



# 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. XXVII

Number 12

DECEMBER 2022

## President's Message

### Compatriots

It has been a very busy year for our chapter. We keep growing not only in numbers but in the things that we do. It is hard to believe that we have presented almost 30 Eagle scholarship applications, almost as many Flag recognition certificates. We have awarded an Eagle scholarship, Scholarships for the Brochure Contest, and the ROTC Bronze and Silver awards. We have participated in many events throughout the year ranging from the Crossing of the Dan, James Monroe's Birthday, in Westmoreland County and Richmond, Thomas Jefferson's birthday, Memorial Day, the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary, Fourth of July prayer service, Grave marking of Benjamin Harrison, the Battle of Green Spring, and Yorktown Day events. We have been well represented at the Virginia Society SAR annual meeting in Richmond last February, and in our cohosting of the Semi annual meeting in September. If I have missed mentioning an event, please let me know so that I can keep the Virginia Society informed as to our activities. I can be contacted at [vabellring@msn.com](mailto:vabellring@msn.com). I look forward to another busy year in 2023 and hope that more of our chapter members can attend or participate.

One of the areas where we have grown in the past year is that we now have a Color Guard contingent of 6 members, including 2 musketeers. With the gift of the Virginia State Flag, we can now provide a proper Color Guard. Thank you compatriots for making this possible. I am sure that there can always be room for more members.

I hope that by the time you are reading this message that you will or have enjoyed a pleasant Thanksgiving. I also want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year should I not see you before that time.

Thank you.  
Bruce Laubach



# Calendar

**Saturday December 3, 2022**

Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge

**Monday December 5, 2022**

10:00 am BOM meeting  
by ZOOM

**No**

**Meeting in  
December**

**Monday January 2, 2023**

10:00 am BOM meeting  
by ZOOM

**Saturday January 21, 2023**

Joint chapter meeting of the  
Thomas Nelson Jr. and  
Williamsburg Chapters.  
Installation of Officers  
James River Country Club  
1500 Country Club Road  
Newport News

**Future events in January 2023**

Battle of Cowpens  
Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration  
Cowan's Ford Commemoration



## Chapter News



The Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, presented a NSSAR Flag Recognition certificate to J. Blane Blayton Elementary School on 30 September 2022. The certificate was presented for their proper display and maintenance of the flag of our nation. Pictured (L to R) are Kristin Schweitzer, school principal and George Corbett, chapter flag recognition committee chairman.



Compatriots,  
A Court of Honor for a new Eagle Scout of Troop 414 at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center in Toano, VA on November 12, 2022. Chairman Harley Stewart presented a SAR Certificate of Recognition and Scholarship Application package to Eagle Scout Jonah St. Clair. Twenty seven presentations have been made this year to date. Harley

# Recent Events



Court of Honor for two new Eagle Scouts of Troop 300 at King of Glory Lutheran Church on November 5, 2022. President Bruce Laubach presented SAR Certificates of Recognition and Scholarship Packages to both. Eagle Scouts holding their SAR awards L to R, Chris Clemens and Josh Powell.



President Bruce Laubach, left, presenting a SAR Certificate of Recognition and Scholarship Package to new Eagle Scout Connor Loy, right, of Troop 300 at King of Glory Lutheran Church on November 5, 2022.

## From VASSAR DISPATCH WEB

Photo by Karen Corbett  
<http://www.virginiasar.org/latest-news>



Bruce Laubach, President, presented Tom Campbell, past Chapter President, a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation on the history of the Revolutionary War Cemetery at the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg. There are of 158 "Forgotten Patriots" (156 men and 2 women) buried in unmarked graves in the garden cemetery behind the Palace. The Governor's Palace was converted into a hospital by General George Washington prior to the 1781 siege at Yorktown. These graves include skeletons of Loyalists, British 80th Regiment of Foote, Americans, and possibly French soldiers as well.

# Future Events

The formal NSSAR Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge will start at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 03, 2022, at the Great Bridge Battlefield Museum, Chesapeake, VA.



*You are cordially invited to the  
122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Bridge Chapter, National Society  
Daughters of the American Revolution*

*And*

*12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Society Sons of the American Revolution  
Commemoration of*



*The Battle of Great Bridge*



*11 AM, Saturday, December 3, 2022*

*Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum  
1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, Virginia*



The **Battle of Great Bridge** was fought December 9, 1775, in the area of Great Bridge, Virginia, early in the American Revolutionary War. The victory by colonial Virginia militia forces led to the departure of Royal Governor Lord Dunmore and any remaining vestiges of British power over the Colony of Virginia during the early days of the conflict.

Following increasing political and military tensions in early 1775, both Dunmore and colonial rebel leaders recruited troops and engaged in a struggle for available military supplies. The struggle eventually focused on Norfolk, where Dunmore had taken refuge aboard a Royal Navy vessel. Dunmore's forces had fortified one side of a critical river crossing south of Norfolk at Great Bridge, while rebel forces had occupied the other side. In an attempt to break up the rebel gathering, Dunmore ordered an attack across the bridge, which was decisively repulsed. Colonel William Woodford, the Virginia militia commander at the battle, described it as "a second Bunker's Hill affair".

I am starting a new column of ancestors using compatriot researched history submitted by members wishing to share their patriot. Supplemental submissions will also be included.

I hope you may want to also provide a brief history to share with your compatriots. Just email me with your patriots history at [pa1744@cox.net](mailto:pa1744@cox.net). Dave Westenberger - Ed

# PATRIOT'S COLUMN

## Compatriot Paul William Pyle



My ancestry:

Mother = Pauline Maon Obst (Pyle) B: 8-13-1917, D: 6/26/1994

Mother = Maud Louise Maon (Obst) B: 8-12-1886, D: 4-3-1973

Mother = Mary Isabel McEneany (Mason) v B: 10-1-1840, D: 6-10-1921

Mother changed her name to Williams after her father died (Because the English family did not like the Irish)

Mother = Henrietta Alfreda Williams (McEneany) B: 9-18-1811, D: 8-18-1874

Changed her name back to Williams after husband passed

Father = Polydore Williams B: 7-16-1778, D: 3-30-1873

Father = Silas Williams (MY PATRIOT)  
B: 2-14-1750 D: 10-20-1843

He was a pensioner when he passed.

Silas enlisted in Capt. Samuel McClellan's company of cavalry in 1775. He also served in the commissary and Captain Keyes' command of a light horse regiment during the war. After the war the family moved from Pomfret, Connecticut, where he was a lawyer, assemblyman and town representative (1784) to South Royalton, Vt. He and his wife, Mary Flynn, had 5 children.

# The Early Life of George Washington



George Washington is more responsible for the creation of America than anyone else in our country's incredible history. He was the right man with the right set of characteristics and talents at just the right time. It is hard to imagine the United States could have happened without his presence.

His American story begins in 1656 when John Washington emigrated from Northamptonshire, England to the Colony of Virginia. John was the son of an English clergyman who came to Virginia as a mate on the British ship *Sea Horse* of London. Seeing the possibilities for self-advancement for an industrious man, John decided to remain in the new world.

John, George's great-grandfather, soon married and began acquiring land in the Northern Neck of Virginia. By 1668, John had acquired over 5,000 acres, including what would become the Mount Vernon estate. These land purchases would prove to be the basis for the family wealth of the Washington's.

George's father, Augustine Washington, called Gus by his friends, possessed tremendous strength and was over six feet tall, clearly passing on his genes to George. He was the middle child of Lawrence Washington, and as such did not inherit the largest share of the family fortune. That said, upon coming of age in 1715, Augustine was granted 1740 acres of good planting land in northern Virginia.

Augustine's first wife, Jane Butler, with whom he had three children, died in 1729. He quickly remarried, this time to Mary Ball, an orphan whose parents died when she was twelve but left Mary with considerable property. The newlyweds set up their home at Pope's Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia. There they had their first child together on February 22, 1732, a healthy, strapping boy they named George, after George Eskridge, a prominent lawyer who raised Mary Ball after her parents died.

Photo by Harley Stewart

Augustine was a justice of the peace and seen as a young man on the rise, adding to his estate on several occasions. He became a successful tobacco planter and built and operated a furnace to make iron. In 1735, Augustine moved his family to Little Hunting Creek on the banks of the Potomac River and three years later to Ferry Farm near Fredericksburg.

When Augustine died unexpectedly in 1743, George's older, half-brother Lawrence inherited Little Hunting Creek which he subsequently named Mount Vernon. Lawrence was fourteen years older than George and a war hero and George idolized him. George inherited Ferry Farm, which was on the north bank of the Rappahannock River and named for a ferry that operated nearby.

Within two months of Augustine's death, Lawrence married Anne Fairfax, the niece of the Lord William Fairfax, the wealthiest and most powerful man in the Northern Neck of Virginia. This union placed the Washington's in the top rung of Virginia society, and would prove a blessing for young George. Although Augustine had sent George's two older half-brothers to England for a classical education, his unexpected death in 1743 prevented George from following in their footsteps. Consequently, George's education came at the hands of private tutors and his own studies.

In addition to reading and writing, Washington learned Geometry and Trigonometry in preparation for his career in surveying and, interestingly, he also studied manners. Specifically, he copied out 110 "Rules for Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation." Its teachings clearly influenced the formation of Washington's later character.

He also showed an early interest in former military leaders, studying ancient legends Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, as well as more contemporary heroes Charles XII of Sweden and Frederick the Great of Prussia. The lessons learned from these men proved valuable to Washington when facing difficulties in the American Revolution.

At the age of 15, Washington was finished with his formal schooling and began his first career as a surveyor. With the aid of his relative, Lord Fairfax, George was named surveyor for Culpepper County in 1749. His experiences in this capacity hardened and toughened his body and taught him to be self-reliant at a young age. It also piqued his interest in western lands, an interest he never lost.

In September 1751, Lawrence, who had been sickly for several years, decided to sail to Barbados for that island's warmer weather and supposed healing qualities. He asked George to accompany him, and George readily agreed. This trip would mark the only occasion in George's life when he was away from America.

Unfortunately, the change of scenery did not do the trick and Lawrence continued to struggle with his health. George also did not do well in Barbados as he contracted smallpox soon after his arrival. The disease left pockmarks on George's face but made him immune to the disease which would prove to be a blessing during the American Revolution.

George decided to return home and arrived in January 1752. Lawrence, after a brief stop in Bermuda, returned to Virginia in June 1752 and died a month later of tuberculosis. He left his wife, Anne, a life interest in Mount Vernon and most of his estate to his infant daughter, Sarah. Lawrence further stipulated that should Sarah die childless, Mount Vernon would revert to George when Anne died.

When Sarah died in 1754, George assumed the management of Mount Vernon at the age of 22 and when Anne passed in 1761, George Washington became master of the estate that was to become synonymous with his name.

*Americana Corner*

Reprinted with permission of Tom Hand - Editor



# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

This December 17th, for the first time ever, a Wreaths Across America event will be held in Williamsburg's Cedar Grove Cemetery on Henry Street. Our goal is to have 500 wreaths sponsored for Cedar Grove Veterans.

What is Wreaths Across America? The mission of WAA is to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom. Wreaths can be sponsored for specific cemeteries, such as our beloved Cedar Grove, and even for specific veterans within the cemetery.

Use this link to our sponsorship page for Cedar Grove Cemetery: [Wreaths Across America](#). Note that this is not a fundraiser for the Williamsburg Chapter. Instead we have chosen the option that for each two wreaths purchased, a third is provided free of charge. Please share this link with family and friends so we reach the goal of 500 wreaths and make this inaugural event a success.

On December 17th, we invite you and your members to volunteer to help lay wreaths on veteran memorials at Cedar Grove Cemetery starting at noon. Mark your calendars now and save the date!

In DAR Service,  
Kim Defibaugh, Regent  
Williamsburg Chapter, NSDAR



The Ann Wager Chapter NSDAR is sponsoring Wreaths Across America again this year. Our chapter sponsors wreaths mainly at National Cemeteries and other approved cemeteries across the U.S. and abroad. A list of participating cemeteries can be found on their website.

If you would like to sponsor a wreath go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) and fill out the form. Be sure to include our Group ID# **VA0875P** and location ID. Include the name of the veteran you wish to sponsor by name, rank and service.

Thank you in advance for helping put wreaths on the graves of our service members this Christmas. There is also an opportunity to volunteer to lay wreaths on the website.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [31woody@cox.net](mailto:31woody@cox.net).

Linda Westenberger  
Chairman, Wreaths Across America  
Ann Wager Chapter, NSDAR



# Registrar's Corner

Congratulations to the following new compatriots, who recently had their SAR applications for membership approved, and a salute to their patriot ancestors:

Stewart Wolfe	John Jacob Mickley
Eric Wolfe	John Jacob Mickley
Matt Hinkley	Sands Raymond
Michael Doucette	John Clark
Karl Wickert	Jacob Wickert
C W Stacks	Hugh McManus

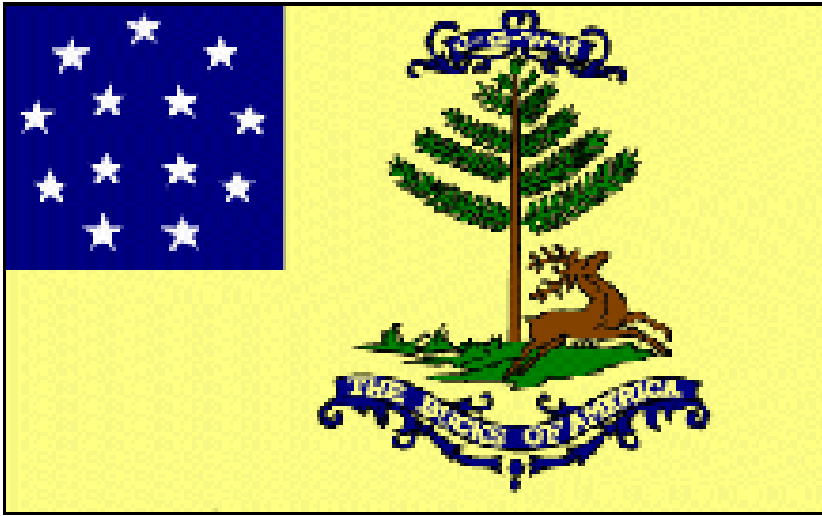
Also approved by the genealogy committee were supplemental applications for Ron Adolphi and John Lynch. Their respective patriot ancestors are Thomas Starkweather and Arthur Simkins.

We currently have five new member and seven supplemental applications under review for approval. There are nineteen prospective new members in the pipeline.



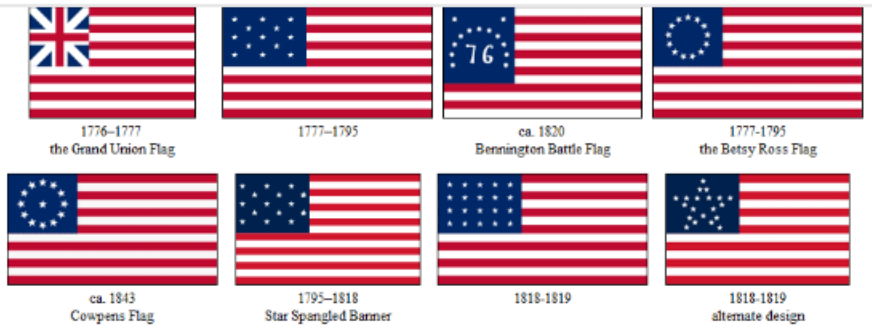
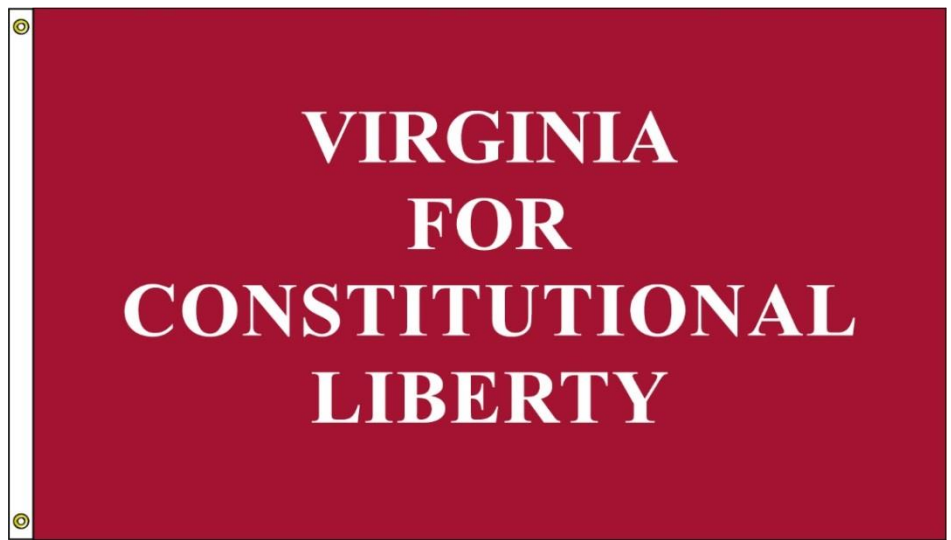
**Hunt Berryman**  
**Registrar**  
**Email:**  
[huntberryman@aol.com](mailto:huntberryman@aol.com)





This regiment of volunteer freemen was the only documented black military unit of the Revolutionary War. Massachusetts Governor John Hancock presented these regimental colors to the unit after the war was over. The initials above the pine tree (JGWH) are those of his son, John George Washington Hancock, who died in the war. The original flag is on display in Boston at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Also known as the Virginia Committee of Safety Flag. The Virginia Committee of Safety was formed to govern the colony by the Third Virginia Convention at Historic St. John's Church in August 1775. The flag was authorized by the Virginia Committee of Safety in session at Hanover town, VA, on September 18, 1775.



Mike Fagan's flag at his home near Toano, VA. Due to mike's busy schedule, I couldn't catch him at home to get a shot of him and his flag. His porch light provides lighting at night.  
George Corbett

## From the Chaplain

Jim Morford



We are in the midst of Advent Season – observed on the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Every year during this season we hear expressions of regret that the time has become so commercialized that it has virtually lost its religious significance.

There are many theories about when Jesus was born. Some argue he was born in the spring while others claim it was in the fall. The actual date is lost to history, but it was most definitely not December 25. Nor is it precisely known when the Christian church first began to celebrate the nativity on December 25. The first documented reference to the date was in 336 AD when Constantine was Emperor of Rome. It was he who declared Christianity the official religion of the empire.

There is logic to the theory that late December was chosen to celebrate the birth of Christ. It coincided with the Roman Saturnalia that celebrated the victory of the god of light over darkness. The empire decreed that Saturnalia be contained within the dates of December 17 to 23. By superimposing the celebration of Christ’s birth with the lengthy Roman holiday, early Christians hoped it would gain greater public acceptance. Some prayed that “sacred would overtake profane as pagans gave up their revels and turned to Christianity.” It bothered the clergy that vestiges of pagan merriment remained a part of Christmas celebrations

When Englishmen came to establish colonies in America they brought their cultural traditions and their faith with them. Most were Anglicans and as the end of the year approached they recognized Advent as a time of reflection and expectation for the coming of Christ. The church at this time did not consider Christmas to be an especially important day and barely took note of it. Colonists continued the English style of recognizing Christmas as a time for merry-making and feasting.

Today Christmas remains a blend of the religious and the secular.



### A Prayer for the Season

This Advent, Lord, come into our hearts. Fill us with Your presence. As we prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given, remind us of the gift You gave when You sent Your only Son. That first Christmas gift was the greatest ever given.

Heavenly Father, give us the courage to be worthy of Your love. Renew in us fervent faith, unending hope, and a charitable desire to serve others.

Lord, we know December 25 can be not-so-merry for many reasons. We pray for those who are experiencing loss during Advent: relational, financial, spiritual, and physical. We pray for those who are coping with loving a prodigal and for our friends and family members whose hearts are far from You. We pray for those dealing with unemployment, addictions, chronic sickness, unending pain, and aggravations of all kinds.

We thank You, Lord, that You are The Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of Peace.

“Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!”

AMEN



# Virginia SAR

2021



2022

## Lift Your Voice

### Presidential Initiatives



#### Road to Revolution: **Leatherwood 1779-1799**

*Only Unexplored Home of Founding Father Patrick Henry*

- Help us to locate, mark and preserve this special site in our nation's founding history
- This was Patrick Henry's home during the Revolutionary War, a 10,000-acre estate that he co-owned with Col. George Waller
- Henry moved to this home in Henry County after serving as Virginia's wartime Governor from 1776-1779, he served in the House of Delegates from 1780-1784 while living here
- Henry still owned more than 5,000 acres at Leatherwood when he died
- Granite marker erected in 1922 by the DAR marked the estate, not the home's location



Fundraiser by Jeff Thomas : [Patrick Henry's Leatherwood Home \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com)

- Patrick Henry's Leatherwood is our last major fundraising initiative
- Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/patrick-henrys-leatherwood-home> today!
- All funds raised through the 2022 annual meeting will support the Leatherwood initiative
- \$5,000 matching grant provided by Chancellor Eric Monday
- \$1 match for every \$2 contribution i.e. \$100 donation gets credit for \$150 contribution
- You may also make checks payable to Virginia SAR with Leatherwood in the memo line
- Mail to Rick Eloffson , VASSAR Treasurer, 21 Paula Maria Drive, Newport News, VA 23606

# Williamsburg 2022 Chapter Officers



**President**  
**Vice-President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Registrar**  
**Public Relations**  
**Newsletter & WEB**  
**Chaplain**  
**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
**Historian**  
**At-Large**  
**At-Large**  
**Past President**

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John Lynch II  
Gerry Ward  
Gary Dunaway  
Hunt Berryman  
Robert Davis III  
Dave Westenberger  
Jim Morford  
Steve Holm  
Steve Perger Jr.  
Gerald Sailors  
Eric Ely  
Roger Cross

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[macnider@cox.net](mailto:macnider@cox.net)  
[pal744@cox.net](mailto:pal744@cox.net)  
[Morfordjc@gmail.com](mailto:Morfordjc@gmail.com)



As of this writing, 90 percent of our chapter compatriots have renewed their dues for 2023. A heartfelt thanks to those who have done so. If you are one of the few that has not yet responded, please submit your dues quickly or you will be dropped from SAR membership. You all received dues invoices in September, but if you have misplaced it you can contact me ([ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com) or 757-303-3673) for details.

Gary Dunaway, Treasurer

The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton, December 26, 1776 is the title of an oil painting by the American artist John Trumbull depicting the capture of the Hessian soldiers at the Battle of Trenton on the morning of Thursday, December 26, 1776, General George Washington aiding the mortally wounded Hessian Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall. The painting is on view at the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven, Connecticut.



Our January 2023 installation meeting details will be in the January newsletter. Typically we do not have a meeting in December.

# 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))