



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



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Volume **13**, Issue **3**

July- September 2020

Washington's Prayer for the Nation

The following prayer was adapted from Washington's "Letter to the States", which he wrote on June 8, 1783 as the commander in chief, at his headquarters in Newburgh, New York. This circular was directed to the governors and states of the new nation. His reference to them has been replaced by the words "the United States." Otherwise, the words and the spellings are those of General George Washington of the Continental Army. This prayer is read aloud each day at Mount Vernon's public wreath laying ceremony at Washington's tomb.

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have the United States in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristics of the Devine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation."

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.

July started off great. July 4th brought a chance to get outside with a live event in Culpeper celebrating the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration was read and discussed in detail. Our chapter was well represented.

However, when the 2020 National Society's General Congress, scheduled for Richmond from July 8 to 16, was cancelled, there was great disappointment in Virginia. Our Virginia Society, scheduled to be the host society, had spent much time and money over the last four years getting ready.

Virginia bounced back with a hybrid meeting on July 18 at the Pohick Church in Lorton to celebrate the 246th anniversary of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves. Again, our chapter was well represented.

August 8 saw a virtual district meeting of the SAR Atlantic Middle States Association, with Virginia being well represented.

On August 22, Colonel James Wood II Chapter started getting back outdoors with two grave markings near Front Royal in which our chapter participated.

September was a great month for live, in-person events. On September 5, we had our chapter's first on-site grave marking this year. We marked the graves of William and Francis Montgomery at a cemetery in Manassas. Five neighboring SAR chapters joined us for that event.

On September 12 ceremonies were held at Mount Hebron Cemetery in Winchester to remember General Daniel Morgan and to celebrate the United States Constitution. Again, we were well represented.

On September 18 and 19 VASSAR held its 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting in South Boston, Virginia. It was a great meeting, with the Colonel William Grayson Chapter and individual chapter members receiving a number of awards. We will be presenting many of these at our meeting on October 10.

While we are emerging from lock-down and getting back out into the fresh air, this has also been a time of remembrance for two of our compatriots who recently passed away. Compatriot Alex Gamble passed away on August 29, and Compatriot Allen Robb passed away on September 12. Alex was buried in Dayton, Ohio, near his parents. Allen, a retired Army Colonel, will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be announced.

Finally, I would remind all members that you should report any participation you may have had in any event involving the SAR to George Ax, gax@cox.net, for inclusion in our chapter's Americanism Report, both live, in-person events or virtual events. Also, remember to advise Bill Collier, wcol72@aol.com, of any veteran-related event in which you may have been involved for credit in our chapter's USS Stark Memorial Report, also real or virtual.

In patriotic service,

Michael E. Weyler

Vice President's Report – George Thomas

All of us know that the success of our mission is based solely on the time and efforts of the members. As a Chapter we have been very active across the spectrum of SAR initiatives and activities, particularly over the last few years. My goal is to facilitate this continued success into 2021. While we have limitations due to the

pandemic, there's still a great deal that can be done. Thanks to all the members that have stepped up in the past, the present and those in the future that makes us clearly one of the best Chapters.

I have two requests at this time.

1. For all the current committee chairmen, I am assuming you will continue to serve through 2021 in your current positions. If that is not the case, please inform me within the next couple weeks.

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

Should you be looking to relinquish your assignment, I'm asking you to find/identify your replacement.

2. When you receive your dues notice this year, I'm asking you please pay it promptly, rather than waiting. Also, if you are not planning to renew your membership, let Jeff Windland know so we do not continue to show you as unpaid. By paying promptly it will really be appreciated by those of us that have to spend considerable time trying to contact and remind members. If anyone wishes to volunteer for that job let me know.

Upcoming Events

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

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

10 October: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting. This meeting will be virtual and will begin at 10:30. Chapter Secretary Dave Button has previously provided information on registration and log on procedures. The 2021 officers will be nominated at this meeting.

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

14 November: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting. This meeting will be virtual. The 2021 officers will be elected at this meeting. Chapter Secretary Dave Button will provide information on registration and log on procedures prior to the meeting. Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club is closed for the rest of the year, at least.

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. The 2021 officers will be sworn in at this meeting. Chapter Secretary Dave Button will provide information on whether this meeting will be live or virtual when we know if Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club will be available.

Registrar's Report

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED: July- September 2020

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
Michael Stevens	14 Aug 2020	Israel Ferris, Private, 9th Regiment, Connecticut Militia
Wayne Reynolds	21 Aug 2020	James Reynolds, Paid taxes in 1782 in Albemarle County, Virginia
Jonathan Huddleston	22 Sep 2020	John Hargrove, Private under Captains Hankins, Hemphill, and Backins in SC

Supplemental Applications Approved in July – September 2020

None

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 for help in applying for membership.

Chapter Activities and News

July 4, 2020: Celebration of the Declaration of Independence

The Culpeper Minutemen (CMM) Chapter hosted the Celebration of our Declaration of Independence on the Courthouse Lawn in Culpeper with a crowd of over 100 looking on. Distinguished participants in the ceremony were Benjamin Franklin (portrayed by our friend Barry Stevens, Mayor Michael Olinger, District 30 Delegate Nick Freitas, and Virginia SAR President Bill Schwetke. CMM President Charles Jameson was the Master of Ceremonies. Four SAR Chapters participated, The Culpeper Minutemen, Colonel James Wood II, Colonel William Grayson and the Fairfax Resolves.



SAR Participants. Kneeling left to right: Jack Mills (CWG), Eric Robinson, Sean Carrigan, Virginia SAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner. Standing, left to right: Marc Robinson, Mike Weyler (CWG President), Dale Corey, Ben Franklin (portrayed by Barry Stevens), Michael Dennis, Charles Jameson, Virginia SAR President Bill Schwetke, Andrew L. Mills (CWG), Tom Hamill.

July 4, 2020: CWG presents wreath at the 59th Annual Independence Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Compatriot and Color Guard Commander Leamon Duncan presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia SAR, wreath at the 59th Annual Independence Day Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR. Compatriot Duncan presented the wreath in his Continental Army uniform. The event was well-attended with over 100 virtual participants from several other Virginia and Maryland SAR

Chapters, over 25 National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Chapters, and approximately eight societies of the Children of the American Revolution including the Colonel William Grayson Society, CAR.



Compatriot and Color Guard Commander Leamon Duncan

July 18, 2020: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Participates in the 246th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Fairfax Resolves

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter of VASSAR sponsored a virtual ceremony to commemorate the 246th anniversary of the adoption of the Fairfax Resolves, a set of resolutions adopted by a committee in Fairfax County on July 18, 1774. Written primarily by George Mason, the resolutions rejected the British Parliament's claim of supreme authority over the American colonies. Although more than thirty Virginia counties passed similar resolutions in 1774, the Fairfax Resolves were the most detailed, most influential and most radical.

The meeting included a small contingent of compatriots gathered at Pohick Church in Lorton. Those present at the scene participated via a tablet camera mounted on a tripod, a camera facing the exterior of the church and the podium from which the Master of Ceremonies, Carl Loveland, President of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, VASSAR, directed the program. Bill Schwetke, VASSAR President, also made his remarks from the podium. The contingent at the church included a four-man Color Guard, which allowed presentation of the national and state colors at the scene. Chapter colors were presented virtually by individuals, as were the wreath presentations

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was represented in this virtual ceremony by eleven of our compatriots, including some as part of the program. Five, Mike Weyler, Leamon Duncan, Jason Newman, Andrew Mills and Jack Mills, were in the Color Guard, and Leamon presented our chapter wreath. The most significant contribution from one of our members was that from Don McAndrews. He was not only the guest speaker for the event, but also, as George Mason, read a portion of the resolutions during the readings by various compatriots speaking for individual signatories of the resolutions.



L/R: Ken Bonner, VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Mike Weyler, Colonel William Grayson Chapter President, Paul Christiansen, Colonel James Wood II Chapter, and Jason Newman, Colonel William Grayson Chapter.

July 19, 2020: Willing Warrior Retreat, Haymarket, VA.

Compatriot Barry Schwoerer Presented Operation Ancestor Search to Vietnam Veteran and 100% service disabled Army veteran Hammond Banks. His service disabilities were not combat related.

July 23, 2020: Flag certificate presented

On Thursday, July 23, Compatriots Leamon Duncan and Dave Button presented a Flag Certificate to Paul and Nancy Price at their home in Woodbridge. The Prices display the National Flag 24/7 in the manner prescribed by the flag code. Photo courtesy of Leamon's wife Marsha who is a member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter, NSDAR.



L to R: Leamon Duncan, Paul and Nancy Price, Dave Button

July 24, 2020: SAR Bronze Citizenship Medal presented

On July 24, 2020, Compatriot Bill Collier presented the SAR Bronze Citizenship Medal to Lieutenant Colonel James L. Wood, US Army Retired in recognition of his 38 year service to our Nation. Colonel Wood is a 95 year old veteran of World War II, The Korean War and the Vietnam War. After his retirement he settled in Marshall, Virginia where he was instrumental in the development and operations of the Marshall volunteer Rescue Squad. Colonel Wood is in hospice.



July 30, 2020: SAR Public Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate for Fire Safety Awarded

Compatriot Bill Collier presented the SAR Public Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate for Fire Safety to Master Technician Jeff Smith. The presentation was made at the Fairfax Corner Fire Station 440, 12099 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035.

His citation reads:

Master Technician Jeff Smith has 30 plus years of dedicated service to the citizens of Fairfax County. He is a senior member of the Fairfax County Hazardous Material Team having been involved with the team for more than 25 years. He is the logistics manager for the HAZ MAT team ensuring all the necessary equipment is at the disposal of the team. He runs the equipment warehouse and ensures adequate inventory is always maintained. He researches new equipment so the latest and greatest is available to help protect the citizens of

Fairfax County. For the past 3 years, he was deeply involved with the design, layout, and delivery of the 2 new Haz Mat vehicles that serve as the primary response apparatus for the Haz Mat Team. Master Technician Jeff Smith's sustained performance of duty reflect greatly upon himself, The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, and the entire firefighting profession.



Master Technician Jeff Smith

August 1, 2020: SAR Public Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate for Emergency Medical Service Awarded

Compatriot Bill Collier presented the SAR Public Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate for Emergency Medical Service to Technician Julianne Tomesheski. The presentation was made at the Centreville Volunteer Fire Station 417, 5856 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, VA 20121.

Technician Julie Tomesheski joined the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in 2012 as a firefighter. After completion of VCU's Paramedic program she became a paramedic. In addition to being an outstanding employee in her assigned duties, she voluntarily takes on additional roles. She assists with recruitment

functions, training, and serves as a counselor and EMS Coordinator for the Fairfax County Girls Fire and Rescue Academy.



Compatriot Bill Collier presents award to Technician Julianne Tomesheski

August 22, 2020: CWG Participates in the Johannes Kuller Grave Marking

At 9:00 am on Saturday, August 22, representatives from six SAR chapters, a DAR chapter, a C.A.R society, and the VASSAR President, Bill Schwetke, assembled at the Dry Run Cemetery in Fort Valley, Virginia to honor a Patriot of the American Revolution with the placement of an SAR Grave Marker.

Colonel James Wood II was the host chapter for the event, immediate past-president Dale Corey being the Master of Ceremonies. Altogether a 14-man Color Guard presented the colors, 10 men participated in the three-round Musket Salute, and 10 wreaths were presented at the grave.

Johannes Kuller's parents emigrated from Germany in 1743, settling in Frederick, Maryland. There Johannes was born in 1747. There he also met and married Anna Maria Muller. Johannes and his family eventually moved to Shenandoah County, Virginia where he died in 1796. Johannes and Maria were parents to 10

children, with many descendants and relatives still in the area. The family was represented at the ceremony by Robert Cullers, a direct descendant of Johannes. Robert presented a comprehensive account of the lives of the Kuller descendants.

During the Revolutionary War, Johannes held the office of an “associator” in Maryland. Before the war, to deal with grievances against by Great Britain, Maryland had formed a provisional government known as the Maryland Convention. The Convention circulated a document, “The Association of Free Men of Maryland,” which resolved that the colony be put in a state of defense. The executive branch of this Convention was the Council of Safety. Reporting to this body and keeping watch at county level for those disloyal to the provisional government was the Committee of Observation. Johannes Kuller was a member of that committee in 1775 and thereby was referred to as an “associator.”

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was represented by Chapter President Mike Weyler and former Chapter Vice President, Barry Schwoerer. Mike and Barry participated in the Color Guard, which was led by the VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Ken Bonner. Mike Weyler carried the Colonel William Grayson Chapter Flag and presented the chapter wreath. Barry Schwoerer carried a musket in the Color Guard and participated in the Musket Salute.



Mike Weyler is fourth from the right, standing, and Barry Schwoerer is seventh from the right, standing

August 22, 2020: CWG Participates in the Thomas Buck Grave Marking

At 11:00 am on Saturday, August 22, representatives from six SAR chapters, a DAR chapter, a C.A.R society, and the VASSAR President, Bill Schwetke, assembled at the Buck Family Cemetery in Waterlick, Virginia to honor a Patriot of the American Revolution with the placement of an SAR Grave Marker.

Colonel James Wood II was the host chapter for the event, immediate past-president Dale Corey being the Master of Ceremonies. Altogether a 14-man Color Guard presented the colors, 10 men participated in the three-round Musket Salute, and 10 wreaths were presented at the grave.

Thomas Buck was born in 1756 in Frederick County, Virginia. In 1774, Thomas married Ann Richardson, daughter of Colonel William and Isabella Richardson. On January 11, 1776, Thomas was commissioned a Lieutenant of a company of militia while a resident of Dunmore County (now Shenandoah). In 1777, he was Adjutant under Colonel Joseph Pugh, Commandant of the Dunmore Militia. On September 5, 1777, at Woodstock, he was chosen Captain of a company of volunteers dubbed “Buck’s Minute Men” of the 8th Virginia Regiment. The unit was sent to Fort Pitt where he served for about four months. In 1778, by then a resident of Frederick County, he raised a company of volunteers and served an additional two months. When the British were on the march from Carolina to Virginia, he was called upon to raise a company of 70 horsemen to move prisoners from Albermarle Barracks to Winchester. While enroute, they were requested to proceed to Fredericksburg and report to General Peter Muhlenburg. These appointments and elections show a high regard for young Thomas Buck, then only in his early twenties. In May of 1793, he was appointed Captain of Virginia Militia by Governor Henry “Lighthorse Harry” Lee and served during the Whiskey Rebellion. After the war, Thomas returned to Frederick County, living in Front Royal where he and Ann raised thirteen children. He died on June 4, 1842 and is buried in the Buck Family Cemetery in Waterlick, Virginia.

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was represented by Chapter President Mike Weyler and former Chapter Vice President, Barry Schwoerer. Mike and Barry participated in the Color Guard, which was led by the VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Ken Bonner. Mike Weyler carried the Colonel William Grayson Chapter Flag and presented the chapter wreath. Barry Schwoerer carried a musket in the Color Guard and participated in the Musket Salute.



Mike Weyler is third from the right, kneeling, and Barry Schwoerer is third from the right, standing



Colonel William Grayson Chapter Members: L/R, Barry Schwoerer, Mike Weyler, new Dual Member Marc Robinson, current President of Colonel James Wood II Chapter

August 27, 2020: Marshall, Saline County, MO.

CWG Chapter Compatriot Gregory Elson and a small group of his immediate family installed and dedicated an NSSAR Memorial Member medallion on the grave of Greg's grandfather, Arthur Lewis Elson. Arthur and Greg are descendants of Private David Betts who served in the Berkshire County, Massachusetts militia during the Revolution. Greg Elson is the cousin of Paula Schwoerer, wife of Compatriot Barry Schwoerer. Arthur Elson is Paula's maternal grandfather



August 29, 2020: The passing of our Compatriot Alex L. Gamble

With sadness we report the passing of Compatriot Alex Lucien “Buck” Gamble, age 66, of Clear Brook, Virginia and formerly of Dayton, Ohio, who passed away Saturday, August 29, 2020 at the Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, Virginia. Alex had been a member of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter since September of 2016.

Alex was born June 29, 1954 in Dayton, Ohio to the late Lloyd and Mary Frances Gamble. He also had two half-brothers, Lloyd Gamble, Jr. and Donald Gamble.

Alex was a 1972 graduate of Northridge High School and a graduate of the University of Dayton. Upon graduating from college, Alex gained employment with the IRS in Dayton and later transferred to Washington D.C. where he retired in 2009 after 30 years of service.

Alex is survived by his aunt, Mae Smith of Dayton; and numerous cousins, many of whom considered him a brother and an uncle to numerous nieces and nephews.

Alex was buried on September 13, 2020 at Newcomer North Chapel in Dayton, Ohio.



Compatriot Alex L. “Buck” Gamble

September 2, 2020: Flag Certificate presented

On Wednesday September 2, Compatriot Dave Button presented to Caton Merchant House Administrator, Mandy Dickinson, a certificate for flying the National Flag 24/7 and lighted. Due to the Covid quarantine conditions, only Compatriot Button and Ms. Dickinson were present. Ms. Dickinson was asked to present to Miss Lillian Orlich, currently a resident of Caton Merchant House, a certificate for proudly displaying the flag in front of her home.



Compatriot Dave Button presents certificate

September 5, 2020: CWG Chapter Hosts Two Montgomery Grave Markings

At 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 5, 2020, representatives from six SAR chapters, a DAR chapter, a C.A.R society, and the VASSAR President, Bill Schwetke, assembled at the Montgomery-Lewis Cemetery in Manassas, Virginia, a cemetery located behind the Manassas Presbyterian Church on Ashton Avenue, to honor two Patriots of the American Revolution, father and son, William and Frances Montgomery, with the placement of an SAR Grave Markers.

Colonel William Grayson was the host chapter for the event, with Curtis Robb as the Master of Ceremonies. Altogether a 14-man Color Guard under the command of Leamon Duncan, 10 of whom formed the Firelock Squad, presented the colors, with 12 wreaths presented at the graves.

William Montgomery was born in 1732 in Ireland, immigrated in 1758 and died in 1803 in Prince William County. His wife Katherina Mars is also buried here. Records show that William and Katherina got married on

the ship on the way to America. She was just 16 years old. They had two Children: a daughter Ann and a son Francis.

They settled in Manassas in their home they called Rosemont. That home saw much use over time, but was eventually demolished in 1976 to make room for the current church building. The cemetery, now property of the church, is situated at the rear of the church.

William Montgomery's patriotic service was giving Material aid to the cause.

Francis Montgomery was born on January 17, 1761 in Prince William County, and died in 1825. Although only 14 years old at the start of the Revolution, by 1781, at 20, he was an Ensign in the Virginia Militia. His unit saw action around Virginia during 1781, including action in support of Lafayette at Richmond.



Joint Color Guard under the command of Compatriot Leamon Duncan, our Chapter Color Guard Commander

September 11, 2020: Willing Warrior Retreat, Haymarket, VA.

Compatriot Barry Schwoerer Presented Operation Ancestor Search to Navy Chief Petty Officer Ebonee Jerrell. Her injuries were not combat related.

September 12, 2020: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Supports Colonel James Wood II Ceremony at Daniel Morgan's Grave in Winchester, Virginia

On 12 September 2020, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter sponsored a commemorative celebration of Daniel Morgan, Revolutionary War Hero at Mt Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, Virginia. The Color Guard consisted of

members of the Colonel James Wood II, Colonel William Grayson, Culpeper Minutemen, Fairfax Resolves, George Mason and General Adam Stephens Chapters and a contingent from the Trail Life youth organization from the Chelsea Academy in Front Royal. The Color Guard was led by Virginia State Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner.

Wreaths presented to honor the memory of Daniel Morgan included wreaths from VASSAR by 1st VP Jeff Thomas, the SAR Chapters represented by Will Reynolds (Col James Wood II), Mike Weyler (Col William Grayson), Mike Dennis (Culpeper Minutemen), Dave Cook (Fairfax Resolves), Ken Morris (George Mason) and Allan Phillips (General Adam Stephens). The DAR was represented by Anita Bonner (Lanes Mill DAR), Michelle Phillips (West Virginia State DAR) and Marlyn Keesecker (Pack Horse DAR). A musket squad comprised of Ken Bonner, Brett Osborn, Paul Christensen, Sean Carrigan, Dave Cook, Marty Keesecker, Art LaFlam, Eric Robinson and Barry Schwoerer fired three rounds prior to Marc Robinson playing Taps.



The members of the Color Guard standing l - r Jim Simmons, Allen Phillips, Mike Weyler, Marty Keesecker, Jeff Thomas, Eric Robinson, Erick Moore, Paul Christensen, Steve Englebright, Art LaFlam, Ennis Parmeter, Ken Morris, Barry Schwoerer, Brett Osborn and Doug Hall. Kneeling l - r are Chip Daniel, Dale Corey, Marc Robinson, Ken Bonner and Sean Carrigan.

September 12, 2020: The Passing of our Compatriot Allen Dodge Robb

With sadness we report the passing of Compatriot Allen Dodge Robb, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired, a compatriot who joined the Colonel William Grayson Chapter on October 13, 2018, not quite two years ago.

Allen is the brother of Compatriot Curtis Robb, the Chairman of our Grave Marking Committee and our Graves Registration Committee. Allen's other brother, Steve Robb, was also inducted on October 13, 2018, but has moved to Kansas.

Allen passed-away Saturday, September 12, 2020 surrounded by family at the Alder Hospice Care Center in Aldie, VA. He had just celebrated his 82nd birthday. He succumbed to a long battle with cancer. He joins wife Jeanette, who preceded him in death in 2017. They are no doubt waltzing into the sunsets.

From the farm in Kansas to West Point Military Academy, he spent his life in service to his country. He graduated with honors at West Point and began a distinguished Field Artillery career. On the day of his West Point graduation, he went from military formation directly to the West Point Chapel to marry the woman of his dreams.

As a young soldier he completed Ranger training and then served two tours in Vietnam. He received the Distinguished Service Medal for his service in Vietnam, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Army Commendation medals for his extraordinary service. His academic achievements include completion of Command and General Staff College, and Advanced Management Program. He graduated from the Army War College and had the honor of teaching there for several years. He earned master's degree in Nuclear Physics from University of Virginia and spent majority of his career with the Department of Defense at the Pentagon as a nuclear weapons strategist and military target analyst.

He retired with honors after 30 years of service. In his retirement, he solved the scientific equations and physics of the wind-- spending his time flying kites. He received accolades from kite masters all over the country for his colorful displays. He was preceded in death by his wife Jeanette, his parents Ronald and Martha Lou Robb, and sister Yvonne Eckert. He is survived by brothers, Steve Robb and Curtis Robb; daughters Julie Menhart and Kristina Crawford, and son Timothy Allan Robb, in addition to six grandchildren.



Colonel Allen Dodge Robb



Compatriot Allen Dodge Robb receives his SAR War Service Medal from VASSAR Past President Pat Kelly on the day of his induction into the SAR, October 13, 2018

September 18 and 19, 2020: VASSAR 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting in South Boston, Virginia

On September 18 and 19 VASSAR held its 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting in South Boston, Virginia. It was a great meeting, with the Colonel William Grayson Chapter and individual chapter members receiving a number of awards. We will be presenting many of these at our meeting on October 10.

September 19, 2020: CWG Supports National Color Guard Vigil at Mount Vernon

On September 19, The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard conducted a day-long vigil at the Tomb of George and Martha Washington. SAR members from as far away as Texas and Kentucky participated in the periodic event. After posting the U.S. and Washington Commander-in-Chief's flag, the Compatriots were divided into groups of two to stand fifteen-minute tours throughout the day. The Vigil was under the command of National Color Guard Commander C. Louis Raborg Jr.

Three CWG members attended the event, two of whom, Compatriots Andrew Mills and Jack Mills participated as members of the Color Guard.



L: R - Compatriots Andrew Mills and Jack Mills stand Vigil at Washington's Tomb

Historical Notes: Washington's Tomb

Perhaps the most venerated tomb in America is that of George Washington. Washington died on December 14, 1799. Congress resolved to build a marble monument in the new Capitol. Martha Washington granted her consent. A crypt was provided under the dome of the Capitol, but the project was never completed.

At ten at night on December 14, 1799, George Washington, fearing premature burial, requested of his doctors to be “decently buried” and to “not let my body be put into the Vault in less than three days after I am dead.” In his last will he expressed the desire to be buried at Mount Vernon.

George Washington was entombed in the existing family vault, now known as the old Vault on December 18, 1799. Visitors wrote that the tomb was, “A low, obscure, ice house looking brick vault,” which “testifies how well a Nation's gratitude repays the soldier's toils, the statesman's labors, the patriot's virtue, and the father's cares.”



The Old Tomb

In his last will, George Washington directed the building of a new family burial vault in the following words: "The family Vault at Mount Vernon requiring repairs, and being improperly situated besides, I desire that a new one of Brick, and upon a larger Scale, may be built at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Inclosure."

In 1831, Washington's body was transferred to the new tomb. A French visitor wrote that Mount Vernon had become, "...like Jerusalem and Mecca, the resort of the travelers of all nations who come within its vicinity." Visitors were filled with "veneration and respect," leading them "to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of patriotism and public worth..." Pilgrims from across the country converged on Mount Vernon during the early nineteenth century. Veterans of the American Revolution connected deeply to Washington through the pilgrimage. Many pilgrims, overwhelmed with emotion, wept. An early diarist recounted the following, "One [man] placed himself on the green turf and mused, with his head resting on his arms. Another stood alone among the thicket with folded arms and downcast eyes. A third reclined against a tree and wept...there was nothing artificial in this, nothing premeditated."



The New Tomb