



# *Norfolk Patriot*

*Norfolk Chapter  
of the Sons of the American Revolution*

**Celebrating 100 years  
1924 to 2024**

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**Winter 2024**



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## 2022-2023 CHAPTER OFFICERS

**President:** Robert E. Bruce  
**Vice Pres.:** Timothy F. Ahlgrim  
**Secretary:** Dr. Patrick H. Hannum  
**Treasurer:** Philip Michael O'Shea  
**Registrar:** Dr. Kenneth Hawkins  
**Historian:** Keith Evans  
**Chaplain:** Wayne C. Boone  
**Chancellor:** Carter B.S Furr  
**Past Pres.:** Gary P. Pridgen

## COMMITTEES:

Americanism – Bob Bruce  
Awards – Dr. Ken Hawkins  
Eagle Scout – Kimball Thompson  
ROTC/JROTC – Tim Ahlgrim  
American Heritage (Graves) – Mike O'Shea  
Community Affairs – Vacant  
Flag Recognition – Kevin Johnson  
C.A.R./DAR Liaison – Derek Sutton  
Newsletter – Tim Ahlgrim  
Veterans Affairs – Bill Davis  
Color Guard – Kimball Thompson  
Youth Education/Knight Essay –  
Dr. Mark Jumper  
Programs/Speakers – Bob Bruce  
Great Bridge – Bob Bruce  
Membership/Engagement/Fund Raising –  
Bruce Besley  
Public Affairs/Publicity – Vacant  
Webmaster – Vacant

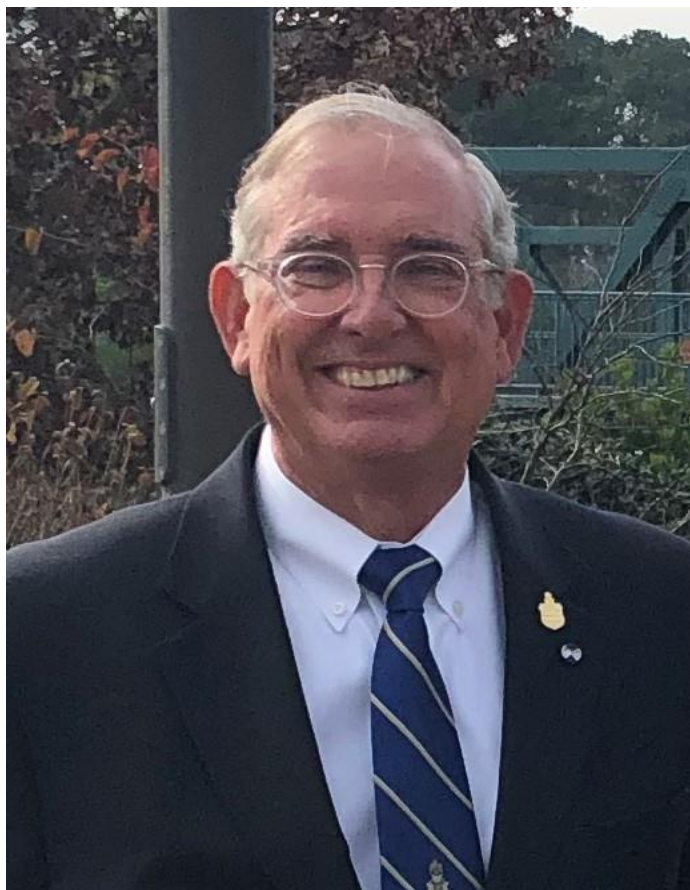
*The Norfolk Patriot is a quarterly newsletter of the Norfolk Chapter. Please submit articles for publication to the editor by the 15th day of March, June, September and December to: [ahlgrim.vassar@gmail.com](mailto:ahlgrim.vassar@gmail.com).*

*Input or comments are welcome at any time.*

Cover and inside photos by Tim Ahlgrim



## President's Message



As we bring 2023 to a close and start anew in 2024, so goes the Norfolk Chapter SAR. John Hall will be our new President with some new officers and committee chairs. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve these past two years.

We have accomplished a lot in these two years coming out of a difficult period with Covid. We've celebrated two new events, the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing, and the Burning of Norfolk. Our Battle of the Capes has drawn almost two hundred attendees in 2022 and 2023, and we are on our way to getting it approved as a national event. It has brought collaboration with French NATO and other French alliance organizations to help make this a truly international event.

Our finances have improved through raffles and generous donations. We recognized a chapter Eagle Scout winner who placed second in the

State contest.

Through Dr. Mark Jumper's leadership, we are now active in the Knight Essay contest and History Day which helps promote our Youth and Education Program. We have also submitted Kate LaRoue in the Teacher of the Year contest. We continue to support ROTC/JROTC and Eagle Scout programs in our area.

Developing a stronger relationship with the DAR we have successfully hosted the Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge, held several social events including a Norfolk Tides game, supported Flag Day, Constitution Day, and Boston Tea Party.

Lastly, we grew the chapter enough to spin off the new Great Bridge SAR Chapter. We should still show an increase in chapter membership when the end of the year numbers come in.

John Hall will take over as President on January 20, 2024, and we all need to support his efforts to continue to improve our community outreach and grow our chapter. No organization can exist with all members and no participants. Let John know that you wish to be a participant!



## Chapter Meetings

The chapter held its November meeting on November 18th at the Princess Anne Country Club in Virginia Beach.

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Bob Bruce and the Invocation was given by Chapter Chaplain Wayne Boone, the Pledge of Allegiance by Compatriot Jim Guggenheim and the SAR Pledge by Compatriot Mike Miller.

We were fortunate to have applicate Jeb Raitt, his wife, Catherine, and son, Charles with us. Always welcome were DAR spouses Cindy Bruce, Donna Crisp and Catherine Raitt. Rounding out the guest list were Compatriot Mark Jumper's wife, Ginger and Norfolk Chapter Past President, Robert Hitchings.

Our guest speaker was Mark Reed, who is the Historic preservation Planner for the City of Virginia Beach. Mark discussed the role and scope of historic preservation planning and the Historic Preservation Commission in the City of Virginia Beach, the most populous city in the state. He highlighted the formation of the City of Virginia Beach Revolution 250 Committee and future collaboration efforts with the SAR and other historic preservation groups.

We welcomed new members to the Chapter. Inducted into the Norfolk Chapter were Tim and David Hughey. Welcome Compatriots!



Treasurer Mike O'Shea presented his last report to the Chapter. After serving as the Chapters treasurer for 7 years, Mike is stepping down will transition those duties to Derek Sutton over the next several months. Well done and thank you Mike!

Chapter Registrar Ken Hawkins reported that twenty new members have been inducted last within the last year and that he has received 15 new contacts in the last two months including 3 father son teams.

Ken Hawkins, Nominating Committee Chair, presented a slate of 2024-25 officers. The slate was presented then voted on with no dissenting votes.

Officers will be installed during the January 2024 Annual Awards Meeting. They are President: John Hall, Vice-President: Richard Garriott, Treasurer: Derek Sutton, Registrar: Ken Hawkins, Chaplain: Mark Jumper, Historian: Tim Ahlgrim, and Secretary: Pat Hannum.





# Chapter Events and Ceremonies

## Thomas Nelson, Jr. Wreath-Laying



The Norfolk Chapter was well-represented at the annual Commemorative Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr. held at the Grace Episcopal Church in historic Yorktown on October 19th.



President Bob Bruce and Compatriots Derek Sutton and Tim Hughey

The event, was sponsored by the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution and was followed by the Yorktown Day Parade, on Main Street and past the Monument to Alliance and Victory, Yorktown. Also present were Registrar Ken Hawkins and Vice-President Tim Ahlgrim.

## Culpeper Memorial Ceremony

Chapter President Bob Bruce attended the Culpeper Minute Battalion Memorial Ceremony on October 21st at the Yowell Meadow Park in Culpeper, Virginia. William Schwetke, VASSAR Past President gave a presentation of the history of the Battalion and bios of several members were read. The ceremony included a musket volley.



## Skirmish at Kemp's Landing

The chapter held a Commemoration of the 248<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Skirmish at Kemp's landing on Saturday, November 4th at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, in Virginia Beach. The church is situated on the location of the Village of Kemp's Landing, the location of the 15 November 1775 skirmish.





## Chapter Events and Ceremonies

The church graciously supported the ceremony providing available seating for the attendees. Over 40 individuals attended this event supported by fourteen patriotic organizations that presented wreaths in commemoration of the lives lost that day. Kemps Landing is important for a number of reasons, the skirmish marked the first Patriot deaths in the defense of the colony of Virginia. It also served as the location for Lord Dunmore, the royal governor, to issue his fa-



mous proclamation declaring martial law and offer to free indentured servants and slaves who would fight for the king.

Mr. James Carver, a Kempsville resident, reenactor and local Kemps Landing researcher and historian, served as the guest speaker. Of note, three descendants of the family of James Ackiss Jr., a member of the Princes Anne District Minute Bn, the only name of a Patriot killed in the action preserved in the historical record, attended the ceremony. Christopher Ackiss, the Secretary of the Richmond Chapter of the SAR presented a wreath. Other Ackiss family members included James Ackiss and Andrew Monahan.

### Major Joseph Eggleston Commemoration

On Sunday, November 5th, the Grave Marking and Solemn Commemoration of Major Joseph Eggleston's Life and Patriotic Service was held at the Historic Grub Hill Church in Amelia, VA.

The service was sponsored by the Richmond Chapter, of the Sons of the American Revolution in



cooperation with Christ Episcopal Church of Amelia, The Amelia County American Revolution 250 Committee and the Amelia County Historical Society.

Eggleston was an American farmer, soldier, and politician from Amelia County, Virginia. Soon after grad-



uating from the College of William and Mary in 1776 he joined the Revolutionary Army serving in the cavalry. In the southern campaign against Colonel Tarleton, Captain Eggleston commanded the rear guard of Colonel Henry Lee's legion, and acquired the name of being one of the most efficient officers in the American cavalry. He was distinguished in the engagement at Guilford Court House in March 1781, and in the siege of Augusta in June of that year. The first success in the battle of Eutaw, in September 1781, was the attack by Major Eggleston on the advance of the British forces. After the war he was a member of the Virginia assembly for several years, and was also a representative in congress from Virginia, serving from 3 December 1798 to 3 March 1801. Chapter President Bob Bruce and Former President Ken Hawkins presented our wreath.



## Chapter Events and Ceremonies

### Veterans Day



Chapter President Bob Bruce, accompanied by his wife Cindy, presented the chapter wreath at Colonial Williamsburg's annual Veterans Day program on the Palace Green, which honors the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. This stirring tribute was presented in partnership with the Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Also in attendance was Vice-President Tim Ahlgrim

### The Battle of Great Bridge



The Norfolk Chapter SAR and the Great Bridge DAR Chapters co-hosted the 248<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge that took place on the battlefield on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with over 200 individuals in attendance. Wreaths were presented by over 50 different patriotic organizations from multiple states.



The guest speaker for this year's event was Jason Miyares, Virginia's current Attorney General. His well received and his deeply thoughtful message included comments about his mother's escape from communist Cuba and how that experience has influenced his perspective on the Patriots contributions to the freedoms we now enjoy. He also mentioned several of the Patriot soldiers who served during the battle that took place on December 9, 1775.

He highlighted the service of a young Lieutenant John Marshall of the Culpeper District Minute Bn. who would continue his revolutionary service and later serve the new nation as Virginia's Attorney General and later the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He also addressed the service of a young free black Patriot, William "Billy" Flora of the Princess Anne District Minute Bn. After the formal ceremony was completed, Attorney General Miyares took the time to speak with family members descended from Flora who attended the commemoration. Recent research uncovered, that for several months in the fall of 1778 during the restructure of

## *Chapter Events and Ceremonies*

the Virginia Line, Captain John Marshall served as the acting company commander of William “Billy” Flora, reuniting these two Great Bridge veterans after three difficult years of war.

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### **Wreaths Across America**



The annual Wreaths Across America event was held at the Forest Lawn Cemetery, on December 16th. The Norfolk Chapter laid wreaths in the Fir I and Locust Lawn sections. Members present included Chapter President Bob Bruce, Compatriots Joe Quartararo, William Jones, Wayne Boone, Shane McManus, and Mike Miller. Family members joined us along with Mike's Cub Scouts!

### **Honor and Remember Dinner**



The Honor and Remember Dinner which is held in honor of Gold Star families was held at the Founders Inn on December 3rd. Honored that evening was Gary Micheal Rose of the Alabama State Society, who as a Sergeant serving as a Special Forces Medic in 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam, was awarded the Medal of Honor. Joining him in a group photograph, are members of the VASSAR Color Guard (l-r): Colonel William Schwetke, USAF (ret), Commander E. Kimball Thompson, USN (ret), Captain G. Michael Rose, USA (ret), Colonel Ronald Adolphi, USA (ret), and Captain Christopher Melhuish, USN (ret).

## *Upcoming Events*

January 13th (11:00am): The 248th Commemoration of the Burning of Norfolk. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 St. Pauls Blvd, Norfolk, Virginia

January 20, 2024: Annual Awards Banquet, Princess Anne Country Club, Virginia Beach. VASSAR First Vice-President, Bill Greaf, will be our guest speaker.

January 27th (10:00am): Chapter Board of Managers meeting at the Princess Anne Country Club, Virginia Beach

February 3, 2024: Norfolk Chapter's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting & Luncheon.

February 9-10, 2024: VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA.

March 30, 2024: Norfolk Chapter March Member Meeting.



## Graves



On 20 & 30 November 2023, Kimball Thompson & Pat Hannum installed grave markers on four different Patriot graves.

The first two soldiers, John Smith, Militia, & William Woodard, also spelled Woodward, 6th Virginia, are located in the Smith Family Cemetery, on the northeast corner of the Navy's Fentress Airfield in Chesapeake. A ceremony to dedicate these graves is planned for October 2024. Before a ceremony can be held at the location a bridge crossing a drainage ditch will need to be repaired and the cemetery cleaned of weeds and groomed. The Great Bridge Chapter SAR is coordinating with Scout Troop 6 for accomplishment of these tasks.

The 30 November installations marked the final resting place of two soldiers, Willis Wilkins and William West. Willis Wilkins is interred in a small family plot

in Deer Run Housing subdivision, adjacent to 2017 Coral Ivy Lane, Chesapeake. William West is interred at Good Hope United Methodist Church Cemetery, 1633 Benefit Road, Chesapeake. The sites are about 15 minutes apart. A ceremony to dedicate these graves is planned for April 2024.



Both ceremonies will be jointly sponsored by the Norfolk and Great Bridge chapters because the Great Bridge chapter now covers the entire City of Chesapeake.

The cost of purchasing and installing these markers is well over \$200 per soldier. If members have any ideas for fundraising to support this program, please provide your thoughts to one of the chapter officers.

## *In Memory*



Carter Branham Snow Furr, a lifelong resident of Norfolk, Virginia, died peacefully on October 6, 2023, having lived a remarkable life of almost 91 years.

Carter was born on October 30, 1932, the son of Marion Snow and Carlton Harris Furr. He attended Taylor Elementary, Blair Middle School, and Maury High School. Carter graduated Magna Cum Laude from Hampden-Sydney College in 1954 and received a juris doctorate in 1957, Order of the Coif, from the University of Virginia. He spent over 30 years in the Army Reserve JAG Corps, retiring as a Colonel. Carter practiced law for more than 60 years with partners and friends Arthur Jett and Waverly Berkley. Known nationally for expertise in maritime law, their firm, Jett, Berkley, and Furr, later merged with McGuire Woods.

In addition to many other organizations, Carter was a member of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Associations, a member of the United States Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, and a permanent member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. He also served as a board member of the Hampton Roads Naval Historical Foundation, past president of the Norfolk German Club, past president of the Virginia Club, and a member of the Advisory Council to the Virginia Commission on the Bicentennial of the American War of 1812.

Having a deeply rooted interest in historical and genealogical matters, Carter could proudly trace his ancestry back 40 generations as a member of the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne. He served as the state chancellor and past president of the Norfolk Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, past president of the Order of First Families of Virginia, governor of the Jamestown Society, and a consultant to The Hereditary Society Community of the United States of America. He also held active membership in more than two dozen hereditary, preservation, and historical societies.

A devoted parishioner of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Carter was a former vestryman and twice served as senior warden. He was proud to be the oldest long-term member of the congregation.

Although never able to shoot his age, Carter was a dedicated golfer and an enthusiastic traveler who shared countless trips with his wife, Huffy, and a wonderful group of lifelong friends. He was a passionate civil war historian, a faithful Wahoo, and a long-suffering Washington football fan. Carter loved any social event but was most at home on his deck at Sandbridge enjoying a cocktail and the sunset with his wife and family.

Carter was predeceased by his parents and by his brother, Carlton Harris Furr Jr. He is survived by his beloved and devoted wife of 61 years, Caroline Huffstutler "Huffy" Furr, son Carter Jr. and his wife Caroline, and grandchildren, Carter III, Kate, and Ann Randolph Furr, all of whom he deeply treasured. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Carter B. S. Furr '54 Scholarship at Hampden-Sydney College, P.O. Box 637, Hampden-Sydney, Virginia 23943; Norfolk Academy, 1585 Wesleyan Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502; or a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [hdoliver.com](http://hdoliver.com). Carter will be missed dearly by his family and friends and will forever be remembered as a gentleman and a scholar.



# Virginia Society

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## 134th Virginia SAR Annual Meeting

Welcome to the 2024 Virginia SAR Annual Meeting! The Richmond and George Washington Chapters invite members of the Sons of the American Revolution and their guests to attend the 134th Annual Meeting at The Omni Hotel in Richmond, VA.

This year's meeting is preceded in January by a series of Zoom Meeting-based Virtual Workshops. A schedule with dates and times between January 22 – February 2, 2024, will be forthcoming during the second week of January 2024. We are thrilled to share for the first time a Ladies Luncheon at The Historic Jefferson Hotel on Friday before the start of our Annual Meeting. President Coggins encourages all of our compatriots to consider bringing their spouses/partners to celebrate support of their Virginia SAR compatriots and Virginia DAR Daughters who will be attending too.

This year's Annual Meeting beginning on Friday will include our traditional Scrapbook Contest, a Multi-Patriot Grave Marking, a new Virginia SAR Color Guard Drumhead Muster event, an update to the Virginia SAR & DAR Relations efforts, a Ladies Program Game Night, with President Coggins' Reception closing out the evening.

On Saturday morning we will conduct our General Membership Meeting followed by the Rumbaugh Orations Contest and Youth Awards ceremony. We are excited to make a post-COVID return to the State Capital to conduct our Memorial Service, announcement of the Public Service Awardees, the new State Officer installation, and the 2023 Chapter Winners.

We will conclude our visit with a group photo in front of the renovated Virginia Washington Monument on the Capital grounds and return to the Omni Hotel. Saturday evening will conclude our weekend with the Black-Tie Banquet Dinner to install our new President and conduct the bi-annual Virginia SAR Color Guard Change-of-Command. We close out our time together with the new President's Reception.

Compatriot and guest registration is now open on Memberclicks.net.

Room reservations are also available now and will close Friday, February 2, 2024 at the discounted conference rate per night of \$145 plus taxes (Self and Valet Parking available) for a Deluxe Queen, Deluxe Two Doubles, or Deluxe King. Place your hotel reservations on-line by following the link with your selected days and type of room: <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/richmond/meetings/va-sons-of-the-american-revolution-2024-02082024>. You may also call the Front Desk for any assistance at 1 (804) 344-7000 and share you are with the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution. This special room rate is good from Monday, February 5th through Wednesday, February 14th so plan to come early and/or stay late taking advantage of Richmond and the surrounding area.

I look forward to seeing all of you back in Richmond!

Yours in Patriotism,  
Ernie Coggins  
103rd President, Virginia SAR

# National Society

## National Officers 2023-2024

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