



# Liberty Gazette

*"Give me liberty or give me death!"*  
 Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia  
 March 23, 1775



Summer 2025

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

## NC Support

Richmond SAR Vice President Chris Ackiss represented the Chapter at the NC SAR's Bethabara and Catawba Valley Chapter's April 12 grave markings in Lexington, NC.

The ceremony was the second of six events commemorating the 36 Pilgrim Reformed Church Patriots who served from Old Rowan County, NC.



Chris Ackiss

## Great Bridge and Norfolk SAR Grave Markings

The Richmond SAR was also present on April 12, in Chesapeake, VA for the marker dedications of two Revolutionary War Patriots and two from the War of 1812. The event honored members of the Smith and Woodard families. Chris Yohn presented the Richmond SAR wreath.



Photos courtesy of Chris Ackiss and Atticus Yohn

# Richmond SAR Continues JROTC Support

Registrar, Treasurer and Past President Bill Haskins continues to do outstanding work in chairing the Chapter's recognition of JROTC Cadets.

In addition to organizing the full season of presentations supporting seven Richmond area high schools, Bill attended the University of Richmond and Benedictine High School awards ceremony and presented certificates and medals to deserving cadets.



Bill Haskins

## April Meeting

### ~ Lexington and Concord 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration ~



The Richmond SAR met on April 19 and remembered the nation-building events that took place exactly 250 years before.

President Barnard featured members' Patriot Ancestors who were there by showing a map of how they arrived at the battle and their actions of the day. He shared the details of Hal Raddin's ancestor and of four of his own. Jim Russell shared his ancestors' details.

Later, attendees viewed the video recording of the Chapter's March 16 commemoration and re-enactment of Patrick Henry's *Give me Liberty or Give me Death* speech, at Historic St. John's Church.

The Chapter also welcomed two new members who took the oath and shared details of their Patriot Ancestors.

Thomas Langston joined via the service of his ancestor Zacharias Holliday and Thomas Redfern joined through his ancestor John Redfern.



Thomas Langston, Thomas Redfern and Philip Barnard



## Honoring our Ancestors Spring Events

President Barnard, who is also Governor of the Virginia Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA), represented the Richmond SAR at the OFPA's grave marking of John Alexander, a Virginia Founder and namesake of the City of Alexandria, VA.



Philip Barnard addresses the crowd at the OFPA John Alexander grave marking



Philip Barnard and Bill Haskins with Virginia SAR President Dr. Michael Weyler

Richmond SAR members Philip Barnard, Peter Broadbent and Bill Haskins attended the April 28, James Monroe birthday commemoration at Hollywood Cemetery. President Barnard presented the Chapter wreath and Peter Broadbent, who is also Vice President of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, emceed the event.

James Monroe was the fifth President of the United States, a U.S. Secretary of State, a U.S. Secretary of War, twice Governor of Virginia, the U.S. Minister to France, a U.S. Senator and a Revolutionary War Veteran.

First Vice President Chris Ackiss presented the Richmond SAR wreath at the Alamance battleground commemoration and flag retirement ceremony. Many of the Alamance Regulators went on to become high-ranking Patriot officers in the Revolution.



Chris Ackiss at Alamance

As previously reported, 2024 Richmond SAR EMS of the Year winner Lt. Christy Pritt, went on to win the Virginia SAR EMS of the Year award.

President Barnard visited the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) to present Christy with her award.

Philip Barnard and RAA Lt. Christy Pritt



## The Gunpowder Incident

### Williamsburg Powder Magazine 250<sup>th</sup>

May 3 marked the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Gunpowder Incident*, which was sparked by Lord Dunmore ordering the powder to be removed from the Williamsburg magazine and taken to a British ship.

Patrick Henry, just weeks after his famous *Liberty or Death* speech, led the Hanover County Militia on a march to Williamsburg in protest. Lord Dunmore, having already quelled previous public demonstrations and fearing for his personal safety, paid the value of the powder and left the city with his family before the militia arrived.



The Virginia SAR 250<sup>th</sup> event was hosted by the Williamsburg SAR on the Governor's Palace green. Philip Barnard, Chris Ackiss, Jason Gagnon and Chris Yohn were on hand to represent the Richmond SAR.

The day featured a historical overview that included special guest Patrick Henry, who gave a rousing speech denouncing Lord Dunmore and rallying the crowd to the cause for independence.

It was the first of a series of six events celebrating the removal of Lord Dunmore and Virginia's independence. The events are being commemorated by individual challenge coins and a special Virginia SAR medal for those who attend all six. Those who attend all six 2025-26 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary events earn the medal with a 250 bar.

## May Meeting

The Chapter met on Sunday, May 18. Highlights included Bill Haskins accepting the Lydia Darragh award on behalf of his wife Cathy, who was honored for her outstanding support of the SAR during the time of Bill's Chapter presidency and beyond.

Henricus Historical Park Historical Interpretation Supervisor John Pagano attended the meeting as the special guest speaker. John shared a living history presentation, demonstrating the uniforms and weaponry of the independent companies that became the 1775 Virginia Militia.



John Pagano

Bill Haskins accepts his wife Cathy's Lydia Darragh award

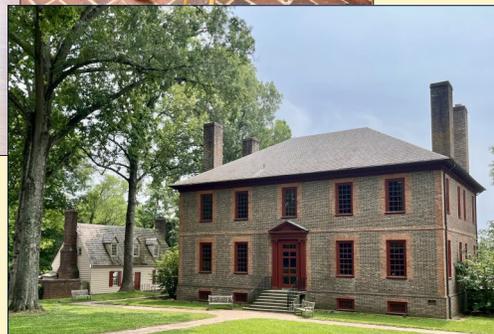
## Richmond SAR Sponsors Henrico County Historical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



John Lynch, Ron Miller, Stu Whitehead and Gary Dunaway

The Henrico County Historical Society approached the Richmond SAR to support its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 1. The Chapter agreed and served as the event's SAR sponsor.

Virginia SAR Color Guardsmen John Lynch, Gary Dunaway and Ron Miller (Williamsburg) and Stu Whitehead (Great Bridge) travelled to Richmond and made a great display in continental uniform as they posted the colors.



Wilton House Museum

Chris Yohn was asked to speak and gave an overview of the SAR's history, what it stands for and how SAR, DAR and CAR membership offers people a chance to help preserve our nation's founding values.

# U.S. Army 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration

June 14 marked the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Continental Congress voting to create the Continental Army - which became the U.S. Army after independence was declared. Chris Yohn represented the Richmond Chapter at both National SAR events commemorating the occasion and at that evening's gala dinner.

The day started at Mount Vernon with a *march to the tomb* parade led by a multi-state SAR color guard commanded by National SAR Color Guard Commander Scott Collins.



The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Army program featured speakers: SAR Secretary General Michael Elston, American Legion Past National Commander Brett Reistad, Virginia SAR President Michael Weyler, Virginia DAR Regent Laurie Nesbitt, Virginia CAR President Meredith Hopkins and the keynote speaker Lieutenant General (Retired) Leslie Smith. Elston, Reistad and Smith presented the National SAR wreath, which counted as a presentation for every chapter.

Proceedings then moved to the Washington family tomb, where the SAR conducted its first-ever grave marking ceremony for George and Martha Washington. The National SAR wreath laying counts as a presentation for each chapter. Chris Yohn led the singing of *God Bless America*.



Photo courtesy of Vickie Bryant

## U.S. Army 250 Gala Dinner

The June 14 events concluded with a gala dinner held in old-town Alexandria which featured a traditional U.S. Army cake-cutting ceremony and a keynote address delivered by General George Washington.

Chris Yohn led the singing of *The Army Song* and *Happy Birthday*.

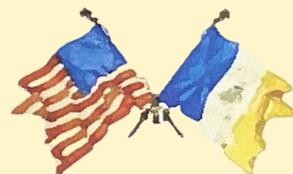


## Liberty Point Resolves 250<sup>th</sup>



Chris Ackiss attended the 250th anniversary of the Liberty Point Resolves, in Fayetteville, NC. Chris served as the ceremony's emcee and presented the Richmond Chapter wreath.

The event recognized the Patriots who, on June 20, 1775, formed a group known as "The Association." They met at Lewis Barge's tavern in Cross Creek (now part of Fayetteville) and signed a document protesting the actions of Great Britain following the battles of Lexington and Concord.



## Now Available - New Richmond SAR Logo Challenge Coin

The new Richmond SAR logo challenge coin, featuring the Houdin George Washington statue housed in the Virginia State Capitol (and on the Richmond SAR logo) is now available.

The coin was manufactured using a newly available technique to achieve an incredibly detailed rendering and the unique coloring of this Richmond landmark honoring our Patriot Ancestors' Commanding General and the *Father of our Country*.

These premium coins are available at a special Richmond Chapter Member price of \$20 per coin. They are available for purchase at all Richmond SAR meetings



### 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. A few remain available for purchase. This design will not be reordered.



### The Washington Monument Coin

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



Centennial and Washington Monument coins are \$15 per piece.

All challenge coin purchases support Richmond SAR historic commemoration events and activities.

## 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

# September Meeting and Upcoming Schedule

Our next meeting is the Chapter annual dinner, which takes place on Tuesday, September 9, at 6 p.m.

Join us to catch up after a summer of activity, to hear the latest on special 250 commemorations and upcoming Chapter events.

The evening will feature special guest speaker: Author, Historian and Richmond Battlefield National Park Ranger Bert Dunkerly who will share his insight and expertise on the 1781 battle of Richmond, in which traitor Benedict Arnold led the attack.



## Richmond SAR upcoming meetings

All meetings take place at Willow Oaks Country Club

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

Sunday, September 28 - Randolph grave markings  
@ Randolph Family Cemetery on the grounds of VSU

Sunday, October 5 - 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 9 - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9 - 6 p.m.



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