



# West Virginia DAR News

National Theme: "Celebrate Stars & Stripes Forever - Rejoice in our DAR Ties of Service and Friendship"

State Theme: "West Virginia Blooms Through Service and Friendship"



Vol. 48, No. 2

February 1, 2025

## State Regent's Message

Dear West Virginia Daughters,

I am thrilled to share some wonderful updates and upcoming events that highlight our continued dedication to our promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and supporting education in our communities.

First, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary Johnson, regent of Anne Bailey Chapter, for her significant role in helping our state successfully implement a project for which we received a Celebration Grant. Our project entitled "America 250 Patriot Literacy Promotion" supported both the goals of DAR and the state regent's literacy project. This initiative aimed to foster a deeper understanding of our nation's history among young visitors to the state capitol complex during the holiday season.

With the funds from the grant, we procured 50 copies of "Our Patriots Coloring Book" from the DAR Store. These



coloring books were distributed to children visiting the capitol, providing them with an engaging and educational activity that highlighted selected Patriots. This project not only brought joy to many young visitors but also

served as a meaningful way to commemorate America's 250th anniversary and keep the name of WVDAR in the public eye.

We are excited to announce two significant dedication events that will take place in the coming months. We encourage all members to mark their calendars and join us in celebrating these important milestones. Look for more information on both events closer to the scheduled event.

Gold Star Mothers Memorial Dedication—The first dedication will be for the landscaping improvements to the

Gold Star Mothers Memorial location in Fairmont. This event will take place on April 10, 2025. We look forward to honoring the sacrifices of our Gold Star Mothers and celebrating the beautification of this site.

America 250 Plaque Dedication—The second dedication will be for an America 250 plaque that will be placed in Shepherdstown to commemorate the Bee Line March. This historic march was a significant event in the early days of the American Revolution, and we are proud to commemorate it with a lasting tribute. The dedication ceremony will take place on June 7, 2025.

As we look forward to our spring State Conference, we are pleased to provide you with valuable information to help you prepare for it. Room reservations may be made by using the following information: Group name: WVDAR State Conference, Block Code: 041025WVA, Phone: 800-228-1000 (central office) or 304-808-1000 (local number). Please note that the last day to make reservations at the block rate is March 9, 2025. We encourage you to book your rooms early to ensure availability and to take advantage of the

### Table of Contents

<i>State Regent's Message</i>	1
<i>State News</i>	2
<i>With the Chapters</i>	11
<i>District News</i>	35



discounted rate.

Meal reservation information will be sent to all members on our email list in the Call to Conference. We would like to inform you that there will be no large group dinner on Thursday evening. However, a list of convenient restaurants will be provided to you so that you can plan accordingly. In addition to returning your meal reservations we are asking for all individuals attending State Conference to please register so that a nametag can be prepared in advance for you.

If you know of any individuals who are interested in paging at the State Conference, please inform us as soon as possible so that we can send them the necessary information. West Virginia DAR allows women under the age of 35 to serve as pages, and we are always eager to welcome new participants to this important role. They will make friends that last a lifetime!

As we continue our work with the DAR, we are reminded of the incredible impact that each of you has on our organization and our communities. Your dedication is truly inspiring, and we encourage you to keep up your excellent work. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to the West Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution.

With much love and appreciation,

Jane



### Make Your Breakfast Plans in DC

Continental Congress will soon be here, and we are making our plans for the **WV Breakfast**. As one of the many events for our members and guests to enjoy, the **WV Breakfast** will again be held at **The Army and Navy Club** on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 8:00am.

This year's speaker will be Master Sergeant Rachel Ghadiali of the United States Marine Corps. She is a communication strategy chief of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

As you finalize your plans for Continental Congress, I hope you include the **WV Breakfast** at the historic **Army and Navy Club** on June 25, 2025.

More details to follow. Any questions, contact Sandra Isner-Johnson, state vice regent and Congress Events chair, at [sisnerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisnerjohnson@gmail.com).

### From the State Recording Secretary

The deadline for reports from state officers, district directors, chapter regents, and state committee chairs is March 6, 2025. We are also celebrating **PATRIOTISM** at this year's conference. I will be preparing a slideshow that will display how all the chapters observed patriotism. Chapter regents, please send me a photo representing how your chapter is/was patriotic along with a brief description of the activity in the photo. I can't wait to see what you all have been up to! Please submit to Katherine Genung via email at [Katherine@TwoGenungs.com](mailto:Katherine@TwoGenungs.com).

Any officers, state chairs, district directors, or regents who have activities that occur between March 6 and June 29 can do a revision of their report until July 13 so we don't lose that history in our proceedings as we have done in the past. It would be great if you could alert me as to whether OR NOT you will be submitting an addendum so I'm not waiting until the last minute to finalize my work for no reason. I appreciate each and every one of you and your hard work in this.

Gratefully,  
Katherine Genung  
State Recording Secretary



### From the Desk of The State Historian

#### Congratulations to Our State Nominee

Daughters, this year West Virginia has nominated Mr. Brian Casto of Milton Middle School in Milton, WV, for consideration as NSDAR's Outstanding Teacher of American History. Anne Bailey Chapter nominated Mr. Casto for this award, and his resume is impressive.

Mr. Casto teaches West Virginia history and uses a variety of techniques to enhance his students' learning experience. In an effort to make that experience more meaningful, he has met them in the world of social media as well as in the classroom. As part of this effort, he has created two YouTube channels to encourage them in developing a passion for local history: "West Virginia History in 2 Minutes or Less," and "Where in West Virginia is Mr. Casto." Both channels are also available through Facebook. These efforts help bring history to life in a way that textbooks cannot.

Cont. page 4



Welcome New Members

September 5, 2024-January 5, 2025

**Anne Bailey**

*Beverly Kay Ferrill*

**Bee Line**

*Deidre Johnson*

*Nancy Landis*

**Blackwater**

*Elizabeth Beall*

*Katherine Beall*

*Angela Bednarczyk*

*Jo Bramble*

*Susan Dipetta*

*Alcinda Shockey*

**Blennerhassett**

*Bethany Myers*

*Carlene Oliverio*

**Buford**

*Carolyn Barlett*

*Anita Reese*

**Captain James Allen**

*Amy Choate*

*Jocelyn Woods*

**Cheat River**

*Georgeanna Cathell*

*Rachel Miller*

*Marsha Seymour*

**Colonel Morgan Morgan**

*Sharon Ball*

*Greta Cain*

*Patty Hermosillia*

*Rebecca Walters\**

**Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-  
Col John Evans**

*Brenda Swearingen*

**Elizabeth Zane**

*Johnnie-Jo Hovis\**

**General Andrew Lewis**

*Addie Goodrich*

*Jodie Nidey*

**Highlands of the Potomac**

*Diana Harvey*

*Candace Markle*

**James Barbour**

*Kelsey Glessner\**

*Sydney Glessner\**

*Jeannie Monahan*

**John Cooke**

*Maria Smith\**

**John Hart**

*Priscilla Gay*

**Matthew French**

*Janice Barrera*

*Leora Lykins*

**Old Hickory**

*Courtney Buskirk*

*Amy Conrad*

*Donna McComas*

**Pack Horse Ford**

*Suzanne Morgan*

**South Branch Valley**

*Eleanor Higgins\**

*Sandra Porter*

*Sarah Weatherholt\**

**Westmoreland**

*Susanna Bennett*

*Mary Michael Lewis*

*Tera Merritt*

**Wheeling**

*Jennifer Chives*

*Theresa Comisso*

*Linda Criswell*

*Jaclin Hedmond\**

*Kasey Marino*

*Janet Metzner*

*Virginia Nelson*

*Connie Rice*

*Penelope Williams Smith*

*Kimberly Traverse*

*Susan Zaboji*

**William Henshaw**

*Janet Farmer*

*Heather Gladden*

**Ye Towne of Bath**

*Jennifer Popenoe Cannell*

*Alice Lantz*

*\*Junior*



Among his recognitions to date, Mr. Casto has been chosen as an Apple Distinguished Teacher; inducted into the 2024 class of Leadership West Virginia; and honored by the West Virginia Department of Tourism, West Virginia Public Broadcasting, and the Civil War Trails group for his promotion of history, culture, and tourism in West Virginia. He has also been selected as West Virginia's Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and is under consideration for their national award.

West Virginia Daughters are proud to present this outstanding candidate for the National Society's Outstanding Teacher of American History Award.

### Recognizing Local Teachers

Our State Conference is right around the corner. As we prepare our CMRs and make plans to meet, I encourage all our chapters to consider honoring a local teacher of history or social studies. WVDAR is in its third year of recognizing outstanding educators in the fields of history, civics, geography, or other related disciplines. You may choose a teacher at any level, grades 5 through 12. The nomination process is simple and straightforward. The only requirements are to submit a

letter of recommendation for your candidate, plus a letter of nomination from your chapter.

Letters of recommendation should come from non-DAR members and can be provided by school administrators, fellow teachers, community leaders, or parents—anyone in a position to vouch for the skills and commitment of a local teacher. Please forward only one nomination per chapter. Send your letters of nomination and recommendation to the address (or email) provided below. Digital submissions are acceptable, so long as signatures and contact information are included.

This program is entirely a state effort and is not affiliated with the National contest. Nominations are due to the State Historian and the deadline for submission has been extended to **March 1, 2025**. Recipients will be announced at the upcoming State Conference. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,  
 Darla Treat Courtney  
 503 West Washington St  
 Charles Town, WV 25414  
[darlatreat@aol.com](mailto:darlatreat@aol.com)  
 (304) 725-1645



### WVDAR Supports the West Virginia National Guard at Shepherd Field

This year, WVDAR in the Eastern Panhandle collaborated with the Adam Stephen Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), to support two major events involving the 167th Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard (WVANG) based at Shepherd Field in Martinsburg. Both events were organized on behalf of WVDAR by State Recording Secretary Katherine Genung in coordination with Sherry Lewis, head of the Military and Family Readiness Program Office for the 167th Air Wing.

### Welcome Home!

The first of these occurred on Saturday, September 25, and involved greeting four plane-loads of 167th WVANG personnel returning from deployment abroad. Gathering in Hangar 308 at the airfield, friends and family came together to welcome their servicemen and women with

**Hold The Date!**

**April 10, 2025**



**Rededication of the  
WVDAR Gold Star  
Mothers Memorial**

Marion County Vietnam Veterans  
Memorial Park, Fairmont

Late afternoon, Thursday before State Conference

Further details will be forthcoming.



Members of DAR, SAR, and C.A.R offer welcome and refreshments to Airmen of the 167th Air Wing returning from deployment.

posters, balloons, flowers, and most of all hugs and tears.

Among those greeters were Brig. Gen. David Cochran, assistant adjutant general and WVANG commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Ives, principal advisor to the assistant adjutant general and his staff on all matters related to enlisted WVANG personnel throughout the state. Both Cochran and Ives came from Charleston to take part in the welcome.

Barbara “Barby” Frankenberry, past curator general for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and honorary state regent for the West Virginia Society Daughters of the American Revolution (WVDAR), was also present to welcome returning Airmen, many of whom were her former students or their children. In addition, Barby’s late husband, Robert Frankenberry, was a lieutenant colonel who led the communication flight at the 167th, which gives her even stronger ties to the WVANG community.

The nearly 150 returning men and women of the 167th deployed in June, the first such mass operation for the wing in more than 20 years. They comprise a Mission Generation Force Element tasked with providing mobility capabilities from an expeditionary air base within the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility. This effort aligns with a new model whereby personnel from multiple units come together in-theatre to train and deploy together as a single unit.

Transport arrivals were staggered over about 3 hours, with members of DAR, SAR, and the John Augustine Washington Society of Children of the

American Revolution (C.A.R.) positioned near the rear of the hangar to offer refreshments as the returning airmen and their families passed by.

Refreshments consisted of a variety of sandwiches and cookies, jerky, and fruit drinks provided by Shenandoah Valley and Lane’s Mill chapters of DAR. Small American flags were also offered to wave in welcome as well as Kleenex packets to wipe away tears of joy. Jerell Wright of Shenandoah Valley and Sharon Smith of Lane’s Mill in Centreville, VA, oversaw assembling and distributing all these items. Compatriots representing General Adam Stephen Chapter, SAR, distributed several cases of cold bottled water. DAR members representing Bee Line Chapter in Charles Town and Pack Horse Ford Chapter in Shepherdstown were also present to serve as hostesses and to assist wherever and however needed.

### Family Day

On Saturday, December 8, members of WVDAR and General Adam Stephen Chapter, SAR, joined forces again to participate in a festive Family Day event held in Hangar 308 at Shepherd Field.

The event featured a number of holiday activities to amuse both children and adults, including pony rides, bounce houses, a cake walk, craft stations, an opportunity to judge hand-crafted gingerbread houses, tours of one of the massive transport planes based at Shepherd—and of course, Santa Claus. Service organizations from throughout the area also participated, many of them



offering informational handouts, candy and cookies, and other small gifts and souvenirs.



SAR and DAR members participating in Family Day festivities at Shepherd Field were (l to r): Darla Treat Courtney (historian, WVDAR), Marilyn Bremilst (Bee Line Chapter, USAF retired), Katherine Genung (recording secretary, WVDAR), Mike Benson (president, General Adam Stephen Chapter), Susan Benson (Pack Horse Ford Chapter), Donna Bertazzoni Goodrich (SAR spouse), and Wayne Goodrich (General Adam Stephen Chapter).

As patriotic lineage societies, DAR and SAR regard service as a fundamental value. They consider supporting the needs of our active-duty military and veterans as both a privilege and a responsibility. Their presence at 167th Family Day was intended to provide information about their organizations and to engage with service members and their families—and to lend substance to their shared ideals.

For example, chapters across the state provide volunteers for a variety of roles at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. They assist veterans participating in Honor Flights. They collect food and clothing for distribution to at-risk veterans, and they recognize the contributions of veterans to their larger communities. They also participate in remembrance ceremonies to honor deceased veterans, and each year they lay thousands of Christmas wreaths on military graves.

With regard to active-duty military personnel, Sons and Daughters annually send out thousands of cards and care packages, creating a worldwide outreach to those who serve our nation. They collect toys and books for military children, donate blankets and clothing for newborns at military hospitals, and organize countless ways to help

meet the needs of our warriors and their families.

Family Day provided an ideal opportunity for DAR and SAR to share their programs with local veterans and active-duty personnel. In addition, given that both organizations include significant numbers of veterans, it offered an opportunity for membership outreach.



### Memorial Service

Please email Barbara Holt, [jbjmmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jbjmmj@yahoo.com), by **March 21, 2025**, with any names of deceased members who passed between the dates of March 7, 2024, through March 20, 2025, and have not been reported to national. Also please let her know if any of your deceased members were past national or state officers, or if they were a chapter regent. Thank you so much.



### Hold On To Your Hats! Celebrating 30 Year of WV Cameo Club!

You are cordially invited to the 30th Anniversary Luncheon of the WVDAR Cameo Club on Friday, April 11, at Noon in the ballroom of the Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center in downtown Clarksburg, WV! Look for reservation information in the Call to Conference coming soon!



The officers of the Cameo Club wanted to take this opportunity to remind you to start working on the design for your hat,

cap, fascinator, bowler, bonnet, do-rag or other head covering and strut your stuff during our celebration! Awards will be presented for the Most Creative, Best Use of DAR Blue, and Best Use of Cameos!

Questions, contact club president, Charla McNaboe, at [charmla4u@yahoo.com](mailto:charmla4u@yahoo.com) or call her at 304-629-6228.

We look forward to celebrating with you at State Conference in April!



**America 250! Committee**



Celebration Grants to for America 250! Projects are coming to an end. I would like to thank all of the chapters that successfully applied for grants and completed projects. Be sure that you submit your after report to National by February 28, 2025.

Congratulations to:

Georgette Ward  
104 Eastgate Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
gwardezchapter@gmail.com

<b>DAR America 250! Celebration Grants - West</b>		
<b>Chapter Name</b>		
Anne Bailey	Daniel Davisson	Pack Horse Ford
Anne Royall	Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Col John Evans	Shenandoah Valley
Blackwater	Elizabeth Zane	South Branch Valley
Blennerhassett	Elk River	Tanner's Cross Roads
Captain James Allen	James Barbour	Trans-Allegheny
Cheat River	James Wood	West Virginia State
Colonel Charles Lewis	John Hart	William Henshaw
Colonel Morgan Morgan	Matthew French	Ye Towne of Bath
Colonel Zackquill Morgan	Old Hickory	



The West Virginia Semiquincentennial Commission was created by the West Virginia Legislature, through the passage of House Bill 2916 on April 7, 2021, to support the celebration of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. The commission includes representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lisa McNeil, and the Sons of the American Revolution, James "Jay" Frey.

The purpose of the commission is to prepare for and commemorate the semiquincentennial. To that end, the commission has established the America 250 Events & Educational Initiative Grant Program. The grant can provide up to \$5,000 in support for events and educational initiative that celebrate America 250 and West Virginia's contributions to the country. The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History is offering a variety of grant-focused training, including a session specifically for the semiquincentennial grant, as part of the annual Arts in Our Communities Conference that is scheduled for March 19-20 at the Culture Center in Charleston. The event is free to attend, and online registration is available at <https://wvculture.org/2025-arts-in-our-communities-conference/> by the end of January.

You can also register at the commission website <https://america250wv.org> to receive the monthly newsletter that highlights America 250 events and

initiates across West Virginia. It also includes suggestions for revolutionary books to read and historic recipes to try. Any questions or ideas for an event can be sent to Lisa McNeil at [lmcneil80@comcast.net](mailto:lmcneil80@comcast.net).

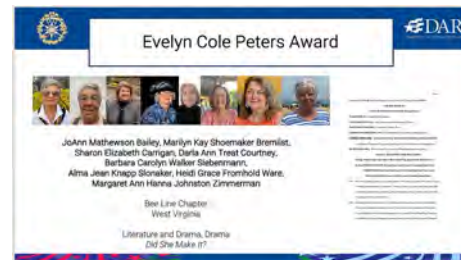


**American Heritage**

**We Have National Winners for 2024!**

I am so very excited and more than a bit proud to share this with everyone! While ALL of our West Virginia daughters that submitted entries for the American Heritage contest for 2024 are absolute winners for their talents and efforts, West Virginia had multiple winners on the National Level. Talk about adding Sparkle for our state! WELL DONE Ladies!

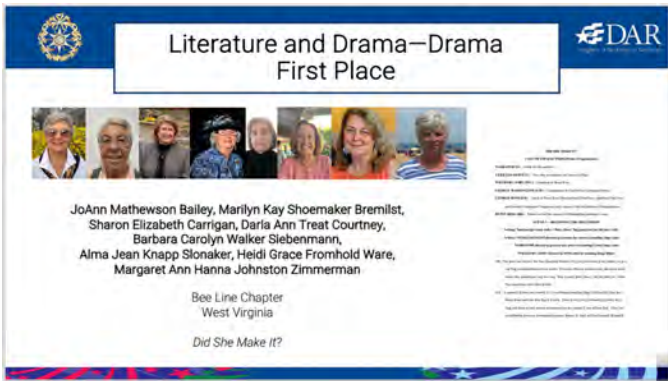
**National Level Winners:**



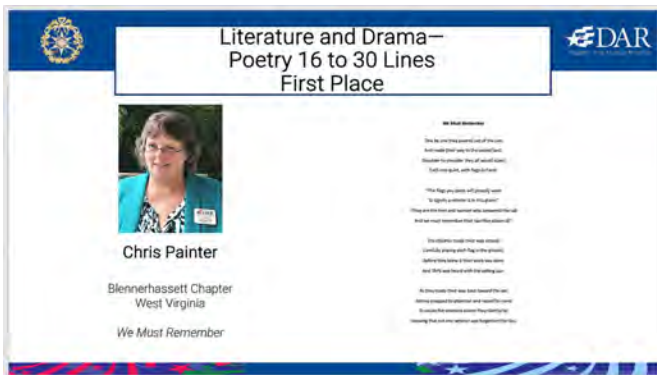
**Bee Line Chapter - FIRST Place - Literature and Drama - Drama AND recipient of the Evelyn Cole Peters Award**



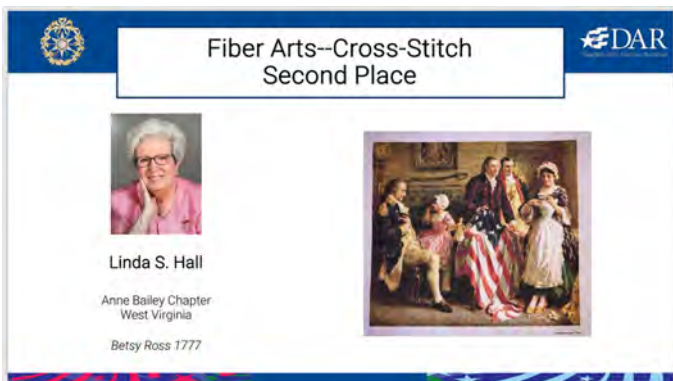
The *Evelyn Cole Peters Award* was established in honor of Evelyn Cole Peters (Mrs. Albert G.), the first national chairman of the American Heritage Committee. Originally the Evelyn Cole Peters Award was awarded to only the poetry category winner while the others were called Best in Show, Gold Ribbon, or Best Overall. In the past 15 (now 16) years or so the award was expanded to the other contest categories in American Heritage. These awards are given in recognition of excellence in any of the contest categories.



**Chris Painter, Blennerhassett Chapter - FIRST Place Poetry 16 - 30 Lines**



**Linda S. Hall, Anne Bailey Chapter - Second Place Fiber Arts - Cross Stitch**



The deadline for submission for this year was JANUARY 15. We have had several outstanding entries and I wish those ladies the very best of luck!

Please check the National committee website after Continental Congress to see what the theme will be for the 2026 contest. Here's the link to the website [Committee Overview | Daughters of the American Revolution](#). If this link doesn't work, please Log in to the members only website (DAR.org - then select MEMBERS WEBSITE - click on Committees near the top of the page - Select AMERICAN HERITAGE from the list)

In DAR sisterhood,  
Anna Chandler  
WV State Chair  
American Heritage Committee



### Constitution Week

Greetings from the Constitution Week chair. It's almost time for those lovely Constitution Week reports. The reports need to be send to me via e-mail at [mommawvu@cascable.net](mailto:mommawvu@cascable.net). You may send them at any time now.

I will be taking information from the CMRs to send to the East Central Division chair. I am really excited to see what our chapters have done for Constitution Week during our last year of the Larke Administration. The ladies of this state have done some very exciting and colorful projects, and should be very proud of their hard work and imagination.

The state opportunities for certificates will be listed in the Call to Conference. Thank you all for your hard work.

Carolyn S. Kesterson  
State Constitution Chair



### DAR Service for Veterans

Thank you for all you do in support of veterans. I look forward to receiving your annual reports and learning about all the good works you are doing for our veterans.

It is also time to start looking forward to 2025



and the projects and events we have planned to support and honor our veterans. You might want to consider a new DAR Service for Veterans initiative! DAR is collaborating with the Military Women's Memorial—Tell Her Story, a part of their Adopt-A-Woman Veteran Project. By participating you take the pledge to honor a woman veteran who is no longer with us by telling her story. When you sign up, they send you information that you then turn in to her story. This is an excellent project to do from the comfort of your home. To see the details, visit the DAR Service for Veterans Committee page and click on Tell Her Story. There is more information on the project and instructions on how to participate.

Remember to share your projects on Facebook and on the Daughters DAR Service for Veterans Community.

Heidi Ware, Chair



### Lineage Research

Our NSDAR Lineage Research chairman has asked us to reiterate to our chapter registrars the information she placed in the Jan/Feb NSDAR newsletter. To chapter registrars: Always use the easiest lineage possible for the initial application. Registrars are not obligated to use the name a prospective member has given her if that person's lineage to that prospective member is difficult to prove. She suggests using Debbie Duay's "Process for Finding a Patriot for a Prospective Member" which connects the registrar with previously proven patriots she may not know about.

NSDAR Lineage Research chairman suggests accessing the Online Genealogy Resource Guide, found in the NSDAR's Community Library. "This 26-page guide offers clickable links to valuable online resources" that can help the chapter registrar locate the necessary proof for applications.

Always have TWO experienced researchers review each application before submission. Our WVDAR registrar can send the chapter registrar a copy of the Reviewer Checklist. If your chapter does not have the necessary reviewers, ask help from your WVDAR registrar or WVDAR lineage research committee chairman.

If a chapter registrar receives an AIR letter, address it promptly! Again, if the chapter registrar

is unable to provide the additional information within one or two weeks, reach out to your WVDAR registrar or WVDAR lineage research committee chairman. If they cannot resolve the issue quickly, contact the National Lineage Research Committee.



### Patriot Records Project Committee

Our Patriots established the right to our Stars and Stripes. As DAR members, it is an honor to bring all their experiences, hardships, and triumphs to light by indexing the thousands of records that cover over 75 years. Currently, we are indexing numerous petitions for pensions, which reveals so many aspects of our Patriots lives, including dates of marriage, names of children, where they lived, the battles they were involved in, the officers they served under—so much information that would be almost impossible to find without the resulting Patriot Records Project index. This index is available as part of the DAR Genealogy



Research System and can be accessed by genealogists, history students, researchers, scholars, and teachers. These indexed names may include the name of an ancestor needed for someone to prove their eligibility to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. By making the public aware of this database we could be inspiring them to join us as we strive to reach 250,000 members by 2033. You can help DAR *Celebrate Stars & Stripes Forever* to reach this goal by participating in this Patriot Records Project. Volunteer today! <https://www.dar.org/members/committees/special-committees/patriot-records-project/patriot-records-project>



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088202526513>



## Lafayette Trail Marker Dedication

French nobleman Marquis de Lafayette was a hero of the American Revolutionary War, and his historic tour in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United States was remembered in Wheeling—one of the cities he visited in 1825. He became the embodiment of the American Revolution, and this marker commemorates his visit to Wheeling on May 24, 1825.

The Wheeling and Woodburn chapters held an unveiling and dedication ceremony on September 25, 2024, of a new historic marker honoring Lafayette's celebrated visit to the city—then Wheeling, Virginia. Officials from the City of Wheeling and representatives from 10 DAR chapters—as far away as South Carolina—joined local history buffs at the celebration in Wheeling.

Joan Gibson, Woodburn Chapter regent, provided a summarized history of Lafayette's legacy. Born in 1757, he was well educated in both academics and the military, and he supported the cause of the American Revolution. In 1777 at just 19 years of age, he came to America and would emerge as a prominent figure in the war.

He was an aristocrat, carrying the full name of Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette. Soon after his arrival, he met with the commander in chief of the Continental Army—Gen. George Washington—and by all accounts, they immediately developed a bond, Gibson said.

"Washington was impressed by the young man's enthusiasm," Gibson said, noting that he volunteered to serve the Continental Army. "Lafayette received a commission as a major general in the American Army—not the French, the American Army. So, he was an American major general."

He fought in the Battle of Brandywine—the first of many battles during the Revolutionary War. He also hunkered down with Washington and the troops during the brutal winter of 1777-78 in the encampment at Valley Forge.

Julien Icher of the Lafayette Trail, Inc., was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. "This was a man who understood the American Revolution and understood the ideals for which it stood. And he developed a public identity to preach the greatness of America for the rest of his life—sometimes to the peril of his own life, putting his own family in danger."

Ahead of a national celebration, then President James Monroe invited Lafayette in 1824 to return to the United States from France. Lafayette was the last surviving major general of the American Revolutionary War, and he eagerly accepted the invitation to be an honored guest of the United States during the 50th anniversary of the country's founding. Over the course of two years, the war hero and international celebrity traveled more than 6,000 miles across the U.S. and eventually visited all of the states—24 at the time. This included Virginia—and what is now West Virginia, with a stop in



Wheeling.

Officials unveiled the marker at Heritage Port, which boasts the shared colors of both the American and French flags—red, white and blue. The marker details Lafayette's visit to town.

*Lafayette was welcomed at Beymer's Landing, escorted to Simm's Hotel & attended a ball at Mr. Graham's Inn, according to the text on the marker.* The text was based on research by local historian Margaret Brennan. The visits to the hotel and the ball took place at locations downtown. An original invitation to the ball he attended—one of the few physical artifacts from this event—is on display at Oglebay Park.

The Wheeling marker is now No. 137 of what will be more than 150 markers commemorating Lafayette's tour. The Lafayette Trail, Inc., has an interactive map of the trail on its website at [www.thelafayettetrail.org](http://www.thelafayettetrail.org). There are also 27 episodes of *Follow the Frenchman* on YouTube available that tell the story of Lafayette in a different way.





WITH THE CHAPTERS

Anne Bailey Chapter

Anne Bailey Chapter members Patsy Adkins, Nickie Evenson, Mary Johnson, and Allison Kessinger attended the 250th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Point Pleasant on October 10. Chapter Regent Mary Johnson presented a wreath on behalf of the chapter, while



Western District Director Nickie Evenson presented one for the district. Patsy, Mary, and Allison are direct descendants of men who fought at Point Pleasant 250 years ago.

Nickie Evenson, Kay Ferrell, and Mary Johnson went to Anne Bailey Elementary School in late October for our Day of Service. Nickie and Kay read to Head Start students, and Mary gave each child a book. Additional books were delivered to Kanawha County Head Start for distribution to another school.



Nickie Evenson created the Native American Heritage Month display at the Cross Lanes Library for November. Each year, the chapter provides baskets of personal care items to women veterans at the Women's Clinic, VA Hospital in Barboursville. With donations from chapter members, this year Nickie Evenson was able to deliver 24 baskets (the



baskets made by Marsha Cobb) to the clinic.

On December 14, Mary Johnson presented a DAR JROTC award to Ayla Dickson at the George Washington High School military ball.



Anne Bailey Chapter used its America 250! Grant to purchase 3 sets of 13 Revolutionary War books for three middle schools: Madison Middle in Boone County, Chapmanville Middle in Logan County, and Man Middle, also in Logan. Mary Johnson delivered books to Madison on December 12, and she and Heather Colley visited Chapmanville and Man on December 19.



Anne Royall Chapter

Each year members of the Anne Royall Chapter decorate a "historic" Christmas tree for the local public library. We use flags, paper ornaments, candles, dried items, and historic dolls. The dolls are from the Hallmark *American Spirit* series and depict people who were essential in the formation of our country. Each doll has an attached tag explaining who the person is and how they assisted the American Revolution. Dolls used on the tree include George Washington, Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Webster, Francis



Marion, Eli Whitney, Francis Scott Key, Harriett Beecher Stowe, Caesar Romeo, and Thomas Jefferson.

Our chapter has received positive feedback from library staff and patrons of the library. A sign is attached to the tree to promote the Anne Royal Chapter.



Pictured are Sandra Harper, Cheryl Haight, Pam Stanley, and Regent Pat Casper.



### Bee Line Chapter

#### 2024 in Review

Chapter members also found opportunities to join their counterparts in the General Adam Stephen Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) to support projects of mutual interest. For example, we provided refreshments for SAR's monthly bingo parties to entertain patients and domiciliary residents at VAMC-Martinsburg.

Together, DAR and SAR members also greeted



Among its many activities over the past year, the Daughters of Bee Line Chapter in Charles Town gathered to welcome Flat Lafayette, part of a nationwide bicentennial celebration of the Marquis de Lafayette's return to the United States in 1824.

students from the United Kingdom touring Harpers Ferry and Antietam; participated in local parades, grave markings, and other patriotic commemorations; and worked together to perform a play written by Bee Line Daughters at WVDAR's Eastern District meeting.

Several of our members even attended the 2024



Chapter matriarch Dorothy Davenport celebrated her 100th birthday with her Bee Line family at a summer picnic.

SAR State Conference, where we presented medals of appreciation to three Adam Stephen members in acknowledgement of their contributions to Bee Line initiatives.

Based on our efforts, Bee Line Chapter and its members received more than fifty DAR recognitions at the state, division, and national levels. These included a national Blue Ribbon Award for Chapter Achievement, as well as both a national American Heritage Evelyn Cole Peters Award for Excellence in Drama and a national first place award for a play developed by an 8-person team led by member JoAnn Bailey. Recognitions by the DAR Conservation Committee included national/



Bee Line Daughters are shown attending the annual WVDAR state conference held this year in Martinsburg



division awards presented to the chapter as a whole and to members Ann Ebersole and Becki Jones for their individual conservation achievements.

Bee Line also received a certificate of participation from Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum for the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party and was recognized by VAMC-Martinsburg for its volunteer participation. Finally, the chapter received a Frank C. Fischer Veterans grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation in recognition for its work with veterans.

### Bee Line DAR Explores Spanish Support for the American Revolution

As members of DAR, the women of Bee Line Chapter in Charles Town feel we have a pretty sound understanding of the underlying issues that led to the rebellion of what would become the United States against the British Empire.

Daughters have long been exposed to the significant role of Enlightenment ideals that reenforced the Founders principled stand against the Mother Country. We know about the contributions of the French through the Marquis de Lafayette and the Poles through Casimir Pulaski—both of whom had important intellectual and political reasons for their support. What we lacked was knowledge about the key role played by a Spaniard named Bernardo De Galvez. A recent program by chapter librarian Darla Treat Courtney helped to fill that gap.



Facsimile of the Spanish document appointing "Don Bernard de Gálvez Colonel of His Majesty's armies as Acting Governor General of the Province of Louisiana."

In 1777, as the newly appointed Spanish governor of Louisiana, Galvez held a key geopolitical position during

the American Revolution. Having won control over the vast territories drained by the Mississippi River System after the French and Indian Wars, Spain controlled much of North America that had once been claimed by Britain and France. Galvez

governed that territory and therefore controlled the backcountry that offered western-oriented access to the rebellious American colonies hugging the Atlantic coast.

With the east coast of the rebellious colonies being effectively blockaded by the British Navy, supply routes coming in from the west became crucial to the American cause—and Galvez made access to those routes possible. As part of the process, he also helped to arrange financing for the rebels through sympathetic sources, and he allowed them to move arms and ammunition upriver from New Orleans under the Spanish flag.

This covert assistance not only helped procure needed supplies, it contributed to American military victories as far west as Fort Sackville in



Drawing depicting Bernardo de Galvez from the website of the Royal Academy of History, Madrid, Spain.

Illinois. When the British protested this support, Galvez replied that he was simply being "hospitable" to travelers and traders. Along with his skills as a diplomat, military leader, and administrator, one might also credit him with a wry sense of humor.

In 1779, after Spain and France entered into an anti-British alliance, Galvez used his military skills to take on a more active role, leading successful campaigns against British forts based at Natchez (now in Mississippi), Baton Rouge (now in Louisiana), and Mobile (now in Alabama). Two years later, he led the Pensacola campaign, attacking by land and sea. After successfully besieging the fort, Galvez took control of British Florida, depriving Britain of a key Gulf Coast port. Further, these actions diverted British resources from their war against the Americans.

In 1783, when the Treaty of Paris ended both the American Revolution and the war between Britain and the Spanish-French alliance, Spain gained control of British territories in Florida as well as acquiring the Mediterranean island of Minorca. For his contributions to this victory, Galvez was ennobled as the First Count of Galvez. He was also appointed Governor of Cuba and



promoted to Captain General of Louisiana and West Florida. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal and became the Viceroy of New Spain.

Galvez supported American independence for very different reasons than did most American Patriots—he was more anti-British than he was pro-American. Nonetheless, his support for the American cause was ultimately crucial to the American victory. By allowing badly needed supplies to transit Spanish-controlled territory and by conducting successful military action against British forces in the New World, many historians believe that his contributions might well have made the difference between victory and defeat. At the very least, they likely shortened the conflict at a time when Americans were becoming weary of war.

These contributions are little remembered by most contemporary Americans, but reminders of Galvez's historical significance do manifest themselves occasionally for those who pay attention. For example, the city of Galveston, Texas, founded by Spain in 1779, was named in honor of Galvez. In another instance, each year the city of Pensacola celebrates Galvez Day on May 8, an ongoing recognition of his victory over the British in 1781.

Finally, you may be excused for not noticing, but in 2014, a joint resolution of Congress conferred posthumous honorary American citizenship on Bernardo De Galvez in recognition of his many contributions toward American independence. Only seven other individuals have been so honored, including Mother Teresa, Winston Churchill, Raoul Wallenburg, and the Marquis de Lafayette. Historically speaking, Bernardo de Galvez is in very good company.

### **Bee Line Daughters Honor DAR Founder Eugenia Washington**

In May 2025, members of Bee Line Chapter in Charles Town will honor Eugenia Scholay Washington, a member of Jefferson County's local Washington family and one of four founders of NSDAR. To launch this effort, Bee Line member and West Virginia DAR State Historian Darla Treat Courtney used a recent chapter meeting to present a program focused on her life and significance.

Eugenia Washington (1838-1900) was the great-granddaughter of Samuel Washington, founder of

Eugenia Washington (1838 -1900) was a great-grandniece of George Washington and was born and raised near Charles Town, in what is now Jefferson County, West Virginia. She was one of the four original founders of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, and her membership designation is NSDAR No. 1.



the Harewood estate near Charles Town. Indeed, Eugenia's family tree was full of notable figures. She was the great grandniece of President George Washington, Samuel's brother, and the grandniece of First Lady Dolley Payne Todd Madison, and through her maternal line, she was the grandniece South Carolina Senator John C. Calhoun. She was also a descendant of Charles François Joseph, Count de Flechir, a relative of the Marquis de Lafayette.

The daughter of William Temple Washington and Margaret Calhoun Fletcher, Eugenia was born at her family home on the Megwillie estate, which was largely a carveout of Harewood, the estate founded by her great-grandfather in 1770. Neither of Eugenia's parents enjoyed good health, and she became their primary caregiver. In the late 1850s, when financial difficulties required moving to a smaller farm near Fredericksburg, VA, she went with them.

During the Civil War, with the Battle of Fredericksburg looming, Eugenia arranged to get herself and her parents out of harm's way. She managed to evacuate her mother, but just as she was about to leave with her father, a wounded Union officer was left in her care until a physician could arrive. As a result of the delay, she found herself trapped on the battlefield itself, where she sheltered with her father in an abandoned artillery trench.

Her mother died in early 1865, and when the war ended later that year, Eugenia took a position with the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. Renting rooms in a boarding house, she cared for her father until his death 1877. At the time of her move to Washington, she was in her late twenties. She was popular in the capital's social circles, but contemporary accounts noted that she



discouraged suitors and preferred to remain single. After her father's death, she became active on the lecture circuit for her Catholic faith.

In 1890 Eugenia Washington joined with three other women—Mary Desha, Mary Smith Lockwood, and Ellen Hardin Walworth—to establish the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Motivated in part by the desire to help mend the continuing resentments created by the Civil War, she hoped the new society would encourage American women from both sides to reach back toward the common heritage of unity created during the Revolution. Eugenia would serve as the organization's first registrar, and she was assigned NSDAR No. 1 as her membership number. She died in November 1900 after a long illness, although she continued to work at the Post Office Department until a few days before her death.

This coming spring, on May 10, the Bee Line Chapter of DAR in Charles Town plans to honor Eugenia Washington by dedicating a roadside marker near the site where her childhood once stood. The public will be invited to the ceremony, and details will be announced as soon as they are completed. As part of that ceremony, Patriot grave markers for Samuel Washington, Eugenia's great-grandfather, and Thornton Washington, her great-uncle, will also be dedicated. This event will be held at Harewood.



Harewood, the home built by Samuel Washington in what is now Jefferson County, West Virginia.



### Blackwater Chapter

Blackwater Chapter members were extremely involved in many aspects of the Clarksburg Honor Flight on September 13-14, 2024, which transported



100 veterans and their guardians to Washington, D.C. to spend the day touring the city and to see the many war memorials erected there.

On Friday afternoon, September 13, Blackwater Chapter members assembled at the North Central West Virginia Airport and immediately got to work setting up and color-coding tables, assembling lanyards and name holders, making signs,



sorting through and categorizing over 250 t-shirts, all in the name of preparing the hanger for the veterans' and their guardians' arrival the following morning.

By 3:45 Saturday morning, members Amy Goughnour, Terri Lawrence, Marlayne Nestor, Cathy Hebb, Diane Beall, and Angela Bedarczyk reassembled at the airport to welcome the participants, many of whom were there bright and early! Regent Cathy Hebb welcomed Okey Eye, a veteran from Tucker County. Blackwater



members assisted veterans with receiving their breakfasts while they chatted with others, waiting for the plane to depart. The Honor Flight departed



around 7:15 AM.

State Regent Jane Larke joined chapter members Cathy, Terri, and Marlayne back at the airport by 7:00 that evening to welcome the tired but happy veterans and their guardians. There were things to be set up



and more "Welcome Home!" posters to be made, but soon, family and friends of the honored veterans began to arrive. The long wait ended around 11:00 PM when the Honor Flight Plane landed. The happy travelers were certainly tired but everyone we spoke with remarked this trip was something they would never forget!



During a rainy afternoon on December 18, 2024, thirteen Blackwater Chapter DAR members and their guests dedicated a bronze, DAR commemorative America 250! Patriot Marker which has been placed by the chapter on the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons. This Patriot Marker joins other such plaques which have been placed around the country and is only the second plaque of its kind to be placed in West Virginia by an individual DAR chapter.



The placement of these DAR America 250! Patriot Markers is meant to foster a sense of national pride among the people in the areas in which they have been placed. The markers also serve as a testament to the DAR Society's three primary goals: historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

A group of Tucker County veterans respectfully presented and retired the flags during the ceremony. The welcome was given by Blackwater Chapter Regent Cathy Hebb. Other chapter members contributing during the ceremony were Terri Lawrence, Diane Beall, and Debbie Stevens. Speakers included WVDAR State Regent Jane Jacobs Larke, also a member of Blackwater Chapter, and WVDAR Central District Director and America 250! WV State Chair Georgette Ward.

Rhett Dusenbury, the district representative for



the Honorable Alex Mooney, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, brought greetings. Mr. Dusenbury also gave a brief account of his personal connection with the Revolutionary War as he is a SAR (Sons of the American Revolutionary) member.

Local historian Thomas Yocum gave an informative presentation during the ceremony, revealing some accounts of the six Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Tucker County. He said



these patriots "had a wide range of duties during the war and saw several different battles. For instance, one patriot was involved with the production of salt, which was a key resource for preserving meat, in Kanawha Valley which was blockaded by the British. Another Tucker County patriot was a member of Morgan's Riflemen, a unit of elite sharpshooters."

The inscription on the plaque reads: "**Revolutionary War Patriots** This marker commemorates the men and women who achieved American independence. These Patriots, believing in the noble cause of liberty, fought valiantly to found a new nation. 1775-1783 Presented by Blackwater Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

"The DAR never wants our Revolutionary War Patriots to be forgotten for their service to our country. We owe everything as a nation to them, fundamentally. If it weren't for their efforts and their sacrifices, our nation would not have been formed," Blackwater Chapter Regent Cathy Hebb said.

The Tucker County Commissioners enthusiastically voted to approve the placement of Blackwater Chapter's America 250! Patriot Marker on the Tucker County Courthouse, which is centrally located in an area of Parsons that is readily accessible to locals and visitors alike.

The courthouse is the one location which collectively serves all the residents of Tucker County and, very likely, will remain many decades into the future as will this DAR Patriot Marker.



### Blennerhassett Chapter

The Blennerhassett Chapter of Parkersburg celebrated its 75th anniversary on October 26, 2024, at Jimmy Columbo's. The celebration included distinguished guests: Honorary Vice President General Malinda (Mindy) Davis; Honorary State Regent Charla Nutter McNaboe; and State Regent Jane Larke. The room was decorated with chapter memorabilia and information about 1949.





Regent Cathy Hinkle welcomed guests and members. Chaplain Ashley Burgess gave the invocation.

For the program Chapter Historian Mary Ellen Brown presented a history on the chapter and segments of past meeting minutes. The chapter was founded on October 4, 1949, at the home of Mrs. Curtis O. Harper, the residence that is today known as the Phelps Tavenner House, Wood County's first courthouse. The chapter started with 12 members and by 1950 had grown to 22.



### Captain James Allen Chapter

On June 15, Captain James Allen Chapter took a field trip to Greenbrier County. Our first stop was the North House Museum where we were given a tour of the exhibits,



and the items preserved in the house. We had lunch with the docents at the museum before proceeding to the site of the Blue Sulphur Springs Pavilion near Alderson. Margaret Hambrick, secretary of the Greenbrier Historical Society, was our tour guide at the pavilion. She was able to explain at length the work done so far to restore the pavilion that covers the spring.



This is one of several historic preservation projects the society is undertaking. A donation was made to help them continue their efforts. We truly enjoyed this outing on a gorgeous spring day!



Captain James Allen Chapter provided an information table alongside the John Beckley Chapter, SAR, at the Annual Lilly Reunion July 13. Sally Chapman, Karen Bonifacio, Cherri Farley, Terry Noland, Margaret Rusnak, and Samantha Shleser decorated their canopy in red, white and blue, and provided information about joining DAR, along with treats for reunion attendees. Among the giveaways were flower seeds and a planting guide from Pollinator Partnership. We were visited by a couple of Daughters from other states. Several women who had travelled to the reunion had questions about their lineage and which patriots might be their ancestors. Registrar Terry Noland accessed DAR.org on her laptop to show them how to navigate to the membership interest form, and how to find their prospective patriots in the ancestor database. The day was topped off with a drawing for a basket full of WV goodies.

In August, Capt. James Allen Chapter members Cherri Farley and Terry Noland attended the West Virginia Cemetery Preservation Project Workshop brought to Beckley by the Preservation Alliance of WV, West Virginia Humanities Council, and AmeriCorps. The morning session presented by AmeriCorps member Joni L. Morris of Fairmont was jam-packed with information from WV codes regarding cemeteries to the types of stone used for grave markers throughout history & how to clean them. Joni stressed the importance of identifying historical cemeteries by filing inventories with the WV State Historic Preservation Office.



After a box lunch, we gathered at the Wright-Hunter Cemetery in Beckley for some field work. Over the next few hours, Joni and her husband restored and cleaned three gravestones with help from participants. The workshop was very well done. We also learned from Joni that she is planning to apply to DAR. We wish her our best and thank her for her efforts in the interest of historic preservation.

Constitution Week was observed in a variety of ways by our chapter. At our meeting, on



September 16, guest speaker Raleigh County Sheriff James Canaday spoke on Constitution facts and history, and its impact on law enforcement. Both Sheriff Canaday and Judge H.L. Kirkpatrick, our speaker from 2023, were presented with certificates of recognition.

Daughters Linda Whitman and Linda Sumner



set up a display about the U.S. Constitution at Raleigh County Public Library.

Once again, Daughters Sally Chapman, Cheri Farley,

Margaret Rusnak and Terry Noland read a book about the Constitution to first graders at three



schools in Raleigh County. This year SAR member Lyn Halstead joined us to read at two

additional schools. Bells to ring on September 17 and American flags were left for each child. Each of the five school libraries received a copy of the book, *We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution*, illustrated and (original material) written by David Catrow. We also donated a copy to the Raleigh County Public Library.

## National Day of Service



Daughters Cheri Farley and Carolyn Jones deliver snacks donated by chapter to first responders at Raleigh County Sheriff's Department. Carolyn's husband and SAR member Dexter Jones (not pictured) also participated.

Carolyn Jones and Chapter Regent Sally Chapman present a Letter of Appreciation and a donation for Shop with a Cop to Sheriff Canaday.



## Veterans Day

On Veterans Day Captain James Allen Chapter DAR joined John Beckley Chapter SAR and some young friends to serve hot beverages and treats to parade goers on the Raleigh County Courthouse lawn in Beckley. Daughters from left to right are Marian Moye, Margaret Rusnak, Samantha Shleser, Terry Noland, Karen Bonifacio, and Chapter Regent Sally Chapman.

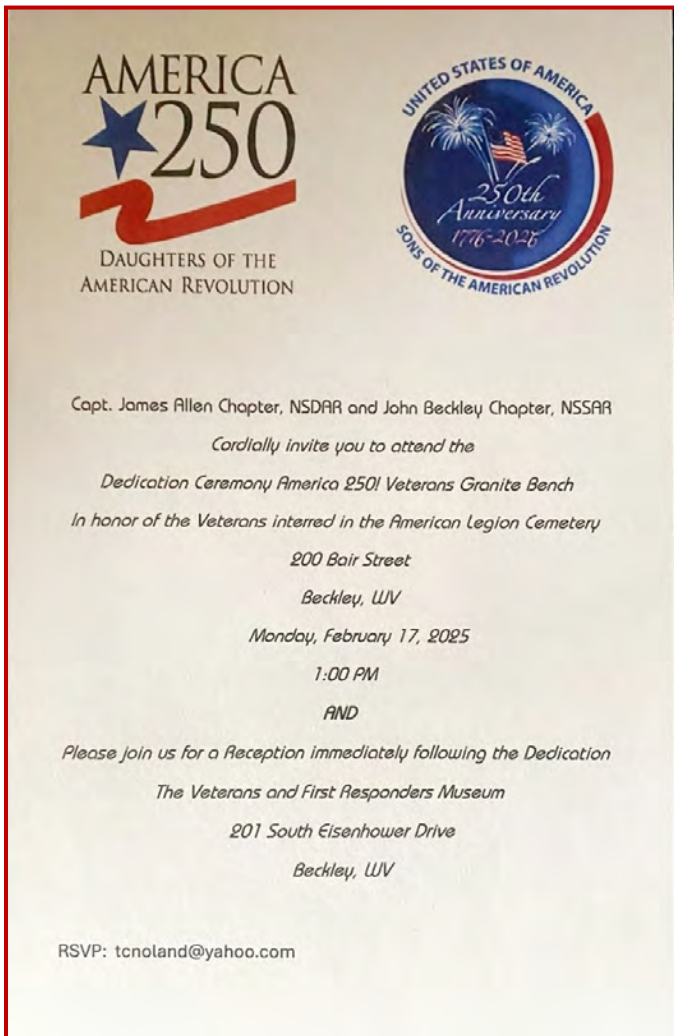
In December we Bloomed with the Gift of



Fellowship joining John Beckley Chapter, SAR, for a Christmas luncheon. Our program, "Remembering the Gift of Commitment and Friendship of General Lafayette," was presented by Gen Andrew Lewis Regent and Franco-American Memorial National Committee Vice Chair for East Central Division Suzanne Cronquist. She shared her experiences from events she has attended, as well as information about upcoming celebrations of the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour. Lunch was followed by



a fundraising auction of a variety of items and baked goodies.



### Cheat River Chapter

#### **Preston County Buckwheat Festival**

Each year, we enjoy participating in the Preston County Buckwheat Festival, showcasing our DAR float in two parades and sharing information about DAR with the community.



#### **Headstone Preservation**

For the DAR National Day of Service, we focused on improving headstones at Aurora Cemetery, starting with a specific stone that had fallen face down, obscuring the name. Our goal was to lift and clean it, along with the stone of the individual's wife nearby. What began as a single project turned into an incredible effort to restore 45 headstones! Some required major lifting and resetting, others needed a deep clean, and many were treated with D2 cleaner to halt the growth of lichens and moss. It was a meaningful day of preserving history and honoring those who rest there.



#### **DAR Community Classroom**

Cheat River Chapter member Amy Jones successfully submitted a lesson plan to the DAR Community Classroom educational resource page. Amy, a dedicated third-grade teacher,



created a lesson plan inspired by *The Biggest (and Best) Flag That Ever Flew* by Rebecca C. Jones. Her lesson highlights the story of Caroline Pickersgill, who sewed the U.S. flag that flew over Fort McHenry and

inspired Francis Scott Key to write *The Star-Spangled Banner*. DAR Community Classroom offers original, content-rich lesson plans for PreK-12 educators, focusing on America's history, government, and more. Amy's contribution will help ignite a love for history and patriotism in classrooms nationwide. Explore her lesson and others at: <https://www.dar.org/national.../education/dar-lesson-plans>.

#### **Battle of Point Pleasant**

Susie Batson attended the 250th Commemoration of the Battle of Point Pleasant, recognized as the first battle of the American





Revolution. She joined others in honoring this historic moment by laying a wreath at the memorial.

**Gifts for Veterans**

The Cheat River Chapter welcomed a guest speaker who shared insights about the Vet-to-Vet program at the Veterans Association in Morgantown. Chapter members generously contributed socks, blankets, and hats, which the speaker took back to share as Christmas gifts for the veterans.



**Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter**

The Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter, Fairmont, has been engaged in many community activities from September through December. During Constitution Week, members created a display table at the Marion County Public Library and rang bells at the Marion County Courthouse.



Our chapter joined with members of the George Rogers Clark SAR Chapter for a picnic near Pricketts Fort State Park.

Our chapter purchased and installed a bench near the Gold Mothers Monument in Fairmont. A rededication is tentatively planned for some time this spring.



For our Day of Service, we purchased trays of cookies and delivered them along with Thank You cards to the Fairmont City Police, Marion County



Sheriff's Office, the WV State Police, the local Department of Forestry, and the Winfield VFD. The Department of Forestry donated 100 coloring books which were given to police officers to share with children as needed.

Chapter members participated in the Marion County Veterans Day Parade. Wreaths were also presented at the Woody Williams Gold Star Families Decoration and Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Beth Niggemyer hosted an Edmonton Tea Party in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Edmonton Resolve to commemorate the signing of this document to honor the 51 women who by signing their name committed an act of treason. Beth offered a fun game that asked questions about the Edmonton Tea Party. She also randomly chose two members to receive gifts of a teapot.



Beth gave members a tea necklace and charm. Beth provided a great program about the Edmonton Tea Party. All members in attendance signed the resolution that listed the names of the original signers as well. Beth provided some wonderful blueberry tea. Several members wore period clothing.



Regent Barbara Channell gifted a 16X20 copy of our charter to chapter members in appreciation of serving as chapter regent.



Our chapter adopted the Hershel "Woody" Williams naval ship for Project Patriot. Last May we sent three care packages to the Gold crew. In November we sent five care packages to the Blue Crew. Special effort was given to include items for African

American sailors and for female crew members. Along with the five packages, 150 Thank You cards and 150 Christmas cards were sent to the crew. Commander Gregg sent us a nice "Thank You" email:

*Good morning!! Please share our heartfelt thank you for the love put into the packages. We are so thankful for all we received. The female packages were a lovely touch. It is cold outside but we are*

*warm from these packages. Thank you so much from our entire crew.*

Christmas cards were sent to residents of the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center and to veterans in residence at all Marion County Nursing/Rehab facilities. Letters and cards were also provided to Honor Flight participants. Books and magazines were donated to the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center Library. Also, various



members of our chapter attended the Lafayette event in Wheeling, participated in Battle Days at Point Pleasant, participated in Wreaths Across America at Maple Grove Cemetery, attended the Dedication of the America 250 plaque at WV I79 Bridgeport Rest Area - Southbound, and greeted Honor Flight participants on their return to Clarksburg. Our chapter finished the year by having a combined Christmas party with the George Rogers Clark Chapter, SAR.



### Daniel Davison Chapter

Daniel Davison Chapter celebrated Constitution Day by placing displays in two local libraries and by ringing the bells. For our October Day of Service project, we hosted a baby shower for women veterans and delivered \$500.00 worth of new baby items to the Louis Johnson VA Medical Center. Near Halloween, chapter members passed out candy and bookmarks at two locations to support literacy.

In November, Native American Month displays were placed in two local libraries. To support Veterans Day, a donation was made to purchase a new TV for the women veterans' dorm at the Clarksburg Mission, and 300 flag pins were given to veterans at the Louis Johnson VA Hospital.

Wreaths from Wreaths Across America were donated to the Daniel Davison DAR Cemetery in December, and Vickie Baker, our WVDAR organiz-



ing secretary, presented a wonderful program at our chapter meeting showcasing rooms at DAR headquarters decorated for Christmas.

Mindi Jacobs, a new chapter member, has completed the Members, Committee Leaders, and New Horizons

courses! Her projects for these courses were donations of b a c k p a c k s containing pajamas and children's books for the Harrison County CASA program and donations of handbags containing cosmetics to Hope, Inc., a domestic violence shelter program. Daniel



Davisson Chapter members supported her projects with donations.



**Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-  
Colonel John Evans Chapter**

Fall is always a busy time for the Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Colonel John Evans Chapter, and this year was no exception. Starting with Constitution Week in September, members put up posters in store windows across town, attended the proclamation signing by the Monongalia County Commission, participated in Bells Across America, and welcomed new member Dotty Rauch at the joint chapter Constitution Luncheon at the Greene Turtle Restaurant.

In October, Regent Susan Arnold represented the chapter and laid a wreath at both the 250th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Point Pleasant and at the grave marking for Revolutionary Patriot John Gray in Berkeley County. In November, chapter members marched in Morgantown's annual Veterans Day Parade.



Pearl Harbor Day - L to R: Penny Lipscomb, Director WVU Center for Veterans Programs; Becky Davis, Susan Arnold, Joan Gibson, Barbara Hildebrand

As the year came to an end, Regent Susan Arnold again represented the chapter at the dedication of the America 250! Marker placed by Central District chapters at the Meadowbrook Rest Stop on I-79 in Harrison County, and she laid a wreath during the West Virginia University commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day. Chapter members filled 16 stockings with wish list items as part of the Stockings for Soldiers program in conjunction with our partner for Wreaths Across America, the Jenkins Funeral Home. In addition, the chapter sent money for Amazon Wish List items that were posted for several different active duty military locations on the DAR Project Patriot Facebook page. On December 14, chapter members participated in laying



Stockings for Soldiers - L to R: Brenda Fisher, Anna Chandler, Susan Arnold, Katy Cave, Nancy Diener



Wreaths Across America - L to R: Anna Chandler, Katy Cave, Brenda Swearingen, Nancy Mosser, Susan Arnold

over 100 wreaths on veterans' graves in the historic Oak Grove Cemetery in Morgantown, which is where both of our chapter namesakes are buried. This is the main location for which the chapter serves as a fundraising

group. The chapter also collected needed items for veterans at the VA Medical Center in Clarksburg and ended the day by enjoying each other's company and welcoming new member Brenda Swearingen at the Tea Shoppe in Morgantown.



### General Andrew Chapter

General Andrew Lewis Chapter celebrated their 70th anniversary at their November meeting. The chapter was founded October 1, 1954, with Mrs. William Phelps as founding Regent. Current chapter member, Sally Ford, remembers her as a petite charming woman. Sally celebrates 73 years as a DAR Daughter having been a member of a number of WV chapters!



We celebrated service to veterans for November by collecting items for delivery to the Beckley VA Hospital. Our book of the month was



by a Native American author. We celebrated our anniversary with a luncheon and silent DAR-ling Auction to benefit chapter projects including America 250! The cake was delicious and the auction a success. Members had brought items and told stories of their vintage Americana contributions. It was great fun with many members in attendance.



### James Wood Chapter

James Wood is very pleased that we have completed part of our America 250 project. We received two grants through the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, the DAR America 250 grant, and with the generosity of our members, we



purchased a granite bench for the Parkersburg City Park. The bench contains the names of thirteen additional



Revolutionary Patriots buried in Wood County that we discovered when doing the research for *Burial and Service Data for Revolutionary Patriots Buried in West Virginia*. We currently have a marker at the



Parkersburg City Park bearing the names of Patriots buried in Wood County. As the weather will allow, we are going to erect an illuminated flagpole at the marker. Captain James Neal Sons of the American Revolution is going to place an identical bench at the site.



Our chapter is also incredibly supportive of the veterans. We took part in the Parkersburg Veterans Day Parade. Our float was decorated with recruiting posters from the various military branches. We placed a wreath at the Veterans Memorial at the conclusion of the ceremony. Through the generosity of our members, we delivered over \$500 of clothing items for both men and ladies, hygiene items and snacks to the Louis A. Johnson Veterans Center in Clarksburg. Our members placed thirty-five wreaths on veteran's graves for Wreaths Across America.



We always enjoy our time together at our annual Christmas Party. While enjoying delicious snacks brought by our members, we laughed playing the Saran Wrap Ball Game and having a

Chinese Gift Exchange. The proceeds from our monthly Gift Bag was donated to a trust fund established for a local family that lost a father and two sons in a tragic house fire.

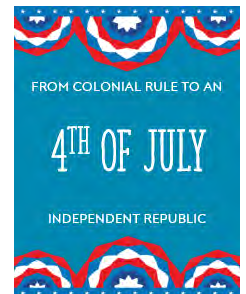
James Wood is looking forward to being a host chapter for the annual State Conference in April. It is always a very enjoyable time connecting with Daughters and sharing ideas.

James Wood is looking forward to being a host chapter for the annual State Conference in April. It is always a very enjoyable time connecting with Daughters and sharing ideas.



### Matthew French Chapter

Many daughters in the Matthew French Chapter experienced the effects of Hurricane Helene with downed trees, no electricity, and high water. Fortunately, no one suffered long-term effects like those living in North Carolina and Florida. Our September chapter meeting was rescheduled and held via Zoom in early October. The program, "From Colonial Rule to an Independent Republic," highlighted the first July 4th celebration, which has been held annually since 1777. Having just celebrated Constitution Week, daughters were reminded declaring our independence from Great Britain was not easy, but achieving and maintaining our independence is ongoing.



In October, two daughters, Catherine Matherly and Patricia Mick, generously donated \$3,000 for our chapter to award a \$750 scholarship to a deserving senior at each of the high schools, Bluefield, Montcalm, Pikeview, and Princeton.

Heather Farley presented the "History of the United States Navy" and mentioned that the birth of the nation also saw the birth of the Navy. Some of Heather's family served in the Navy, including her father. Heather baked her father's favorite cake for us to enjoy.



Following the October meeting, a surprise birthday party was held for JoAnna Fredeking. She was doubly surprised with the party and her family being there to celebrate with her. Congratulations to Debbie Gillespie, with the help of a few





JoAnna Fredeking's Surprise Birthday Party

daughters, for a successful surprise celebration!

After the birthday celebration, the daughters cleaned and decorated the Dr. Robert B. McNutt House for the December 7 Candlelight Tour.

In November, the daughters donated coffee, sugar, and creamer to the Princeton Vet Center which is located across from our office. The



Princeton Vet Center women

veterans were most appreciative of the donation as they enjoy several cups of coffee while there for vet services or meetings. The staff gave us magnets to share with our members.

On behalf of our chapter, Heather Farley delivered a Sunshine Box to Jamie Miller, a fifth-grade teacher at Montcalm Elementary School. The smile on her face shows her appreciation as she cried and said, "Thank you! Thank you!"



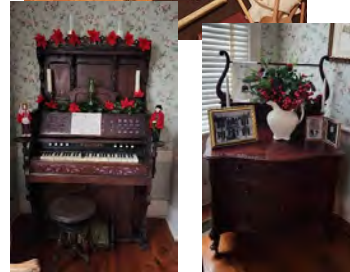
Sunshine Box

The December program, *125th Anniversary of the Spanish-American War (April 21 - August 13, 1898)*, focused on one of the shortest wars in American history, which changed US foreign policy from isolationism to a more interventionist and imperialistic stance. A fun fact—the only Rough Rider was Teddy Roosevelt as most of his men fought on foot.

Five daughters, Heather Farley, JoAnna

Fredeking, Stella Moon, Opal Morgan and Barbara Wood, attended the SAR Christmas luncheon. Heather was a guest speaker and shared her U.S. Navy presentation with those in attendance.

Mrs. McNutt (aka JoAnna Fredeking) welcomed visitors into her home to celebrate an 1840s Christmas. Visitors thoroughly enjoyed seeing the period dress and decorations as they learned about the Dr. Robert B. McNutt House and its family.



Robert B. McNutt House Candlelight Tour

Two C.A.R. prospective members played games with the visitors and shared stories of colonial life. SAR members, dressed in militia outfits, regaled visitors with stories from the American Revolution and surviving the hardships of living on the frontier.

The *Bluefield Daily-Telegraph* printed an article about the Candlelight Tour prior to the event. WVVA television station toured the house and aired the interview several times. On Christmas Day, WVVA aired a series of interviews about Christmas traditions in the Virginias. One interview, "Christmas traditions looked different in Appalachia's past," featured historians from the Dr. Robert B. McNutt House and Crab Orchard Museum.



**Christmas traditions looked different in Appalachia's past, says historians**

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. (WVVA) -As settlers from Europe moved into the Appalachian wilderness in the 1700s, they ...



### Ohio Valley Chapter

The Ohio Valley Chapter, NSDAR, traveled to Shirley, WV, to honor the members of the Shirley Fire Department for their contributions to their community. National First Responders Day is held each year in October to give DAR chapters an opportunity to honor the service of the first responders to the catastrophic emergencies in our towns and cities.

Members of the Ohio Valley Chapter spent many hours of planning and research to make this event a highlight for the men and women who attended the activities of the day. Following the opening ceremony, which included the Pledge to the Flag and the American's Creed, the guests enjoyed lunch provided by the Ohio Valley ladies.

Frannie Weekley gave a historical overview of the history of this small community from the early 1800s to the present. It was apparent that the members of the fire department have been instrumental in meeting many of the needs as the community grew.

Frannie presented the Fire Chief James Wade Jr. with a certificate in recognition of his 37 years of service with the Fire Department and to Mitch Wilcox, assistant fire chief for 52 years of service. Regent Marilyn Rogers and Vice Regent Blye Grove also presented certificates to all of the members of the department for their years of service.

The firemen become a close "family" as they work together and it is an emotional time when a man reaches the end of his "watch". It was appropriate that a few moments of silent reflection could be given to the four men who had served so diligently and their "watch" had ended.

The women who are an important part of the Fire Department are the ladies in the auxiliary. This component provides support for the men and each lady received a certificate. Frannie Weekley presented the Auxiliary with an addition that will be placed in the fire trucks and be given to a child involved in a fire. Frannie had designed and created an adorable "mouse" (stuffed animal), included crayons and a coloring book, and a couple of books in a large tote.

In addition to being a fireman, Chief Wade is also a veteran and Anna Carson (registrar for the Ohio Valley Chapter) made a beautiful quilt with eagles in the center which was presented to the chief by Anna and by Neoma Spratt, a member of

DAR and a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy. The "Quilt of Valor" was a very special moment in the program and was a reflection of the service the men have accomplished in their lives.

A proclamation declaring this day as a day to honor the first responders in the Shirley Fire Department was presented to the fire chief by Luella Raper, and a Visa Card was also presented to Chief Wade by Tina Seese, Northern District director, to be used to provide snacks and bottled water for the men when they go to a fire or other emergency.

It was an opportunity to say "Thank You" to the men and women who bravely strive to make their communities a safer place for all of the citizens.



### Old Hickory Chapter

On Saturday September 17, Old Hickory ladies celebrated Constitution Day by ringing bells at the Jackson County Courthouse. It's been 237 years since the Constitution was signed in the birthplace of our



nation, Philadelphia, PA. Those present were Selma Humphreys, JoAnn Jones, Debbie Burge, Jo Morgan, Gloria Batten, Gerry Chapman and Betty Burge.

Old Hickory Chapter remembered POW/MIA day on September 21 with a program at the Courthouse beside our POW/MIA Never Forget Garden. Our Service for Veterans Chair, Mary Pistelli, invited Adam Greathouse and Tom



Dunn to speak. A Missing Man Table was set to show our everlasting concern for missing men. Joe Burge of the U.S. Marine Corps League laid a wreath in honor of the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action. Present were members Mayor Carolyn



Rader, Debbie Burge, Mary Pistelli, Gerry Chapman and Gayle Thompson.



The Battle of Point Pleasant was celebrated on October 10, 2024. What an honor it was to be present at Tu-Endie-Wei State Park on this historic day. So many of our ancestors were present at this battle, 250 years ago. Old Hickory was honored to serve and donate cookies to the Colonel Charles Lewis Chapter. Those attending in colonial dress were Grace Arthur, regent, Sandra Isner-Johnson, state vice regent, Selma Humphreys, Debbie Burge, Joann Clarkson, Nancy Holmes, Heather Harrison, and JoAnn Jones.

We had a beautiful sunny day to celebrate Veterans Day in the eleventh month, eleventh day and the eleventh hour. The streets of Ripley were filled with children carrying signs of our veterans. Each streetlight in Ripley had a flag and banner with the name and photo of those who had served and those serving now. Two of our ladies, Debbie Burge and Joann Clarkson, were in the parade with their husbands with the Marine Corps League float. Those riding on the Old Hickory float were Mary Pistelli, Gloria Batten, JoAnn Jones, Megan Wray, and Melisa Tolley. In the afternoon our Veterans Chair, Mary Pistelli, arranged for a program to honor Colonel Libby Dillon. She served in Afghanistan and was a critical care nurse at Bagram Air Base for 8 months. Libby returned to work at Jackson General Hospital in January



2003. She received the Bronze Star for her service in Afghanistan. Libby retired from the WV National Guard in 2018 with the rank of colonel and continues to work at Jackson General Hospital.



The Ravenswood Christmas was on November 29 and four of our ladies braved the cold weather to participate. Loretta Carter, Doris Conger, Joann Clarkson and Debbie Burge.

December 14 was Wreaths Across America at the Veterans Park at the Jackson County Courthouse in Ripley. Selma Humphreys, chaplain, planned a beautiful ceremony to honor all branches of the military. Those laying wreaths were Gerry Chapman, JoAnn Jones, Mary Pistelli, Suzette Lowe, Sandra Isner-Johnson, Joe Burge (HODAR), Doris Conger, Megan Wray, Grace Arthur with Aurora, and Lowell Humphreys (HODAR).



Our first meeting of 2025 was held Saturday the 12th via Zoom. With about six inches of snow, we were all happy to participate in our warm living rooms beside the fireplace. Happy New Year to all!



### Pack Horse Ford Chapter

The Shepherdstown Pack Horse Ford Chapter is preparing for 2025 with great anticipation. The year 2025 begins with the following chapter officers: Regent Cindy Nicewarner; First Vice Regent Lois



Kimble; Second Vice Regent Rosalind Grenfell; Chaplain Kathy Sholl; Recording Secretary Nicole Saunders-Meske; Treasurer Katherine Genung; Historian Kathy Klein; Librarian Patricia Toffling; and Registrar Lauren Turco.

Before looking to the future, however, the chapter took time to reflect on our spring and summer activities.

In May 2024 our chapter marked the grave of Honorary Regent Dorrene Hale at her church in Uvilla. We were joined by many DAR and SAR members from across the state. Members of General Adam Stephen Chapter, SAR, served as the color guard.

In May and June of 2024, the chapter donated two copies of the soft cover book, *Genealogical, Burial, & Service Data for Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in West Virginia*, published in 2023. During the administration of West Virginia DAR State Regent Cheryl Alexander Brown 2019-2022, West Virginia DAR members organized throughout the state to locate graves of Revolutionary War Patriots including individuals who served in the military and/or provided patriotic or civil service, and documented patriots. Once documentation was completed, chapters submitted the results to State Historian Mary E. Johnson, who served as editor of the volume. One copy was donated to the Shepherd University Scarborough Library and the other copy to Shepherdstown Public Library.

In June 2024, three JROTC cadets received monetary DAR awards during the awards ceremony. For the first time, the Dorrene Gageby Hale Scholarship was awarded by the Pack Horse Ford Chapter to a cadet. The scholarship was started by the Hale family in memory of Dorrene Gageby Hale.

In July 2024, the chapter participated in the annual Shepherdstown Fourth of July sponsored by the Rotary Club. The Grand Marshal for the parade was Cheryl Brown, a Shepherdstown resident, as well as a veteran, Honorary WV State DAR Regent, and Honorary Chapter Regent.

On September 7, 2024, the chapter celebrated Grandparents Day, partnering with the Shepherdstown Public Library. Approximately 80 adults with children attended the event that provided lots of smiles, laughter, and fun. Chapter member Ruth McQuade's mother, Marian McQuade (1917-2008), spearheaded Grandparents Day to highlight the importance of relationships

between generations. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter designated the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. Carter signed a proclamation declaring, "Grandparents are our continuing tie to the near past, to the events and beliefs and experiences that so strongly affect our lives and the world around us. Whether they are our own or surrogate grandparents who fill some of the gaps in our mobile society, our senior generation also provides our society a link to our



national heritage and traditions." Shepherdstown Mayor James Gatz signed our chapter's Grandparent's Day Proclamation with Committee Chair Ruth McQuade, Second Vice Regent Rosalind Grenfell, and Librarian Patricia Toffling.

September 17 is designated as Constitution Day and commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution by 39 courageous men on September 17, 1787. A few of the well-known "Founding Fathers" include George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. In 2024, chapter members participated in Bells Across America on Constitution Day, ringing bells at 4 p.m. Members distributed booklets of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence to Jefferson County schools. A Constitution display by the chapter was featured in a





storefront in Shepherdstown. Chapter First Vice Regent Lois Kimble and Chaplain Kathy Sholl installed new members Addison Reese, Elizabeth Van Tol Wilson, and Barbara Van Tol at our September meeting.



The month of October is the DAR National Day of Service. In 2024, chapter members donated 310 canned goods and personal hygiene items for Shepherdstown Shares food pantry. Soups, canned vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, soap, toothpaste and much more went to the pantry. Program Manager Dianne Waldron from Berkeley County Meals on Wheels gave a program. Waldron was excited to share that it was Berkeley County's Meals on Wheels 53rd anniversary.

In November 2024, Addison Reese, a chapter member and a member of the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC) gave a slide presentation on her historic preservation work on African American burial grounds in Jefferson County. Reese's commitment to this cause was sparked by her efforts to protect a cemetery from being impacted by the construction of a gas pipeline meant to service the Rockwool factory.

In early December 2024, chapter members stuffed 90 Christmas stockings for veterans at the



Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Generous gifts and funds were donated by members of the chapter. Christmas stocking items

included Patriot Bucks for veterans to purchase items at the VAMC store; water bottles; combs; socks; soap; shampoo; body lotion; toothpaste; toothbrushes; puzzle books; decks of playing cards; fingernail files; winter hats; pens and paper; and candy. To top off the stockings, Christmas cards made by local students were included. Also in December, members participated in the Shepherdstown Christmas Parade organized by the Rotary Club.



In January 2025, our chapter held a Genealogy Workshop on Zoom. Olivia Millunzi, reference librarian, NSDAR Library, presented "Research Around Maryland" that covered Maryland history and migration patterns, important events and trends, genealogical record sets, and tips and tricks for Maryland research. This event was opened to state DAR members and was organized by Chapter Registrar Lauren Turco. Zoom hostess was Cheryl Brown.

Pack Horse Ford Chapter is making plans for June 2025 to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Bee Line March that took place in Shepherdstown in 1775. More information to come, as time gets closer.



### [Shenandoah Valley Chapter](#)

Shenandoah Valley Chapter NSDAR members and John Augustine Washington Chapter C.A.R. met with members of the Berkeley County Council during their Thursday, September 12, 2024, meeting to have the members sign Proclamation about Constitution Week September 17-23, 2024!

L-R, front row,  
Mary Wright,  
Henry Wright,  
Barby McDonald  
Frankenberry,  
Jerell Wright,  
Debbie Ford, Della  
Wright and Mary  
Wright.





L-R: Margie Ways, Mary Wright and Della Wright (C.A.R.), Barby McDonald Frankenberry, Jerell Wright and Mayor Kevin Knowles.

That same evening Shenandoah Valley Chapter members and John Augustine Washington Chapter C.A.R. members met with the Martinsburg Mayor and City Council members for them to sign a proclamation celebrating U.S. Constitution September 17-23!

Shenandoah Valley Chapter's Day of Caring on Friday, October 11, 2024, was to team up with the American Red Cross to hold a Blood Drive. The chapter exceeded their number of blood donors for the event.



Shenandoah Valley Chapter



marked the grave of Patriot John Gray, a prominent figure in Berkeley County during the American Revolutionary War.

Mary Jane Wood, Sally Greenfield, Debbie Ford, Sylvia Rhodes, Carol DeHaven, Barby Frankenberry, Deanna Kay, Tina Marquart, and Margie Ways



The grave marking was held on October 26, 2024, at the Mill Creek Baptist Church Cemetery in Gerrardstown. Carol DeHaven, Shenandoah Valley chapter corresponding secretary, successfully researched John Gray as an American Revolutionary

Patriot that led our chapter to marking his grave.

Barby Frankenberry and Margie Ways of the Shenandoah Valley Chapter NSDAR decorated the display window outside the Musselman High School Library on November 4, 2024, to honor our veterans of faculty, administrators, students, and community for Veterans Day. This is the second year for honoring our veterans for Veterans Day at the Musselman High School Library.



Shenandoah Valley Chapter NSDAR celebrating our veterans on Veterans Day at War Memorial Park in Martinsburg. Barby Frankenberry and Margie Ways are members of the planning team for the event. A very special day to Thank the Veterans in attendance and to remember all others who were not able to attend on this 11/11/11 event!



The chapter along with John Augustine Washington Society C.A.R. participated in the South Berkeley Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 8, 2024.



Susanne Horner, Shenandoah Valley Chapter NSDAR and Wreaths Across America coordinator, presented the December 14 ceremony

Susanne Horner, Wreath Across America coordinator





Wreaths Honoring the Branches of Service

held at the Arden United Methodist Church, Martinsburg. John Augustine Washington Society, Children of the American Revolution, sponsored and helped coordinate the movement program to honor the branches of service and the veterans buried in the Arden Church Cemetery.



Barby Frankenberry with granddaughter Regan Chancey laying a wreath on her ate husband Robert "Bob" Frankenberry's grave.



### South Branch Valley Chapter

Our chapter sponsored a military child for Camp Conley in Kingwood in June 2024. The camp provides a week-long, educational experience where the children participate in activities in a safe, drug-free environment, while learning about military culture and life skills.

July 27, 2024, found six members attending the 77th Eastern District WVDAR meeting, hosted by Bee Line Chapter members and held in Ranson. Two of our members were nominated and approved to be officers: Regent Judy Bowyer will be district director and Bonnie Myers, treasurer. Congratulations to both!

At our planning meeting held in August, 10 members signed 105 cards to be sent to the Honor Flight.



Signing cards

Constitution Week was celebrated by setting up displays at three libraries, eight schools and three banks. Constitution minutes were read over the local radio and four proclamations were issued.



Bonnie Myers and

Susan Sprague attended the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant Memorial Service held on October 10,



Both members are descendants of Patriots who fought in the battle. They presented a wreath from our chapter. Regent Judy Bowyer discovered her Patriot's son had also been involved in the battle.

Our program for October was a report given by Susan Sprague on the birth of Walter Reed Medical Center to its transition to the comprehensive medical care and research facility of today. As our **National Day of Service**, members collected numerous items for the Walter Reed Hospital. Some of the items donated: socks, body wash for men and women, jelly, peanut butter, coffee, hair dryers and razors. Susan Sprague graciously volunteered to deliver the items.

We were excited when we learned our application for the America 250! Grant had been approved. Our event was a newspaper article titled "Did You Know about the Liberty Tree?" and was placed in the four local newspapers that



serve our area. This article also contained a short tribute to all veterans and was scheduled to run near Veterans Day.

As a project for the Literacy Outreach committee, member Susan Garrett personally filled tote bags with snacks and other items for six libraries' break rooms. Her thoughtfulness and generosity were greatly appreciated.

Member Judy Mathias participated in "Wreaths Across America" on December 14, 2024. She attended the event at Culpeper National Cemetery in Culpeper, VA, where both her parents are buried. This event is a humbling experience for all who attend as we are reminded of the sacrifice so many made for the freedoms we enjoy today.



### Wheeling Chapter

The Wheeling Chapter had a busy fall. At our October meeting, Jeanne Finstein gave a presentation about the Hughes family and the renovation efforts by the Friends of Wheeling to restore their home on Main Street. We also welcomed two new members, Donna Donley and Jennifer Chivers.

Our chapter was awarded two grants in October from the Wheeling Arts Commission and the Elizabeth Stifel Kline Foundation, in support of two projects. The first was the restoration of the bronze plaques on Wheeling's historic Suspension Bridge honoring Charles Ellet, the architect who

designed the bridge and marking the historic Old Trails Road. The second project will be steam cleaning and sealing the Madonna of the Trail monument.

Air Force Academy graduate David Guio shared his experiences at the academy and as a veteran as our special guest speaker for our Veterans Day luncheon. In November, Sue Abraham gave the welcome speech on behalf of our chapter, and we presented the 39 new citizens with packets that included a copy of the Constitution, flags and flag code. It was a full circle moment for Sue; she recently retired as a courtroom deputy for the district court where she regularly swore in new citizens as part of the Naturalization Ceremony.

The Wheeling Chapter ended 2024 with a joint meeting with the Fort Henry Chapter, SAR, at the Wheeling Country Club. We welcomed two more members, Janet Metzner and Penny Smith, and



Gerry Reilly, assistant director of Museum at Oglebay Institute joined us to discuss the history of Oglebay's famous Festival of Lights. Our chapter also recognized three members of the SAR with the Hannah White Arnett bronze medals. Gary Timmons, Gregory Smith, and James "Jay" Frey were recognized for their devotion and tireless efforts to assist our chapter.

The December meeting also marked the end of our fall veteran's project. Just before Christmas Roseanna Keller delivered a car full of donations to the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg. This was the twelfth trip to Clarksburg for Roseanna and the largest donation to date.



Since September our registrar, Cynthia Archer, has been working overtime. We have added 10 new members—Jen Chivers, Theresa Comisso, Linda Criswell, Jaclin Hedmond, Teresa Lange, Kasey Marino, Janet Metzner, Virginia Nelsen, Connie Rice, Kimberly Traverse, Penny Smith and Susan Zaboji. Sadly, we have also lost two wonderful members and friends—Rosalie McNeil and Barbara Stegman. They will be missed.



Woodburn Chapter

Thanks to a large basket rescued from the trash and repainted, a thrift store teddy bear and home grown honey, the theme of Woodburn Chapter's basket for the Central District Meeting was "The

Teddy Bears' Picnic." A table cloth and napkins were made and bear-themed note cards added to many picnic-related items for a successful basket.



In 2022, Woodburn Chapter Regent Joan Gibson attended the dedication of a Lafayette Tour Marker in Uniontown, PA. She learned from founder, Julien Icher, that Lafayette had only made one stop in what became West



Virginia and that was Wheeling. Julien expressed frustration that he could get no replies from his inquires to the town. I told him, "I can" and had Debi Smith on the phone from my car. Thus began a 2-year partnership between Woodburn Chapter and Wheeling Chapter to make this a reality. Wheeling Chapter provided the necessary proofs of the visit and worked to find a suitable location for the marker. Woodburn Chapter provided funds and encouragement. Sadly, Debi died in April 2024. However, the approved marker came and was dedicated in Wheeling on September 25, 2024, by Julien Icher, Wheeling Chapter Regent Lisa McNeil, and Woodburn Chapter Regent Joan Gibson. Honorary State Regent Mindy Davis represented Northern District. Director Georgette Ward represented Central District. Debi's husband, Greg Smith, and her mother, Joan McClelland, participated in the ceremony.

250 years ago, The Battle of Point Pleasant, recognized as the first of the American



Revolutionary War, took place at Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774. Festivities went on for a week. Regent Joan Gibson made and presented a special wreath for the occasion which represented the vegetation which would have been there on the day of the battle. It was a great day filled with

marvelous presentations.





Woodburn Chapter's year ended with an 18th-century luncheon at the home of Joan Gibson. The menu included Colonial Game Pie (no game was used), Salmagundi Salad, Baked Winter Fruit Salad, Skillet Cornbread and Carrot Pudding (not recommended although from Williamsburg). Dessert was from 1825 in the form of the Lafayette Cake. The recipe, given to Mary Todd Lincoln, who was from Lexington, KY, was created by a local caterer and French immigrant, Mathurin Giron, for Lafayette's visit. It is a moist almond pound cake and, according to Mary Lincoln, Abraham's favorite. One-third of the first cake Joan made was sent by FedEx to Julien Icher who greatly appreciated it.



## DISTRICT NEWS

### Central District

The Central District is proud to announce that the district placed an American 250! Patriot marker at the Meadowbrook southbound rest area, I-79, mile marker 122, on December 4, 2024. The dedication ceremony was attended by Jane Larke, state regent; Malinda Davis,



National America 250! chair; members of the West Virginia Division of Highways; the mayor of Bridgeport; and Central District

daughters. Attendees were given goody bags and the event was covered by the local WBOY television news.

Thanks to all that made this marker possible.



### Eastern District

The Eastern District Chapters attended the 77th Eastern District Meeting on July 27, 2024, hosted by the Bee Line Chapter. The meeting was held at the Independent Fire Hall in Ranson. Margie Ways, Eastern District director and the Shenandoah Valley Chapter registrar, presided over the meeting.

Jane Larke, WVDAR state regent, gave an update on her projects and presented numerous certificate awards for the Eastern District chapters.

Please welcome the 2025-2028 elected Eastern District officers:



2025-2028 Eastern District officers: Judy Bowyer, Eastern District director; Jerell Wright, secretary; Bonnie Myers, treasurer



### Western District

On October 26, 2024, Western District dedicated the new outdoor shelter at the Barboursville Veterans Home. The shelter was built with financial, material, or physical labor contributions from Home Depot, WV Daughters, DAR family members, and others. Members of the





SAR, VFW, and DAV also participated in the dedication.



### WVDAR Website

<https://wvdar.org>



### From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles for this edition of the *West Virginia DAR News*. Keep sending news on how you “Bloom through Service and Friendship.”

The deadline for the next issue is:

**May 12, 2025**

Note: The last newsletter of the Larke Administration will come out in early June.

Mary Johnson, Newsletter Editor  
[annebaileydar@gmail.com](mailto:annebaileydar@gmail.com)

