

VIRGINIA DAR SENTINEL

DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE



As we enter this season

of celebration and reflection, warmest wishes are extended to each of you. December invites us to pause and appreciate the many blessings of the past year—our families and friends; our shared commitment to historic preservation, education, and patriotism; the friendships we have strengthened; and the meaningful service we continue to give to our communities.

During the month of November, designated as Native American Heritage Month, we recognize the history and enduring legacy of the First Americans who were present when English colonists arrived in Virginia. Native American men served alongside patriots in the fight for American independence, and we pay tribute to the Native American men and women who, throughout our nation's history, have answered the call to military service. At the 250th Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge, held in Chesapeake on December 6th, the contributions of Native Americans were thoughtfully included, adding depth, meaning, and historical perspective to a deeply memorable ceremony.

Gratitude is extended to chapter regents and members for your patience and understanding during the recent Chapter Master Report (CMR) system failure. We recognize the extra time and effort this has required. To accommodate these challenges, the deadline for submitting the Virginia DAR Chapter Master Reports has been extended to January 22nd. Your continued cooperation and dedication are truly appreciated.

The Call to 130th Virginia DAR State Conference in Williamsburg March 20-22, 2026, was emailed to all members on November 30th and outlines registration and other meeting details and information. Please watch for additional communications in January regarding workshops and meal information. We look forward to welcoming you to Williamsburg to celebrate Virginia 250!

May this holiday season bring you peace, joy, and moments of rest surrounded by family and friends. Thank you for the steadfast dedication you bring to the work of the Virginia DAR. Your service truly reflects the spirit of the season and the enduring values of our Society.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a bright beginning to the new year ahead.

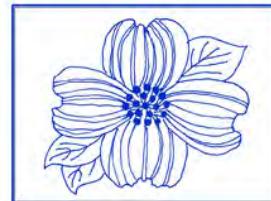
Kathy Rugh
State Regent Virginia DAR
2025-2028

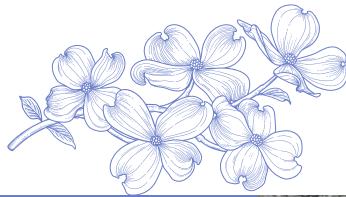
Important Dates

January 22 - Chapter Master Report Deadline

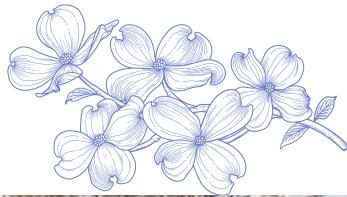
March 20 to 22 - 130th State Conference Williamsburg

April 17 to 18 - America 250 Celebration at DAR Headquarters. (More info to come.)





STATE REGENT'S TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS



Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge sponsored by Great Bridge Chapter NSDAR and Great Bridge Chapter SAR.



Attended Commonwealth Chapter Meeting. Left to right, are Virginia DAR State Regent Kathy Rugh, Chapter Community Service Committee Chair Paige Bartholomew, Awardee Tina Burkett, and Chapter Regent Cheryl Billingsley.



State Regent's Project Sales Table at Commonwealth Chapter Meeting.

Revolution to Legacy: State Regent's Project Update

Theme for 2025-2028

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

Funds raised in support of the State Regent's Project during the Rugh administration will support records restoration and historic preservation throughout the Commonwealth. Our goal is to preserve historic and valuable genealogical records as part of the commemoration of America 250! and Virginia 250!

The State Regent's Project is funded through generous contributions of individuals, chapters, districts, and clubs, as well as the sale of SRP products including the beautiful **dogwood pin** that will be available at State Conference and in the districts. The more funds raised; the more vital records can be preserved.



Eighty percent (80%) of funds raised will be used for preservation efforts. Chapters and districts are asked to help identify documents in need of preservation and digitization in their areas. Please contact LeAnn Turbyfill, State Co-Chair State Regent's Project with recommendations. Email is LeAnnT1776dar@gmail.com.

The remaining twenty percent (20%) of funds raised will be made available to chapters through a grant application process to support local projects that promote the DAR mission and awareness of DAR in the community. Guidance may be found on the Virginia DAR website in the Virginia Information Packet (VIP).

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:

- **Donate funds directly:**
 - Make checks payable to "State Treasurer, Virginia DAR," noting "State Regent's Project" in the memo.
- **Pledge an amount for short-term payment.** Contact [LeAnn Turbyfill, State Co-Chair](#), for a pledge card and details.
- **Purchase available sales items** from [Robin Doucette, State Co-Chair](#).

Introducing STATE TREASURER LISA BANNISTER DAVIS



My father was a college administrator therefore I grew up on the campuses of four major universities. While this required us to move, it enabled us to have 4 football tickets that allowed me as the eldest of four daughters, born in Memphis, to attend most games. Thus began my great love for college football.

My mother is a retired educator who fuels my love of learning. I finished the last two years of high school in Columbia, SC, where I was elected the senior class treasurer. My undergraduate studies began at Clemson University in 1981 where I met Dick at a Kappa Sigma/Pi Beta Phi fraternity-sorority mixer.

Clemson won their first national football championship that year cementing my passion for the game. He was a senior who decided to drop out of college and join the United States Navy as an enlisted nuclear power machinist mate only months after meeting and professing his love for me.

I moved to Virginia after our June 1984 wedding where I completed my B.S. in Mathematics from Old Dominion University with minors in Economics and Financial Management. I completed a M.S. in Education at the University of Albany, while Dick was assigned to one of only two shore assignments during his 23 years with the U.S. Navy.

We have two children, Richard, 36, lives in Austin, TX, and Rowan, 32, lives in Norfolk with her wife. I've recently retired after working as an IT consultant for 40 years developing software systems. My hobbies include golfing, kayaking, and traveling.

My mother-in-law was an Honorary State Regent of South Carolina and top in her Vice President's General class because our State Regent Kathy Rugh's mother invited her to the Virginia DAR State Conference.

My first conference as a page I accidentally goosed my chapter regent while trying to skirt her. Ask me about it.





Meet State Registrar Janice Poole



I was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, and spent my childhood in Pittsylvania County. Some of my earliest memories are traveling country roads with my family, searching for ancestral graves. My grandmother taught us the stories of those who came before—what they endured, loved, and sacrificed. From her, I learned that being a Virginian was a privilege built by others, and that history was not distant but lived.

Books became my constant companions, and that love of learning carried into adulthood. I became a paralegal and spent long days in courthouses where, unsurprisingly, I continued reading. More than thirty years ago, my husband Mark and I left Virginia for Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee, where I joined the Old Glory Chapter, NSDAR. I will never forget the kindness and encouragement of those members. Through their support, I began a genealogy blog,

Our Astounding Past, which I faithfully maintained for over three years.

Returning to Virginia, I joined the Washington-Lewis Chapter and once again found myself among devoted, inspiring women. Ten years ago, we settled again in Lynchburg, where the Poplar Forest Chapter welcomed me warmly, inviting me into a group photo before I had even joined. In that moment, I knew I belonged. I have been blessed to serve with these remarkable women ever since.

Mark and I now live in Forest with our dogs—Peaches, our White Swiss Shepherd, and Honey Bea, our Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

Parliamentary Pointers

Approving Minutes

Is a motion necessary to approve the minutes of a meeting?

No motion is needed to approve the minutes of a meeting. Members may correct any part of the content of the minutes. After all corrections have been offered, Regent simply states: "There being no further corrections, the minutes stand approved as read/distributed."

TECH-SAVVY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Virginia DAR is seeking a few "Good Women" to help our chapters, districts, committees, and state move confidently into the digital age.



Click Image for Survey or click the link below.

PLEASE RESPOND BY DECEMBER 31, 2025.



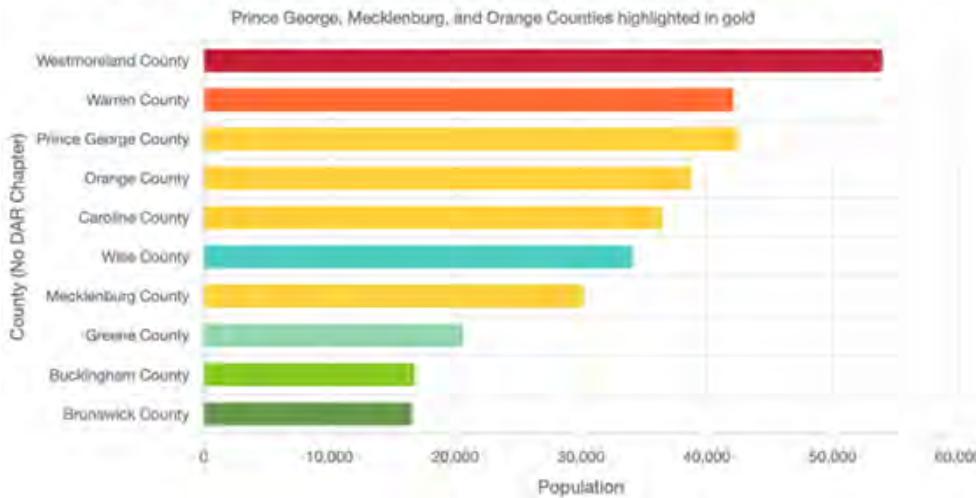
ORGANIZING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE COMMONWEALTH

By: Kecia Brown, State Organizing Secretary

The NSDAR supports members in establishing new chapters in underserved areas, enhancing member engagement and community impact. Virginia has 95 counties and 38 independent cities (totaling 133 second-level subdivisions), but 31 counties remain without active chapters. These areas feature growing communities and unmet needs in scheduling, location, or interests that are ideal for recruiting new members. Think of these as blank spots on a DAR treasure map! Even better, this is a once-in-a-lifetime shot to launch the official "Seminquicentennial Squad" in your corner of the Commonwealth before the official national birthday fireworks begin.

To get started, 12 members are required to organize, with 15-20 strongly recommended for stability, and at least 10 should be new members by application. Chapter location is determined collaboratively by the state regent, state organizing secretary, and prospective organizers: notify of intent in a target area; assess the need via distance to existing chapters, meeting logistics, and demographics; and submit proposals with population data, nearby chapter details, and suggest a proposed regent.

Top 10 Virginia Counties Without a DAR Chapter – Ideal for New Chapters



The key takeaway for organizers: the below counties offer the strongest combination of population size, growth trends, and geographic gaps, making them the perfect launch targets for new chapters in time for the 250th celebrations. Contact this officer to get your "how to" guide and start recruiting today!

Congratulations to Virginia's newest chapter, the New Kent Patriots Chapter, organized July 5, 2025! Small, but mighty, they have already awarded the DAR Good Citizens Medal and have delivered 45 care packages to the Richmond's Veterans Hospital Community Living Center within the last four months.

Your county could be next! Grab 15-20 friends and Prospective Members, pick one of the counties below, and let's make Virginia DAR history together before the 250th candles are lit.

Questions? Suggestions? Email the State Organizing Secretary, Kecia Brown, at StateOrganizingSecretary@VirginiaDAR.org.



CAPTURING THE CHAPTERS

COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF GREAT BRIDGE

Great Bridge Chapter, NSDAR commemorated the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge in collaboration with the Great Bridge Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. In attendance were Ginnie Sebastian Storage, DAR President General and Kathleen Mayer Rugh, Virginia State Regent. The Guest of Honor was Tribal Vice-chair Nikki Bass of the Nansemond Indian Nation, who spoke to the service of James Bass, a Nansemond warrior who was a part of the Colonial forces at the battle.

Over fifty wreaths were presented to honor the patriots who served in this early and pivotal engagement of the American Revolution in Virginia.



Elizabeth Vittone, Chapter Regent Great Bridge Chapter DAR with Great Bridge Chapter SAR President.



Virginia State Regent Kathy Rugh speaking during the Battle of Great Bridge commemoration.



President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage brings greetings during the ceremony.



Guest of Honor Nikki Bass, Tribal Vice-Chair of the Nansemond Indian Nation.

Check out a special recipe Great Bridge Chapter Regent Elizabeth Vittone shared on page 9 of this newsletter.

PROVIDENCE CHAPTER GETS APPROVAL FOR DAZZLING DAUGHTERS NOMINATIONS

On behalf of Providence Chapter, Nancy Simmons nominated two Virginia DAR members for recognition as Dazzling Daughters, and they were approved during the October 2025 National Board of Management. These women are **Mary Virginia Hawes Terhune (1830-1922) of Commonwealth Chapter** and **Gene Grabeel (1920-2015) of Major George Gibson Chapter and William Taylor Chapter**.

Mary Virginia Hawes Terhune was a prolific author who wrote bestselling books in both fiction and non-fiction over a period of 64 years, usually under the pen name of Marion Harland. In 1854, at the age of 24, she published her novel *Alone*. As a newlywed, she realized there was a need for a book that provided details on household tasks. Consequently, she published *Common Sense in the Household: A Manual of Practical Housewifery* in 1871. This book sold over a million copies and was kept in print for over 50 years. In 1919, at the age of 88, she published her final book, *The Carringtons of High Hill*.

Gene Grabeel was a government code-breaker during World War II and the Cold War. In 1942, she began her work at Arlington Hall with the Army Signal Intelligence Service, which later became part of the National Security Agency. She was the first team member assigned to work on a top-secret counterintelligence campaign that became known as the Venona Project whose mission was to decipher coded messages intercepted from the Soviets. She was able to determine that the messages were being passed along five different Soviet communication systems, including three spy networks that dealt with GRU (military intelligence), naval intelligence, and the NKVD secret police (the forerunner of the KGB).

Dazzling Daughters nominations are made to the Historian General using form [HG-1003](#).

Freedom Hill Chapter Honors STATE REGENT KATHY RUGH

State Regent Kathy Rugh's dedicated journey with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began at Freedom Hill Chapter. The chapter was honored to host a reception in her honor at Army Navy Country Club in early November. This event served as a heartfelt celebration of Kathy's many significant accomplishments and her commitment to DAR.

The gathering brought together guests from all over the state, including current state officers, honorary state regents, past state officers, friends, family members, and supportive chapter members. A highlight of the afternoon was an address by President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage. She offered sincere thanks and celebrated Kathy's exceptional service and leadership. It was a wonderful opportunity for the entire state society to recognize and appreciate our State Regent.





THE VIRGINIA DAR SENTINEL LAUNCHES A MONTHLY SERIES!



State Regent Kathy Rugh has asked the Sentinel to feature the Revolutionary War through the eyes of Virginians as we all celebrate America 250. Here in the Sentinel, we'll post a monthly series of articles, "250 Years Ago This Month", highlighting key events, people, and places that mark moments involving Patriots in Virginia as the United States pursues its journey to independence.

Starting in January issue of the Sentinel, you will find a monthly column featuring what happened in Virginia during the Revolutionary War. While most well-known events in the early years of the War were in the Northern and Southern Theaters, Virginia, as the largest of the 13 colonies, was very prominent in support. She not only sent Continental Army regiments, but also food supplies, wagons, horses, guns, ammunition, saddlery, cattle, boats, clothing, blankets, militia units, delegates to Continental Congress, representatives to foreign allied countries, construction of and guards for a POW camp housing over 4,000 enemy prisoners, and so much more. All this before phrases like 'quartermaster corps' or 'MREs' existed.

As if that weren't enough, when War action reached from Virginia shores to the mountains and beyond, Virginia Patriots faced constant threats from thousands of British and Hessian troops, under Cornwallis and British Admiralty, who sought food, firewood, horses, guns and more, from wherever



they happened to be that day. Even our own troops needed sustenance, and local Patriots stepped forward to provide the food, forage, wagons, etc. needed.

So many stories to be told, we'll never find them all. But, with your help, we'll cover as many as we can. **There's no one source to find these stories, so we must depend on you, our readers!** And who better to uncover local stories than dedicated history buffs and professionals in our own Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution?

This Chair of the Virginia DAR Communications Committee, with suggestions from State Historian, Robin Bagnall, and Honorary State Chair and America 250! Committee Chair, Patricia Hatfield, and YOU READERS, needs and will appreciate your local input...just jot me an email at carolmbeam@hotmail.com .



AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXHIBIT EXTENDED TO 2027

Responding to demand during the 250th anniversary, the American Battlefield Trust and DAR have extended their American Revolution Experience traveling exhibit through 2027. Furthermore, two additional copies of the exhibit are being created by NSDAR to meet the overwhelming demand from over 600 potential host sites. This highly popular project focuses on the crucial contributions of ordinary people to the Revolution, rather than just generals and statesmen. DAR chapters can proudly sponsor and promote the exhibit in their community at no charge. Application details, hosting information, and the full tour schedule are available at battlefields.org/ontour.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

FROM VIRGINIA DAR



The Annual DAR Holiday Open House was well attended by Virginia Daughters. Guests enjoyed the beautiful holiday decorations with even the period rooms joining in the holiday spirit. Mrs. Storage's cherry blossom theme inspired the decorations for the trees that greeted guests upon entry in the Pennsylvania Foyer. What a beautiful event to begin the holiday season!



May your days be Merry and Bright!



STORAGE CHERRY SCONES

2 Cups of all-purpose flour
1 Tablespoon baking powder
½ Teaspoon salt
¾ Cup sugar
4 oz (1 stick) Good quality butter, cold, cubed
1 Cup white chocolate chips
1 Cup thawed, chopped frozen dark cherries, drained
1 Teaspoon vanilla extract
½ Teaspoon almond extract
¾ Cup half and half
Extra flour
Course sugar for topping

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Mix dry ingredients (flour to sugar)
3. Add cubed butter and cut into flour with pastry cutter until the butter and flour are combined
4. Add white chocolate chips and thawed, chopped cherries to flour mixture
5. Add Vanilla and Almond Extract to Half and Half, then pour into the center of the flour, gently fold until mixture forms a sticky dough
6. Turn our dough onto lightly floured parchment paper. Sprinkle flour on top, divide dough and form into two disks, about ¾ inch thick. Cut into triangles (this will be sticky and messy)
7. Place triangles on baking sheet with parchment paper, space out; scones will expand
8. Sprinkle course sugar on top of each scone, gently press in
9. Bake in preheated oven (400 degrees) for 10 minutes, turn pan and bake another 10 minutes (watch last ten minutes, each person's oven is different)

a gift to NSDAR President General Ginnie Storage from the Great Bridge Chapter, Elizabeth Vittone, Regent



BECOME A PAGE!

HELP MAKE STATE CONFERENCE HAPPEN

As a Page, you'll connect with a diverse group of patriotic, service-minded women and build lasting friendships rooted in a shared passion for purpose and giving back.

Extra Support for Our Pages!

- Scholarships Available: Many chapters offer scholarships to help Pages succeed.
- State Page Fund: Established to offset some costs while serving.
- Need Whites? Our Page Closet provides pre-loved dresses, hats, and other essentials.

Bloom in Service

- Gain valuable skills and hands-on experience
- Showcase your professional and personal talents
- Network with State and National DAR leaders
- Earn service hours, pins, and a chance to win the Virginia DAR Page Awards!



Interested in becoming a Page?

Email - PageChair@VirginiaDAR.org to learn more and request your invitation to Page by January 9, 2026

New Daughters Online Community App



Have you heard? You can now take DAR on-the-go with the new Daughters Online Community (DOC) App!

Created for both Apple and Android phones and tablets, the app allows you to receive real-time notifications, post and reply to conversations in DOC Communities, and stay informed without having to log in from your computer. You can read the President General's announcement with details [here](#), and find a [toolkit](#) with everything you need to get started [here](#) (or scan the QR code).

Be sure to read the FAQ and reach out to your chapter/state DOC Committee Chair with questions. If you don't have a chapter DOC Committee Chair, visit with your VIS Committee Chair.

See you on the DOC!

Have a Chapter Event to Highlight?

Submit a short write-up and photos to the Virginia DAR Sentinel!

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.

Please submit all information to Carol Beam, Virginia DAR Communications Committee Chair, at carolmbeam@hotmail.com

Thank you for reading!

VIRGINIA DAR

www.virginiadar.org

Facebook Group: [Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution](#)

Website Password: Virginia250!