

VIRGINIA DAR SENTINEL

OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE



As autumn's crisp air

and vibrant colors return, we are reminded that this is a season of renewal and celebration. October is a special month for all daughters as we celebrated the 135th anniversary of the founding of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Across the state, and nation, members marked this milestone on October 11th – **the DAR Day of Service** – by giving their time

and talents to projects that strengthen our communities and honor our mission of historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

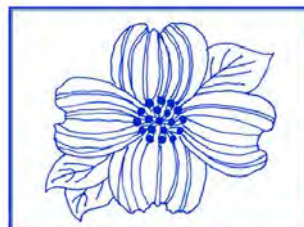
Here in Virginia, October 19th brings the commemoration of **Yorktown Day**, a proud reminder of the victory that secured America's independence. As we gather in Yorktown with representatives from other organizations and nations to celebrate that defining moment, we take pride in our patriot ancestors who fought for and secured the freedoms we cherish today.

Don't miss "**The American Revolution**", the six-part Ken Burns series premiering in 13 PBS markets beginning November 16th. Each episode will be preceded and followed by a 15-second message from the DAR, inviting viewers to discover their family history and connect to their past – a wonderful opportunity to share who we are with audiences nationwide.

May the autumn season and our shared celebrations renew our spirit of service and strengthen the bonds of friendship among Daughters across the Commonwealth.

Kathy Rugh

State Regent Virginia DAR
2025-2028



Important Dates

October 19 – Yorktown Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

December 1 – Deadline for Chapters to remit membership renewals to National & State

December 10 – NSDAR Holiday Open House

December 13 – Wreaths Across America Day

January 15 – Chapter Master Report Deadline

March 20 to 22 – 130th State Conference Williamsburg



STATE REGENT'S TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS



State Regent Kathy Rugh attended and brought greetings at the 244th Commemoration of the Battle of the Virginia Capes in Virginia Beach on September 6th. This battle was a significant naval victory in the American Revolution which saw the French navy defeat the British.



State Regent Kathy Rugh and Vice President General Laurie Nesbitt attend the Constitution Week Proclamation Ceremony at Alexandria Courthouse on September 17th with Alexandria City officials and DAR members.



Kathy Rugh brings greetings on behalf of the Virginia DAR during the proclamation ceremony.



State Regent Kathy Rugh, Chapter Regent Suzie Mulligan, and District VIII Director Beth Boswell celebrate Fairfax County Chapter's 120th Anniversary.



State Regent Kathy Rugh, President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage, and Past Treasurer General Sherry Edwards in the President General's office during Legacy Week for the National Board of Management.



Legacy Week

Illuminating Leadership and Service
National Board of Management Meeting



Ever wondered how decisions are made for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution? The National Board of Management (NBM) is the primary executive body that guides all decisions and operations for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Composed of the twelve Executive Officers, twenty-one Vice Presidents General, and State Regents, the NBM is responsible for the general supervision of the DAR's assets and operations and issues key policy rulings. The NBM meets at the Washington, D.C. headquarters five times a year: in February, April, October, December, and during the Continental Congress in June/July.



News and Announcements



Last week, the NBM met for three days of training, networking, and service. The events were exceptionally well organized and professionally run. Over the course of three busy days participants:

- Heard presentations from staff and national leaders on new initiatives designed to enhance the member experience and support chapter work.
- Placed a wreath at the American Red Cross Memorial across D Street from our buildings and participated in a service project assembling snack bags for Red Cross volunteers.
- Visited historic sites in Alexandria including Woodlawn and the Pope-Leighey House.
- Networked and shared ideas while enjoying meals with new acquaintances.
- Met at the historic Japanese Lantern and learned about the history of the Tidal Basin cherry trees during a presentation held in lieu of the planned mulching project for the DAR Day of Service (cancelled due to the government shutdown).

The National Board of Management (NBM) convened on Saturday morning at the DAR Headquarters. Some key decisions to come out of the meeting are summarized in the following section.

- **DAR joins Instagram!**
 - In celebration of the 135th anniversary of our founding, DAR has launched an official Instagram account. Be sure to follow [@todaysdar](https://www.instagram.com/todaysdar) to stay connected and inspired.
- **Inheritance Project expansion**
 - Beginning in spring 2026, the Inheritance Project will include a maternal grandmother. Additional details will follow.
- **New Research focus**
 - Creole research will be added to the Specialty Research Committee.
- **DAR Magazine transitions to digital**
 - Due to increased printing and postal costs, American Spirit and the Daughters Newsletter will transition to a fully digital format distributed to every DAR member.
 - The final print issue will be the March / April 2026 edition.
 - A smaller print version featuring ads related to Continental Congress will follow in May / June 2026.
 - The first digital version will be released in July / August 2026. More information will be shared soon regarding current subscriptions.
- **Concert for America**
 - Mark your calendars for April 18, 2026 when DAR Constitution Hall will host A Concert for America! Headline entertainment will be announced – stay tuned for the surprise!

Reminder

Members with eMembership access are reminded that you are authorized to visit only the areas related to your position. All actions within eMembership are date and time stamped for security and accountability.

Ensuring Our Legacy: Support the State Regent's Project

Theme for
2025-2028

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

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:



- **Donate funds directly:**
 - Give a check to your chapter treasurer or the State Regent during her visit.
 - 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**, like the soon-to-be-available dogwood pin, from Robin Doucette, State Co-Chair.
- **Invite the State Regent or State Co-Chairs** to a chapter meeting for a project update.

GET TO KNOW...

State Chaplain Holly Lynne McKinley Schmidt

After two cross-country moves before I turned 3 years old, my family settled in Great Falls, Virginia in 1983. I had a full schedule growing up: Girl Scouts, C.A.R., tap and jazz dance, piano, handbells, church choir, and high school dance team. My mom, an 8th grade Social Studies teacher, encouraged every learning opportunity. I earned my Bachelor's in Business Information Technology from Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!) and master's degrees in Information Security (Johns Hopkins) and Legal Studies (West Virginia University). I am on year 23 as a Federal Government contractor, focusing on information security policy and governance.

My DAR journey began with a Washington Post ad—and a childhood dream of becoming an astronaut. (4th grade logic was involved!) My C.A.R. application was the first lineage society submission known for our family, and researching with my mom sparked a passion that continues today—18 confirmed ancestors and counting!

I loved serving as a Page at District, State, and National events, learning from extraordinary leaders, forming lasting friendships, and gaining "DAR Moms." Some have joined our "Heavenly Hall," but their mentorship remains deeply meaningful. In 2015, I was honored to be the first Virginian named National Outstanding Junior when Mrs. Storage was State Regent.

My husband, Darrin, and I met at Virginia Tech through Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity. We've been involved in service since day one—from Red Cross blood drives and Camp Powhatan cleanups to SAR Color Guard events and church tech support. Fun fact: we share the same birthday (but he got there first!).

For nearly 15 years, I've run a home-based picture framing studio, and someday hope to expand into a retirement business with laser art, custom ornaments and other gifts. I love crafting and enjoy cross-stitching, shuttle tatting, and decorating for Christmas!



PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF OCTOBER 19, 1781:

Preservation of the Yorktown Custom House

By: Jennifer Carver, Comte de Grasse Chapter

Although more than 300 years have passed since its construction, the Custom House remains much as it did when built c 1720. An important landmark in terms of commerce for the Port of York, the Custom House serves today as an important reminder of our heritage.

The Custom House was originally built as a storehouse and office for the collection of customs by merchant Richard Ambler.

NSDAR first expressed interest in preserving historic sites in Yorktown in 1905. There was no DAR chapter, however, until February 2, 1922 when the Comte de Grasse Chapter was organized. Two prioritized goals of the new chapter were to acquire and restore the Old Custom House and to plan and promote the annual observance of the Surrender of Cornwallis on October 19, 1781. The building was to be used as a chapter house and would include a museum for the collection and proper care of documents and rare treasures.

Comte de Grasse Chapter purchased the property in 1923. Eighty percent of the structure as it stands today is that of the original building.

Old materials were repurposed from other properties so as to match those original to the 18th century structure. On November 15, 1930 the rejuvenated Custom House was dedicated to "the memory and the spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence."



Over its more than 300 years, the Custom House has been used as troop barracks, Confederate headquarters, private school for Black children, barbershop, bank, and store.

The Custom House and its health stand not only as a testament to the quality of materials and craftsmanship of early times but also to the commitment and love shone in its stewardship by the diligent and patriotic ladies of Comte de Grasse Chapter.



Founding Regent, Mrs. Emma Leake Chenoweth wrote: "the chief charm to me is that this old building was already one associated with this country at the time of surrender and certainly all the great men so prominent in the history, not only of this country, but of France and England and other countries doubtless were in this building at one time or another."

October 19, 1924, the anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis, a celebration was held under the auspices of the chapter thus instituting the regular observance of this important event. In 1948, the Yorktown Day Association was formed to continue the commemorative activities.

Throughout the years the Comte de Grasse Chapter has continued its historical, educational, and patriotic service in the community. The Custom House has been opened to the public since 1930. . . even during the recent pandemic.

The Custom House site has experienced historic events of war and also celebrations. The Custom House has witnessed billeted troops and their military generals, US Presidents and DAR President Generals and individuals interested in history and its preservation in Yorktown "Where Independence Was Won."

Meet State Recording Secretary

Betty Waltman



My DAR story began on Christmas Day in 2012 when my brother gave me a subscription to Ancestry.com. That gift and an inherited family Bible launched us into countless hours and miles of travel, happily researching our and everyone else's ancestors. It was thrilling to discover that several ancestors were Patriots of the American Revolution and that I was eligible to join DAR!

I had recently retired from a career in Human Resources Management, primarily with the Commonwealth of Virginia, and was eager to honor my Patriots' service to our country by joining like-minded women in promoting patriotism, education, and historic preservation in our community.

Born and raised in Harford County, Maryland, I learned almost everything I know in my 9th grade music class, in Girl Scouts, in my father's workshop, at my mother's sewing machine, and from The Buddy Deane Show. The gaps were filled with a BA in Psychology from the University of Maryland, an MS in Guidance and Counseling from Loyola College, and a Certificate in Human Resources Management from the University of Richmond.

Owen, my husband of 55 years, and I are blessed with a son, his wife, and their son and daughter residing in Colorado; and with a daughter, her husband, and their three sons residing in Virginia. Owen recently joined SAR—we are looking forward to joint DAR/SAR activities.

Although inclined to do genealogy research 24/7, I make it a point to devote time to DAR and the Woodland Pond Garden Club. I am a member of the Jamestowne Society, Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, Friends of Virginia State Archives, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

What I love most about DAR is the friendship and camaraderie with women who are passionate about serving God, Home, and Country.

PARLIAMENTARY POINTERS: MAKING A MOTION

To bring a new item of business to the floor, a member must make a motion. That is how you get the ball rolling. There are 8 steps to making a motion:

1. Rise or raise your hand to be recognized by the chair.
2. The chair recognizes the speaker.
3. The member makes the motion, stating: "I move to . . ." or "I move that . . ." The chair or your Standing Rules may require that a written copy of the motion be presented to the chair and recording secretary.
4. The motion is seconded by another member.
5. The chair restates the pending motion.
6. The chair calls for debate on the motion, recognizing all who wish to speak.
7. The chair conducts a vote on the motion.
8. The chair announces the results, "The ayes have it, and the motion is adopted."



CAPTURING THE CHAPTERS

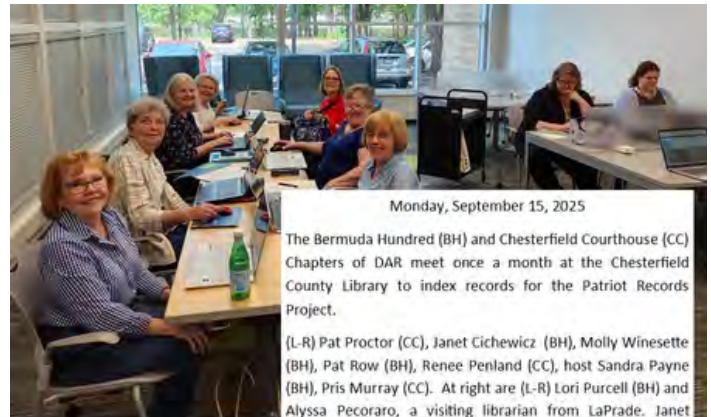
BERMUDA HUNDRED AND CHESTERFIELD COURTHOUSE CHAPTERS TACKLE PATRIOT RECORDS PROJECT TOGETHER

Since 2020, Bermuda Hundred has participated in NSDAR's Patriot Records Project to index every name in Revolutionary War records available to the DAR. Chesterfield Courthouse Chapter joined in 2024.

Since the beginning of 2025, we've indexed some 4,100 names, while capturing titles, positions, ranks, locations, and other information. This enables anyone searching the index to find service for a Patriot or the history of the American Revolution.

Quirky handwriting or the quality of document images provides challenges, but volunteers have found that working in collaboration solves problems and the camaraderie is a welcome relief for what could be tedious work.

Interested in joining in on this ongoing DAR project, go to the Patriot Records Committee at dar.org or [click here to sign-up](#).



Monday, September 15, 2025

The Bermuda Hundred (BH) and Chesterfield Courthouse (CC) Chapters of DAR meet once a month at the Chesterfield County Library to index records for the Patriot Records Project.

(L-R) Pat Proctor (CC), Janet Cichewicz (BH), Molly Winesette (BH), Pat Row (BH), Renee Penland (CC), host Sandra Payne (BH), Pris Murray (CC). At right are (L-R) Lori Purcell (BH) and Alyssa Pecoraro, a visiting librarian from LaPrade. Janet Lenhart (BH) took the photo.



COMMONWEALTH CHAPTER PRESENTS AMERICANISM MEDAL TO OSMAN "OZ" PARVAIZ

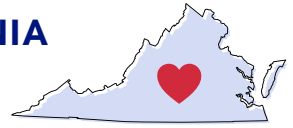
Osman "Oz" Parvaiz is always willing to share the story of his family immigrating to the United States when he was young and how they worked hard and achieved the American dream. Patriotism and gratitude motivate him to mentor others seeking citizenship, including foreign-born employees at Capital One, where he is a managing vice president. For that and more, the Commonwealth Chapter nominated Oz for NSDAR's Americanism Medal and were pleased to present the award at their chapter luncheon September 14. Presenters included Dr. Cheryl Billingsley, Commonwealth Regent; Suzanne Brown, immediate past Regent; and Mary Stinson and Alison Eckis, Americanism Committee Co-Chairs. Know someone your chapter could recognize? [Learn more about this award's criteria on the Americanism Committee page at dar.org.](#)





A CENTURY OF SERVICE IN THE HEART OF VIRGINIA

Judith Randolph-Longwood Chapter



On Saturday, October 11, the Judith Randolph-Longwood Chapter threw quite a celebration. Daughters and guests from around the Commonwealth gathered at Crawley Forum on the Hampden-Sydney College campus to help the chapter mark 100 years of DAR service.

Following the Opening Ritual, attendees were treated to a video greeting from President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage. Recorded in her office, Mrs. Storage congratulated the Chapter on its century of accomplishment and contributions to the local, district, state, and National Society.



Chapter Officers from left, Vice-Regent Margaret Atkins, Corresponding Secretary Deborah Kennedy, Chaplain Nancy Pempel, Historian Patti Pedrick, Chapter Regent Helen Person, Treasurer Mary Hunter Gallalee, Registrar Sally Bobbitt.



Chapter Regent with VADAR Officers Janice Poole, Cyndi Fein, State Vice-Regent Susan Dewing, Mrs. Person, Betty Waltman, and Kecia Brown.



Guests were greeted by Cherry Grove CAR members Kennedy Green (left) and Cassidy Warbington.

As guests entered the venue, the Chapter shared a video of Daughters engaged in a variety of activities throughout its history, first, as the Judith Randolph Chapter, the Slate Hill Chapter, and the Longwood Chapter before becoming Judith Randolph-Longwood Chapter in 1989. Following Mrs. Dewing's presentation of State Regent Mrs. Rugh's greetings, attendees stepped into the Chapter's legacy of leadership with a video presentation of all the Regents during the past century. Guests prepared for a toast to the Chapter's continued success and tribute to Daughters past and present who have contributed to the group's legacy.

PATRICK HENRY CALLS UPON *General William Campbell Chapter*



Members of the General William Campbell Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, gathered to celebrate Constitution Week at the Radford Public Library on September 20, 2025.

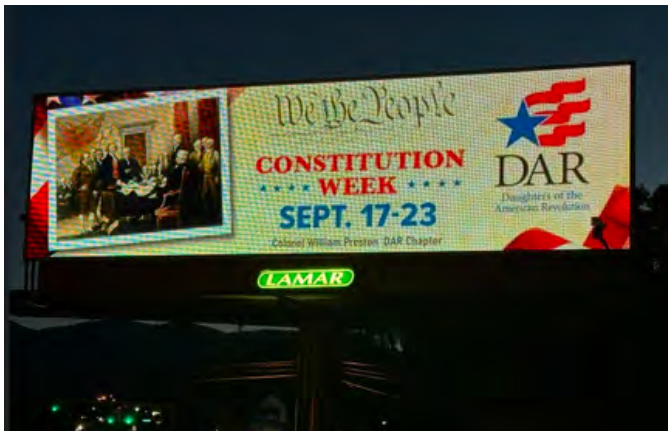
Their guest speaker was Patrick Henry Jolly, both the fifth and sixth great grandson of Patrick Henry, American Patriot, who delivered the famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech on March 23, 1775, at the Second Virginia Convention in Richmond. Mr. Jolly's rousing rendition of the same speech was

the highlight of our Constitution Week program. One attendee described Mr. Jolly as patriotic and deeply knowledgeable about his heritage. Mr. Jolly is on staff at Red Hill which was the home and final resting place of Patrick Henry.



Chapter Regent Wynona Gabbert welcomed guests from Alleghany, Fort Lewis, Peaks of Otter, and Count Pulaski Chapters. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Sensabaugh of the Radford Public Library who helped coordinate the visit from Mr. Jolly.

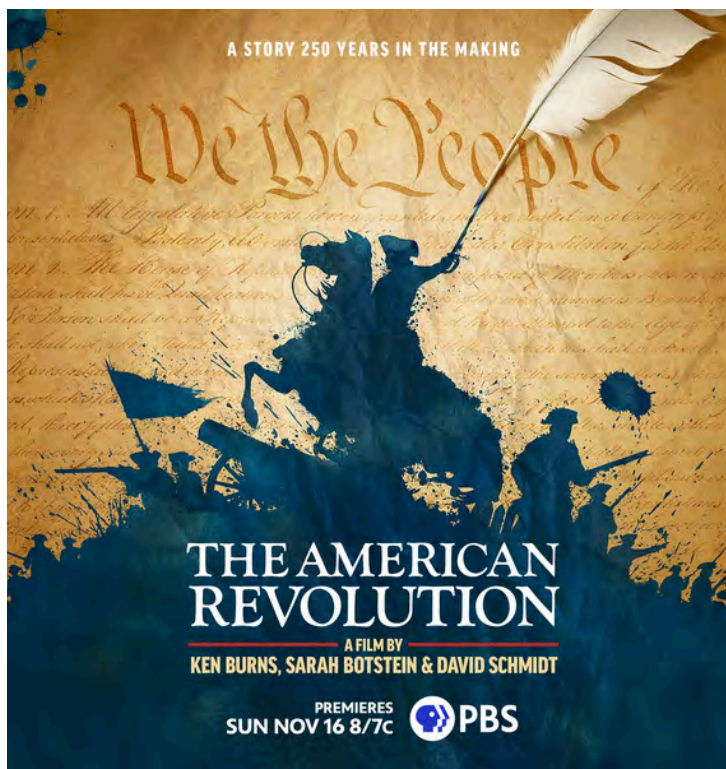
COLONEL WILLIAM PRESTON CHAPTER GOES BIG FOR CONSTITUTION WEEK



In recognition of the 70th anniversary of Constitution Week, members of the Colonel William Preston Chapter of Roanoke commissioned Lamar Advertising to create two free digital public service announcement billboards in the Roanoke Valley promoting Constitution Week.

Both signs were free of charge because Lamar Advertising recognized DAR as a nonprofit organization and were strategically placed at busy light intersections in Roanoke. The PSA ran for 15 days from September 8 - 22 and averaged 2,232 impressions per day per sign for a grand total of 69,378 impressions. Imagine the number of cars that drove by and saw the announcement!

The Constitution of the United States is the binding document that has held our country together since it was conceived and designed in 1787 with ratification by nine states on June 21, 1788. Without it, we would not be celebrating 250 years of these United States in 2026.



WATCH THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COME TO LIFE

in Ken Burns' new documentary. In 6 episodes hear the story of our nation's founding and how the spark of revolution led to a new country.

Starting **November 16th at 8/7c** on your **local PBS channel**, catch the start of this series as a prelude to the Nation's Semiquincentennial.

[Watch the Trailer by clicking here.](#)

**AMERICA
MADE IN
VIRGINIA**

VA250

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

The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience has been busy traveling the state taking the history of the Nation's beginning to the people. It still has many stops left on its tour with it's next stop being The Manassas Museum starting October 20th to October 22nd. If you are local to the area make sure to stop by and see it.

This immersive and interactive exhibit details the history of the American Revolution here in Virginia bringing to life the unique stories of Virginia's patriots and how the stirrings of revolution led to rise of a new nation.

The full calendar for this mobile exhibit is available on the VA250 website. Check the calendar to see if this unique way to engage with history will be in your area, and encourage others to take part. [View the full calendar here.](#)

If you are interested in bringing this experience to your area, VA250 is still accepting requests for 2026. [Apply online by clicking HERE.](#)



Thank you for reading!

VIRGINIA DAR

www.virginiadar.org

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

Website Password: Virginia250!