



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Winter 2024

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

October Meeting

The October meeting kicked off a busy fall. We were honored to be joined by Virginia SAR Compatriot David Smith, author of *The Armstrong Brothers*. David recounted his story of three Pennsylvania brothers who served in the Revolution and their differing experiences as two served in the major battles of the war with continental regiments and one defended the frontier in the local militia.



David Smith

The First Continental Congress - 250th

The meeting also featured the Richmond SAR's official 250th anniversary observance of the First Continental Congress and concluded the story begun while observing the Intolerable Acts 250th in May. We discussed how the Virginia Committee of Correspondence responded to the acts by calling for the First Continental Congress, the following fall.

Chris Yohn read an account of the Congress' activities and its October 14 *Declaration of Resolves*. The list insisted colonists were "entitled to life, liberty, and property" and "that foundation of English liberty, and of all free government, is a right in the people to participate in their legislative council."



Richmond SAR observes the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

Richmond SAR Committee of Correspondence

The Chapter elected its own Committee of Correspondence (Jim Russell, Buddy Fowler and Dale Burgess) following the May Intolerable Acts 250th commemoration. The committee was asked to attend the First Continental Congress commemoration and report its recommendations for future 250 observances.

Jim represented the group. He highlighted 2025 250 events and ways the Chapter might best commemorate them. The team will continue to serve as the Chapter's 250 Advisory Council.



Jim Russell

October Awards



Compatriot Ralph Spaulding was presented the Virginia SAR Military Service Veteran's Corps certificate.



Secretary Chris Ackiss was presented with his previously announced Patriot Ancestor Grave Marking medal and certificate.



First Vice President Philip Barnard received a Certificate of Appreciation for facilitating the September meeting in President Yohn's absence, *and then* for seamlessly stepping in to present his *Biography of Chief Justice John Marshall* when the regularly scheduled presenter was called away at the last moment.

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

Yorktown!

The Richmond SAR was on hand once again for the National SAR Yorktown Day events.

Philip Barnard and Chris Yohn participated in the Yorktown Victory Day parade and the patriotic exercises that followed.

Chris presented the Chapter wreath at the Thomas Nelson Jr. graveside ceremony.



The Richmond Chapter wreath with a few of the many presented



National SAR President General Addington brings greetings



French Military officers attended the day's festivities in period uniform and conducted a pre-parade inspection of the SAR Color Guard



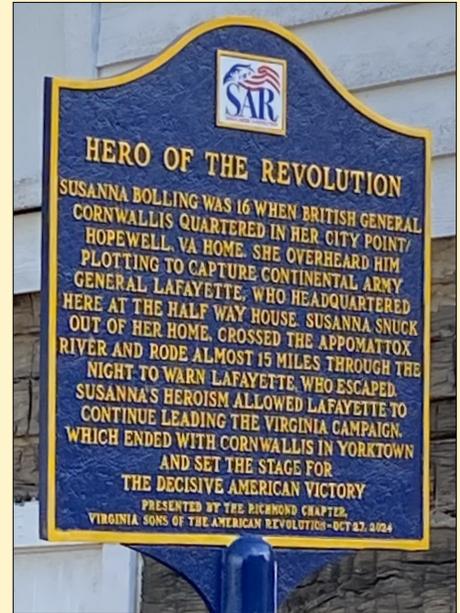
The Yorktown Victory Day Parade

Richmond SAR Dedicates Marker to Hero of the Revolution Susanna Bolling

The Richmond SAR dedicated a historical marker, on Sunday, October 27, commemorating 16-year-old hero of the Revolution Susanna Bolling, who (while Cornwallis was staying at her home) overheard the British staff plotting to capture General Lafayette. At great personal risk, Susanna snuck through enemy lines, crossed a river, borrowed a neighbor's horse and rode 15 miles through the night to warn him. Her selfless act allowed Lafayette to escape the trap and continue to lead the campaign that led to the decisive American victory at Yorktown.

Statewide SAR, DAR, CAR, American Friends of Lafayette (AFL) and the Virginia Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (OFP) presented wreaths. The general public rounded out the crowd of

approximately 95 attendees. Virginia SAR President Bill Greaf brought greetings and presented the Virginia SAR wreath. The Virginia SAR Color Guard, commanded by John Lynch II, and including Richmond SAR Compatriot Jason Gagnon, presented the colors.



The Color Guard included Richmond SAR Compatriot Jason Gagnon



Richmond SAR Compatriot Jacob Gagnon led the Pledge of Allegiance



Virginia SAR President Bill Greaf brought greetings



Kay Bolling Wynn shares family stories and details of Susanna's life



Author Libby McNamee tells of Susanna's heroism



Tim Dioquino shares the importance of Susanna rescuing Lafayette

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr and Nicole Hakim Yohn

Susanna Bolling descendant Kay Bolling Wynn, shared insight into her ancestor's life. *Susanna's Midnight Ride* Author Libby McNamee told the dramatic story of how Susanna saved Lafayette and Virginia SAR Secretary/American Friends of Lafayette Member Tim Dioquino put Susanna's heroism in perspective by sharing the importance of Lafayette *not* being captured.

The event date also marked the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's return to Richmond on his 1824 U.S. farewell tour.

Richmond SAR members Bill Haskins, Dana Law, Philip Barnard, Chris Ackiss, Jacob Gagnon, Jason Gagnon and Dave Morgerson helped lead the ceremony while Richmond SAR President Chris Yohn emceed the event and led the singing of *God Bless America*.



Libby McNamee, Chris Yohn and Kay Bolling Wynn unveil the marker



Statewide SAR, DAR, CAR, OFP and AFL wreath presentations



Libby McNamee was awarded the SAR Martha Washington Medal



A few of the Richmond SAR members on hand for the event



The Richmond SAR thanks Halfway House Owners Rick and Sue Young and Author Libby McNamee for their support of the event, and the Virginia SAR Knight-Patty Fund for making the marker possible.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr and Nicole Hakim Yohn

November Meeting

Public Service Awards

The November meeting featured the Chapter's 2024 Public Service Awards. Richmond Ambulance Authority First Responders were awarded three Lifesaving Awards, two Heroism Awards and one EMS Award. The Chapter also presented a *Good Citizen of the Year* and a *Teacher of the Year* Award.

Chapter award recipients are automatically entered as nominees for Virginia SAR awards in the same categories.

Virginia CAR President Sarah Terpenning presented the CAR 2024-2025 special project **Agent 1776: Spies of the Revolution!** and, the chapter welcomed new Compatriot Jay Whay.



Richmond SAR Lifesaving Awards:
Lt. Brittany Buckler Hoffmaster
EMT Hunter Custalow
Paramedic John Maywalt



Richmond SAR Heroism Awards:
EMT Matt Chapman
EMT Matt Louria



Richmond SAR EMS Award:
EMT Paramedic
Lt. Christy Pritt



Good Citizen of the Year Award:
Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery
President Jeffrey Burden



Teacher of the Year Award:
L.C. Bird High - American History
Mark Cullip



Virginia CAR President
Sarah Terpenning
receives Richmond SAR \$100 check
supporting 2024-25 CAR project



Welcome new
Richmond SAR Compatriot
Jay Whay!

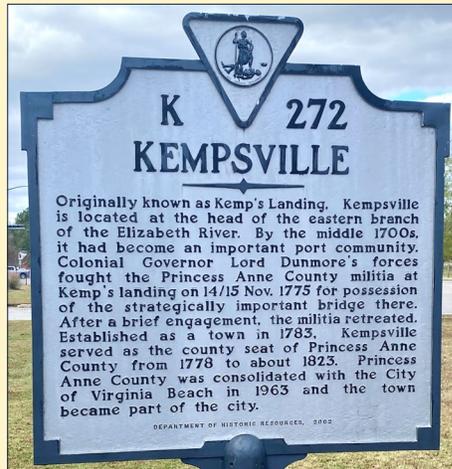
Photos courtesy of Mark Tenia, Beau Robertson and Nicole Hakim Yohn

Skirmish at Kemp's Landing

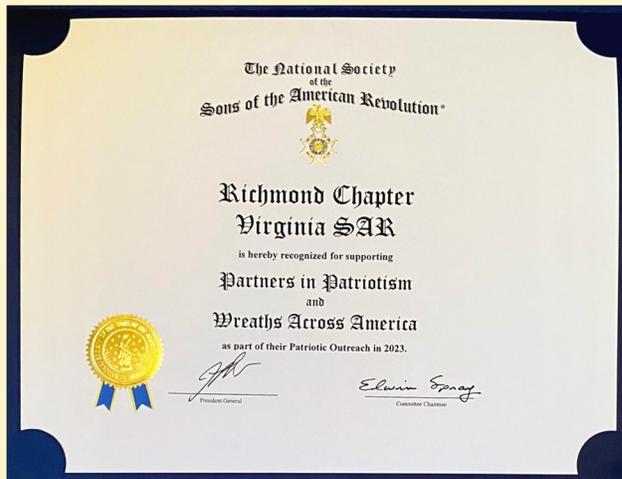
The Richmond SAR attended the observance of the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing, in which Richmond SAR Secretary Chris Ackiss' Patriot Ancestor's 18 year-old son was killed.

The skirmish set the stage for the Battle of Great Bridge following just weeks later.

Chris Ackiss and Chris Yohn jointly presented the Richmond SAR wreath.



Richmond SAR Accomplishments



The Richmond SAR earned Partners in Patriotism recognition for 2023 Wreaths Across America participation



Bob Lusk added supplemental ancestors: Thomas Gillespie and Thomas Harrison

Your activities make a difference

Americanism Points

Did you know your attendance at public events celebrating patriotism or related to U.S. Veterans of any time period earns points for the Richmond SAR? Events such as parades, commemorations, etc. count as long as you wear your rosette or something else identifying you as an SAR member.

Americanism points are recorded throughout the year and tabulated as part of Virginia SAR Chapter recognition. When you attend any such event, please email ca.rmdsar@gmail.com with the: 1) date, 2) city and state, 3) event name and 4) how many SAR members attended.



Robert Halpern delivered hundreds more worn flags to the American Legion for respectful retirement

Photos courtesy of Bob Bruce, Beau Robertson and Robert Halpern

December Meeting

Chapter Awards and 2025-26 Officer Inductions

The Richmond SAR met on the evening of December 3 to celebrate a successful 2024 as members were recognized with Chapter awards for their outstanding service.

The meeting also featured 2025-26 new officer inductions and the Chapter welcomed new member Jim Moose.



Welcome new Richmond SAR Compatriot Jim Moose!



Jim Russell adds supplemental ancestor John McDowell



Chris Yohn earns Gold 250th Anniversary Medal

Certificates of Appreciation



Willow Oaks Country Club:
For a year of excellent service in hosting the Richmond SAR



Jennifer Carr:
For taking photos at three major 2024 Richmond SAR events



Steve Norris:
For helping with the 2024 Virginia SAR annual meeting

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr

Richmond SAR 2024 Chapter Service Recognition

Virginia SAR Chapter Service Medals

The Virginia SAR created a special medal Chapter Presidents may award members who contribute conspicuous service to their Chapter.



Richard Brooks:

For faithfully serving as the official meeting attendance keeper while checking in members and their guests and for always being ready to help in any way.



Dana Law:

For helping with all of the major Chapter events of the past two years through his dignified, reverent and eloquent delivery of the invocations and benedictions.

National SAR Roger Sherman Commendation Medals

The medal may be awarded to compatriots in recognition and appreciation of outstanding services rendered to the Chapter.



Robert Halpern:

For years of service as the Richmond SAR Flag Recognition and Flag Retirement Chair.



Beau Robertson:

For years of service documenting the Chapter's events as the Richmond SAR photographer.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr

National SAR Roger Sherman Commendation Medals (continued)



Stephen Wilson:

For significant contributions to the Richmond SAR Speaker's Bureau and for facilitating and elevating the message of the SAR's mission and goals.



Jason Gagnon:

For outstanding service as the Richmond SAR Eagle Scout Chair. For taking initiative to creatively promote the program and recognize those who exemplify and live our nation's founding principles.

National SAR Chapter Meritorious Service Medal

The medal may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered long, faithful, and meritorious service to their chapter.



Philip Barnard:

2023's Distinguished Service Medal recipient, Philip is awarded the 2024 Meritorious Service Medal for rendering conspicuous service to the Chapter. He **fully organized** the Major Joseph Eggleston Pomeroy Patriot Burials Marker event, including coordination with the Virginia SAR Pomeroy Committee, community organization, marker installation and Patriot biography. Additionally, he logged long and painstaking hours to write and prepare the keynote address for the John Marshall grave marking, which was a highlight of that event. As First Vice President, he conducted the September meeting in President Yohn's absence *and* stepped in to deliver the presentation at that meeting when the scheduled presenter was called away at the last moment.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr

National SAR Chapter Distinguished Service Medal

The medal is the highest level award that can be presented at the chapter level. It may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered particularly distinguished service to the chapter. A chapter president has the option to award one Distinguished Service Medal during each year of his term if a member rises to that level of service. A compatriot may receive this medal only once.



Chris Ackiss:

For being whole-heartedly engaged in the Chapter and its activities. For cheerfully agreeing to take on whatever task or role he's been presented, including an awards program chair for which he put much effort and many hours of travel, an appointment to Chapter Secretary, attending and participating in all Richmond SAR public events and representing the Chapter at many other chapters' events. In fact, he once undertook a four-hour round-trip just to pick up the chapter wreath to present at another chapter's event the next day. He also put in countless hours of windshield time in the past year attending events across Virginia and North Carolina to represent the Richmond SAR. Those efforts were highlighted in the *Fall 2024 Liberty Gazette* in a full-page spread entitled *The Southern Campaign*.

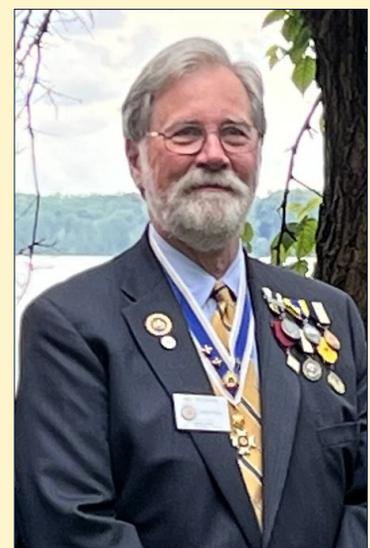
National SAR Chapter Henry Knox Medal

Named for Henry Knox, who made the impossible seem possible, the medal may be awarded to recognize outstanding contribution, achievement, accomplishment, deed, performance or effort that advances the mission, governance, programs or activities of a Chapter.

Bill Haskins:

For exemplifying cheerful and faithful service for many, many years. For having held all Richmond SAR offices and continuing to serve as the Virginia SAR Registrar and the Richmond SAR Registrar and Treasurer. For routinely taking on additional Chapter responsibilities, including:

- ◆ All banking activities, regulatory responsibilities and bill payments
- ◆ All Registrar activities for new members and supplementals
- ◆ Awards and supplies ordering
- ◆ Certificate printing
- ◆ Webmaster
- ◆ 2024 ROTC Award Chair responsibilities and personally attending and presenting multiple awards
- ◆ Working through the complexities and many steps of the annual dues process
- ◆ Researching and procuring the chapter sound system
- ◆ Conceiving of and taking responsibility for framing the Martha Washington award presented to Libby McNamee
- ◆ And finally, for being a constant and trusted advisor and a true Virginia Gentleman.



The greatest challenge in making this award was identifying one he *hadn't* already earned. The Henry Knox award of making the impossible seem routine is ideal.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr and Ilse Yohn

A Message from President Yohn - December 3, 2024

In my final address as President of the Richmond SAR, I have one overwhelming message to share with you today, and that is one of thanks.

Two years ago, as I picked up this gavel, my first sentiment was one of gratitude to outgoing President Bill Haskins. Today, I'll echo those sentiments and once again thank Bill for all he did to keep the chapter afloat during the incredibly difficult years of the pandemic. His leadership in guiding a social organization through lockdowns and social distancing was amazing. Those efforts truly gave us a strong base on which to build toward the future. And, that's exactly what we did.

Together, we've been able to elevate engagement in the Richmond SAR, both internally through a growing membership and externally through ever-increasing interest, public visibility and coordination with statewide SAR, DAR, CAR and outside historic organizations.

Our public events, in particular, drew widespread interest and participation. Those highlights include:

- ◆ Celebrating our 100th anniversary of being the Virginia SAR's oldest continually operating chapter, with past chapter presidents and custom centennial lapel pins for all attendees
- ◆ The grave marking of Major Joseph Eggleston, which drew huge public attention and featured a marker and plaque for the ages
- ◆ A Virginia SAR annual meeting pre-event - double grave-marking at Shockoe Hill Cemetery honoring Captain Philip Slaughter and Sergeant James Vaughn
- ◆ The Berkeley Plantation marker dedication honoring all who played a role in building 18 warships for the Revolutionary cause
- ◆ The Virginia SAR's first Pomeroy Patriot Burials marker dedication - hosted by the Richmond SAR, which points passers-by to the grave of Major Joseph Eggleston
- ◆ One of Virginia SAR President Bill Grea's 2024 signature events - the grave marking of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, hosted by the Richmond SAR
- ◆ The Susanna Bolling marker dedication which featured statewide organizations' wreath presentations and drew just under one-hundred total attendees

We've also had some fun with 250th anniversary commemorations that included boycotting tea for the months leading up to The Boston Tea Party and by creating our very own Committee of Correspondence (our new 250th advisory committee) as we approached the First Continental Congress.

The Richmond SAR was also honored with the:

- ◆ Virginia SAR Chapter Excellence Award
- ◆ A Virginia SAR Certificate of Commendation
- ◆ Virginia SAR Best Chapter Award - Large Chapter Second Place
- ◆ Virginia Society Cup - Large Chapter Second Place
- ◆ SAR President General's Education Outreach Award

But, **most** importantly, our efforts have worked to achieve the SAR mission to honor our Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestors by **promoting** patriotism, **servicing** our communities and **educating** and **inspiring** future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

In **all** of these instances, it was **your** teamwork, participation and enthusiasm that achieved the results of which we can all be proud.

But, that work is never done. Our mission remains. And, I respectfully ask you to not only continue that teamwork, participation and enthusiasm, but to redouble your efforts in the cause as we move into the coming years.

I'm grateful to know the Richmond SAR is in good and capable hands moving forward. I know we'll see amazing things in Philip's administration. And I know, with your help and support, we'll continue to burnish the reputation and the impact of the Richmond SAR as **together** we make a **true** and **lasting** difference in our society by never letting Americans forget the deep sacrifices our ancestors made to hand us the precious gift of freedom.

It has been one of the great honors of my life to serve the Richmond SAR and its members, and I'll be forever humbled and grateful to all of you.

Thank you very much.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr

Richmond SAR 2025-26 Officer Inductions



2025-26 Richmond SAR Officers take the oath of office: L-R - First Vice President Chris Ackiss, Second Vice President Jason Gagnon, Third Vice President Robert Halpern, Secretary Jim Russell, Treasurer and Registrar Bill Haskins (not pictured)

President Philip Barnard Takes Office



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr

President Barnard's Acceptance Address

December 3, 2024

I just want to thank everyone in this Chapter for the trust you have placed in me. When I think about Bill Haskins and Chris Yohn, and the influence they have had on me over the past four years, I realize that I have some very big shoes to fill.

It touches my heart when someone recognizes that remembering those who sacrificed to create this country is what SAR means most to him. And, it has always meant so much to me that our outgoing President, Chris Yohn, embodies that spirit, the same as I do. This is the reason our Chapter has been featured in the National SAR

Magazine in each of the last three issues. No other Chapter in this state that can say that. So, Chris, for all that you have done to elevate the reputation of our Chapter within our State and our Nation, I just want to say, on behalf of everyone associated with the Richmond Chapter, Thank you!

I am a big believer in researching our Patriot Ancestry. Not just because I have been enjoying it for well over thirty years. Not just because I want to encourage the practice of submitting supplemental applications. It is because I want us to say their names. It keeps them alive. I will always encourage our members to know their patriot ancestors more closely. Get to know their families. Know the price they paid for patriotism. Share their stories with us.

For this reason, I am creating our own Patriot Calendar so that we can celebrate our own ancestors on the 250th anniversary of the date their service began, beginning with our celebration of Lexington and Concord on April 19th. You are all difference-makers. You brought your Patriot Ancestors back by saying their name when you first applied for membership. Let's keep it up. Add your ancestor to this Patriot Calendar. Tell us their story.

And when it comes to participation, remember SAR is what you make of it for yourself. Being accepted just allows you to step through the door. The next step is to become active. The list of amazing people that you will meet in this society does not stop with the members of this Chapter. Show up at the State meetings and events and discover a wealth of like-minded friends. It will be my goal to increase the number of our members who are present at the State level meetings. The February annual meeting of the Virginia SAR is right here in Richmond.

The final step is contribution. I encourage each member present to give your time and energy to any aspect of our mission that inspires you. Starting next year, this chapter will enter an eight-year period of 250th Anniversary Commemoration events. Decide which one inspires you. We will be co-sponsoring events with our neighboring SAR and DAR chapters. There are joint projects underway as we speak. The list of projects offered to us increases every month.

This coming year

I leave you with these thoughts: When you see the gravestone of a patriot who sacrificed to win independence for this country, it is a privilege. When you kneel down to clean that stone, it is an honor. Let us each keep our search for such opportunities ever vigilant in our hearts.

Please know that I will cherish all of your support and advice as I attempt to bring honor to the privilege of serving as your President. Thank you.



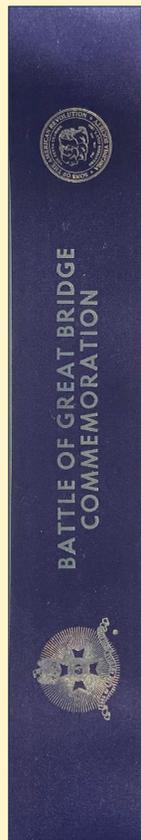
Photos courtesy of Jennifer Carr

The Battle of Great Bridge

The Richmond Chapter was back in Chesapeake, VA again this year to participate in the 249th commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge.

The National SAR event featured a multi-state SAR Color Guard with participants coming from as far as Georgia and British military appearing in period dress.

Philip Barnard and Chris Yohn represented the Chapter.



Got your challenge coins?

Until we meet again . . .

Why not consider supporting 2025 events?



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. Limited quantities remain and this design will not be reordered.

General Washington Coin

This coin features an equestrian image of General Washington as featured on the Richmond landmark Virginia Washington Monument.



Coins of both designs are \$15 per piece. Funds support Richmond SAR historic commemoration events and activities like those shown in this newsletter.

Purchase yours at any Richmond SAR meeting. Simply bring a check made payable to *Richmond SAR* and collect your coin(s) at the same time. The Richmond SAR does not accept cash payments.

As the coins were created as a fundraiser, they will not be mailed.

Thanks for supporting the activities of the Richmond SAR!

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

Richmond SAR upcoming meetings

All meetings take place at Willow Oaks Country Club unless otherwise noted

Sunday, January 12 - 1 p.m.

Virginia SAR Annual Meeting

Friday and Saturday, February 7-8 (*Glen Allen, VA)

Virginia SAR - Patrick Henry Speech 250th Anniversary

Sunday, March 16 (* Historic St. John's Church)

Saturday, April 19 - 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 18 - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9 - 6 p.m. - Annual dinner

Sunday, October 5 - 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 9 - 1 p.m.



*Season's
Greetings*

May the warmth of the holidays find you and your family happy, healthy and safe. Have a wonderful Christmas, a happy Hanukkah and the best of all holidays you may celebrate. Here's to a bright and happy new year!



SONS of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Patriotic ★ Historical ★ Educational

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