



# The Richmond SAR Newsletter

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



July 2020



## Resumption of Meetings Still Possible in September but.....

The Willow Oaks Country Club has informed us they are prepared to host our scheduled Fall Dinner on Thursday, September 10, 2020 if we would like to proceed with restrictions like mandatory masks and social distancing. Our event remains on their books although members need be prepared for continued postponement if we don't see improvement from headlines like the following from Monday's *Richmond-Times-Dispatch*:

**“Rise in VA. coronavirus cases fueled by spike near beaches.”**

**“Maybe living scrunched up to close to people isn't the best idea when there's a highly contagious and potentially fatal virus going around.”**

Our schedule is a priority item for discussion by the Board of Managers which meets this weekend. If any Chapter member wishes to opine on the subject, please let us know with an e-mail to me by Friday. A go-or-no-go decision will be announced by late August.

Dennis C. Peterson, President, Richmond SAR  
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## **Ceremonies at Yorktown Cancelled for Oct. 2020**

**VASSAR Secretary Wayne Rouse sent us the following memo announcing another casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic.**



**“The Yorktown Day Dinner and reception luncheon have been cancelled. The Yorktown Day Parade has been cancelled. The French Wreath laying ceremonies at the cemetery and memorial will be conducted with minimal attendance. The Yorktown Day Patriotic wreath laying ceremony at the monument will be conducted with minimal attendance; program details have yet to be determined.**

**In addition to the above, the Virginia SAR will be making a determination whether or not a ceremony will be held at Grace Church for the purposes of honoring Gov. Thomas Nelson. Information will be forthcoming.”**

**The Richmond SAR has been a participant in the annual Yorktown victory commemoration ceremonies for many years.**

## New Memorial to Revolutionary War Patriots to be dedicated soon at Shockoe Cemetery



On a date to be announced soon, VASSAR will be dedicating a new Memorial to the Revolutionary War veterans interred in Richmond's Historic Shockoe Cemetery.

Seen here is the VASSAR Color Guard from a previous ceremony there.



# 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.





## Remembering Our Compatriot and Friend

# Rod Brown

1923 - 2020

By Brian Miller, Chancellor, Richmond Chapter, VASSAR

The Richmond Chapter lost one of its most dedicated and illustrious, long-term members last month on June 13, 2020. We had been SAR Compatriots and friends for decades.

Roderick Dew Brown joined the SAR as a descendant of Judge Benjamin Waller, the law teacher of George Wythe. In his youth he became an Eagle Scout and as an adult he actively supported the SAR scouting programs. He served on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army.

Rod and wife Pat moved to Richmond where he joined the SAR and accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments:

**Richmond Chapter President twice in 1975 1991;  
VASSAR President 1980-1981;  
Vice President General for NSSAR of the Mid-Atlantic States;  
Chairman of the Yorktown Committee where he helped organize the Yorktown Bicentennial Celebration, which was attended by President Reagan;  
Member of the Jamestown Society;  
Member and Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars;  
Former member of the Sons of the Revolution;  
Awarded the Gold Good Citizenship Award**

Rod retired from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He was an active member of the SAR for fifty years and was a pillar of our organization. He will be sorely missed.



## Did you know.....

- Three U.S. presidents, George Washington, James Monroe, and Andrew Jackson, actually served during the Revolutionary War.
- Six U.S. presidents were real sons of Revolutionary War patriots. These men included John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Franklin Pierce.
- Five U.S. presidents were the grandsons of Revolutionary War patriots, including James Knox Polk, Millard Fillmore, Abraham Lincoln, Chester A. Arthur, and Grover Cleveland.
- President James A. Garfield was the great-grandson of a Revolutionary War patriot, while President Richard M. Nixon was the great-great-grandson of a patriot.



There have been sixteen Presidents of the United States who were also SAR members.

You can learn more about our organization by visiting [SAR.org](http://SAR.org)

**Back issues of the Richmond SAR Newsletter can be found at [richmondchaptersar.org](http://richmondchaptersar.org)**



— Welcome  
to our newest members

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The Office of the President General of NSSAR has approved the following individuals as the newest Compatriots of the Richmond Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Your Chapter brethren extend a hand of friendship and welcome. We look forward to your induction ceremony at the next opportunity.

- **Samuel Spencer McPeak of Chesterfield, VA**
- **Timothy Richard Fritts of Richmond, VA.**
- **Evan Heath Massie of South Chesterfield, VA**
- **Cecil Harvey Creasey, Jr. of Richmond, VA**
- **William Melville Brown III of Richmond, VA**

A photograph of a hillside covered in thousands of small American flags. In the background, there is a monument with a statue inside, and several flagpoles with various flags, including the American flag and the Virginia state flag. The sky is clear and blue.

Visitors to the Virginia War Memorial on South Belvidere St. were Inspired this year by a hillside awash in American Flags on a hot July 4 afternoon in Richmond.





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