



# Liberty Gazette

**"Give me liberty or give me death!"**

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia  
March 23, 1775



Spring 2024

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

## January meeting

The Richmond SAR got off to a fast start in 2024 as the year's first meeting took place on January 14 with a full agenda.

The Chapter started business by welcoming Jacob Gagnon as its first new member of the year.



Chris Yohn, Jacob Gagnon and Jason Gagnon



Jason and Jacob Gagnon



Jacob's mother Sarah Gagnon was then recognized as the Richmond SAR's 2023 *Good Citizen of the Year* winner.

The nomination describing Sarah's selfless service to the community and our nation was read to attendees and Sarah, who was unable to attend, was awarded the SAR Outstanding Citizenship certificate and pin. Sarah's husband and Richmond SAR Compatriot Jason Gagnon accepted the awards on her behalf.

Welcome Jacob and congratulations to the entire Gagnon family!

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

The recognition continued as the Richmond SAR's 2023 Knight Essay contest winner Sean Burke attended the meeting and presented his winning essay, *The indispensable man*.

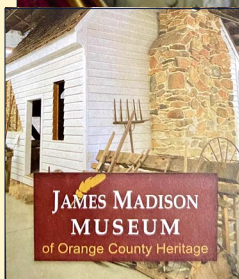
Mr. Burke delved into the life, character and leadership of George Washington and examined how his strong, yet humble and self-effacing, approach rose to every occasion personally, militarily and politically. As illustrated by Mr. Burke, George Washington truly was the indispensable man.

The Richmond SAR awarded Mr. Burke the Knight Essay award certificate and a \$100 check to support his college studies.

Mr. Burke was later recognized as the Virginia SAR's second-place Knight Essay winner, which earned him an additional \$500 scholarship.



Sean Burke



James Madison

The [James Madison Museum of Orange County History](#)

Director Bethany Sullivan joined the meeting and gave a very interesting presentation on James Madison.

While he's best remembered for his part in creating the U.S. Constitution and his presidency during the War of 1812, Bethany focused on Madison's lesser known American Revolution experiences.

Appointed a Colonel in the Orange County Militia in 1774, Madison's health prevented a military career. He continued to serve on the Orange County Committee of Safety. In 1776, he was

elected a delegate to the Virginia Convention and General Assembly where he framed the Virginia Constitution. In 1778, Madison served on the Council of State and, in 1780, was chosen to represent Virginia in the Continental Congress.

The Richmond SAR presented Bethany with a Certificate of Appreciation for joining us and presenting to the Chapter.



Richmond SAR Secretary Chris Ackiss presented the Chapter wreath at the January 13 Burning of Norfolk event.

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

## Richmond SAR hosts dual Patriot grave marking



The Virginia SAR Color Guard commanded by Ken Bonner, Jr.  
with Virginia SAR President Ernie Coggins and Richmond SAR President Chris Yohn

The Richmond SAR conducted a grave marking honoring Captain Philip Slaughter and Sergeant James Vaughn in a pre-event of the Virginia SAR Annual Meeting, on Friday, February 9.

The event was attended by travelers from across the state representing 17 SAR Chapters, five DAR Chapters, one CAR Society, The Virginia Order of Founders and Patriots of America and the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge.

Virginia SAR President Ernie Coggins brought greetings and presented the Virginia SAR wreath. The Virginia SAR Color Guard, commanded by Kenneth Bonner, Jr., rendered honors with a musket salute and posting sentries at the SAR Revolutionary War Veterans Memorial, originally erected for the 2020 SAR National Congress.

Kay and French Slaughter and Zachary McNett, descendants of Philip Slaughter, shared insight into their ancestor's life and Revolutionary experience.

Richmond SAR members Mark Brennan, Sr., Bill Haskins, Dana Law, Chris Ackiss, Bob Lusk, Steve Norris and Richard Brooks all helped lead the ceremony while Richmond SAR President Chris Yohn emceed the event and led the singing of *God Bless America*.



Photos courtesy of Ken Morris

# Virginia SAR Annual Meeting returns to Richmond

The Richmond SAR resumed its traditional role of co-hosting the Virginia SAR annual meeting, this year with the George Washington SAR which hosted the virtual webinars.

The February 9-10 event took place in the familiar surroundings of the Richmond Omni Hotel and the Virginia State Capitol's Old House Chamber, with assistance from Richmond SAR volunteers:

Chris Ackiss, Bill Akers, Bob Lusk, Steve Norris, Richard Books and Williamsburg SAR's Stephen McGuffin.

The Richmond SAR and many of its compatriots were recognized with the following awards:



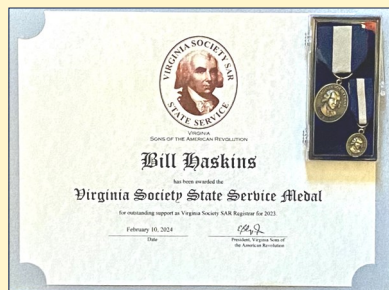
Virginia SAR 2024 Annual Meeting Group Photo



Renu Brennan  
Martha Washington Medal



Mark Brennan  
Silver Henry Knox Medal



Bill Haskins  
Virginia Society State Service Medal



Chris Yohn  
Silver Meritorious Service Medal

Peter Broadbent  
Certificate of Appreciation  
for  
Service to the Virginia SAR  
as a member of the  
America 250 SAR Committee



## Richmond SAR Awards



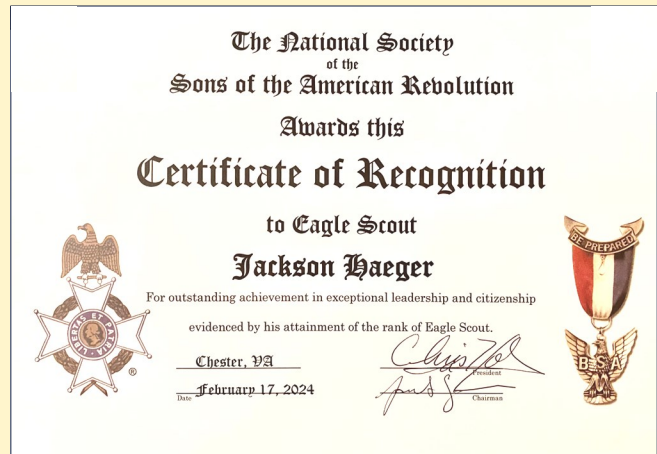
Virginia SAR Certificate of Commendation



Virginia SAR Chapter Excellence,  
Flag Recognition and  
Flag Retirement awards

# Richmond SAR presents Eagle Scout award

Richmond SAR Eagle Scout program chairman Jason Gagnon attended local Eagle Scout Jackson Haeger's Court of Honor ceremony and presented him with the SAR Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition and a letter of commendation on behalf of the Chapter.



## March meeting

The March 10 meeting featured another full agenda as the Chapter welcomed another new member in Compatriot Chris Carr and presented numerous awards and recognition.

We were also treated to a return engagement presentation by local author Libby McNamee who shared a profile of Dolley Madison and her contributions during the Revolution and beyond.



Welcome Compatriot Chris Carr!



Chris Ackiss, Bill Akers and Bob Lusk received Certificates of Appreciation for their work at the Virginia SAR annual meeting



The Richmond SAR presented Compatriots Drew Wajciechowski and Jack Akers with the Bronze CAR SAR Appreciation Medal for their CAR leadership. The Chapter also presented a \$150 check in support of the Alexander Spotswood CAR Society



Libby McNamee shared her Dolley Madison presentation and accepted a Richmond SAR Certificate of Appreciation

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr

# Richmond SAR challenge coins

## Richmond SAR Centennial Celebration Coin



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

Order this design [at this link](#).



## General Washington Coin

This coin features an equestrian version of General Washington like that featured on the Virginia Washington Monument and shown in the Virginia SAR annual meeting group photo.

Order this design [at this link](#).



Coins of either design are \$15 per piece. Funds support upcoming Richmond SAR historic commemoration events. Reserve, or purchase your coin(s) via credit card, at the links above and pick them up at the next meeting. Since they were created as a fundraiser, they will not be mailed.

For those who wish to purchase in-person (via check only) coins will be available at every Chapter meeting, while supplies last. Please bring your check made payable to *Richmond SAR*. The Richmond SAR does not accept cash payments.

Thanks for supporting Richmond SAR historic commemoration activities!

## Upcoming Richmond SAR events

*Richmond SAR's Berkeley Plantation Shipyard Marker Dedication - May 5 at 2 p.m.*

Berkeley Plantation is well-known as the home of Declaration of Independence signer and Virginia Governor Benjamin Harrison V, 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.

SAR members participating in the event and one guest are admitted free to the event. Additional guests will pay the normal admission fee.



*Major Joseph Eggleston roadside marker dedication - Grub Hill Church - June 2 at 2 p.m.*

The roadside marker being dedicated at this event will inform travelers they are passing the burial site of Revolutionary War Major Joseph Eggleston and point them to his graveside marker, dedicated last November. This roadside marker will be the first Pomeroy Foundation-sponsored Virginia SAR marker dedication.

"Lighthorse Harry" Lee's second in command, Major Eggleston was captured at Elizabethtown and later exchanged. Rejoining his unit, Eggleston was recognized for gallantry in his distinguished service at Guilford, Augusta and Eutaw Springs.

*Richmond SAR-sponsored Virginia SAR event  
Supreme Court Justice John Marshall grave marking - Shockoe Hill Cemetery  
June 23 at 2 p.m.*

The Richmond SAR will host a Virginia SAR event honoring the man who was perhaps the most influential in giving us our *independent Supreme Court*.

Chief Justice John Marshall is, to this day, known for asserting the power of the Supreme Court and holding the Executive and Legislative branches accountable to the U.S. Constitution. Marshall also served as U.S. Secretary of State, a U.S. Congressman and as a soldier in the Revolution.



## 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.

Chris Carr  
Nathaniel Preston ~ Jacob Lotz

A. Brian Cowardin  
John Cowardin

Doug Cumins  
Phillip Keister ~ Nathaniel Wilson

Robert Halpern  
James Sproul

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

Dana K. Law  
Henry Law

Brian K. Miller  
Theophilus Avery ~ Abel Sholes

William Nash II  
John Nash

Ralph Spaulding  
Edward Spaulding

Arthur H. Taylor III  
Silas Call

Chris Yohn  
Ludwig Tobias ~ Joseph Potter



## April meeting and upcoming schedule

Our next meeting takes place on Sunday, April 14, at 1 p.m.

We'll be joined by Virginia SAR Compatriot and author Jim Bish who will share the truth behind what many assume are the mythic stories surrounding George Washington, including the prayer at Valley Forge.

[Be sure to register](#) by the deadline of Wednesday, April 10. Refunds or voided invoices are available for those who also cancel registrations by that deadline. The Chapter must pay for total registrations after that date.



### Richmond SAR upcoming meetings

All meetings take place at  
Willow Oaks Country Club

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.

Tuesday, December 3 - 6 p.m.

## In memoriam

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



**Charles Ernest Cheek**



SONS of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic ★ Historical ★ Educational

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