



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Spring 2025

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

January Meeting

An action-packed Richmond SAR 2025 kicked off with our January meeting.

Author Michael Aubrecht shared a presentation on his book *Thomas Jefferson and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom: Faith & Liberty in Fredericksburg*. Michael has written multiple books and published many articles for print and online magazines. He hosts the YouTube series *The Naked Historian* and manages the Facebook page *Today's History Lesson*. Michael's books are Amazon Best-Sellers in their category and he was a finalist in the International Book Awards.



Michael Aubrecht AKA The Naked Historian

250th Anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions

The Virginia SAR joined the Virginia America 250 Committee and other historical organizations in Roanoke, on January 18, to observe the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions. The resolutions were signed by 15 Virginia frontiersmen, in 1775, as a show of support of the Continental Congress voting



The Virginia SAR Color Guard at the Roanoke History Museum

to boycott British goods in formal protest of the Intolerable Acts. The resolutions were the first to illustrate the sentiment of Virginia's western counties, where "even in (these) remote regions, the hand of . . . unconstitutional power hath pursued us, to strip us of that liberty and property . . . which God vested us."



President Barnard with VA America 250 Honorary Chair Carly Fiorina

Virginia SAR Annual Meeting

The Virginia SAR held its annual meeting on February 7-8 at Virginia Crossings. The Richmond SAR assumed its usual role of one of the meeting's host chapters, joined by outgoing president Bill Greaif's Williamsburg Chapter and incoming President Dr. Michael Weyler's Colonel William Grayson Chapter.



Richmond SAR volunteers once again stepped up to assist with manning the meeting's registration table and welcoming guests as they arrived. Mark Brennan, Dale Burgess, Bill Haskins, Dana Law, Bob Lusk, Bret Martin and Williamsburg Chapter Member Steve McGuffin each helped with the effort. Richmond SAR Members Philip Barnard, Mark Brennan, Bill Haskins, Dana Law and Chris Yohn attended the meeting.

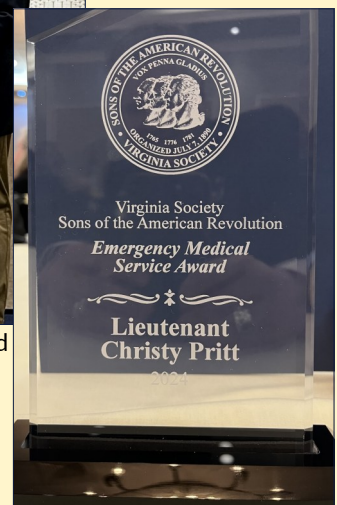


Volunteers Bob Lusk, Dale Burgess and Steve McGuffin

The Richmond SAR, with the other host chapters, was honored with a *Certificate of Commendation and Thanks* for its efforts. The Chapter was also honored to have its EMS of the Year nominee Christy Pritt named as the Virginia SAR EMS of the Year. Richmond President Philip Barnard accepted both awards on behalf of the recipients.



Bill Greaif and Philip Barnard



New Virginia SAR President Dr. Michael Weyler

Colonel William Grayson Chapter Member Dr. Michael Weyler took the oath of office to become the 105th Virginia SAR President, succeeding Williamsburg Chapter Member Bill Greaf's administration. President Weyler announced the theme for his term in office is: *Virginia 1775*, celebrating multiple important 250th anniversary events.



National SAR President General Dr. Darryl Addington inducts Dr. Michael Weyler as the new Virginia SAR President

Those Virginia SAR events kicked off with the Richmond SAR hosting the 250th commemoration of Patrick Henry's *Give me Liberty or Give me Death* speech. The event was combined with a grave marking honoring Colonel Edward Carrington whose dying wish was to be buried on the spot he heard Henry's speech. Upcoming state-level events are: **May 3, Williamsburg** - Capture of the powder magazine, **July 26, Winchester** - The Beeline March, **Oct. 25-26, Culpeper** - The Culpeper Minutemen, **Oct. 26, Hampton** - The Battle of Hampton, **Nov. 15, Virginia Beach** - The Skirmish at Kemp's Landing, **Dec. 6, Chesapeake** - The Battle of Great Bridge (National event).

More Chapter Honors

The Richmond SAR was also awarded with multiple streamers for its many 2024 accomplishments. Those include:

- ◆ Virginia SAR Chapter Excellence
- ◆ Best Chapter Award
 - ◇ Large Chapter - Second Place
- ◆ Virginia Society Cup
 - ◇ Large Chapter - Second Place
- ◆ Sponsor - Best EMS Person of the Year
- ◆ 100% Participation Flag Recognition
- ◆ Participant - Flag Retirement
- ◆ Participant - Public Service Contest

These honors belong to every Richmond SAR Member as they were earned through the collective efforts of the entire Chapter.



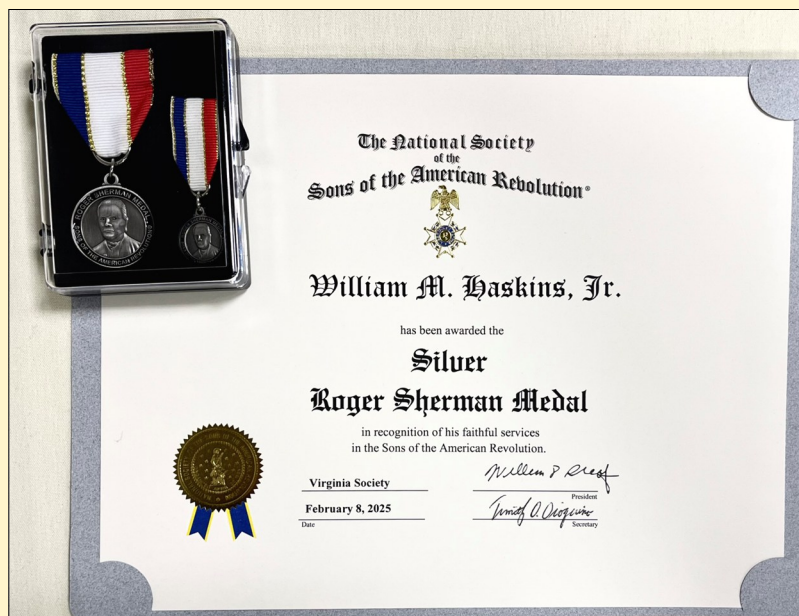
Individual Awards



National SAR Past President General Joe Dooley presents Dana Law his First Virginia Regiment Colonel's commission.



Chris Yohn served as National SAR President General Dr. Darryl Addington's aide-de-camp during the two-day event. He presented Chris the traditional aide-de-camp pin for his service.



Bill Haskins was awarded the Silver Roger Sherman Medal for his continued outstanding service. President Barnard accepted the award on Bill's behalf.



Virginia SAR President Bill Greaf presents the Patriot Medal to Chris Yohn.



George Washington's Birthday

The Richmond SAR participated in George Washington's February 22 birthday celebration at the Yorktown Revolutionary War Museum. The event was sponsored by the Williamsburg SAR and featured the Virginia SAR Color Guard.

The celebration took place in front of the museum's prized plaster cast of the famous Houdin statue of George Washington. It is one of only two in existence. The original marble statue stands in the Virginia Capitol Building and is the central device in the Richmond SAR logo.

Philip Barnard and Chris Yohn represented the Chapter.



Philip Barnard and Chris Yohn
Photo courtesy of Atticus Yohn

Richmond SAR Presents *Liberty or Death* 250

- By Richmond SAR President Philip Barnard

On March 16th, in Richmond, Virginia, a crowd of almost 100, representing 25 different organizations, arrived at Historic St. John's Church to witness the Richmond Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) make history. It was the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's iconic "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!" speech.

After delivering a poignant and dignified grave marking ceremony inside St. John's Church to honor the distinguished revolutionary war service of Lt. Col. Edward Carrington, the Richmond SAR transitioned those in attendance back in time to the Second Virginia Convention day of March 23rd, 1775.

It was the Convention actions of this day that Carrington witnessed as he peered through an open window. He was so moved by what he saw that he requested of his friends nearby that he be buried in the very spot where he was standing, a lifelong wish that would later be fulfilled.



Philip Barnard delivers Carrington's biography
Photo courtesy of Diane Barnard

Richmond SAR Presents *Liberty or Death* 250 (cont.)

- By Richmond SAR President Philip Barnard

The Richmond SAR, under the direction of its President, Philip Barnard, then surprised the assembled crowd by launching into a reenactment of the debates of that fateful day.

Members of the Richmond SAR positioned throughout the seats suddenly found themselves portraying many of the significant characters who played an important role in the debates of March 23, 1775.

The Convention was led by its President, Peyton Randolph, played by Philip Barnard, who arrived at the head of the church in period costume and wig befitting the elevated standing of Randolph. And, of course, all of the drama and argument on display centered around the resolution for the defense of the Virginia colony proposed by Patrick Henry, played by Chris Dunn.



Philip Barnard portrays Peyton Randolph



Chris Dunn portrays Patrick Henry

In the end, the crowd witnessed the incredible final speech delivered by Patrick Henry and rose to applause as the day adjourned with Peyton Randolph crying out "God Save the United Colonies of America!"

The event was designed to produce a powerful start for the Virginia 1775 Presidential Initiative proposed by Virginia SAR President, Dr. Michael Weyler. It was the first time an organization outside of the St. John's Church Foundation had ever reenacted the March 23rd day of Second Virginia Convention inside the historic venue where it happened. It was also the first time that members of a Virginia SAR Chapter had ever undertaken to reenact such a historic debate for the public.

History was delivered. History was made.

Photos courtesy of Diane Barnard

Richmond SAR Delivers 250th commemoration

Richmond SAR members rose to the occasion in presenting of the Virginia SAR's 250th commemoration of Patrick Henry's *Give me liberty or give me death* speech.



L-R: Chris Dunn, Mark Brennan, Jay Whay, Brett Martin, Dean Knight, Philip Barnard, Jim Russell, Chris Yohn, Stephen Wilson

The previously mentioned reenactment of the Second Virginia Convention featured the following cast members:

- ♦ Peyton Randolph - Philip Barnard
- ♦ Thomas Jefferson - Mark Brennan
- ♦ Richard Henry Lee - Brett Martin
- ♦ Benjamin Harrison - Bill Nash/Dean Knight
- ♦ Robert Carter Nicholas - Jim Russell
- ♦ Thomas Nelson, Jr. - Stephen Wilson
- ♦ George Washington - Jay Whay
- ♦ Edmund Pendleton - Chris Yohn

The role of Patrick Henry was portrayed by Historic St. John's Church actor Chris Dunn.

Richmond SAR First Vice President Chris Ackiss had the honor ringing the Historic St. John's Church bell to open the reenactment.

Richmond SAR members Dana Law, Bob Lusk, Stephen Wilson and Chris Yohn helped lead the Lt. Colonel Edward Carrington grave marking ceremony and Stephen also played a critical role in helping coordinate the event with Historic St. John's Church.



L-R: Atticus Yohn, Bob Lusk, Chris Carr, Dana Law, Chris Yohn, Philip Barnard, Stephen Wilson, Chris Ackiss, Jim Russell, Drew Wajciechowski



Chris Ackiss rings the St. John's Church bell

Photos courtesy of Diane Barnard

Richmond SAR Delivers 250th commemoration (cont.)

Attendees from multiple states participated in laying more than 20 wreaths representing SAR, DAR and CAR Societies, The Staunton River Foundation (which promotes,



Historic St. John's Church



Carrington's grave



Patrick Henry Before the Virginia House of Burgesses
Rothermel - public domain

develops and preserves the Carrington homestead (Mulberry Hill Plantation) and the General Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America.

Virginia SAR President Dr. Michael Weyler brought greetings and presented the Virginia SAR wreath and SAR France National Trustee Pat Kelly presented the SAR France wreath. The Virginia SAR Color Guard, commanded by John Lynch II, rendered honors and Historic St. John's Church Foundation Executive Director Stephen Wilson also brought greetings.



Photo courtesy of Michael Wilson

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.

Philip Barnard

Joel Barnard ~ John Guliker ~ Simon Page, Jr. ~ Timothy Moors ~
James Dickinson IV ~ Francis Harris ~ Samuel Walker, Sr. ~ Samuel Walker, Jr. ~
Peter Wheeler ~ Simon Davis

Peter Broadbent

Lt. Richard Talbott ~ Lt. James Marshall

Taylor Cowardin

John Cowardin

Turner Cowardin

John Cowardin

Robert Halpern

James Sproul

Matthew Haskins,

William Gannon ~ Moses Preston ~ Gilbert Stevens ~ Thomas Prather

William M. Haskins, Jr.

William Gannon ~ Moses Preston ~ Gilbert Stevens ~ Thomas Prather

Brian K. Miller

Theophilus Avery ~ Abel Sholes

Dr. Jeffery Sellers

John Laws

Arthur H. Taylor III

Silas Call

Chris Yohn

John Yohn ~ James Marshall

Richmond SAR Supports VA250's *Liberty or Death* event

Historic St. John's Church Foundation Executive Director Stephen Wilson played a pivotal role in researching, planning and organizing the VA250 official commemoration of Patrick Henry's *Give me Liberty or give me Death* speech. The sold-out event featured three showings, with the 1:30 p.m. event taking place at the same time as the historic occurrence, 250 years before.



Chris Yohn and Stephen Wilson

As one of the initial primary events celebrating America's Semiquincentennial, the live-streamed observance and reenactment drew national attention and featured such renowned speakers as Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, Filmmaker Ken Burns and VA250 Honorary Chair Carly Fiorina.

Richmond SAR member Stephen Wilson welcomed the audience to the event on behalf of Historic St. John's Church Foundation, Chris Yohn sang *God Bless America* and Peter Broadbent was in attendance as a Chapter representative.

April Meeting and Upcoming Schedule

Our next meeting takes place on Saturday, April 19, at 1 p.m.

Join us to help commemorate the 250th anniversary of Lexington and Concord and the *Shot heard 'round the world*, and to celebrate our patriot ancestors who participated in that history-changing and nation-building event.



Richmond SAR upcoming meetings

All meetings take place at Willow Oaks Country Club

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.



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