Remembering Our Friend Jim Robeson 1938 - 2020



Celebrating SAR Night at the Richmond Diamond ballpark in 2017.

We lost our good friend Jim Robeson on February 20, 2020. He was a Past President of our Chapter but mostly the best ambassador the Sons of the American Revolution could have. The rolls of our Chapter are filled with members whose first introduction to our fraternal organization was made by Jim Robeson. Between himself and his late wife Fran, a Past DAR Regent, it would be hard to find a more passionate couple over the SAR mission.

Jim was a retired LCDR in the U.S.N.R. but he was especially proud of his Merchant Marine service after graduating from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1961, which required a Congressional appointment for acceptance. He was instrumental in securing permanent recognition at Virginia's War Memorial for this State's Merchant Seaman lost in WWII.

Although his service as SAR Chapter President was about 10 years ago, Jim rarely missed a meeting or event organized by his Chapter. He was passionate about researching his family history to the end.

Jim Robeson was buried next to his wife at Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. Attached to their headstone are the SAR and DAR emblems. May they rest in peace.



Mark Your Calendar

July 10-16, 2020

130th SAR National Congress

SAR

Downtown Marriott Hotel is HQ
5th and Broad Street

Richmond SAR volunteers are needed in support of Congress events and schedule. Wives and guests are invited too.



Contact Jim O'Kelly
VASSAR Planning Committee Chair for Volunteers
okelly910@comcast.net



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Richmond Chapter,
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