

THE CIPHER



*Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter
Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution*



Volume 1 **Number 3** **December 2022**

Welcome to the third edition of the Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter Newsletter. The name “Cipher” was selected because John Champe’s fame comes from his service as a Spy for General George Washington. The image on the left is the Battle Flag of LEE’s LEGION, the unit in which John Champe Served during the American Revolution. The image on the right is a Currier & Ives depiction of the “Escape of Sergeant Champe” as he deserted American Forces for the British camp. This is your newsletter. Suggestions are invited to make the Newsletter newsworthy and something you look forward to every quarter.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Welcome Compatriots, to our third issue of “Cipher.” As we close the door to 2022, we look back on our first year since recharting with sincere appreciation for the camaraderie and fellowship we enjoyed as a new Chapter. I am pleased that many of you were able to participate in the numerous events throughout the year, whether through attendance at meetings, honoring public servants, recognizing veterans and, of course, paying homage to historic people and events of the Revolutionary War in Loudoun County. Through our combined efforts, we’ve established a strong base on which to continue our growth in 2023.

Without spilling the beans too early, I will tell you that our Chapter is competitive as a ‘Best Chapter’ among small chapters in the State and Nationally. I look forward to telling you more about the results from our efforts in 2022!

This year, we will continue to grow our already active Public Service and Veterans Committees and will put an emphasis on Youth Programs including recognizing a JROTC cadet at Loudoun High School and nominating candidates for the annual Essay and Poster/Brochure contests. We’re also endeavoring to establish a partnership with Scouting in Loudoun, to recognize Eagle Scouts in the County.

For Historic Programs, we will mark the graves of at least three more Patriots at Nixon and Potts cemeteries in Leesburg and Hillsboro respectively and are partnering with the Fairfax Resolves Chapter and local historians to identify and recognize Patriots, buried at New Jerusalem Lutheran Cemetery in Lovettsville, through the erection of a monument.

The Chapter Board of Managers (BOM) will meet in early January to review and approve our budget and the calendar of events for 2023, and details of both will be communicated to the Chapter shortly. In the meantime, I'll draw your attention and invite your participation in several approaching events.

- The Virginia SAR 133rd annual meeting 10 – 12 February, at historic Berry Hill Resort in South Boston, Virginia; the first held in conjunction with an SAR nationally-recognized event, The Crossing of the Dan. The agenda, which I'll forward when available, includes impressive fireworks display on Saturday evening the 11th.
- We will hold our first Chapter meeting of the year in mid-February, targeting Saturday the 18th at 1 pm at the Loudoun Museum in Leesburg.

In State news, you should have received a message from President Bruce Meyer about the recent launch of "[Dispatch](#)," our new MemberClicks-based website and membership system. The site already has an abundance of information about the Virginia SAR and Color Guard calendar of events for 2023. When fully operational, we'll begin using this site to register for events, and pay annual dues.

I would like to express my appreciation here to Compatriot Rhett Wade, who crafted and donated a custom-designed box and patch knife, adorned with the Betsy Ross flag on the lid and an SAR rosette inside (see picture). This was raffled in the Fall and the winner, Compatriot Kelly Ford with the Col James Wood II Chapter in Winchester, was drawn at our Holiday Luncheon in December. The Chapter earned \$140 from this raffle! But there's more to come, and we'll soon unveil another of Rhett's handiworks to raffle this Spring. Thank you, Rhett, for the generosity of your donation to the Chapter!



Finally, I'm pleased to report that we've made key assignments to Steve Riddle as Treasurer (officer), Jim Watts as Chaplain (officer), and Rhett Wade as Chair of Public Service and Richard Ryan as Chair of Veterans (committees). If you're current or prior law enforcement, fire, or

EMS, you're already a member of the Public Service Committee. If you're a veteran, you're already a member of the Veterans Committee. We will identify candidates for Secretary (officer) and Youth Programs (committee), and at-large members of the BOM soon. If you have an interest in leading or membership on a committee, please let me or our Vice President Barry Schwoerer know.

Let me close by wishing each of you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

In Patriotism,

Kenneth L Bonner, President

Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter, Virginia SAR

CALENDAR (1ST QUARTER 2023) & 2023 SMJC CHAPTER EVENTS

JANUARY

- **14 JAN 2023** 242nd Anniversary Battle of Cowpens, 2:00pm, Chesnee, SC. Host: Daniel Morgan Chapter SC SAR
- **14 JAN 2023** 242nd Anniversary Battle of Cowpens Time TBD, Remote from actual battle site at Winchester, VA. Host CJW-II
- **21 JAN 2023** Time TBD, Location TBD. Host: CJW-II
- **21 JAN 2023** 1:00pm, Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration. Woodstock, VA. Host: CJW-II
- **28 JAN 2023** 8:00am 242nd Commemoration Battle of Cowens Ford. Huntersville, NC. Host: Mecklenburg Chapter NC SAR

FEBRUARY

- **10-12 FEB 2023** Virginia SAR Annual Meeting. South Boston, VA (Berry Hill Resort & Conference Center). Hosted by VA SAR.
- **10 FEB 2022** 5:00pm, 242nd Commemoration crossing the Banister River Host: Dan River Chapter VA SAR
- **11 FEB 2023** 10:00am, 242nd Commemoration Crossing the Dan River. Host: Dan River Chapter VA SAR

Note: The Commemoration of crossing the Dan will be coordinated with the VA SAR Annual meeting

- **18 FEB 2023**, 11:00am Patriot Grave Marking Phillip Fendall, Alexandria, VA. Host: George Washington Chapter
- **20 FEB 2023**. 11:00am. Honor Unknown Revolutionary War Patriot buried at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, VA. Host: Kate Waller Chapter NSDAR
- **20 FEB 2023** 1:00pm. George Washington Birthday Parade Alexandria, VA. Host arrangements by George Washington Chapter. **Note: SMJC Chapter has applied for permission to include chapter applicant Warner Workman's float**

- **20 FEB 2023** 4:00pm. George Washington's birthday and farewell address. Culpeper,VA
Host: Culpeper Chapter
- **22 FEB 2023** 9:00am. Wreath laying at the tomb of General/President George Washington at Mt Vernon, Alexandria, VA. Host: George Washington Chapter
- **25 FEB 2023** Time TBD. 257th Commemoration of Leedstown Resolves at Stratford, VA.
Host: James Monroe Chapter

MARCH

- **2 MAR 2023** National SAR Spring Leadership Meeting at Louisville, KY
- **11 MAR 2023** , time TBD 242nd Commemoration of Battle of Guilford Courthouse at the Guilford Courthouse National Battlefield Park, Greensboro, NC. Host: NC SAR
- **11 MAR 2023** time TBD. Commemoration of Colonel William Grayson at the Grayson Family crypt, Woodbridge, VA. Host: Col William Grayson Chapter
- **16 MAR 2023** Time TBD 272nd Anniversary of the Birth of James Madison, Montepelier, Orange, VA. Host: Non-SAR event, wreath laying by United States Marine Corp
- **18 MAR 2023** time TBD. Patriot Grave Marking, location TBD. Host: CJW-II
- **23 MAR 2023** Time TBD, 248th Anniversary of Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty or give me Death" Speech. Typically held at Historic St James Church, Richmond, VA. Host: Richmond Chapter. Satellite commemorations being planned, including in Winchester by CJW-II Chapter
- **29 MAR 2023.** National Vietnam Veterans DAY. Hosting at various times in multiple locations throughout Northern Virginia. SMJC Chapter is exploring venues

SMJC CHAPTER MEETINGS & CHAPTER EVENTS

- **11 JAN 2023** Time TBD. SMJC Chapter Board of Manager's Meeting via ZOOM
- **18 FEB 2023** Time & Location TBD SMJC Chapter Meeting
- **18 MAR 2023** Time TBD. SMJC Chapter Board of Manager's Meeting via ZOOM
- **15 APR 2023** SMJC Chapter Meeting. Time and location TBD
- **22 APR 2023.** **SMJC CHAPTER SIGNATURE EVENT:** Commemoration of SMJC and Patriots Day at the SMJC Homesite near Cana Winery, Middleburg, VA. Time TBD
- **6 MAY 2023** Time TBD. SMJC Board of Manager's meeting via ZOOM
- **20 MAY 2023** Time TBD Armed Forces Day observance. Location TBD
- JUNE. Exact date and time TBD. Dedication of an eight (8) Patriot Grave Monument at Old Potts Cemetery near Hillsboro. Sponsor: SMJC
- **3 JUN 2023** **SMJC CHAPTER SIGNATURE EVENT** 242nd Commemoration of General Anthony Wayne's Army crossing the Potomac, Time TBD, at the Loudoun County Courthouse near the Spirit of Loudoun. Co-sponsor FFR and SMJC
- **14 JUN 2023** FLAG DAY. SMJC Partners with Rev Marks C.A.R Society for a flag retirement at Great Falls Library; Exploring other venues to celebrate Flag Day, including awarding Flag Certificates to homes, businesses or Gov't offices. Nominations encouraged.
- **17 JUN 2023** 3:00pm. **SMJC CHAPTER SIGNATURE EVENT.** 248th anniversary of the Loudoun Resolves. at Loudoun County Courthouse near Spirit of Loudoun
- **24 JUN 2023** SMJC Chapter meeting. Time and location TBD.

- 4 JUL 2023 11am Independence Day parade in Purcellville. Float and marchers. All Compatriots encouraged to participate whether or not you have a uniform/Colonial Attire
- **8 JUL 2023 SMJC** Chapter Board of Managers meeting via ZOOM. Time TBD
- 12 AUG 2023 11:00am. **SMJC CHAPTER SIGNATURE EVENT**. 247th Anniversary of the Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Virginia. At Loudoun County Courthouse near the Spirit of Loudoun.
- **SEP** exact date & Time TBD. SMJC Sponsored Patriot Grave Marking at Nixon Cemetery, south of Leesburg. Patriots: George Nixon Sr, George Nixon Jr, John Nixon.
- **9 SEP 2023** SMJC Board of Managers Meeting via ZOOM. Time TBD
- **11 SEP 2023**. 9-11 Observance. Multiple events throughout Northern VA. SMJC Exploring Loudoun County based events.
- **15 SEP 2023** National POW/MIA Day. SMJC will encourage residents and businesses to establish of a MISSING MAN Table to commemorate POW's/MIA's. Suggestions invited and a Compatriot to lead the chapter effort if needed.
- **17 SEP 2023** Constitution Day. Celebrates adoption of the United States Constitution. Exploring options. Suggestions encouraged.
- **30 SEP 2023 pm**. Exact time TBD. **SMJC CHAPTER SIGNATURE EVENT** Commemoration of Sgt Maj John Champe at his grave at Prickett's Fort, WV, near Fairmont. Carpools encouraged.
- **14 OCT 2023**. SMJC Chapter Meeting. Time and location TBD
- **21 OCT 2023** Time TBD. **SMJC CHAPTER SIGNATURE EVENT**. Commemoration of Sgt Maj John Champes embarkation on the mission to Capture Benedict Arnold. Probably at Loudoun County Courthouse near the Spirit of Loudoun.
- **31 OCT 2023, 6:00pm**. Leesburg Halloween Parade. **SMJC Chapter leads the northern Region VA SAR Effort for this event**. Great venue to put SMJC Chapter in front of the public. Float will be included, Riders and marchers encouraged.
- **5 NOV 2022** Time TBD Brunswick MD Veterans Parade. Float will be included. **SMJC Chapter leads the northern Region VA SAR Effort for this event** Riders and Marchers encouraged
- **11 NOV 2023** Time TBD. Leesburg Veterans Day Parade. **This will be the first time for this event for SMJC Chapter**. Maximum Chapter participation encouraged, with or without uniform/Colonial Attire. Float will be included
- **11 NOV 2023** 11:00am Commemoration of Veterans at Ashleigh at Lansdown, Leesburg. In 2022 we celebrated the service of twenty-six veterans
- **18 NOV 2023**. Time TBD. SMJC Board of Manager's meeting via ZOOM
- **9 DEC 2023**. Time TBD. SMJC Chapter Meeting and Holiday Luncheon. Venue TBD
- **15 DEC 2023** Time TBD. **SMJC CHAPTER SIGNATURE EVENT**. 232nd Anniversary of Signing of the Bill of Rights. Location TBD
- **17 DEC 2023** Time TBD. Wreaths Across America in partnership with Kettoctin Chapter DAR.

IN MEMORIUM

We are pleased we did not have any Compatriot or Compatriot spouse deaths this period.

Let us take a moment to remember the Compatriots and Compatriot Spouse who passed in 2022 and who were honored by our attendance at their farewell service.

- David Kreager 1951-2022
- John Ward Jr. 1950-2022
- Brooke Shambeck 1965-2022
- Gary Fletcher 1932-2022
- Curtis Robb 1944-2022

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

Registrar: Barry Schwoerer, email bschwoerer@comcast.net 703-859-3407

With two transfers into the chapter in December we now have thirty-two regular members, Twenty-five adult, and seven Junior. One regular member is out-of-state (Colorado). We have eleven, dual in-state members. We have greatly exceeded objectives for growth and look forward to additional growth in 2023. As of end of December we have seven applications at SAR HQ waiting approval, one applicant waiting family documentation, and one applicant with genealogy and documentation complete waiting decision to proceed or not.

CHAPTER EVENTS

2 November 2022 Ashburn, VA
BRONZE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDALS FOR FERGUSON FAMILY.

Compatriot Richard Ryan nominated the Ferguson Family of Ashburn for the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal for extraordinary citizenship by providing meals to Mr. & Mrs. William Cain, an aged couple who could not drive to obtain food or meals. They still are providing meals for Mr. Cain after starting delivery in May 2020. This was a family effort with Frederick and Silvia Ferguson and their three children, Fredrick, Sophia and Brianna helping with preparation and delivery. Mrs. Cain passed in June 2022.



Photo L-R: Ken Bonner, Frederick Ferguson, Silvia Ferguson, William “Bill” Cain, Brianna Ferguson, Barry Schwoerer. Not pictured: Richard Ryan, Photographer.

6 November 2022, Brunswick, Maryland
BRUNSWICK VETERANS PARADE

The chapter combined with two Maryland NSDAR Chapters (Frederick & Carrollton Manor), and the Col James Wood II Chapter to march and ride in the Brunswick Veterans Parade. Chapter Applicant Warner Workman decorated his float with graphics depicting soldiers and weapons from many wars. The team captured 2nd Place in the Civic Organization Category and will split a \$100 cash award.



Right side of float during parade. L-R: Barry Schwoerer, Dale Corey (CJW-II)

11 November 2022 Ashleigh at Lansdowne Assisted Living Facility, Leesburg, VA
A TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Ken Bonner, Barry Schwoerer and Steven Van Deusen presented a Tribute to Veterans for twenty-six veterans representing WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the War on Terrorism. The three compatriots presented colors, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to each Veteran and gave a short talk "A Tribute to Veterans-why and what is Veterans Day". The chapter provided a sheet cake with the Stars and Stripes. Photo #1 L-R: Barry Schwoerer, Ken Bonner, Captain Raymond Amor US Navy (Ret), Steve Van Deusen. Photo #2 L-R Barry Schwoerer, LCOL Raymond Owen US Army (Ret), Ken Bonner, Steve Van Deusen. These two photos are representative of the veterans presented Certificates.



29-30

December 2022 Loudoun County, VA

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION FOR PEOPLE WHO ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED SMJC IN 2022

The chapter issued Certificates of Appreciation for the Mayor of Leesburg, and members of DAR and SAR Chapters who contributed to the success of SMJC Chapter in 2022. Kecia Brown and Nancy Watford are with the Ketocin Chapter NSDAR. They participated in many SMJC Chapter events and Nancy drove to the SMJC Grave Marking and Commemoration at Prickett's Fort, WV, a round trip of nearly 7 hours. Anne Ballinger is with the Mary Hemings Bell Chapter NSDR. She participated in the 13 AUG Reading of the Declaration of independence. Mayor Burk participated in several events at Loudoun County Courthouse and sponsored a Town Council proclamation for the Chapter. Nancy and Ed Spannaus participated in multiple Chapter events and Ed initiated a multi-state project to mark camp locations of General Anthony Wayne's troops as they marched from PA through MD to mid-VA to meet troops of General Lafayette in preparation for the Siege of Yorktown. Our chapter cannot be successful without the contributions of elected officials, county and town staff, and members of DAR, SAR and C.A.R. We thank them all for their support. Early in 2023 Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to several Loudoun County officials for their support in 2022. They were not available in late December.



L-R: Ken Bonner, Kecia Brown, Nancy Watford, Barry Schwoerer



L-R: Ann Ballinger, Barry Schwoerer



L-R: Ken Bonner, Mayor Burk, Barry Schwoerer



L-R: Nancy Spannaus, Ed Spannaus

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The success of our chapter in 2022 would not have been possible without the dedicated support and tutoring of the Colonel James Wood II team, many of whom are dual members of our Chapter. Advise and council was most important for the Americanism and Stark reports which gauge how well we achieve goals and objectives set by National SAR. In addition, our media program was guided by the VASSAR preeminent media guru, Dale Corey. With his help we almost maxed out Americanism points for media (Newspapers, Facebook, twitter, etc). Media is important because it keeps what we do in the eye of the public.

MEDIA ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Public outreach is a major objective of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. Our Colorguard is the chapter’s face to the public. Newspapers, Facebook, Twitter and websites serve to inform the public on what we do. VASSAR publications and blogs inform compatriots in Virginia SAR what we do and serve to challenge other chapters to match our chapter efforts. National SAR publications serve to inform Compatriots nationwide on what we do. Following is a compilation of our efforts to publish what we did in newspapers and other media wherever we hold an event. Many times, we have informed Newspapers of an event well in advance so they can arrange coverage. An example is when SMJC Chapter sponsored the Patriot Grave Marking of Captain Thomas Logwood in Bedford, VA. The Lynchburg based Newspapers were advised of the event and invited to provide coverage. One reporter was on-scene taking photos and interviewing participants. The article they published was an outstanding tribute to our efforts.

Newspapers:

- Leesburg Patch 42
- Centreville Patch 1
- Loudoun Now 11
- Loudoun Times-Mirror 1
- Loudoun times Now 1
- Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today 3
- Culpeper Star Exponent 1
- The Connection (Fairfax) 1
- Frederick News Post (MD) 1
- Sun Gazette (Oakton) 1
- News & Advance (Lynchburg) 1

Facebook (other than Chapter): 9

Websites: 2

Twitter: 1

Virginia SAR (VASSAR) Publications or Blogs

VASSAR Dispatch. 20

VASSAR Bulletin: SMJC & CJW-II article on Junior Color Guard Workshops, a first in VASSAR

National SAR Publications

- SAR Magazine 2
- SAR Colorguardsman Magazine 2

PUBLIC SAFETY RECOGNITON

No new Public Safety recognitions this period.

For reporting year 2022 the Chapter awarded nine public service medals:

- Leesburg Police Department officer Stephen Meyer: SAR Life Saving Medal
- Leesburg Police Department officer Matthew Wolfe: SAR Life Saving Medal
- Virginia State Police Master Trooper (ret) Randy Pieper: SAR Law Enforcement Medal
- Middleburg Police Department Senior Officer William “Bill” Nugent: SAR Law enforcement medal
- Purcellville Police Department Sergeant David Kemp: SAR Law Enforcement Medal
- Purcellville Police Department Officer Alexander Burkett: SAR Law Enforcement Medal
- Virginia State Police Technician Lucy Rowe: Law Enforcement Medal
- Loudoun County Sheriffs Deputy1st Class Cameron Gentry: SAR Heroism Medal
- Loudoun County Sheriffs Deputy 1st Class Charles Ewing: SAR Life Saving Medal

YOUTH RECOGNITON AND PROGRAMS

With receipt of an essay, the chapter participated in three youth programs in 2022:

- “Patriots in the Shadows” was written and submitted by High School Sophomore Arianna Schwoerer, for the 2022 George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. Arianna is the daughter of Chapter Compatriot Kevin Schwoerer. The essay was forwarded to the Virginia SAR State Essay Chairman for judging against essays submitted from all other Chapters. The Virginia State winner will be announced at the VASSAR Annual Meeting 11 February



- 2022 Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest. Ojasbi Ramani submitted a poster to the Chapter. The poster was forwarded to the Virginia SAR Chairman for judging against posters submitted to other Virginia SAR Chapters.

- Enhanced JROTC Program: Navy JROTC Cadet Sadie Leigh of Loudoun County High School was presented the JROTC Medal as top cadet for school year 2021-2022.
- We are pleased to report we have established a relationship with the Viking Division Sea Cadets in Loudoun County. You can expect to see the Sea Cadets at our events as they are available. We will issue a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to the top 2022 Viking Division cadet early in 2023 after the nomination is received from the Division leader.

CHAPTER NEEDS in Youth Programs:

- A Compatriot to establish a working relationship with Scout troops in Loudoun County with objective of recognizing Eagle Scouts as they achieve Eagle, and to encourage them to participate in the National SAR Eagle Scout contest.
- A Compatriot to lead youth programs for the Essay, Oration (speech), poster and Brochure contests. This year the effort has been adhoc at best. We need outreach to schools, teachers , and students

FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES RECOGNITION

No new Flag Recognitions this reporting period.

If you, or someone you know, or a business, Church, School, Government office (City, County, State, Federal) properly displays and maintains the flag of the United States please contact someone in the Chapter Management team to coordinate presentation of a certificate recognizing proper display. To be eligible the honoree must keep the flag lighted at night and must replace the flag when it becomes soiled, worn or torn,

If you want to be the Chapter flag chairman please email President Bonner at ken.l.bonner@gmail.com or Vice President Schwoerer at barry@schwoerers.com

On Flag Day, 14 June 2023, the chapter will partner with the Reverend John Marks Society Children of the American Revolution for a Flag Retirement event. If you have a United States Flag that needs to be retired put this event on your calendar and join us. Time and location TBD

SMJC CHAPTER AT OTHER CHAPTER EVENTS

11 November 2022, Leesburg, VA George C. Marshall home (Dodona Manor)
TOWN OF LEESBURG VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION

SMJC Compatriot Richard Ryan represented the chapter at the annual commemoration for Veterans at Dodona Manor.

12 November 2022 Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, VA

PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING FOR PETER PHILIP HELPHENSTINE (SPONSORED BY CJW-II CHAPTER)

President Ken Bonner, Vice President Barry Schwoerer, and Compatriot Steve Van Deusen represented the SMJC Chapter at the Patriot Grave Marking for Peter Philip Helphenstine. All SMJC Compatriots wore militia uniforms. Ken Bonner presented the chapter wreath, was a sentry at the headstone of patriot Helphenstine, and participated in the musket volley. Barry Schwoerer was a sentry at the headstone of Patriot Helphenstine and participated in the musket volley. Steven Van Deusen led the pledge of allegiance and stood as sentry beside the flags.



SMJC Compatriots on right in back of Patriot Marker



Patriot Marker for Major Peter Philip Helphenstine

12 November 2022 Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, VA

A VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION HONORING AMERICA'S HEROES-A PRESENTATION OF LtCOL OLIVER NORTH USMC (Ret). (Sponsored by Church of our Savior, Oatlands, VA)

Barry Schworer and John "Jack" Curtis represented the chapter as the SAR presented Colors to open the celebration. The keynote speaker was LtCol Oliver North USMC (Ret) who commemorated Veterans and the sacrifices they make for our country.



SAR Participants with LtCol Oliver North. L-R: Paul Christensen, Allen Phillips, Wounded warrior call sign "TrainWreck", LtCol North, Barry Schworer, Chip Daniel, Richard Tyler. Not pictured: Jack Curtis

19 November 2022 Great Falls Library, Great Falls, VA

INDUCTION OF REV JOHN MARKS SOCIETY C.A.R 2023 OFFICERS AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

President Ken Bonner and Vice President Barry Schwoerer witnessed the induction of 2023 officers for the Reverend John Marks Society C.A.R at the Great Falls Library. Senior President Wyndy Fredrick inducted the officers in front of proud parents and Society members.

Following induction of officers President Bonner and Vice President Schwoerer presented certificates of appreciation to Rev John Marks Society C.A.R staff and members for “Patriotic participation in the 246th Commemoration of the Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Loudoun County Courthouse on 13 August 2022”. At the 13 August event, Mrs. Holly-Lynn Schmidt was the Senior person present for the Society. The children led the Pledge of Allegiance and handed out small American Flags and booklets on the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of independence. Matthew and Patrick Magelhaes were not present to receive certificates. Their certificates were accepted by their sister, Catherine.



Rev John Marks Society CAR 2023 Officer induction. L-R: Wyndy Fredrick, Derek Sfaelos, Macphearson Strassberg, Alex Sfaelos, Georgia Sfaelos,, Annabelle Fredrick, Catherine Magelhaes, Georgia Resimont, Nick Chawaga



Ken, Barry & Holly-Lynn Schmidt



Ken, Barry & Macphearson Strassberg



Ken, Barry, & Georgia Resimont.



Ken, Barry & Savannah Magelheaes



Ken, Barry & Catherine Magelhaes



Ken, Barry & Nick Chawaga

3 December 2022, Chesapeake, VA
COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF GREAT BRIDGE (sponsored by Norfolk Chapter VA SAR)

The two-hundred Forty-seventh Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge was commemorated in Chesapeake, VA on 3 December. This was the 122nd Annual Commemoration by the Great Bridge Chapter, NSDAR and the 12th annual Commemoration by the Norfolk Chapter, Virginia SAR. Because of inclement weather, the ceremony was moved indoors to the City of Chesapeake City Council Chamber. A planned musket volley was cancelled.

The Battle of Great Bridge took place 9 December 1775 and was a decisive victory for an army composed of Virginia "Regulars" and militia and Carolina militia. The victory resulted in the British evacuation of Norfolk with Lord Dunmore, the last British Royal Governor of Virginia, evacuating with the military and his staff.

Chapter Vice President Barry Schwoerer represented the Chapter by presenting the chapter wreath.



SAR Colorguardsmen at the Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge

16 December 2022, North Hill Cemetery, 67 North Hill Lane, Berryville, VA
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, NORTH HILL CEMETERY (SPONSOR KETOCTIN DAR)

The Kectoctin Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) sponsored Wreaths Across America at Historical North Hill Cemetery near Berryville. Three chapters of Northern Virginia Region Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) joined the Kectoctin Chapter DAR to place wreaths on graves in the cemetery. Kectoctin Chapter DAR sponsored the restoral of Graves at North Hill Cemetery between 2019 and 2020 and sponsored a ceremony involving DAR and SAR Chapters in October of 2020 that placed an NSDAR Grave Marker at the site. The Cemetery is located on private property just west of the Virginia State Highway 7 bridge across the Shenandoah River east of Berryville. The cemetery contains the remains of Betty Lewis Carter, Charles Carter, and three of their children. Betty Carter was the daughter of Patriot Colonel Fielding Lewis, a Revolutionary War officer. She is also the niece of George Washington, a rare and honorable privilege.

SAR Chapters participating were: Sgt Major John Champe Chapter, Col. James Wood II Chapter, and Culpeper Minutemen Chapter. A Virginia SAR Combined Color Guard led by Dale Corey

presented Colors and a three-man squad commanded by Brett Osborn executed a three-shot musket volley to honor those buried at North Hill Cemetery.



L-R: Melody Cavicchi, Gail Adams, Richard Tyler (CJW-II), Kneeling: Chip Daniel (CJW-II) & Dale Corey (CJW-II), Bill Schwetke (Culperper Minutemen), Barry Schwoerer (SMJC), Nancy Watford (in red), Brett Osborn (CJW-II), Kecia Brown, Lori Fallace, Sarah Kennedy. (All ladies from Kectoctin Chapter DAR)

17 December 2022 Kectoctin Baptist Church Cemetery, Purcellville, VA

WREATHS ACROSS. AMERICA AT KECTOCTIN BAPTISH CHURCH (SPONSOR: KECTOCTIN DAR)

Ken Bonner in regimental uniform and Barry Schwoerer in militia uniform represented the SMJC Chapter for Wreaths Across America at Kectoctin Cemetery. Compatriot Schwoerer introduced former military men or women who presented wreaths honoring each of the military services and POW/MIA. Both Ken and Barry participated in a musket Volley. The Viking Divisions Sea Cadets presented and retired Colors.



Musket volley: L-R. musket squad commander Brett Osborn, Ken Bonner, Barry Schwoerer, Paul Christensen, Will Reynolds, Jim Cordes, Drummer Doug Hall



SAR Members with Viking Division Sea Cadet Color guard. L-R: Barry Schwoerer, Dale Corey, Paul Christensen, Will Reynolds, Ken Bonner, Viking Division CG, Doug Hall, Brett Osborn, Allan Phillips, Jim Cordes, Chip Daniel, Viking Division Sea Cadets CG Commander

17 December 2022 North Fork Baptist Church, Purcellville, VA

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA AT NORTH FORK CEMETERY (SPONSOR: KETOCTIN DAR)

Ken Bonner and Barry Schwoerer represented the SMJC Chapter for Wreaths Across America at North Fork Baptist Church Cemetery. The SAR Colorguard stood at attention and presented arms when the Viking Division Sea Cadets advanced and presented colors. Both Ken and Barry participated in the musket Volley.



SAR Musket Volley at North Fork Baptist Cemetery



SAR Team with DAR Ladies at North Fork Cemetery. L-R: Front row Ken Bonner, Dale Corey, Chip Daniel, Allan Phillips, Kecia Brown. Back row: Anita Bonner, Marc Robinson, Will Reynolds, Jim Cordes, Barry Schwoerer, Brett Osborn, Paul Christensen, Richard Tyler