



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Fall, 2023

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

Richmond SAR annual dinner

The Richmond SAR reconvened for its annual dinner, on September 14, after its traditional summer break.

The meeting featured a new chapter officer election, a new member induction, multiple awards and a fantastic presentation by Richmond National Park Service Ranger Bert Dunkerly.



New chapter officer

Many thanks to longtime Richmond SAR Secretary Mark Samples who served the chapter well for many years and is now stepping down from office.



New Richmond SAR Secretary Chris Ackiss after being inducted by Chris Yohn

Thanks also to Chris Ackiss who accepted President Yohn's special appointment to fill the role during the summer.

Compatriot Ackiss' agreement was shared at the August Board of Managers meeting where it was motioned and agreed to hold a formal chapter vote to formalize his position at the next meeting.

The successful vote took place as scheduled and Chris was formally inducted as chapter secretary. He'll serve the remainder of the current term.

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

New member Tom Veech

It's always a special day when we're joined by new compatriots. We had the pleasure to welcome the newest Richmond SAR member at the annual dinner.

Compatriot Tom Veech took the SAR oath and was inducted into the chapter. Welcome, Tom!



Compatriot Tom Veech

Veterans Corps recognition



Richard Brooks and George Mosby



Congratulations to Compatriots Richard Brooks and George Mosby who received their Virginia SAR Veterans Corps certificate.

The recognition is awarded in honor of, and in appreciation for, a compatriot's military service.



Chapter service recognition

Richmond SAR program chairs received special certificates of appreciation for their service so far this year. Thanks to each for promoting the values of the SAR.



Program chairs L-R: Eagle Scout recognition-Jason Gagnon, ROTC-Kenny Bage, Public Service Awards-Chris Ackiss and Flag recognition/retirement-Robert Halpern.

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

Special awards

Three Richmond SAR compatriots earned special service awards at the annual dinner.

The first was Beau Robertson, who earned the Virginia SAR Chapter Service Medal. Beau untiringly attended multiple state, and nearly all, chapter events for many years. He's shared his considerable photographer and photo editing talents and has created a lasting record of chapter activities. This award is a symbol of the chapter's deep appreciation.



Beau Robertson



Howard Bartholf

Howard Bartholf received his 50-year certificate and service pin. He also earned the Roger Sherman medal and certificate. The medal is awarded to compatriots, *"in recognition and appreciation of outstanding services rendered to a chapter."*

As outlined in the summer *Liberty Gazette*, Howard's service to the Richmond SAR is a long and eventful one. He's had a deep and lasting impact on the chapter and continues to represent us in the best possible tradition of the SAR.

Bill Haskins earned the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal, which is awarded to a compatriot who's rendered long, faithful and meritorious service to their chapter.

Bill spent most of the past decade selflessly giving of his time and skills in serving the Richmond SAR. He progressed through numerous officer roles, including chapter registrar, vice president, and president. He held some of those roles while also simultaneously serving as the Virginia SAR Registrar.

Since completing his successful term as president, last December, Bill has continued to

hold multiple roles as chapter treasurer and registrar, while *still* serving as state registrar. He gives selflessly of his time, dives into multiple complex problems which he never fails to solve and is always willing to share his experience and knowledge. This award represents the chapter's full and heartfelt appreciation.



Bill Haskins

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

CAR presentation

Colonel Alexander Spotswood CAR President and Richmond SAR member Jack Akers addressed the meeting and shared his vision of thanking those who served, which is his project while in office.

When finished, Jack and his helpers went through the crowd to personally thank each veteran in attendance. The Richmond SAR proudly presented the Spotswood CAR with a \$150 check in support of its efforts.



Bill Akers and Jack Akers

Revolutionary Richmond

Richmond National Park Service Ranger Bert Dunkerly joined the meeting and delivered an outstanding presentation on *Revolutionary Richmond*. He discussed the city, its many Revolutionary War-related points of interest, local battles and the larger than life personalities who walked its streets during the conflict.



Bert Dunkerly

New recognition for Old Glory

The Richmond SAR has stayed busy in its efforts to honor the flag and those who respect it.

Flag Recognition Chairman Robert Halpern presented two flag recognition certificates to local businesses for properly displaying the flag. He also collected and donated three boxes of worn flags to the local American Legion for proper retirement.

Second Vice President Kenny Bage noticed the flag flying over the SAR memorial in Blandford Cemetery had become worn. The chapter provided a new one and Kenny replaced it. The Richmond SAR also earned a certificate for participating in a flag retirement ceremony at the Virginia SAR semi-annual meeting.



Robert Halpern

Kenny Bage

Richmond at the Virginia SAR Semi-annual meeting



Richmond SAR members Philip Barnard and Chris Yohn represented the chapter at the Virginia SAR semi-annual meeting in Winchester.

Highlight events included the Burwell-Morgan Mill plaque dedication honoring Daniel Morgan, the Robert Rutherford Wood Patriot grave marking and the commemoration of the Beeline March, in which Morgan led his troops 600 miles, from Winchester to Cambridge, MA in 24 days to join Washington's forces in front of Boston.

Virginia SAR President Ernie Coggins reported Virginia's great success, leadership and numerous awards at the 2023 National SAR Congress in Orlando, FL.

Richmond SAR grave marking coming November 5

The Richmond SAR is honored to sponsor a grave marking and plaque dedication to Major Joseph Eggleston, who was "Lighthorse Harry" Lee's second-in-command.

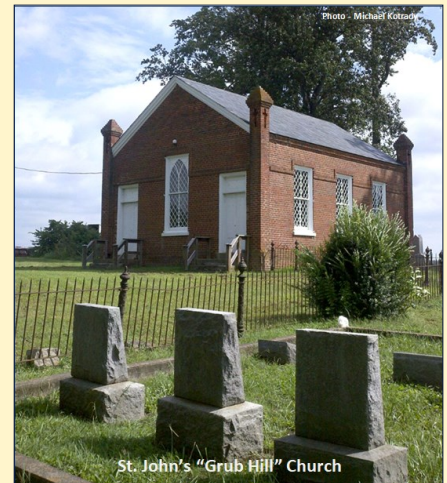
His storied career includes his rapid rise from pay master - to lieutenant - to captain, in just over two years. Captured at Elizabethtown, he became a prisoner of war and was later exchanged to return to service in Lee's cavalry.

Major Eggleston was recognized for gallantry at Guilford, Augusta and Eutaw Springs, after which he rose to the rank of major. He went on to serve in the Virginia State Legislature and the United States Congress.

The event will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 5, at St. John's "Grub Hill" Church, in Amelia County. [See this calendar event for full details and to register.](#)

The chapter will be joined by The Virginia SAR Color Guard, who will render honors and a musket salute, Major Eggleston descendants, The Amelia County American Revolution 250 Committee, The Amelia County Historical Society and Christ Episcopal Church - Amelia, VA.

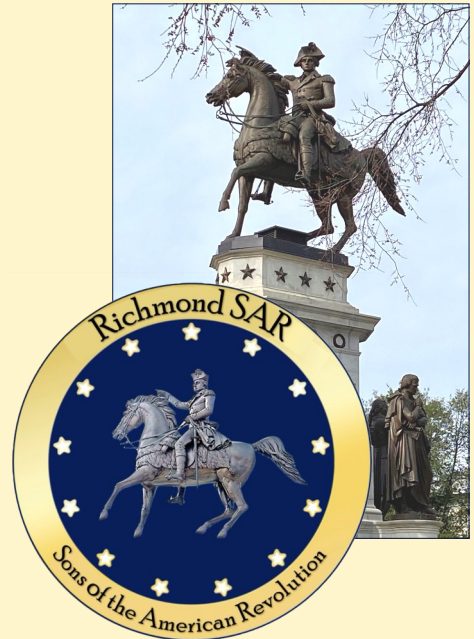
Don't miss your chance to honor a true American hero.



New Richmond SAR logo

The National SAR determined the logo featuring the minuteman depicting the A in SAR was no longer valid for use by states or chapters. So, the Richmond SAR adopted a new official logo, in which the central design features the statue atop the Virginia Washington Monument, located on the State Capitol grounds.

In what is, perhaps, an even more appropriate representation of the Richmond SAR, the new logo links the quintessential leader of the American Revolution with an unmistakable Richmond landmark.



Richmond SAR challenge coins



Designed and purchased before the announced disuse of the minute-man design, these Richmond SAR Centennial Celebration challenge coins became instant collectors' items. This design will not be reordered. They remain available only while supplies last.

Coins are \$15 per piece. Funds will support upcoming Richmond SAR historic commemoration events. Purchase your coin(s) via credit card [at this link](#) and pick them up at the next meeting. Those who choose to pay in-person, please bring a check made payable to *Richmond Chapter SAR*. The Richmond SAR no longer accepts cash payments.

Similarly, the design of the items at the [Richmond Chapter Land's End store](#) will be changed in the coming weeks. Order soon, if you'd like items with the current design.

Richmond SAR upcoming projects

Funds raised by the sale of the challenge coins will be used for chapter activities. Here's a preview of some local historic commemorations planned for 2024.

Susannah Bolling historical marker

As presented by local author Libby McNamee at the March 2023 meeting, Susannah Bolling's home in present-day Hopewell was used by British General Cornwallis as his headquarters. While there, Susannah overheard him and his officers planning to capture General Lafayette, who was headquartered at the Halfway House, located on present-day Route 1, just north of 288.

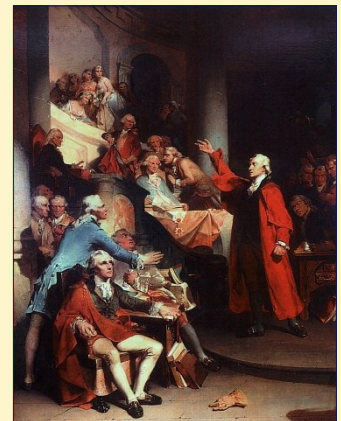
Susannah crept out of her home in the middle of the night, mounted a horse and rode to the Halfway House to warn Lafayette. He made his escape and avoided capture thanks to Susannah's brave ride. The Richmond SAR is working to place a historical marker at the Halfway House in honor of her heroism and great contribution to the cause of liberty.



The Berkeley Plantation Shipyard

Berkeley Plantation is well-known as the site of the first Thanksgiving, the home of Declaration of Independence Signer and Virginia Governor Benjamin Harrison V and the site of the first playing of *Taps*. However, it's not widely known that Berkeley was also the location of an industrious shipyard that built 18 warships for the patriot cause in the American Revolution.

The Richmond SAR is working to place a historical marker at Berkeley commemorating the site of such a significant contributor to our Nation's independence.



The Richmond SAR Memorial Fund



**Your \$10 donation
to this special fund
honors your patriot
ancestors and supports
the programs and
work of the
Richmond SAR.**

Jack Akers - John Lester

Will Akers - John Lester

Kenneth L. Bage - John Hinton, John Hinton, Sr.

Phillip Barnard, Jr. - Joel Barnard

Howard E. Bartholf - Cpt. James Varian, Jacobus Bartholf, Guiliam Bertholf, Jonathan Varian

Mark S. Brennan, Sr. - John Oliver

Robert S. Bridges, Jr. - William Jordan

Peter E. Broadbent, Jr. - Lt. Richard Talbott, Cpt. Alexander Wells, Lt. James Marshall

A. Brian Cowardin - John Cowardin

James E. Creech, Jr. - William Ragland

Doug Cumins - George Keister, Nathaniel Wilson

Wyatt F. Davis - Alexander Guthrie

Ronald J. DePue, Sr. - Benjamin DePue

Richard Dohm - John Gibson, Jr.

Charles Lewis Grant - William Russell

Robert Halpern - Ens. James Sproul

John Harler - William Sommerville

William M. Haskins, Jr. - William Gannon, Moses Preston, Gilbert Stevens, Thomas Prather

Dana K. Law - Henry Law

Brian K. Miller - Theophilus Avery, Abel Sholes

Hal Raddin, Jr. - Benjamin Raddin

Philip M. Revene - William Withers, William Slack

Mark Samples - Jane Porter Green

Christopher Small - Hugh Hayes

Walter Smith - Casparus Pruyn, Sylvanus Smith

Arthur H. Taylor III - Silas Call

Cullen Walker - Paul Carrington


Chris Yohn - Lt. Jacob Vanderslice

October meeting and upcoming schedule

Our next meeting takes place on Sunday, October 8, at 1 p.m.

We'll be joined by Historic St. John's Church Executive Director Stephen Wilson who will discuss plans for the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's *Give me liberty or give me death* speech on 3/23/2025. Stephen will also cover current St. John's initiatives in preparation for the big event!

[Be sure to register](#) for the meeting by the deadline of Thursday, October 5.



Richmond Chapter upcoming meetings
All meetings take place at Willow Oaks Country Club

Sunday, November 12 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, December 10 - 1 p.m.
— 2024 —
Sunday, January 14 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 10 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 14 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, May 19 - 1 p.m.
Tuesday, September 10 - 6 p.m.
Sunday, October 13 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, November 10 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, December 8 - 1 p.m.

In memoriam

We honor and remember our Richmond SAR compatriots who have departed this life.

Wilson Seawell Bage, Jr.



The *Liberty Gazette* is a copyrighted publication of the Richmond * Virginia * Sons of the American Revolution