



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 3

MARCH 2022

President's Message

Compatriots,

Sometimes I am thinking of that song by Johnny Horton "Sink the Bismarck," there is a phrase in that song that goes something like "We hit the decks a-running." This is truly the case with the Williamsburg Chapter as we are one of the busiest chapters in the state. I am not basing this on the number of awards we received at the state meeting of February 11-13th, but also the number of events that we try to support through out the year. We have a great core group within our chapter who support the efforts of the society and I thank them for their efforts.

Among the awards that our chapter received was the "Lift Up Your Voice" gold streamer for contributions towards preservation of Leatherwood one of the homes of Patriot Patrick Henry. We also received three gold stars with that streamer, one to signify a contribution from the Williamsburg chapter and the other two for contributions from five individuals for each star. Other awards we received for the chapter were for our participation in events and programs sponsored by the VASSAR, we received six additional streamers. We also received a replica of the "Constitutional Liberty" flag. We also had a few members who received Recognition from the VASSAR, Gary Dunaway received the "Lafayette volunteer Service Medal with four Oak leaf clusters, and a Commission as Colonel of the First Virginia Regiment. Other members to receive commissions were Harley Stewart as a Captain, and Hunt Berryman as a Sergeant. Roger Cross and John Lynch also received awards, but I neglected to write them down so please forgive me.

Gary Dunaway proposed that we add a list of our Patriot ancestors to our web page. I have seen this done on other chapters websites and I support this idea. I cannot think of a better way to remember our ancestors then to publish their names to remind of the role they played in winning our independence from Britain. Along with adding their names to the website I have talked to our webmaster about the possibility of adding a message board to our website. This message board would allow for greater communication between the members of our chapter. It could be helpful to know if someone wants to carpool to an event, or post information about an upcoming event. This could augment our newsletter and allow for faster information exchange.

Please keep in mind we have upcoming events that could use volunteers, such as judges for the poster/brochure contest, our special meeting in April where we will meet in Yorktown with a special walking tour of a section of the battlefield. Memorial Day commemoration, then we have a double event day coming in June with the Commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary and Patrick Henry day. Then we jump right into the 4th of July.

Bruce Laubach-President



Calendar

Wednesday March 9, 2022

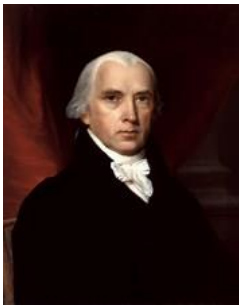
10:00 am BOM meeting
by ZOOM

Saturday March 12, 2022

11:30 am Social
12:00 pm Lunch meeting
Colonial Heritage Country Club
Williamsburg, VA.

Wednesday March 16, 2022

James Madison birthday



**Saturday-Sunday
March 19-20, 2022**

**Military through the Ages
Jamestown Settlement**

President Bruce Laubach displaying a \$50 cash award to the Williamsburg Chapter for reinstating two former members under the VASSAR Reinstatement Campaign. On the left is Jeff Thomas, VASSAR president and on the right is Gary Hodges, Gov. Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter chaplain.

Harley

Chapter News



President Bruce Laubach displaying one of six streamer awards to the Williamsburg Chapter. The Gold Streamer involved three “stars” – one for the chapter and two for ten individual contributors to the Lift Your Voice VASSAR Presidential Initiative. Ten chapters got Gold Streamers – one with four “stars” and only two with three.

Harley



February Events



Grace McGonagle was awarded 3rd Place in the state Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest by the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution at its annual meeting in Richmond on February 12. McGonagle had been entered as the winner of the Williamsburg Chapter contest. Pictured are Williamsburg Chapter president Bruce Laubach (left), Grace McGonagle with her cash award, and Virginia Society president Jeff Thomas (right).



On Wednesday Feb 23, 2022 a ceremony was held at The Carrot Tree Kitchen to support the JCC Iwo Jima project.

Glenn Helseth the owner of the kitchen donated, organized and provided the entire venue.



Cliff Guertin, U.S. Army Korean War -Iwo Jima Memorial Park Williamsburg Land Donor is the veteran who started the project.

Veterans and members of our SAR and DAR chapters were present.



Flag raising ceremony

<https://www.iwojimawilliamsburg.com>





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

Registrar's Corner

DID YOU KNOW? There are sixteen presidents who are fellow compatriots. The winter 2001 issue of the SAR Magazine highlighted the presidents and gave details of their Revolutionary War ancestors. The former presidents are: Rutherford Hayes, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, George H W Bush and George H Bush.

Congratulations to Bradley Robert Pittman, who was inducted as a new member at our February meeting. His patriot ancestor is Anthony Street, who provided material aid. Also, Jeff Wooldridge had a supplemental approved. Jeff's patriot ancestor is Joel Adams, who served in the Connecticut Militia.

Hunt Berryman Registrar

Email:

huntberryman@aol.com

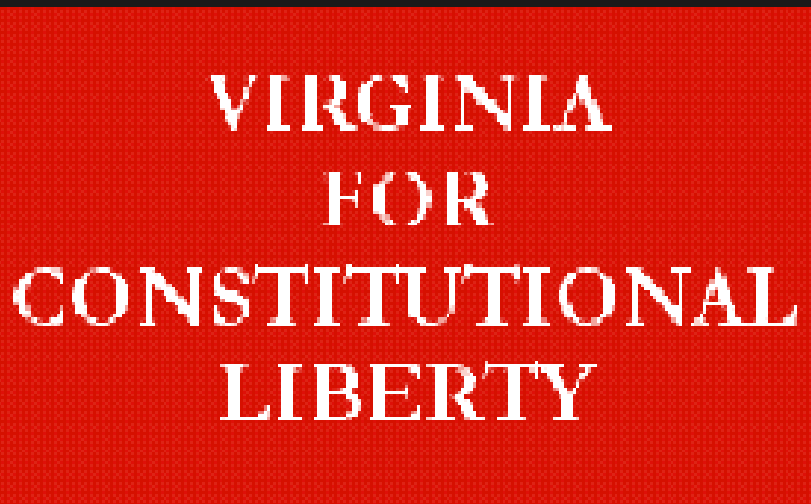


Treasurer Gary Dunaway and I are putting together a Patriot Ancestor list that will be visible on our web site, hopefully to have it completed by April. (you may be a relative of another Compatriot in our chapter). Also a message board is being created for our web. Dave Westenberger ED & WEB

ABEL, Jacob	Signed Oath of Allegiance, Northampton Co. PA
ALBEE, John	Lexington Alarm, Captain MA
ALBRECHT, John	Pvt, Northampton Co. PA Militia
ALLEN, Christopher	Soldier, Connecticut
ARMSTRONG, James	Pvt. NJ & Chaplain MD
BALTZLY, John	Private, PA Militia
BARKER, Dr. Ambrose	Public Service
BARRY, Andrew	Captain, South Carolina, Spartanburg Regt, Cowpens
BASKETT, James	Furnished Supplies, North Carolina

Flag recognition

Designed and raised in 1775, Virginia's Constitutional Liberty Flag was reportedly the first Flag flown from Colonial Williamsburg (Virginia's Seat of Government), upon John Adams and Richard Henry Lee's proposal for Independence of The Colonies. The Flag was stated at being a Red Field with White lettering reading "VIRGINIA FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY".



The Williamsburg chapter, VASSAR, presented the NSSAR Flag Recognition certificate to the Colonial Heritage Homeowners Association on 5 August 2021 prior to their annual meeting. Pictured in the attached photo (L to R) is Michael Powers, Sharon Whitt (Both are members of the HOA Board of Directors) and George Corbett, Chair of the chapter's Flag Recognition Committee.

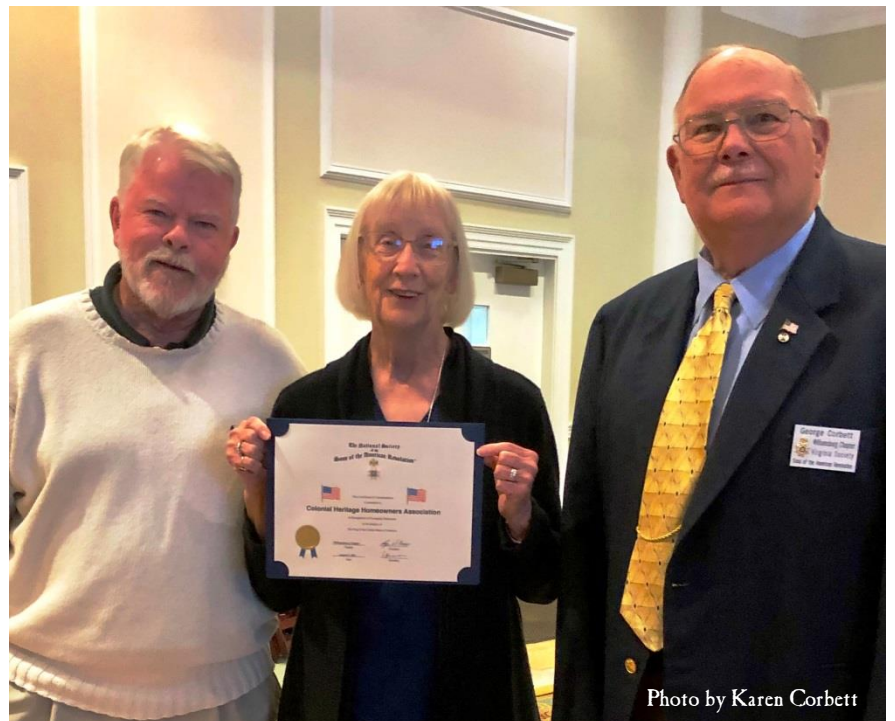


Photo by Karen Corbett

From the Chaplain

Jim Morford

(I want to share a story sent to me by a friend.)

I was recently in an airport, when I heard several people behind me beginning to clap and cheer. I turned and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism I have ever seen. Moving through the terminal was a group of soldiers in their camos. As they headed to their gate, everyone (well, almost everyone) was waving and cheering.

As I thought I could not be prouder of my country or of our service men and women, a young girl, of about 6 or 7, ran up to one of the soldiers. He knelt down and said 'hi.' The little girl asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her.

The young soldier, who didn't look any older than 20, said he would try and what did she want to give to her daddy. The little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek.

The mother said her daughter's name was Courtney. She told the young soldier that her husband was a Marine and had been in Iraq for 11 months.

As mom was explaining her situation, one of the other servicemen pulled out a walkie-talkie, and began talking on it.



After a few seconds, the young soldier walked over to Courtney, bent down, and said to her, "I spoke to your daddy, and he told me to give you this". He then hugged the little girl and gave her a kiss on the cheek. He finished by saying, "Your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon."

As the soldiers resumed heading toward their gate, that young soldier turned and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear rolling down his cheek.

We need to remember everyday all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices.

Let Us Pray



Lord, we thank You for the men and women who protect our country. May they know the blessings of serving well. Thank You for Your promise to never leave or forsake Your people. We pray for the protection of our Armed Forces serving our country at home or abroad, whether in drills or in deployment. Help them to feel Your presence. Keep them healthy and free from sickness as well as injury.

We ask You to place Your hand of protection and peace on the families of those who have sent a loved one to serve in the Armed Forces.

Help the children of parents who've been deployed to feel Your strong love, to know Your comfort, and to learn to trust You.

Lord, we pray that with Your guidance, the future of the United States of America will be even greater than her past. AMEN.

March Guest Speaker



Captain Christopher A. Melhuish US Navy (ret.)

Born in Baghdad, Iraq, raised in Korea, Morocco and Algeria, and educated in the United Kingdom, Chris Melhuish initially enlisted in Britain's Territorial Army where he served three years in 63 Special Air Service (S.A.S.) Signals Squadron as a combat signalman. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Physical Geography, Chris moved to the United States and received his commission at Officer Candidate School Newport, Rhode Island in November 1979.

USS CONSTITUTION

His subsequent sea duty assignments included service in destroyers, amphibious ships, and a Cruiser-Destroyer Group staff embarked in an aircraft carrier. Chris was the Atlantic Fleet Rifle Team Captain at the 1984 National Matches held at Camp Perry, Ohio. He was the sixty-fifth commanding officer of USS CONSTITUTION (Old Ironsides).

Chris attended the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating with distinction in 1995, earning a Master's in National Security and Strategic Studies. His next assignment was to the NATO headquarters in Norfolk (Allied Command Atlantic).

He served as US Navy Liaison Officer to Commander, British Forces Gibraltar. As the senior US Government representative on the Rock, he served as the de facto US Consular Agent. Subsequently selected for the Federal Executive Fellowship Program, Chris was the Senior US Navy Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, Washington, DC. His last assignment was on the staff of US Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, where he served 17 years first as a Navy Captain, then later as a Civil Servant in the Fleet Plans and Policy Division (N5). He retired after 40 years of federal service in October 2019.

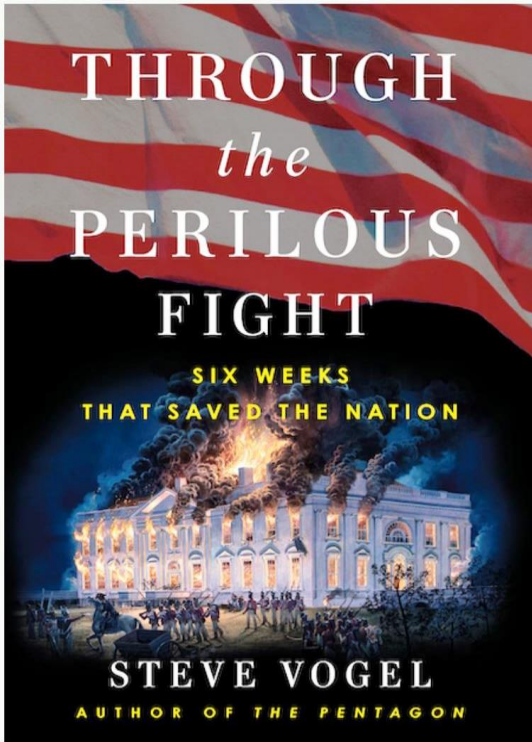
His military and civilian awards include the Legion of Merit and the Department of the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award. Chris is a member of the Naval Order of the United States; the society of the American Friends of Lafayette; and the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. His wife, Kate is a retired Navy Captain.

He is currently writing a book – historical fiction – about British and American naval spies during the War of 1812.

"Her future cruises will be peaceful and will give all our people, and particularly the children, a living illustration of the early history of the country. She will typify to all good citizenship and patriotism."

— Rear Admiral Philip Andrews at the USS Constitution recommissioning, 1 July 1931

“Book of the month”



In a rousing account of one of the critical turning points in American history, "Through the Perilous Fight" tells the gripping story of the burning of Washington and the improbable last stand at Baltimore that helped save the nation and inspired its National Anthem.

In the summer of 1814, the United States of America teetered on the brink of disaster. The war it had declared against Great Britain two years earlier appeared headed toward inglorious American defeat. The young nation's most implacable nemesis, the ruthless British Admiral George Cockburn, launched an invasion of Washington in a daring attempt to decapitate the government and crush the American spirit.

The British succeeded spectacularly, burning down most of the city's landmarks—including the White House and the Capitol—and driving President James Madison from the area. As looters ransacked federal buildings and panic gripped the citizens of Washington, beleaguered American forces were forced to regroup for a last-ditch defense of Baltimore.

The outcome of that “perilous fight” would help change the outcome of the war—and with it, the fate of the fledgling American republic. In a fast-paced, character driven narrative, Steve Vogel tells the story of this titanic struggle from the perspective of both sides. The book reads like an epic novel, Through the Perilous Fight abounds with heroes, villains, and astounding feats of men at war. Like Pearl Harbor or 9/11, the burning of Washington was a national tragedy that ultimately united America and renewed its sense of purpose. The book re-creates the thrilling six week period when Americans rallied from the ashes to overcome their oldest adversary—and win themselves a new birth of freedom.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The book is in like new condition but was owned by Edward W. Truslow, 96th President of VASSAR and President of our own Williamsburg Chapter. He died on June 1, 2017 and I am sure many chapter members knew him. The book was donated by his family to our chapter. The book is signed by the Author at William & Mary (Nov 22, 2013) for “Ed Truslow”

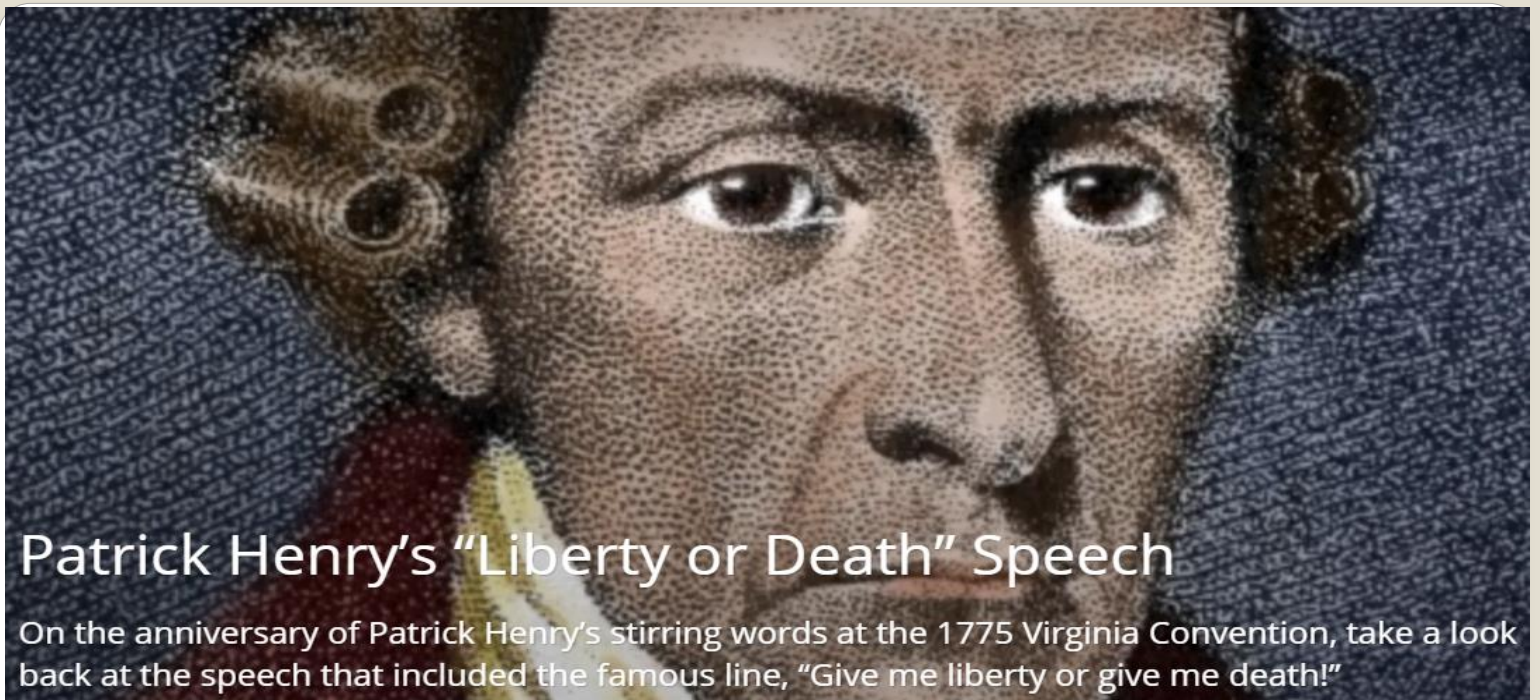
Steve Vogel's “The Perilous Fight” is probably the best piece of military history that I have read or reviewed in the past five years... This well-researched and superbly written history has all the trappings of a good novel.

– Gary Anderson - Special to The Washington Times

Very fine storytelling, impeccably researched. Through the Perilous Fight brings to life the fraught events of 1814 with compelling and convincing vigor.

– Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize winning author of "An Army at Dawn"

Raffle tickets for this book will be available at our next luncheon meeting.
One ticket for \$1 or 7 tickets for \$5 – See Steve Holm – Sergeant-at-Arms



Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" Speech

On the anniversary of Patrick Henry's stirring words at the 1775 Virginia Convention, take a look back at the speech that included the famous line, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

23 Mar 1775

The Second Virginia Convention convened to discuss the Old Dominion's strategy in negotiating with the Crown. The roughly 120 delegates who filed into Richmond's St. John's Church were a veritable "who's who" of Virginia's colonial leaders. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were both in attendance, as were five of the six other Virginians who would later sign the Declaration of Independence. Prominent among the bewigged statesmen was Patrick Henry, a well-respected lawyer from Hanover County. Blessed with an unflinching wit and mellifluous speaking voice, Henry had long held a reputation as one of Virginia's most vociferous opponents of British schemes. As a recent delegate to the Continental Congress, he had sounded the call for colonial solidarity by proclaiming, "The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian; I am an American."

Patrick Henry rose from his seat in the third pew and took the floor. A Baptist minister who was watching the proceedings would later describe him as having "an unearthly fire burning in his eye. Henry began by stating his intention to "speak forth my sentiments freely" before launching into an eloquent warning against appeasing the Crown. As he continued speaking, Henry's dulcet tones began to darken with anger. "Excitement began to play more and more upon his features," the minister later said. "The tendons of his neck stood out white and rigid like whipcords."

"The war is actually begun!" Henry cried. "The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?" As he spoke, Henry held his wrists together as though they were manacled and raised them toward the heavens. "Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty"—Henry burst from his imaginary chains and grasped an ivory letter opener—"or give me death!" As he uttered these final words, he plunged the letter opener toward his chest, mimicking a knife blow to the heart.

Williamsburg 2022 Chapter Officers



President	Bruce Laubach	vabellring@msn.com
Vice-President	John Lynch II	cslasoz@aol.com
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Treasurer	Gary Dunaway	ormazd72@gmail.com
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Newsletter & WEB	Dave Westenberger	pal744@cox.net
Chaplain	Jim Morford	Morfordjc@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Steve Holm	
Historian	Steve Perger Jr.	
At-Large	Gerald Sailors	
At-Large	Eric Ely	
Past President	Roger Cross	
Color Guard	Open	



March 12TH Chapter meeting at Colonial Heritage Country Club

Reservation for the Saturday March 12TH 2022 Luncheon Meeting

Name(s) _____

Please reserve _____ regular meals at \$21.00

Special need _____

Please make checks payable to

“Williamsburg Chapter SAR”

Mail to:

Gary Dunaway – Chapter Treasurer

104 Pageland Drive

Yorktown, VA 23693

(757) 303-3673

ormazd72@gmail.com



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))