



The Richmond SAR Newsletter



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Wishing you well in these extraordinary times. Planning continues for the NSSAR National Congress with a decision to go or no go expected after mid-May. Possible changes including alternative options are on the table. Congress participants can expect protective masks and loads of sanitizing lotion to be readily available.

No Richmond SAR general meetings, including the resumption of our regular luncheons, are scheduled at this time. Our next general meeting will be a great event though.

New member applications, supplemental applications and other Chapter administrative work continues. We hope to see you soon.

Leadership of the Richmond SAR
April 30, 2020



INSPIRING AMERICAN PATRIOTISM

SINCE **1889.**

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and teaching American history to future generations.




Photo courtesy of Beau Robertson



James Monroe, 5th President of the United States, was not forgotten on his birthday, April 28, when a solitary visitor, our Richmond SAR Compatriot Beau Robertson, paid his respects and snapped this photo of Monroe’s final resting place in Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery. Beau reports, “It was very quiet,” and was not the ceremonial scene we normally enjoy in the President’s memory each year. Your Richmond SAR looks forward to resuming a full schedule of activities honoring the heroes and events of the American Revolution as soon as public meetings are allowed. The leadership of our Chapter extends the very best wishes for your good health and safety.

Correspondence from the Richmond Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution

Compatriot Chris Yohn, Chapter 2nd VP, Remembers “Shot Heard ‘Round The World.”

Patriots’ Day observances have been held for more than a century to honor those who rallied to face the British at Lexington and Concord. It is an important day on the SAR calendar, but the coronavirus pandemic’s stay-at-home orders eliminated the possibility to continue that tradition in-person this year. Yet a way was found to honor our ancestors .

Our compatriots in the Virginia SAR’s Fairfax Resolves Chapter organized the first-ever SAR virtual observance. They extended invitations to fellow Virginia chapters to join them. I was honored to represent the Richmond Chapter and to lay a commemorative wreath on our chapter’s behalf.

SAR compatriots gathered on April 19 to commemorate the 245th anniversary of the battles in a Patriots’ Day observance.

Our patriot ancestors endured dire circumstances in the years leading up to the revolution. They faced insurmountable odds, but embraced innovative strategies. They persevered and won the final victory .and our freedom.

The war began less than a month after Patrick Henry rallied the colonies from Richmond’s St. John’s Church. “Give me liberty or give me death”, he cried. And, freedom’s allure, like a peal of the bell from the church tower, reverberated across the land for all to hear.

British forces pushed out of Boston on April 19, 1775, to capture military stores being stockpiled in the countryside and to capture patriot leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were known to be staying in Lexington.

The battles of Lexington and Concord occurred that day and concluded with the British retreat back to Boston. The enemy failed to capture Adams, Hancock, or the stores. And, the colonials’ victory was the first step on the road to American independence.

Attending an observance from my living room had a different dynamic than in-person ceremonies. But it was every bit as solemn and meaningful as in-person gatherings.

In fact, the simple click of a link in an email transported me through my smartphone screen to being in company with far more people than probably would have attended an in-person event.

The color guard performed its duties admirably, with each member acting individually but effectively operating as a unit.

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Attendees received a welcome from the host chapter and greetings from SAR President General Jack Manning, Virginia SAR President Bill Schwetke and other SAR, DAR and CAR representatives.

The historic accounts of Lexington and Concord were poignant and interesting.

The wreath laying ceremony featured 19 SAR, 15 DAR and 4 CAR organizations.

The overall impression of flags, uniforms, suits, ribbons, and medals, was every bit as much a part of this ceremony as any other. It was a meaningful and caring observance.

It was truly moving to be a part of something that so many people went to such great lengths to plan and accomplish.

My hat is off to our Fairfax Resolves Compatriots for offering this opportunity to participate in such a historic and momentous occasion. And, for not allowing current circumstances to deter us from honoring those who gave us our nation and all that it stands for.

Submitted by
Chris Yohn
2nd VP, Richmond Chapter, VASSAR



Visit us on the web at
richmondchaptersar.org



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. – *Benjamin 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.



Photo Credit Robert Halpern



Compatriot Robert Halpern has been busy this Spring collecting American Flags to be properly retired after, in some cases, rugged service. "If the American Flag and proper etiquette have a better friend in Richmond than our Compatriot Robert Halpern, I've yet to hear of them," said Richmond SAR President Dennis C. Peterson. To date, Robert reports he has 5 boxes of flags collected so far. He'll make sure they have a full useful life too by donating the better ones to worthy persons and organizations. Compatriot Halpern is the long time Flag Committee Chairman of the Richmond SAR. If you know of someone or organization who deserves our recognition for displaying extraordinary respect for our country's Flag, be sure to let Robert hear about it.



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
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