



# Col. William Grayson Chapter *Sons of the American Revolution* —Newsletter—



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Volume **13**, Issue **2**

**April-June 2020**

## The Way Ahead

A letter from William L. Schwetke President, Virginia SAR

Virginia Compatriots, as many of you already know, our National Society's Executive Committee has decided that there will not be a physical 2020 Congress in Richmond. This decision protects our compatriots from the danger posed by this pandemic and reflects the uncertainty of future pandemic restrictions by several layers of government.

This is an appropriate time to give thanks to the many compatriots and family members who worked hard on making the Richmond Congress a success: those who participated in organization and planning, financially supported this effort, or volunteered to serve during the congress. Your willingness to serve and your efforts would have made this a memorable Congress. Thank you very much.

Now is a good time to focus on what does lie ahead. The pandemic is with us, and we must not be deterred by it in our efforts to keep alive and spread the Spirit of 1776; and to continue our original purpose in helping reunite a divided country, needed today just as much as it was in 1890. Take advantage of the ability to hold our ceremonies and conduct our business online. Then, as we begin again to do these things in physical meetings, be sure to protect each other, and follow the current guidelines to the best of your ability.

Thanks again to each of you who have participated in our preparations for the Richmond Congress. Keep in mind that we have a strategic goal of hosting the 2031 Congress, called by chancellor Eric Monday the "Victory Congress", to celebrate victory at Yorktown. I pray that God bless our great country, and bless each of you, and yours, with good health and prosperity in these difficult times.

Your Servant, Bill  
William L. Schwetke President, Virginia SAR

## *President's Report*

While COVID-19 resulted in the cancellation of most SAR live events over the last three months, the Virginia Society of SAR made up for it with a combination of virtual, Online remote events and a few events where distancing guidelines permitted attendance.

The most significant cancellation for Virginia was the cancellation of the 2020 SAR Congress scheduled for July in Richmond. Virginia had been preparing for this event since we got the 2020 host assignment some years back. Much time and money had gone into the preparation to make the 2020 Congress one of the best. Needless to say, it was a big let-down, particularly for our VASSAR President Bill Schwetke and all those who had been working intently on the preparation for well over a year.

While VASSAR held its 2020 Annual Meeting in February, just before the shut downs, attention is now being focused on the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, which is still on schedule to be held at the Berry Hill Resort, South Boston, Virginia, on September 18 and 19. While we are still planning for a live event, preparations are also being made for a potential virtual meeting. We will keep you as up to date as possible on that event.

So, what has the Colonel William Grayson Chapter been involved with since the last newsletter?

On April 11, I presented a Flag Certificate to a neighbor. The story is in an article below. Since most of us are confined to our neighborhoods, this might be a good time to search out to those in your neighborhoods who fly the American Flag 24/7 and lighted. This is a good way to get involved while staying home.

On April 19, a virtual Patriot's Day Ceremony was held on Zoom. The event speakers, the VASSAR Color Guard members and the wreath presenters participated from their homes in this live-streamed event. President General Jack Manning also participated and spoke as part of the program. Our Colonel William Grayson Chapter flag and wreath were included in the event. Article and photos below.

On May 14, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter participated in a virtual event organized by the Colonel James Wood II Chapter to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE-Day). The ceremony revolved around honoring about 12 WWII veterans living in Hidden Springs Senior Facility in Bentonville, Virginia. Article below.

On May 30, several members of our Chapter participated in a virtual event organized by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter to commemorate General Anthony Wayne's crossing of the Potomac and march through Leesburg on June 3, 1781 on his way to Yorktown and the eventual surrender of Cornwallis. Details in the article below.

On June 12, four members of our chapter, led by our chapter's Flag Committee Chairman, Dave Button, attended the Woodbridge, Virginia, ceremony where a Flag Certificate was presented to Lustine Chrysler Dodge Jeep. It is the largest, most visible flag in this area of Route 1, night and day. Detail below.

On June 13 there were two events in which the Colonel William Grayson Chapter participated.

The first was a grave marking ceremony sponsored by the Colonel James Wood II Chapter in Rileyville, Virginia, for Patriot William Robertson. Our chapter was represented in the Color Guard, and our chapter wreath was presented. Article below.

The second was a ceremony sponsored by the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter honoring the men of the Culpeper Minutemen Battalion, formed in September 1775, whose members fought most notably in the Battle of Great Bridge. Our chapter wreath was presented at the Culpeper Minutement Memorial Monument. Article below.

While these virtual ceremonies may be less personal than live, in person events, we would still encourage all to participate from home because we are still planning to give Americanism Report points for attendance at virtual meeting during this current period of limited mobility. When you do attend these virtual events, make sure George Ax, [gax@cox.net](mailto:gax@cox.net), our chapter's Americanism Coordinator, knows of your attendance.

Since our last scheduled chapter meeting, i.e., our May 16 meeting, was cancelled, I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next scheduled meeting on October 3 at the Heritage Hunt Golf Club.

As for now, each of us must exercise our own best judgement on our contacts with others.

In patriotic service,

Michael E. Weyler

## **Vice President's Report – George Thomas**

1. On our web site, under Governance there is a selection "Activities Reporting". This is a list of activities where the Chapter gets points for participation in various veterans' related activities. As noted please send details to Bill Collier, but also copy Mike Weyler. Several of these activities are appropriate for the Newsletter, in those cases also copy Newsletter Editor Chuck Mills. Chuck will need photos and more information about the event than Bill.

<http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org/activities.html>

2. Amazon Smile – If you order from Amazon, considering designating our Chapter to receive donations from any purchases you make. Below is a link to the instructions as posted on our web site.

[http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org/chapters/colonelwilliamgrayson/data/smile\\_amazon.pdf](http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org/chapters/colonelwilliamgrayson/data/smile_amazon.pdf)

3. Paypal – We now have an account on Paypal if you desire to make a donation to the Chapter, pay annual dues, pay for luncheons or anything else related to Chapter payments.

<http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org/chapters/colonelwilliamgrayson/data/paypal.pdf>

4. Veterans that wish to have their photo posted on the web site should send it to George Thomas.

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As a side note the VASSAR web site is down for maintenance for an undefined time. As a result I am unable to make any updates to our Chapter web site since it is hosted under their server. You may still be able to access some parts of the VASSAR web site though the links on our Chapter site.

## *Upcoming Events*

Note: All events subject to change or cancellation due to the coronavirus situation.

18 July: 246<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves, Pohick Church, Lorton, Virginia, 11am-12pm.

7-8 August: 2020 SAR Atlantic Middle States Association Meeting, Online only.

11 September: Massing of the Colors, Culpeper, VA, 8:36am-10:15am.

18-19 September: Virginia SAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Berry Hill Resort and Conference Center, South Boston, VA.

10 October: The Raid on Martin's Station Commemoration, Wilderness State Park, Ewing, VA, 10am-11:30am.

17 October: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting, 11am (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155. The price of lunch is \$35 per person. The 2021 officers will be nominated at this meeting.

24 October: Culpeper Minutemen Memorial Dedication, Culpeper, VA.

14 November: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting, 11am (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155. The price of lunch is \$35 per person. The 2021 officers will be elected at this meeting.

21 November: Plaque Dedication Ceremonies at Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery, Bluemont, VA (at 10am) and Ketocin Baptist Church Cemetery, Purcellville, VA (at 1:30pm), sponsored jointly by the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, VASSAR, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, VASSAR and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. In total, the plaques will display the names of 27 Revolutionary War Patriots and 55 War of 1812 Veterans.

5 December: 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge, Chesapeake, VA.

9 January: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting, 11am (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155. The price of lunch is \$35 per person. The 2021 officers will be sworn in at this meeting.

## **Registrar's Report**

### **NEW MEMBERS APPROVED: April – June 2020**

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
Richard Kemf	8 May 2020	James Bruce, Private MA
David Morris	29 May 2020	Aaron Taft, Sergeant MA Militia

### **SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED: April – June 2020**

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
O'Rourke, Terence F., Haymarket, VA	19 June 2020	Jacob Newland, SGT MA Militia
Kevin Lowell Schwoerer, Aldie, VA	19 June 2020	Lewis Underwood, Paid VA Property Tax
Sean Aldred Schwoerer, Aldie, VA	19 June 2020	Daniel Maupin, Sr., VA, Provided Supplies

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, which serves Prince William County and western Fairfax County, periodically stages events to honor William Grayson and other patriot ancestors. Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is open to the lineal descendant of a Revolutionary War soldier, sailor or Patriot. This includes persons who not only fought in the military or militia, but who also may have provided supplies, medical aid, signed oaths of Faith and Fidelity and similar acts. Contact the chapter's registrar Michael Blythe [mblythe@comcast.net](mailto:mblythe@comcast.net) for help in applying for membership.

## *Chapter Activities*

### **April 11, 2020: Fairfax Family Honored in Recognition of Exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag.**

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, honored Benton and Wendy Beach, a Fairfax family, with a Certificate of Commendation: “In Recognition of Exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America.”

The Flag Certificate Program is a nation-wide effort by the Sons of the American Revolution. It seeks to find and recognize those citizens who properly display our flag, which includes display 24/7 with illumination of the flag at night.

The Certificate was presented by Dr. Michael E. Weyler, President of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, who, while presenting the certificate maintained a “social distance” from the certificate recipients. We have heard much about the demonstration of commitment by Americans during this COVID-19 crisis. The constancy of the Beach family in their demonstration of patriotism is part of that commitment to our nation and its people.



Michael E. Weyler, President of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, presents Benton and Wendy Beach with a Certificate of Commendation



## April 19, 2020: CWG Participates in Historic Patriots Day Celebration.

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society participated in the 245th Anniversary Virtual Celebration of Patriots Day. Wednesday, April 19, 1775, is marked in history as the beginning of the American Revolution, with the Battles at Lexington and Concord being fought on that day. The second historic milestone of the day was the totally virtual execution of the celebration using an Online collaboration platform. Our hats are off to all participating compatriots, and our VASSAR President Bill Schwetke Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, but especially to our fellow Compatriots and hosts at the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution for the time and effort they put into executing such an outstanding event. There were eight CWG compatriots in virtual attendance. The CWG Chapter Color Guard was represented by Compatriots Mike Weyler (President), Leamon Duncan (Color Guard Commander), and Andrew Mills, Sr., all in period uniforms. Other Chapter members in virtual attendance were Dave Button (Secretary), Ward Nickish, “Jack” Mills, George Thomas (VASSAR 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), and John Callaway. NSSAR President General Jack Manning National Society Sons of the American Revolution also brought greetings and presented a wreath. The event was also well attended and supported by multiple NSDAR, and VSCAR Chapters.



Compatriot Leamon Duncan



Compatriot Mike Weyler



**April 24, 2020: Colonel William Grayson Chapter donates \$1250 to Willing Warriors Retreat.**

Following cancellation of planned fundraising activities because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Willing Warrior Retreat in Haymarket, VA issued a plea for donations to pay essential services. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution issued a call to membership asking for donations. The chapter responded and with a matching Chapter donation was able to donate \$1250 to the retreat. Compatriot Barry Schwoerer presented a check to Retreat co-founder John Dominick at the Warrior Retreat on Friday, 24 April. Compatriot Schwoerer conducts Operation Ancestor Search for Warriors visiting the retreat while in recovery or rehabilitation at Military medical facilities throughout the United States. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Retreat is not hosting Warriors.

THANKS to all who contributed. We couldn't have done it without your support.



Photo: L-R: Retreat co-founder John Dominick and CWG Chapter Compatriot Barry Schwoerer



## May 14, 2020: CWG Participates in the Virtual Commemoration Ceremony for World War II Veterans

On 14 May 2020, The Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Hidden Springs Senior Living Facility combined for a virtual commemoration ceremony for World War II veterans living at the facility. This event was coinciding with the Victory in Europe in May 1945. The State of Virginia has minted coins to honor the 75th Anniversary of Victory in World War II and the 100th Anniversary of World War I. Due to restrictions caused by the pandemic, a virtual ceremony was developed by the Veterans Affairs Committee of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter and Hidden Springs. The SAR portion was made via zoom with physical presentation made by facility staff members complying with designated safety guidelines. There are nine WWII veterans living at the facility.

The event was attended via zoom were Jeff Thomas, 1st VP, VASSAR; Ken Bonner, Color Guard Commander, VASSAR; Mike Weyler, President Colonel William Grayson Chapter SAR; Charles Jameson, President Culpeper Minute Men Chapter; and CJWII members Chip Daniel, Lew Ewing, Don Dusenbury, Rob Fagan & Ralph Pierce.



SAR Chapters “Zoom” in to honor WWII Veterans

### **May 30, 2020: CWG Participates in the Virtual Commemoration of the Anniversary of Wayne's Crossing.**

CWG Compatriots participated in the virtual commemoration of the anniversary of Wayne's Crossing. CWG President Weyler presented the Chapter Wreath and Compatriot Leamon Duncan, CWG Color Guard Commander, posted the Chapter flag. Also attending from our Chapter were Compatriots Callaway, Robb, and Ax. More about General Anthony Wayne..."Gen. Anthony Wayne crossed the Potomac River and marched through Leesburg on June 3, 1781, providing critical reinforcements that allowed the Continental army in Virginia to push Lord Cornwallis and the British army into Yorktown, where the war ended a few months later" (Loudoun Now, 2017). Lastly, we also want to give thanks and kudos to the event hosts Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution for another successful event. Huzzah! #SAR Patriotism.

### **June 12, 2020: CWG Presents Flag Certificate to Lustine Toyota Dodge in Woodbridge Virginia.**

On Friday, June 12, Compatriots Jack Mills, Andrew Mills, Leamon Duncan and Dave Button presented a flag certificate to Lustine Toyota Dodge in Woodbridge Virginia. The day was perfect for the presentation, a breeze was blowing and the large National Flag was flying. Compatriot Duncan was the initiator of this presentation. We were told by Mr. Nino Sita that the dealership's is on the highest point in the area and that they are about half-way between Quantico and Fort Belvoir.



Left to Right: Compatriot Jack Mills, Compatriot Andrew Mills, Lustine Representative Amine Retzki, Lustine Vice President Nino Sita, Compatriot Dave Button, Lustine Representative Rex Close, Compatriot Leamon Duncan.

**June 13, 2020: CWG Support to Colonel James Wood II Grave Marking Program, Rileyville, Virginia.**

Compatriots Andrew Mills and Jack Mills, supported the Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia SAR's Grave Marking Program for Patriot William Robertson by being a part of the Color Guard and laying a wreath at the gravesite of this honored Patriot. Patriot William Robertson served as a Private in Captain Belain Posey's Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maryland Battalion of the Flying Camp. The Flying Camp was recommended by General George Washington as being a mobile, strategic reserve of troops. In 1776, the Flying Camp was charged with the defense of New Jersey while General Washington and the Main Army looked to the defense of New York. The event was well attended by SAR, DAR, and CAR representatives who also laid wreaths at the gravesite.



Left: Compatriots Andrew Mills and Jack Mills standing with the CWG Chapter wreath. Right: Assembled members of the Color Guard of various chapters present for the grave marking program.



**June 13, 2020: CWG Support to Culpeper Minutemen Battalion Program, Yowell Meadow Park, Culpeper, VA.**

Compatriot Leamon Duncan, supported the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, Virginia SAR's program honoring the men of the Culpeper Minutemen Battalion by laying a wreath at the monument. The Culpeper Minutemen Battalion was organized in September, 1775, under a large oak tree near the monument. The Culpeper Minutemen fought in the Revolutionary War Battle of Great Bridge near Norfolk, Virginia, defeated the British, and secured Virginia for the cause of independence. The event was well-attended by SAR, DAR, and CAR representatives who also laid wreaths at the monument.



Left: Compatriot Leamon Duncan, CWG Color Guard Commander, presenting the CWG Chapter Wreath. Right: The monument to the Culpeper Minutemen Battalion.



## **June 14, 2020: Flag Day Ceremony.**

Compatriots Ross Harold Schwalm and Reverend Adam Bowling of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, conducted a Flag Dedication Ceremony at the home of Compatriot Schwalm in Woodbridge, Virginia. Members of their families along with neighbors attended the event. The flag and flagpole were erected on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020. Participants dedicated this American symbol to the memory of Compatriot Schwalm's veteran family members in the order they served their country during the many wars of this nation:

Johannes Schwalm – 1776, Adam Lebo – 1779, George Lebo – 1814, John Kessler – 1861, William Wallace Thompson – 1863, John Lebo – 1864, John Mark Schwalm – 1942, Ben Lebo Schwalm – 1943, Ross Albert Thompson – 1943, Nelson F. Moury – 1945, Ben Edward Schwalm – 1968

Also honored were living family veterans in their order of service: Woodrow Stine – 1973, Francis Welsh – 1977, Clayton Moury – 1983, Joseph Cowan – 2000, Sean Moury – 2005. The ceremony concluded with the following comment: “She’s a grand old flag and will fly 24 hours a day with a light to illuminate her during the night. May all who see her pay respects to the nation of free people she represents.” The dedication ended with the sounding of Taps by Compatriot Bowling.



Compatriot Ross Harold Schwalm, CWG Historian



### **An Ode to the Flag**

## **Historical Notes**

### **Fifers and Drummers in the American Revolution**



“The Spirit of 76”

Artist Archibald Willard made fifers and drummers an American icon when he painted, “The Spirit of 76” in 1875. Willard’s father Samuel was the model for the drummer. The painting was originally known as “Yankee Doodle”.

During the American Revolution, armies used music to communicate over long distances. In infantry units, the fife was used because of its high pitched sound and the drum because of its low pitched sound. Both instruments can be easily heard at great distances even through the din of battle. Music gave instructions for advance or retreat and helped keep order on the battlefield. Drummers would play beatings telling soldiers to turn right or left as well as to load and fire their muskets. There was a tune called “Cease Fire” that fifers and drummers played to instruct troops to stop firing. Fifers and drummers were used to help regulate camp life as well. Fife

and drum calls signaled the commencement of daily tasks such as waking up, eating meals, and performing camp chores.

Each company in an American infantry regiment during the Revolution (a full strength company was made up of 40 privates, 3 corporals, 1 ensign, 1 Lieutenant, and a Captain) would have had 1-2 fifers and 1-2 drummers.

[Yankee Doodle March at Mount Vernon Estate \(2015\)](#)