Spring 2017



The Defender

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

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BEST VERY LARGE CHAPTER IN VIRGINIA 2012, 2014; BEST LARGE CHAPTER 2007-2010



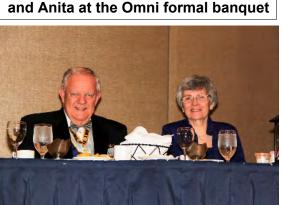
Fairfax Resolves Chapter Awarded at Virginia Society Annual Meeting

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter earned 12 awards at the 2017 Virginia Society Annual Meeting in Richmond in February. The awards recognized our chapter's program of service during 2016. Those awards included the Best Law Enforcement Officer, the Best Fire Safety Award, the Best Eagle Scout and the Best Chapter Website (see photos of winners on the last page).

We also received awards for Chapter Excellence, Rumbaugh Orations, History Day, Flag Program, Fundraising, Military Service Medals, Civic Presentations and support of the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown.



Rick Abbott and Jan with Ken Bonner and Anita at the Omni formal banquet



Larry McKinley and Mary Frances at the head table of the formal banquet

Seven chapter members attended the annual meeting: Jeff Thomas, Ken Bonner, Larry McKinley, Carl Loveland, Darrin Schmidt, Bill Denk and Rick Abbott.



Mike Elston presents the Silver Roger Sherman Medal to Darrin Schmidt for his service as Virginia Color Guard Commander



Members of the chapter display some of the awards at the business meeting



Darrin Schmidt presents wife Holly Lynne with the Molly Fisher Medal



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CHAPTER NEWS

President's Message



Compatriots,

I am happy to report that our chapter received twelve awards at the Virginia Society annual meeting for the service we performed in 2016. These awards reflect the healthy state of our chapter. Our public service programs remain exceptional. Since 2005 our chapter has sponsored the Best Law Enforcement Officer four times and the Best Fire

Safety & EMS Award five times. Our youth programs are also outstanding. In particular, this year we received the Sustained Achievement Award for Rumbaugh Orations, marking the 25th year in a row we have received this award, for achievement during the period 1991-2016. Since 2005, our chapter has sponsored the Virginia Orations Winner eight times and the National Orations Winner twice in 2010 and 2014.

In addition to our youth and public service programs, our overall chapter program is very strong. In every year since 2000, including this year, our chapter has received the VASSAR Chapter of Excellence Award recognizing the diversity and strength of our chapter programs. In the last 25 years, our chapter has been recognized as the Best Chapter in Virginia in its respective membership category 15 times, demonstrating our broad participation in the SAR's mission.

As we reflect on the past year, we have much to be proud of in the Fairfax Resolves chapter. There is also much we can do in the coming year to improve our programs and continue to be the outstanding chapter we have been over the years. As we look forward, I invite all Compatriots to share in our success and to participate in the many opportunities we have to further enhance our educational, historical and patriotic outreach in the community.

> Regards. Jeff Thomas

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Board of Managers

President **Jeff Thomas**

1st VP **Woody Bentley**

2nd VP Ken Bonner

3rd VP Mark Anderson

Secretary **Larry McKinley**

Treasurer Carl Loveland

PR/Historian Bill Denk

Webmaster **Darrin Schmidt**

Past President Vern Eubanks

3-Year Term **Rick Abbott**

2-Year Term **Bill Price**

1-Year Term **Phil Ray**

Emeritus Officers

Secretary

Registrar

Richard Spurr

Dave Cook

Chaplain

William Youngs

The Defender is the quarterly newsletter of the Fairfax Resolves. Submit articles for publication to the editor by the first day of February, May, August and November at editor@fairfaxresolvessar.org

Editor

Jeff Thomas

In honor of Bill Youngs, Emeritus Chaplain and a member of the Fairfax Resolves chapter for 30 years, who created The Defender newsletter.





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CHAPTER NEWS

2017 Calendar of Chapter Events

Wednesday, June 14, 6:30pm Flag Retirement Ceremony with CAR

Great Falls, VA

Saturday, July 22, 11:00AM 243rd Anniversary of Fairfax Resolves

Historic Courthouse, Fairfax, VA

Sunday, September 17 Constitution Day Program

Saturday, September 30 John Champe Day

Aldie, VA

Wednesday, October 25 38th Fairfax Resolves Chapter Anniversary

Historic Courthouse, Fairfax, VA

Saturday, November 11 Veteran's Day Program

Saturday, December 9 Holiday Luncheon and Awards Program

SAR Historic Celebrations

July 4 March to Washington's Tomb

Mt. Vernon, VA

July 29 Pohick Church Marker Dedication

VASSAR Initiative, Lorton, VA

October 7 Battle of Kings Mountain

Kings Mountain, SC

October 19 Yorktown Celebration

Yorktown, VA

Other Events

June 17 275th Anniversary Fairfax County

Historic Fairfax Courthouse

July 8-12 NSSAR Annual Congress

Knoxville, TN

August 11-12 Mid-Atlantic District Meeting

Gettysburg, PA

Sept 15-16 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting

Newport News, VA

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CHAPTER MEETINGS



POHICK CHURCH - March 11, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter held its March meeting at George Washington's Pohick Church. The agenda included our Knight Essay winner Rachel Grace and Teacher of the Year Corey Thornblad, as well as our Americanism Poster Contest. After the meeting, members participated in a docent led tour of the historic church.



AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM - April 1, 2017

The chapter participated in Virginia Day at the Grand Opening of the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown. Chapter members and wives included Ken Bonner, Rick Abbott, Tim Dioquino, Allen Sackadorf and Color Guard Vern Eubanks, Larry McKinley and Darrin Schmidt. Dinner on Friday was at the King's Arms Tavern.



CHRYSALIS WINERY - April 22, 2017

Our April meeting included a wine tasting at Chrysalis Vineyards. Our speaker was Richard Leahy, who talked to us about the history of Virginia wine. Afterwards, Leahy signed copies of his book *Beyond Jefferson's Vines*. About 25 members and quests attended the event.



INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY CLUB - May 20, 2017

Jenee Lindner was the speaker at the May chapter meeting and awards luncheon. Lindner, President of the Friends of Historic Fairfax Courthouse, spoke to the chapter about the history of the Fairfax family. Lindner is a member of the 275th Fairfax County Anniversary Committee.

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MEMBER NEWS



President Jeff Thomas welcomed Tim Dioquino, with son Michael, into Fairfax Resolves membership on March 11 at Pohick Church



Museum of American Revolution Philadelphia, PA

Tim and Michael Dioquino Discuss Ancestor Mordecai Gist

New members Tim and Michael Dioquino trace their lineage back to their fifth/sixth great grandfather, Mordecai Gist, who served as a Brigadier General in the Continental Army's Maryland Line.

Gist was born in Baltimore, MD in 1743 and was a successful merchant and early supporter of American Independence. In 1774, he participated in the burning of the merchant ship Peggy Stewart otherwise known as the "Annapolis Tea Party". Following the Peggy Stewart incident, he sought and secured a commission as a Major in the newly assembled First Maryland Regiment which was called to join General Washington's main army on July 10, 1776 to defend New York from British invasion.

On August 27, 1776, Gist was in command of the Maryland Line during the Battle of Long Island when the British and Hessians surrounded and attacked the Continental Army under the cloak of darkness. Gist's command fought an incredible delaying action with several attacking volleys allowing the American army to avoid encirclement and escape safely. Gist was promoted to Colonel for his actions and the distinguished

engagement formed the basis for Maryland's nickname, "The Old Line State."

In January 1779, the Continental Congress appointed him as a Brigadier General in the Continental Army and he took command of the 2nd Maryland Brigade. At the Battle of Camden, SC in 1780, he was lauded by Congress for his bravery and good conduct. He then marched to Yorktown where he commanded his experienced Light Corps during the siege and surrender of Lord Cornwallis.

After the war, Gist became a founding member of the Society of The Cincinnati of Maryland and was present with General Washington during its formation at his cantonment in NY. He then relocated to a plantation near Charleston, SC where he also served as the Grand Master of the Ancient York Masons of South Carolina.

Mordecai was married three times. His second marriage to Mary Sterrett produced his first son, Independent, from whom Tim and Michael are descended. Mordecai died in 1792 at the age of 50 in Charleston, SC and is buried in St. Michael's Churchyard.





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MEMBER NEWS

Lewis Boyer Marker Inscription

Sacred to the memory of Lewis Boyer who died September 19, 1843, aged 87 years, He was a soldier of the Revolution and by the side of the great Washington fought for his country's independence.

Served as a Lifeguard during the War and was honorably discharged December 10th, 1783 by certificate signed by General Washington.

Here Boyer lies, who Britain's arms withstood, Not for his own, but for his Country's good. Tho victor oft on famed Columbia's fields. To death the aged hero yields

Lewis Boyer Obituary

Mr. Lewis Boyer, a Revolutionary veteran, and one of Washington's Life Guards, departed this life at the advanced age of 86 years. He attended all our celebrations of independence, and always bore the American flag in the processions, and the old soldier's eyes would sparkle as he recounted the privations in the Revolutionary struggles, under the command of the "Father of his Country."

He was at the crossing of the Delaware, Stoney Point, Saratoga, and the capture of Cornwallis, and all prominent battles from the commencement to the end of the war. At the close of the war when the army was disbanded and his services no longer needed, he retired and received his discharge in George Washington's own handwriting. He was presented with his horse, saddle and equipment by Washington for his fidelity as one of the "Guards."

He was buried yesterday with the honors of war. About 1500 to 2000 citizens from the town and country were present at the burial to testify their respects for the departed hero. The ceremonies were of the most imposing and impressive character. Across the coffin was the Flag which he bore at the head of the Great Whig Procession in Columbus in 1840, inscribed "The Last of Washington's Life Guard."

After a few appropriate remarks concerning the services of the deceased, three volleys of small arms were then fired over the grave and the military formed right in front, passing the enclosure in silence.



Compatriot Jim Wells discusses his ancestor Lewis Boyer during the chapter luncheon at International Country Club on May 20, 2017. Boyer was a Life Guard to General George Washington and helped bring Washington's personal papers back to Virginia after the war.

Jim Wells Discusses Lewis Boyer

Lewis Boyer was born in 1756 and enlisted on 13 Feb 1776 in Rockingham County, VA. He served for the duration of the war as a private dragoon with Van Heer's calvary, who were life guards to General George Washington. He was discharged on 10 Dec 1783 by signature of Washington as follows:

"By his excellency, George Washington, General and Commander in Chief. The bearer, Lewis Boyer, private dragoon in the Independent Troop Horse commanded by Major Van Heer, being enlisted for the war and having served the sum of his engagement, is hereby discharged. In consequence of his attention and fidelity, the Commander in Chief, being authorized by resolution of Congress, presents him with the horse, arms, and accoutrements, now in his possession as a gratuity."

After the war, Boyer married Rosanna Kerns, daughter of Adam Kerns, in 1789 in Rockingham, VA. On March 7, 1805, he was issued 100 acres of land for his war service and was granted a pension on August 3, 1829. In 1810, Boyer and his wife Rosanna with their 10 children settled on 160 acres in Miami County, OH where he was primarily a farmer.

In 1840, Boyer helped build the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, a half mile north of his cabin. Boyer died in Miami County on 23 Sep 1843 and was buried in the Wesley Chapel cemetery. He was remembered as the commanding patriot Whig soldier who rode the white horse with Washington's war saddle equipment in the Whig Convention of 1840, carrying the banner inscribed "The Last of Washington's Life Guards."





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MEMBER NEWS



President Jeff Thomas inducted John Thomas and son John Thomas Jr., into membership at the April 22, 2017 meeting at Chrysalis Winery. Two additional sons, Joseph Matthew Thomas and Jason Michael Thomas will also be inducted as new members. Their Patriot ancestor is Benjamin Thomas of Maryland, who they discussed during the April meeting.

Compatriots Jim Wells, Juan Nunez, Jon Rymer and Charles Mula were inducted as new members during the chapter luncheon at International Country Club on May 20, 2017. Their patriot ancestors are Lewis Boyer (Wells), Isaiah Heston from PA (Nunez), Thomas Atchley from NJ (Rymer) and William Brooks from VA (Mula).

Ancestor Benjamin Thomas

Benjamin was born near Point of Rocks, Frederick, MD and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in Maryland's 34th Battalion of Militia on June 18, 1776.

Benjamin's descendents remained in Frederick for several generations. His grandson, John B. Thomas was commissioned a Colonel in the Maryland militia and later served as a Delegate to the General Assembly and Frederick's delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1867. From Frederick, the family moved to Baltimore and established the Thomas & Thompson drug store, which operated for 100 years from 1872 to the early 1970s.

Our family's history with the Sons of the American Revolution has been significant. My great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather, John B. Thomas and John B. Thomas, Jr., joined the SAR in 1908.



Compatriots Adam Esper, Noah Esper and Justin Thomas were inducted as new members on June 3, 2017 during Wayne's Crossing Day at the Spirit of Loudoun Revolutionary War Memorial in Leesburg. Adam and Noah are descended from Charles Hayes, an ensign with service from Virginia and Justin's ancestor is David Baker, who served in the Third Virginia Regiment from Culpeper County, VA.

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CHAPTER COMMEMORATIONS

FAIRFAX RESOLVES COMMEMORATES PATRIOT'S DAY



Members of the Fairfax Resolves SAR, Fairfax County DAR, Anne Marie Fitzhugh DAR, Col. William Grayson CAR and Providence CAR gather at the Lexington Minute Men Memorial and Liberty Tree at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Fairfax Resolves held a Patriots Day Ceremony at the Lexington Minute Men Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery on April 19, 2017.

About 20 members and guests attended the service honoring the eight Lexington militia men who gave their lives in the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775. A moment of silence was held for each man as their name was read and a flag was placed at the memorial in their honor.

Wreaths were presented by Fairfax Resolves SAR, Fairfax County DAR, Anne Marie Fitzhugh DAR, Col. William Grayson CAR and Providence CAR.

FAIRFAX RESOLVES COMMEMORATES WAYNE'S CROSSING

The Fairfax Resolves commemorated Wayne's Crossing Day at the Spirit of Loudoun Memorial in Leesburg on June 3rd. Mayor Kelly Burk welcomed the crowd of 50 attendees and read the proclamation declaring the day as Wayne's Crossing Day in Leesburg.

Eight chapters of the SAR, DAR and CAR participated in the event. The Virginia Society was represented by 3rd Vice President Bill Schwetke.

General Anthony Wayne crossed the Potomac River and marched through Leesburg on June 3, 1781, providing the critical troops to push Cornwallis into Yorktown, ending the war a few months later.



Wreaths were presented by (L-R) Col. William Grayson CAR, Col. William Grayson SAR, Culpeper Minute Men SAR, Fairfax Resolves SAR, Virginia Society SAR, Fauquier Court House DAR, Ketoctin DAR, Stone Bridge DAR and Rev. John Marks CAR.



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COMMEMORATIONS



CROSSING OF THE DAN - February 18, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter presented a wreath in commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan in South Boston, VA and was represented by President Jeff Thomas, Rick Abbott and Color Guard members Darrin Schmidt and Larry McKinley. A ceremony and reenactment was held at the memorial on the Dan River.



BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE - March 18, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter presented a wreath in commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse at the National Military Park in Greensboro, NC. The chapter was represented by President Jeff Thomas and Color Guard members Larry McKinley and Darrin Schmidt.



RAID AT MARTIN'S STATION - May 10, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter presented a wreath in commemoration of the Raid at Martin's Station and was represented by Rick Abbott and wife Jan. The monument is dedicated to the memory of Brigadier General Joseph Martin and the frontier fort he established. The annual event features a re-enactment and exhibit of frontier life.



MEMORIAL DAY - May 29, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter presented a wreath on Memorial Day at the Spirit of Loudoun Revolutionary War Memorial in Leesburg and was represented by President Jeff Thomas. The memorial was unveiled on Veteran's Day in 2015 and the chapter was a significant supporter of the memorial project.



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COMMEMORATIONS



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY - February 20, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter was represented at the President's Day Parade and at the ceremony honoring the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier in Alexandria, VA by President Jeff Thomas, son Justin and wife Linda.



JAMES MADISON'S BIRTHDAY - March 16, 2017

President Jeff Thomas presented a wreath on behalf of the chapter in commemoration of James Madison's Birthday during the ceremony at Montpelier. Commemorative wreaths were presented by seven SAR chapters and the Virginia Society. Madison is known as the Father of the U.S. Constitution.



THOMAS JEFFERSON'S BIRTHDAY - April 13, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter was represented by President Jeff Thomas at the commemoration of Thomas Jefferson's Birthday at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC. Jefferson is known as the Father of the Declaration of Independence.



JAMES MONROE'S BIRTHDAY - April 29, 2017

Registrar Dave Cook presented a wreath on behalf of the chapter in commemoration of James Monroe's Birthday at his boyhood home in Colonial Beach, VA. This event was a VASSAR Presidential Initiative this year in recognition of the significant SAR role in the reconstruction of the home.

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EVENTS



LT. WILLIAM BROADUS GRAVE MARKING - April 29, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter presented a wreath at the grave marking of Lt. William Broadus at Harper's Ferry, WV, attended by President Jeff Thomas, Justin Thomas, Second VP Ken Bonner and Allan Sackadorf. The newly restored tombstone for Lt. Broadus of Culpeper County, VA was dedicated at the ceremony.



CHILDREN'S CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY - May 9, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter presented the colors at the Children's Citizenship Ceremony at the Sully Historic Site in Chantilly. Participating in the Color Guard were Vern Eubanks, Darrin Schmidt and Larry McKinley. 17 children from 12 countries took a special oath of allegiance and were presented with certificates of citizenship.



CHILDREN'S CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY - May 23, 2017

Vern Eubanks represented the Fairfax Resolves chapter Color Guard at the Children's Citizenship Ceremony at Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, DC. 20 children from 13 countries were presented certificates of citizenship. "All of the children wanted to hold the musket," Vern said.



SHOCKOE CEMETERY MARKING - June 4, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves chapter Color Guard participated in the tombstone dedication for eight Revolutionary War soldiers at Shockoe Cemetery in Richmond. Darrin Schmidt led the Color Guard and Larry McKinley presented the Virginia Society wreath at the ceremony.

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CHAPTER AWARDS



Larry McKinley Named Outstanding Compatriot

Larry McKinley was presented with the namesake award for the chapter's Outstanding Compatriot program at the May awards luncheon. As the award namesake, he received the chapter's first Larry McKinley Outstanding Compatriot Award.

Larry has been the backbone of our chapter for many years. He has served the chapter in almost every capacity and is truly deserving of this namesake award.

The Outstanding Compatriot Award is an engraved bronze Minute Man statuette.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARY PINS

Three members of the chapter received service anniversary pins at the May awards luncheon for their dedicated service to the Fairfax Resolves.

Larry McKinley and David Cook were presented with 20-year service pins and Darrin Schmidt was presented his 10-year service pin.

These compatriots have served the chapter in multiple capacities over the years and were truly deserving of this recognition for their service.





ROGER SHERMAN MEDALS

Compatriots Larry McKinley and Darrin Schmidt were presented with Bronze Roger Sherman Medals for their longstanding participation in the chapter's Color Guard at the May awards luncheon at International Country Club.

The Bronze Roger Sherman Medal is awarded to members who have rendered faithful, significant and active service to their chapter for multiple years.





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CHAPTER AWARDS



HISTORY DAY AWARDS - March 4, 2017

Three members of the Fairfax Resolves chapter served as judges at History Day at Mt. Vernon High School. President Jeff Thomas, Rick Abbott and Vern Eubanks judged entries in individual and group websites. The chapter presented Bronze Good Citizenship Medals to Abigail Sharrett, Makenna Counts and Anna Eppard.



ROTC AWARD - April 15, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves presented its Silver ROTC Medal to Cadet Nathan Dawes at the George Mason University Military Ball. Cadet Dawes was presented the award for his leadership, military bearing and overall excellence. Dawes was the lead editor of the GMU ROTC newsletter and will be entering the U.S. Army in Military Intelligence.



JROTC AWARD - May 18, 2017

The Fairfax Resolves presented the Bronze ROTC Medal to Cadet First Sergeant Kage Smith of South Lakes High School at its Awards Ceremony. Cadet Smith was presented the award for his outstanding leadership. He has been promoted to Command Sergeant Major of the Seahawk Battalion for the 2017-18 school year.



HONOR IN SERVICE AWARDS - April 25, 2017

Members of the Fairfax Resolves Color Guard were presented the DC Society Honor in Service Medal at its annual awards ceremony. Darrin Schmidt and Larry McKinley were recognized for their dedicated service to the DC Society at its events through the years.

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VIRGINIA SAR AWARD WINNERS



EAGLE SCOUT AWARD - February 11, 2017

Robert Maloney of BSA Troop 673 in Great Falls won the Virginia Eagle Scout Award at the Annual Meeting in Richmond. Maloney was sponsored by the Fairfax Resolves chapter and was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Maloney is currently a freshman at Christopher Newport University.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD - April 6, 2017

Second Lieutenant Chris Cotone was presented the Virginia Law Enforcement Award by the Fairfax Resolves chapter at a Fairfax County Police ceremony. Cotone is a 26-year veteran of Fairfax County Police. He supervises a 14-officer patrol squad at McLean district and is lead supervisor of the Fairfax County Police Honor Guard.



AMERICANISM POSTER CONTEST - May 27, 2017

Justin Thomas, a 4th Grade student at Bull Run Elementary, won the Virginia Americanism Poster Contest. The topic of Justin's poster was Colonel William Grayson, an aide-de-camp to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Justin will now compete in the national contest at the SAR Annual Congress in July.



FIRE SAFETY AWARD - May 31, 2017

John Guy was presented the Virginia Fire Safety Award by the Fairfax Resolves chapter at his retirement ceremony on May 31st. Guy is a 33-year veteran of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Presenting the award were Fire Safety Chair Vern Eubanks, Public Service Chair Rick Abbott and Second VP Ken Bonner.