



# The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter      Virginia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution



*By signing the Declaration of Independence,  
the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the  
Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless.  
Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.*

Vol. XXVI

Number 12

DECEMBER 2021

## President's Message

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving and encourage you to be thankful for your many blessings during the upcoming holiday season. As in the past, we do not have a Chapter meeting in December.

Our final 2021-chapter meeting was held on Saturday, November 13. We had approximately 45 members attend the meeting to hear our excellent speaker, Compatriot Bill Kelso. Bill discussed his work over the years on the Jamestown Rediscovery Project. His talk and the accompanying slides were exceptional and a highlight of our luncheon speakers this year.

The 2021 Slate of Officers was approved during the November meeting. The new officers are listed later in this newsletter and will be inducted at our joint dinner meeting with the Thomas Nelson, Jr Chapter on January 8, 2022. If you see them around town, please thank them for agreeing to serve the Chapter.

Our Veterans Day commemoration was held outside in front of the Governor's Palace in conjunction with Colonial Williamsburg on November 11 at 10 AM. The program included 2 keynote speakers (Compatriot Jim Icenhour and CW's Marquis de Lafayette), wreath presentations and a Salute to Veterans with SAR and DAR veterans representing the 6 branches of the United States military. It was a beautiful morning, and the 250-300 attendees were very complimentary of the program. Thanks to all who helped in the planning and who participated in this meaningful event.

The Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration will begin at 11 AM on December 4, 2021. Information on this event is provided later in this newsletter.

Finally, if you have not paid your 2022 dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. Honor your Patriot's contribution to the American Revolution and help the Chapter support the SAR mission in Williamsburg.

Best wishes for the holiday season and I encourage you to find an opportunity this year to help those that are less fortunate.

Roger W Cross, III



# Calendar

**Saturday Dec 4, 2021**

11:00 Battle of Great Bridge  
Great Bridge Battlefield and  
Waterways History, Historic Way,  
Chesapeake,

**Monday Dec 6, 2021**

10:00 BOM meeting  
by ZOOM

**Saturday January 8, 2022**

Joint meeting with  
Thomas Nelson, Jr Chapter  
and VASSAR  
Installation of Officers  
Details will be in the January  
newsletter.

## Chapter News



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



On 30 Oct 2021, Sgt. LeGrande USA Ret., who is a member of "The Old Guard" spoke at the Providence Classical School on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Members of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution were in attendance and enjoyed a very interesting review of "The Old Guard"

The first Unknown Soldier almost didn't make it back to U.S. soil at all.

Too big to fit through the doors into the USS Olympia, the ship designated to carry the remains back from France, the casket was tied to the deck. But when the Olympia plowed through the remnants of a hurricane, tossed by 20-foot waves, it seemed chancy whether the ship would make it, much less the remains stay on board.

At one point, the captain asked a Navy chaplain, a Catholic priest, to hold a prayer service asking God to preserve ship and soldier.

Capt. Henry Lake Wyman managed to keep the ship afloat, and members of the Marine Corps Honor Guard, which maintained constant watch throughout the storm, lashed themselves to the deck to stay on duty. They even preserved the roses that had been placed on the casket in France, according to historian Patrick K.

O'Donnell's account in "The Unknowns," a history of the war and the tomb.

One hundred years ago Tuesday, the Olympia pulled into the Washington Navy Yard to deliver the remains to an anxious public.



# CHAPTER EVENTS

Compatriots,

A new US Flag was presented to Bruton Parish Church by the Williamsburg Chapter SAR on November 3. Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson, Rector of Bruton, is shown next to the flag. Compatriots, left to right, are Harley Stewart, Thomas Campbell, William Greaf, James Morford, and David Westenger. The flag was given in gratitude for the past 36 years of Services of Prayer and Thanksgiving hosted and conducted by Bruton Parish Church on July 4th.

Harley



Photo by Rebecca Davy, the organist

## VETERANS DAY COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG





# CHAPTER AWARDS



President Roger Cross presenting a NSSAR Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate to MPO Michael J. Ferriero of the James City County Police at the JCC Police Department on November 3.

President Roger Cross presenting to the awardees  
Certificates of Appreciation



Corey Pollock &  
Kristina Swoyer  
(Colonial Heritage)



Jim Hess, Hunt Berryman,  
Steve Holm, & Steve Perger, Jr

Certificates of Distinguished Service

Bronze Roger Sherman Medals



John Lynch & Robert Davis  
Chapter Distinguished Service  
Medal  
(by President, only 1 per year)



Thomas Morr, James Morford  
Duncan McIver & Milt Holt

Bronze Color Guard Medal

Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal



Steve McGuffin

Virginia Society Medal



Harley Stewart



David Westenberger



Bill Greaf



## Continuing with other Recent Notable Events



**Roger Sherman Medal**



President Roger Cross presenting speaker Compatriot Bill Kelso with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Jefferson Cup



**Lydia Darragh Medal**



**NSSAR Certificate of Distinguished Service**

November 23, 2021, Chapter president, Roger Cross, awarded several medals and certificates today at the Ford's Colony Country Club. The attached photos are of these awards. The Roger Sherman Medal was awarded to Compatriot Paul Huchko for his work with the chapter's youth education program. The Lydia Darragh Medal was awarded to KJ Corbett for her long time support of the Sons of the American Revolution. The NSSAR Certificate of Distinguished Service was awarded to Compatriot George Corbett for his work with the chapter's Flag Recognition Program.

# Virginia Society

*Sons of the American Revolution*

## National Society Sons of the American Revolution 1775 Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration

**The formal NASSAR 1775 Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration will start at 11:00 A.M., Saturday December 4, 2021 at the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum, 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320.** Jon Stull will be the guest speaker. The ceremony will include the 11th annual wreath laying led by the Norfolk Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution and the 68th annual wreath laying led by the Great Bridge Chapter, Virginia Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The ceremonies will conclude by noon.

Those chapters/patriotic organizations wishing to participate in the laying of wreaths and wish to have their chapter/patriotic organization and representative recognized in the program must provide that information to Kenneth Hawkins at [drklhawkins@gmail.com](mailto:drklhawkins@gmail.com)

The Founders Inn and Spa will host our group. The hotel address is 5641 Indian River Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23464. You may call the hotel toll-free at 1-757-366-5700 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution Group (Group Code: SOAR). Should you experience any difficulty with your reservation, contact Dorothy Keenan, Group Room Coordinator, at 1-757-366-5723.

Reservations must be cancelled no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date of arrival to avoid a cancellation fee of one night's room and tax.





# Registrar's Corner



Did You Know? – One of SAR's newest compatriots is General James N. Mattis USMC Ret., decorated general and Secretary of Defense. He was inducted at the 131st annual SAR Congress. Go to [sar.org](http://sar.org), news, meet one of SAR's newest members for the full story and to read his speech.

We also have two new compatriots, Bradley Robert Pittman, who will be inducted at our next lunch meeting, and George Wesley Corbett. Compatriot Corbett was the father of George Russo Corbett, who will receive his father's memorial membership certificate.

**Hunt Berryman Registrar**

**Email:**

**[huntberryman@aol.com](mailto:huntberryman@aol.com)**



## Williamsburg Chapter 2022 Elected Board of Managers

President	Bruce Laubach
Vice-President	John Lynch II
Secretary	Gerry Ward
Treasurer	Gary Dunaway
Registrar	Hunt Berryman
Public Relations	Robert Davis III
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	David Westenberger
Chaplain	Jim Morford
Sergeant-At-Arms	Steve Holm
Historian	Steve Perger
Member-At-Large	Gerald Sailors
Member-At-Large	Eric Ely
Immediate Past President	Roger Cross



## Flag recognition



Trenton, New Jersey   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania   **Easton, Pennsylvania**

## The Easton Flag

You may have heard something about how the 13 original colonies of America declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776?

The various frustrations of the colonists with **King George III** and his Parliament were put to parchment by a certain **Thomas Jefferson**, and after a few modifications by Congress the Declaration of Independence was all set to be printed and distributed in early July 1776. By Congress's orders, it was read first read to the public in **three** places at the same time on **July 8, 1776**:

When the Declaration was read in Easton's Great Square at the old courthouse by Robert Levers county clerk, it is said that the citizens of the town unfurled a flag some local seamstresses had sewn: the flag of Easton that remains so to this day!

Actually, it was referred to as simply "the standard" in a Philly newspaper from that time, a standard representing the 13 rebelling colonies. The primary document doesn't mention what it looked like, however.

The controversy arises from the fact that this would make Easton's flag the first "stars and stripes" flag in America. Yes, the very first "red, white and blue" (not counting Britain's flag).

There were no photographs at that time, so there will probably never be any way to prove the flag that appeared in the Square in 1776 was, in fact, the flag we still have.

The story gets trickier still: The flag disappears from the historical record for 38 years after its supposed introduction. The first time everyone agrees it appears in history is on September 6, 1814 when the current Easton flag was given as a gift to Captain Abraham Horn's 59-strong rifle company as they left to avenge the burning of Washington, DC during the War of 1812 - which this time was not about tea.



Photo by Karen Corbett

The Williamsburg chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, presented a Flag Recognition certificate to James and Barbara Harris on 11 July 2021. The Harris' proudly display and maintain the flag of our nation at their home in James City county. Pictured left to right is George Corbett, chairman of the chapter's flag recognition committee, Barbara and James Harris.





## From the Chaplain

Jim Morford



The finally of the world-renowned Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show is a living nativity (complete with live camels and sheep) performed of the great stage while an announcer reads the 1926 poem **“One Solitary Life”** by James Allan Francis. In a world of political correctness and cancel culture, isn’t it wonderful that this message is still boldly declared.

He was born in an obscure village  
The child of a peasant woman.  
He grew up in another obscure  
village  
Where he worked in a carpenter  
shop  
Until he was thirty. He never  
wrote a book.  
He never held an office.  
He never went to college.  
He never visited a big city.  
He never traveled more than two  
hundred miles  
From the place where he was born.  
He did none of the things  
Usually associated with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.  
He was only thirty-three  
His friends ran away.  
One of them denied him.  
He was turned over to his enemies  
And went through the mockery of a  
trial.  
He was nailed to a cross between two  
thieves.  
While dying, his executioners  
gambled for his clothing  
The only property he had on earth.  
When he was dead  
He was laid in a borrowed grave  
Through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and  
gone  
And today Jesus is the central  
figure of the human race  
And the leader of mankind’s  
progress.  
All the armies that have ever  
marched  
All the navies that have ever sailed  
All the parliaments that have ever  
sat  
All the kings that have ever  
reigned put together  
Have not affected the life of  
mankind on earth  
As powerfully as that one solitary  
life.

## A Prayer for Christenmasse\*

Almighty God and Father, we lift our prayers to you who gave to the world your only son not to condemn the world but to save it. We pray that we may be worthy followers of Him whose birth we celebrate this month.

Help us, oh Lord, to accept and practice Jesus’ message of love, acceptance and forgiveness.

As we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, may we share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. May we close the door of hate and open the door of friendship all over the world. Let kindness go with every gift and good wishes with every greeting.

Lord we pray that you will be with us during the boisterous holiday season and guide us to see beyond the glitz and the glitter to focus our attention, even for a little while, on the babe in the manger. Let us contemplate the impact of “that one solitary life.” AMEN

*\*Christian Mass - a middle English term.*



# *In Memoriam*



## *Chapter Compatriots we have recently lost*

*Compatriot Howard Perley passed away August 17, 2021. Age 91.*

*Howard was chairman for Teacher of the Year 2013-2016. Cards may be sent to his wife Dorothy, 4212 Corbridge Course, Williamsburg, VA. 23188*

*Compatriot Vincent Panissidi passed away in Palmetto, Florida on October 11, 2021. Age 70. He was a Dual member with the Florida Society S.A.R.*

*Those we lose continue on in our hearts and memories.*



# Williamsburg 2021 Chapter Officers

President	Roger Cross	<a href="mailto:roger.cross66@gmail.com">roger.cross66@gmail.com</a>
Registrar	Hunt Berryman	<a href="mailto:huntberryman@aol.com">huntberryman@aol.com</a>
Newsletter&WEB	David Westenberger	<a href="mailto:pal744@cox.net">pal744@cox.net</a>
Vice-President	Stephen McGuffin	
Secretary	Milt Holt	
Asst Secretary	Duncan McIver Jr.	
Treasurer	Jeff Wooldridge	
Public Relations	Harley Stewart	
Historian	Steve Perger Jr.	
Chaplain	James Morford	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stephen Holm	
Past President	William Greaf	
At-Large	James Swords	
At-Large	Gerald Sailors	
Color Guard	John Lynch	



Our January 2022 installation meeting details will be in the January newsletter. Typically we do not have a meeting in December.



From 1659 to 1681, showcasing one's holiday spirit in Boston could cost you a fine of as much as five shillings. That's right — Christmas used to be illegal. It's somewhat surprising, then, that the same puritanical minds also created the first American batch of eggnog at Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.

The word nog comes from the word grog; that is, any drink made with rum. Christmas was so inconsequential in early America that after the Revolutionary War, Congress didn't even bother taking the day off to celebrate the holiday, deciding instead to hold its first session on Christmas Day, 1789. It took almost a century for Congress to proclaim it a federal holiday.

# SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



SAR apparel is available at (502) 589-1779 or on the  
National SAR WEB site at:

<https://store.sar.org/storefront.aspx>



0928

Personalized Name Badge  
(Name Tag) - Pocket  
Attachment Nametag

\$25.00

There has been confusion on how to add this item to the cart. There is a statement that says "I understand personalized items are not refundable" that has a small box after it on the bottom of the page where the personalized items are added. You must click that box before the "ADD PERSONALIZED ITEM TO CART" button will become active. Unless you click the box agreeing that Personalized Items are not refundable, the item can not be added to the cart.

Personal Name Badge link is:

[https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20\(name%20tag%20\)](https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20(name%20tag%20))