



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Fall 2025

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

More NC Support

Richmond SAR Vice President Chris Ackiss continues to represent the Chapter at multiple North Carolina SAR events. His persistent and ongoing *Southern Campaign* is a great source of Richmond SAR visibility and outreach to our NC SAR compatriots.

Chris presented the Richmond Wreath at the 244th anniversaries of The House in the Horseshoe, on July 26, the Battle of Rockfish, on August 2, and the Battle of Elizabethtown on August 30.



Chris Ackiss
House in the Horseshoe - Rockfish - Elizabethtown

Virginia Declaration of Rights

President Barnard attended the Virginia SAR's annual Virginia Declaration of Rights commemoration at Gunston Hall, hosted by the George Mason SAR, on August 2.

Philip represented the Richmond SAR and the Virginia Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America as he presented wreaths and brought greetings on behalf of both organizations.

The observance marked the 249th anniversary of the historic event.



Philip Barnard

Flag support

Third Vice President Robert Halpern keeps his Chapter *Flag Recognition and Retirement Chair* duties foremost in his mind, even while on vacation.

As Robert travelled this past summer, he passed the Little League Museum, in Williamsport, PA, when he noticed their national flag was worn and tattered. He just so happened to have a new flag with him from donations he'd received. Robert immediately stopped and presented it to the museum, which gladly accepted and hoisted the replacement.



National flag donated by Robert Halpern, proudly flying at the Little League Baseball Museum, in Williamsport, PA

September Meeting

The Richmond SAR met for its annual dinner on September 9.

The evening was highlighted by honoring Chris Ackiss' and Thomas Redfern's Patriot Ancestors Alexander Mebane, Jr. and Richard Redfearn. Chris also presented flag streamers he earned for the Chapter at the previously mentioned NC SAR events.



Chris Ackiss presents NC SAR flag streamers



Nicole Hakim Yohn and Chris Yohn

Past President Chris Yohn presented the Lydia Darragh Medal to his wife Nicole Hakim Yohn, continuing the SAR tradition of honoring outgoing Chapter First-ladies for outstanding support of the Chapter and the SAR mission.



Lydia Darragh presentation photo courtesy of Ilse Yohn

September meeting (cont.)

President Barnard presented Compatriot Thomas Langston the SAR War Service Medal for his contributions to protecting America's freedoms through his service in Korea and Southwest Asia.



Philip Barnard and Thomas Langston



Philip Barnard and Bert Dunkerly

Another meeting highlight featured Author, Historian and Richmond National Battlefield Park Ranger Bert Dunkerly, whose presentation *Washington Takes Command*, took a look at Washington's military career from his early years through the revolution.

Welcome new members!

The Richmond SAR welcomed new members Hord, Waltman, Sprowl, Braswell and Eisenhart, who were officially inducted at the September meeting.



Bill Haskins, Ruble Hord III, Owen Waltman, Jr., Philip Barnard, Mark Sprowl, Shenan Doah Braswell, Stephen Eisenhart

Supplemental Patriot Ancestors

Chris Yohn added three supplemental Patriot Ancestors.



- Henry Vanderslice:
- ◆ Berks Co. PA Sheriff
 - ◆ Age 50 - First public reading Declaration of Independence 7/8/1776
 - ◆ Went on to become General Muhlenberg's wagonmaster (Led 12 wagons, 12 carters, 30 horses)



- Jacob Vanderslice:
- ◆ First Lieutenant 9th Pennsylvania
 - ◆ Brandywine
 - ◆ Germantown
 - ◆ Valley Forge
 - ◆ Monmouth



- Henry Haffa:
- ◆ Court martial man - Berks Co. PA Militia
 - ◆ Berks Co. PA Sheriff
 - ◆ Guarded Hessian POWs from Trenton at Reading, PA

Virginia SAR Semi-annual Meeting

The Virginia SAR held its 2025 semi-annual meeting on September 19-20, at the Westin Washington Dulles hotel.

Weekend events included a five-patriot grave marking in which the Richmond SAR was recognized for presenting a wreath, and a flag retirement ceremony giving credit to each participating chapter. President Barnard presented the flag for the Richmond SAR.

Newly inducted National SAR President General Mike Elston was in attendance along with other National and VA SAR officers. The weekend included a full membership meeting, awards and historical presentations.



September 28 - Richmond SAR Signature Event



Francis Bland Randolph grave before and after

John Randolph grave before and after



Restored Randolph family cemetery

The Richmond SAR led the charge in planning and organizing a two-patriot grave marking taking place on September 28.

[Click here for full details.](#)

Patriots John and Frances Bland Randolph devoted their financial support to the Virginia Militia and continental armies from 1775 throughout the war. John, a member of the militia, passed away in October, 1775.

Philip Barnard led the efforts to restore the graves and family cemetery. And, the VA SAR Knight Patty fund provided financial support.

The ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Francis Bland Randolph DAR and Virginia State University.

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

October Meeting and Upcoming Schedule

Our next meeting takes place on Sunday October 5, at 1 p.m.

Join us for recognitions, news and historical presentations.



Richmond SAR upcoming meetings

All meetings take place at Willow Oaks Country Club

*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.



SONS of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Patriotic ★ Historical ★ Educational

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