



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Special Centennial Edition Richmond Chapter ★ Virginia Society ★ Sons of the American Revolution
Commemorating the April 23, 2023 Richmond Chapter Centennial Celebration at Willow Oaks Country Club

Richmond Chapter SAR Celebrates 100 years of Patriotism!

The Richmond Chapter SAR met on Sunday, April 23, to celebrate its centennial anniversary, having been founded on April 11, 1923.



The Richmond Chapter is the oldest continually operating Virginia Society SAR chapter and the first to reach this milestone.



Attendees each received a commemorative lapel pin depicting the chapter's new official logo, shown in the masthead.

The chapter also announced a new Richmond Chapter online store where members can purchase Lands' End merchandise embroidered with the new logo design.

Visit <https://business.landsend.com/store/richmondsar/>

Richmond Chapter Founding

At a March 6, 1923 meeting of the Virginia Society Board of Managers, President Eugene Massie recommended local chapters be organized in the state, and one specifically should be created in Richmond. The Richmond Chapter was subsequently founded on April 11, 1923. Less than a year later, the Richmond Chapter already had 90 members. In 1927, Richmond became the host chapter for the SAR National Congress. It was at this Congress the Society voted unanimously to purchase its former national headquarters at 1227 Sixteenth Street, Northwest, Washington D.C.

Photos courtesy of *Beau Robertson* and *Ilse Yohn*

Guest check-in courtesy of *Richard Brooks*

Invocation and Presentation of the Colors

Compatriot **Dana Law** gave the invocation and the Virginia Society Color Guard presented the colors. Richmond Chapter member Howard Bartholf joined the color guard and bore the Chapter flag in honor of his 50 years of SAR membership.



Dana Law



Photo courtesy of Cathy Schwetke



Please see color guard member names, below

Pledges and Distinguished Guests

Jim Russell



Robert Halpern



Chris Ackiss

Compatriot **Jim Russell** led the Pledge of Allegiance, Richmond Chapter Third Vice President **Robert Halpern** led the SAR Pledge and Compatriot **Chris Ackiss** welcomed the following distinguished guests:

- Lane's Mill Chapter DAR Regent, National DAR Eastern Division Vice Chair and DAR/SAR/S.R. Relations Committee member **Anita Bonner**
- Virginia Society SAR National Trustee and Virginia Society SAR Past-President **Jeff Thomas**
- Virginia Society Past-President, Richmond Chapter member and Color Guard Commander **Bill Schwetke**
- Color Guard members: **Ken Bonner, Jeff Brown, John Lynch** and **Howard Bartholf**
- Virginia Society SAR President **Ernie Coggins**



Virginia Society President Ernie Coggins

Virginia Society Presidential Remarks

Virginia Society President **Ernie Coggins** shared his thoughts on the Richmond Chapter's century of service.

Attendees then enjoyed lunch while Revolutionary War-era music played in the background.

Following lunch, the Chapter extended a special welcome to **Pat Brown**, wife of the late **Roderick Brown**, who was a Richmond Chapter President, Virginia Society President and Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic States SAR.



The Price of Patriotism

Richmond Chapter First Vice President **Philip Barnard** delivered a thought-provoking address on the price our Patriot Ancestors paid in the cause of freedom.

He then discussed how that legacy reflects on our SAR mission, today.



Philip Barnard
Photo courtesy of Diane Barnard

Past-President Chapter Highlights

Nine Richmond Chapter Past-Presidents joined the celebration and addressed the crowd in order of their term of office. They shared Chapter highlights and their favorite memories.



Howard Bartholf
President: 1980 - 1981



Brian Miller
President: 1992 - 1993



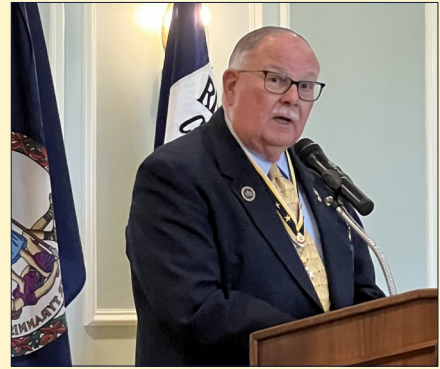
Art Taylor
President: 1999 - 2000



Mark Brennan
President: 2005 - 2006
Virginia Society Pres.: 2011 - 2012



Taylor Cowardin
President: 2009 - 2010



George Corbett
President: 2013 - 2014



Dennis Peterson
President: 2017 - 2018, 2020



Dana Law
President: 2019



Bill Haskins
President: 2021 - 2022



All attending Richmond Chapter Presidents

A Message from the Governor

Virginia Delegate and Richmond Chapter Member **Buddy Fowler** read and presented a special message from Virginia Governor **Glenn Youngkin** in recognition of the Chapter's *100 years of patriotism*.



Chris Yohn and Buddy Fowler



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA Office of the Governor

Glenn Youngkin
Governor

April 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the centennial celebration of the Sons of the American Revolution, Richmond Chapter. What a special milestone for your members! The Revolutionary War is tightly woven into the fabric of our Commonwealth's history. Virginians and the rest of the Nation commend your chapter on its faithful efforts to preserve this invaluable legacy over the last one hundred years.

As the oldest continually operating chapter of the SAR in Virginia, your chapter has consistently dedicated itself to honoring revolutionary war heroes and promoting American values and ideals fought for by the founding fathers. Your chapter has also faithfully served the community by supporting numerous patriotic, historic, and educational efforts, such as offering scholarships, supporting new citizens, and maintaining local memorials. Richmond's prominent role in the American Revolution deserves to be remembered. The spirit that animated Patrick Henry's famous cry "Give me liberty or give me death" continues to inspire our Commonwealth to promote the best opportunities for advancement, prosperity, and dignity for all her citizens.

The First Lady joins me in wishing your chapter members and guests a historic centennial celebration. Thank you for your "100 Years of Patriotism" and for strengthening the Spirit of Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Youngkin".

Glenn Youngkin



Centennial Toast

Richmond Chapter President **Chris Yohn** offered the following centennial toast:

- ★ *To our Patriot Ancestors: whose determination and sacrifice gave us our treasured nation, and all humanity a model of individual freedom and justice for all.*
 - ★ *To The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution: which formed to honor those ancestors and perpetuate the values they fought to establish.*
 - ★ *To the Virginia Society SAR: which celebrates and commemorates the Commonwealth's leadership, the people and the events that solidified the final victory.*
 - ★ *To the founders of the Richmond SAR: who forged our beginnings and set us on the path.*
 - ★ *To our Richmond Chapter predecessors: who grew the chapter and kept it strong.*
 - ★ *To our Richmond Chapter members: who accept the challenge to be worthy of perpetuating 100 years of Patriotism and to let - freedom - ring!*
 - ★ *To our flag, to our Constitution and to the United States of America!*
- Hip-hip! Huzzah! - Hip-hip! Huzzah! - Hip-hip! huzzah!*



SAR Recessional, Benediction and Retiring of the Colors

Compatriot **Jason Gagnon** led the SAR Recessional and **Dana Law** offered the benediction. The Virginia Society Color Guard retired the colors and led everyone outside for group photos.



Jason Gagnon

Photos



The Color Guard - L-R: Bill Schwetke, Ken Bonner, John Lynch, Jeff Brown and Howard Bartholf



Virginia Society Presidents - L-R: Bill Schwetke, Ernie Coggins, Mark Brennan and Jeff Thomas



State and Chapter Presidents -
L-R: Ernie Coggins and Chris Yohn



Richmond Chapter Presidents -
L-R: Brian Miller, Art Taylor, Mark Brennan, Bill Haskins, Chris Yohn, Dana Law, Howard Bartholf and Taylor Cowardin



The official Richmond Centennial Celebration group photo



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