

December 4, 2021 Saturday (11 am) - 246th Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge

Muster time: 10:15 am

Location: Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum, 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

Details: This is a **National - level event**, hosted by the Norfolk Chapter, Virginia SAR. Please refer to the attached file for information regarding accommodations, and to register your participation in this event. And, inform Kenneth Hawkins, with the Norfolk Chapter, at drklhawkins@gmail.com of your plans by not later than 8 November, 2021. This event commemorates the Battle of Great Bridge, fought **9 December, 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". Shortly thereafter, Norfolk, at the time a Loyalist center, was abandoned by Dunmore and the Tories, who fled to navy ships in the harbor. Rebel-occupied Norfolk was destroyed on **1 January, 1776** in an action begun by Dunmore and completed by rebel forces.

Weather:

Attendees: Bonner, Carrigan, Cook, Corey, Dunaway, Greaf, Hall (Gary), Hamill, Hodges, Jameson, Kelly, Lynch, Melhuish, Morris, O'Kelley, Robinson (Marc), Schwetke (Bill), Thompson, and Weyler

We were also joined by National Color Guard Commander Lou Raborg, NC Society President and Fairfax Resolves dual member Jay DeLoach, Raleigh NC Chapter member Tom Davis, and young Virginia SAR guardsmen Drew Wajciechowski.





