

VIRGINIA DAR SENTINEL

SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE



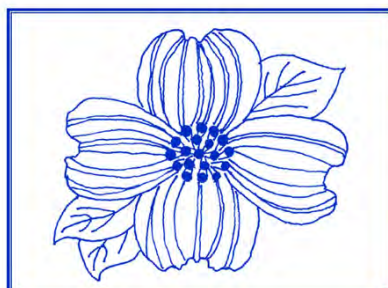
It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of our statewide Virginia DAR newsletter – The Virginia DAR Sentinel. A sentinel is a watchman, a guardian—one who stands alert, observes carefully, and calls out what is important for others to know. In the same spirit, The Sentinel will serve as our watchtower of communication, bringing timely

information, reminders, and inspiration to our members each month.

The Virginia DAR stands on a strong foundation built by generations of dedicated women. Now, as we look toward America's 250th and beyond, we have the opportunity to honor our heritage while embracing innovation and new ways of working together. This monthly newsletter will serve as a bridge—sharing news, ideas, and inspiration across our chapters so that we may all celebrate our accomplishments and support one another in service. As your State Regent, I am deeply honored to walk beside you in the work of historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Together, we will continue to advance the mission of the DAR and strengthen the bonds of friendship that unite us.

Thank you for the leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication you bring to our beloved Society. I look forward to the next three years with great hope and excitement for all that we will accomplish—together.

Kathy Rugh
State Regent Virginia DAR
2025-2028



Important Dates

September 17 -
Constitution Day

October 11 - NSDAR
Day of Service

October 19 - Yorktown
Day

December 1 -
Deadline for Chapters
to remit dues to
National & State

December 10 - NSDAR
Holiday Open House

January 15 - Chapter
Master Report
Deadline

March 20 to 22 - 130th
State Conference
Williamsburg

In Her Own Words

State Regent Kathy Rugh

As a child I was aware and proud of my ancestry – mostly German immigrants who arrived throughout the 1800's including my great-grandmother who I called Grossmutter – and a grandfather born in West Virginia whose last name was Hatfield. With the approach of the United States Bicentennial, it was this grandfather who researched and found our first patriot ancestor: Joseph Hatfield of Virginia, an Indian scout and spy. My grandfather joined the SAR and my mother immediately joined Freedom Hill Chapter, NSDAR. I became a member my senior year of college and have remained active for 47 years.



Kathy and mom Patricia Mayer,
Past Virginia State Regent

Born on a US Navy base in Morocco, where my father was stationed as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, I have lived all but five years of my life in Virginia. After four-year stints living in Quantico, VA and Camp Pendleton, CA, I grew up in Falls Church and Vienna, attending Fairfax County Public Schools.

I graduated from Mary Washington College (now the University of Mary Washington) in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History. Following graduation, I began my career working in Washington DC and the McLean / Tysons area, while also remaining engaged in community volunteer service.



Kathy, Personal Page to the
President General, and
daughter Haley

My DAR journey began with paging at both the state and national levels. My chapter supported me generously, even presenting me with my first national page pin. Over 22 years of paging, I was honored to serve as a personal page to four State Regents and two President Generals, and to chair the Virginia State Chair Page Committee for two terms.

One of my most treasured memories came in 1990 when Centennial President General Marie Yochim, herself a Virginian, asked me to be her personal page at the NSDAR Centennial celebration. At the time, I explained to her that I would be eight months pregnant with our second child – a circumstance that was then considered unsuitable for paging. Marie responded firmly, "Well, how else are we to have future DAR members without pregnant pages?" And so, I served, doing my best to appear "elegant" in a rented maternity evening gown. I learned later that this was a turning point, and from then on pages were welcomed in service while pregnant.

Through the years I have held numerous leadership roles at the chapter, state, and national levels, beginning as a Junior member and chapter regent with our firstborn baby in tow. Most recently, I served as State Treasurer and Congress Chair of the Platform Committee at Continental Congress.

My husband Tim and I have been married for forty years. We raised our two daughters, both DAR members, in McLean. Today, they live nearby with their families, and we are blessed with three adorable granddaughters

under the age of three. In what little free time I can find, I enjoy gardening, needlepoint, and smocking for my little girls.

My late mother, Patricia Hatfield Mayer, was also deeply involved in DAR, serving as Virginia State Regent from 2004-2007. Though I so wish she were here to share this moment, I am grateful for her example and support as we each set our individual paths in DAR.

I am honored to serve as Virginia State Regent and, together with all of you, look forward to the work ahead as we dedicate ourselves to service, preservation, and the celebration of America250!



Past Treasurer General Sherry Edwards (far left) and State Regent Kathy Rugh (second from right) as Pages.



Nancy Hiteshue, Past Treasurer General Sherry Edwards, Honorary President General Pamela Wright, and Virginia State Regent Kathy Rugh at Continental Congress.



State Vice Regent Susan Dewing, State Regent Kathy Rugh, Honorary President General Pamela Rouse Wright, and Vice President General Laurie Parker Nesbitt at Continental Congress Officer Installation Ceremony. Photo Credit: Sherryl Belinsky

Introducing The State Regent's Project

Theme for
2025-2028

**Revolution to
Legacy:
Preserve,
Protect,
Remember**

by LeAnn Turbyfill
State Co-Chair, State Regent's Project Committee

Virginia Daughters, we are on the threshold of our Nation's 250th anniversary. This is a unique opportunity for our organization to join with millions of other American citizens to celebrate this momentous occasion! How will you take time to reflect on the legacy which has been given to each of us?

(Cont. on next page.)

Kathleen Mayer Rugh, the 43rd Virginia State Regent, has selected the theme of **“Revolution to Legacy: Preserve, Protect, Remember”** as a way to remind each of us that we must preserve our vital genealogical and historical records, we must protect them from further deterioration, and we must remember the deeds of our ancestors as THEY laid the foundations for the heritage we share today. The American Revolution led to our nation’s founding. It is up to each of us to do what we can to preserve that legacy for those who will come after us.

Our challenge is to locate and identify those deteriorating records before the names contained in those records are lost to history. These can be found in each and every Virginia DAR District throughout the Commonwealth. Look in courthouses, libraries, historical societies, and in private collections.

Once identified, the State Regent and her Executive Board will select projects for restoration with funds provided directly to the State Regent’s Project or through the purchase of State Regent’s Project sales items. These records will be digitized so that future research efforts can be done electronically so as not to physically damage the records. Making these records accessible for genealogical research is key! Transcribing these records may also be part of the project.

Negotiations are ongoing with the Library of Virginia for related records projects...please stay tuned for future updates! Many exciting projects ahead!



The result? This is not only a gift to the Commonwealth of Virginia at this historic time. It is truly a gift to the Nation – as these records will then be accessible to all – not just those researching DAR lineage! The Virginia 250! Commission’s theme is **“America. Made in Virginia.”**

The Virginia DAR’s State Regent’s Project uniquely fits into that theme! The records we preserve and digitize today will continue to build on the importance of these records in capturing the history of our country before those pages crumble. Our efforts will confirm that America truly was made in Virginia!

How to Support the State Regent Project

1. **Make a monetary contribution** through your chapter treasurer or directly to the State Regent upon her visit to your chapter or district. Checks should be made payable to “*State Treasurer, Virginia DAR*” with a notation on the memo line “*State Regent’s Project.*”
2. **Make a pledge of any amount** to be paid to the State Treasurer in a short period of time. Contact [LeAnn Turbyfill, State Co-Chair](#), for a pledge card and details.
3. **Make a purchase of one or more of the sales items** available through [Robin Doucette, State Co-Chair](#) State Regent’s Project. This includes the soon to be available dogwood pin! Wear the pin proudly knowing you are supporting a worthwhile project.
4. **Invite the State Regent or the State Co-Chairs to attend a chapter meeting** to share the most current information on the status of this project.



SHOP TO SUPPORT THE STATE REGENT'S PROJECT



by Robin Doucette

State Co-Chair, State Regent's Project Committee

Virginia DAR members love to shop! And what could possibly be better than supporting our State Regent's wonderful project while we shop? That is definitely a win-win!

The State Regent's pins have been temporarily delayed due to production issues, but we have other wonderful items that have been "selling like hotcakes!" Current inventory includes:

- A lovely tote bag with dogwood blooms and "Virginia" emblazoned on the front in blue for \$30,
- A beautifully crafted wooden magnet in the shape of the state of Virginia and showcasing dogwood blooms, for \$10,

- A set of ten eye-catching note cards featuring a blue dogwood bloom on a white background for \$12,
- Handy note pads, accented by a blue dogwood bloom, that is perfect for writing notes or your to-do list for \$5.

Additional items will be available in the coming months, so please look for updates.

Please contact State Co-Chair Robin Doucette at robinbyrdar@gmail.com for any questions. You may also contact your District Vice Chairs to arrange for sales at chapter meetings, Regents' Clubs, and other special local events.

Entertaining & Informative Program: A Win-Win!



If your chapter makes a chapter donation to the State Regent's Project, you can have Dolley Madison come to your Chapter meeting in person. Dolley was poised to witness historic events and personally knew all the movers and shakers of that era. Married to James Madison, an intellectual giant and the Father of the Constitution, she was his partner in both marriage and politics. Contact Dale Sayers at 804-537-5573 (H), 804-380-7607 (C), or lilled8@comcast.net to schedule a date for your next chapter program, "The Life and Times of Dolley Madison."

Virginia DAR State Officers 2025-2028



VIRGINIA DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION STATE OFFICERS 2025-2028

STATE REGENT - Kathleen Mayer Rugh – Freedom Hill Chapter
 STATE VICE REGENT - Susan Phillips Dewing – Comte de Grasse Chapter
 STATE CHAPLAIN - Holly Lynne McKinley Schmidt – Cameron Parish Chapter
 STATE RECORDING SECRETARY - Betty Kennedy Waltman – Chesterfield Courthouse Chapter
 STATE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Cynthia Reece Fein – Lynchburg Chapter
 STATE ORGANIZING SECRETARY - Kacia Dyer Brown – Ketoclin Chapter
 STATE TREASURER - Lisa Beth Maloney – Falls Church Chapter
 STATE REGISTRAR - Janice Bailey Poole – Poplar Forest Chapter
 STATE HISTORIAN - Robin Wall Bagnall – Carter's Fort Chapter
 STATE LIBRARIAN - Sharon Towler Steo – Montpelier Chapter



Not Pictured

State Parliamentarian
(Appointed) - Dale Sayers

State Assistant Treasurer
(Appointed) - Valerie Cordle
Elwood

Virginia DAR by the numbers....

ESTABLISHED ON NOVEMBER 24, 1891

NUMBER OF DISTRICTS

9

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

122

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS

9,578



Virginia DAR Honors **Ginnie Sebastian Storage**



as the 47th President General of the National
Society Daughters of the American Revolution
2025-2028

Illuminate Our Legacy

The theme "Illuminate Our Legacy" aims to:

- acknowledge the legacy of the men and women who achieved our Nation's independence.
- celebrate the legacy of our four Founders.
- commemorate the legacy of the 250th anniversary of our nation
- reflect on the legacy we want to leave for our National Society and our communities.



Ginnie Sebastian Storage, a member of the Washington-Lewis Chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia, served as the Virginia State Regent from 2013-2016. During her term, she raised funds to sponsor a room in the replica 1740 Washington House at Ferry Farm, the boyhood home of President George Washington. Having joined the DAR in 1984, she proudly represents Virginia as the President General.

THE EMBLEM: THE STORAGE TORCH



The emblem represents victory and immortality and is inspired by the Victorian bronze door plates at Memorial Continental Hall. The torch was originally inverted to symbolize a memorial to Revolutionary War Patriots, it has been turned upright to signify the Nation's future and the legacy of service. The four pink gems placed on the laurel wreath honor the vision of the four Founders of DAR.

THE CHERRY BLOSSOM PIN



The Storage Administration will make a donation to the Nation to ensure the legacy of the Cherry Blossoms continues on for future generations. The three V-shaped branches represent victory and the three blossoms represent our mission of historic preservation, education and patriotism.



Officer Installation at Continental Congress



2025



GET TO KNOW...

State Vice Regent Susan (Susie) Dewing



I was born in San Diego, California, but my family moved to Alexandria, Virginia, when I was six months old, and that is where I grew up. After high school, I headed to Virginia Tech, but after enjoying campus life a little too much, I returned home and began working as a typesetter. In those days, “cut and paste” was a literal process—physically trimming text and images and affixing them with wax.

A programming course changed my career path and launched me into the world of information technology. Over the next 35 years, I held a variety of roles, the last 17 with Newport News Shipbuilding. One of my career highlights was participating in sea trials twice aboard the aircraft carrier CVN-78 Gerald R. Ford.

I met my husband Clark at church when I was three. We have been married for 23 years, and we share a love of sailing, traveling, and our annual family beach week. In my spare time I love to bake.

I always knew I was eligible for membership but never pursued it until my sister joined. The chapter registrar, a friend of my mother's, told me to sign my application, write a check, and I became a member. This year, I celebrate my 23rd DAR anniversary.

Two years after joining, I was invited to serve as a chapter officer, and since then I have held continuous leadership roles at the chapter, district, and state levels. Through DAR, I have met remarkable women, developed treasured friendships, and found an outlet for my leadership skills. I have also cultivated a deep love for genealogy and am always eager to help others discover their heritage.

In addition to my DAR activities, I am actively involved with the Yorktown Day Association, the Jamestowne Society, and the Yorktown Foundation.



VIRGINIA DAUGHTERS AT SUMMER SUMMIT



CONSTITUTION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 17 - 23, 2025

Our Nation's Constitution is a cornerstone of American ideals, and understanding it is particularly important as we approach the 250th anniversary of our country.

September 17 marks the start of Constitution Week, a celebration that includes the federally recognized Constitution Day. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) played a pivotal role in establishing this observance. In April 1955, the DAR drafted a resolution that was sent to members of Congress. This resolution inspired a similar one in the Senate, which ultimately passed both houses and was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956.

Today, the DAR continues to be a leading force in promoting awareness of Constitution Week. The organization encourages its chapters and members to

actively participate in educating the public about the U.S. Constitution. Some ways DAR chapters and members can get involved are:

- **Host a program:** Chapters can schedule and present programs about the Constitution at local schools, libraries, or chapter meetings.
- **Secure proclamations:** Members can request local, city, and county Constitution Week proclamations and share them on social media to amplify the message.
- **Create displays:** Chapters can set up engaging displays in public spaces like libraries, schools, and community centers.

For additional ideas and resources, please visit the Constitution Week Committee page on the DAR website at www.dar.org.

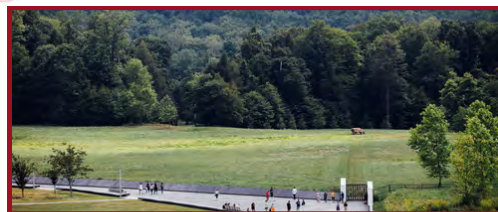
Lest We Forget SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



September 11 is remembered as a day of immense tragedy, but also one of profound heroism, as first responders and ordinary citizens demonstrated incredible courage and sacrifice. The memory of the day serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring human spirit in the face of devastation.



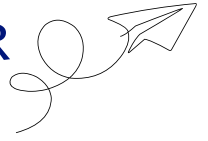
As we look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of this Nation, let us also remember that we mark the 25th anniversary of September 11th. The Commemorative Events Committee has informational resources available on their committee page at www.dar.org to honor this day forever marked in our history.





A NOTE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Carol Beam, Virginia DAR Communications



All Virginia Daughters throughout the Commonwealth, and beyond, will receive a refreshed Virginia DAR newsletter directly in their digital mailbox! And we on the Virginia DAR Communications Committee will serve as the team assembling it for our State Regent Kathy Rugh.

The publication's mission is to share DAR happenings within this vibrant group of 9,500+ women, active within 122 chapters in all corners of the Commonwealth. The **Sentinel** will be a blend of news from Virginia DAR and its chapters, with a sprinkling from our National Society DAR.

We want **news from your chapter**: from the smallest to the largest, from the newest to the oldest, and from the shyest to the boldest. All have at least one significant happening to share: maybe your 25th or 125th chapter anniversary, maybe a DAR award you presented to someone in your community, maybe a DAR marker you placed in a very visible place, maybe a cemetery you cleaned, or maybe an historical record you preserved for our State Regent's Project. ALL while having fun and a rewarding time doing it!

Photos will make the **Sentinel** come to life, and we depend on you to take them! Chapter submissions must include a 100-word narrative (Times New Roman font) to go with a high-resolution (JPG format) photo. PLEASE take action shots which will catch the readers eye while sharing your news.

Don't be surprised if you receive a phone call or email from us requesting information on a program, an event, or even a rumor about a happening in your area. We also would appreciate local reporters, cub or professional, to assist covering such a large state. If you would like to help us out, please contact this committee chair at carolmbeam@hotmail.com.

This is a new venture, creating everything from the ground floor upward. It's like developing a mini magazine to reach everyone in Virginia DAR. That includes analyzing the best digital platform to use, the newsletter name and header, monthly publication timelines, page layouts, creating and collecting news articles, gathering high-resolution photos, identifying 'cub reporters', gathering profiles of state officers, editing, and so much more. Please share your patience and support with me and Committee Vice Chair Michelle Rouillard.

Our committee goal is to bring you a professional publication which shares ideas, significant happenings, and Virginia DAR history and traditions with all Virginia Daughters. Once Virginia DAR Sentinel is running smoothly, we'll look at some additional statewide communication tools. So, please stay tuned!

Thank you for reading!

VIRGINIA DAR	www.virginiadar.org
Facebook Group: Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution	Website Password: Virginia250!