



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"



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State Regent's Message

A Sparkling State Conference and Bright Future Ahead

Dear West Virginia Daughters,

What a resounding success our recent State Conference was! As your State Regent, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event truly unforgettable. A special thank you goes to our Northern District hostesses with conference co-



chairs Mindy Davis and Charla Nutter, whose tireless efforts and warm hospitality ensured the entire event ran seamlessly. Your dedication set the stage for a remarkable gathering.

This year's conference embraced the theme "WVDAR Sparkles for the Red, White & Blue," with a focus on Patriotism—and sparkle we did! We were honored to celebrate our nation's heroes and heritage, highlighted by the inspiring dinner entertainment from "Vets with Guitars" and the deeply moving presentation of 11 Quilts of Valor to our members and their loved ones. We also learned about two incredible West Virginia projects: one honoring the legacy of Rosie the Riveters and another, "Stories Behind the Stars," which is sharing stories of Americans who lost their life during WWII. We also were privileged to hear from First Vice President General, Virginia Sebastian Storage, who encouraged us to use our individual talents and skills to further our work toward promoting the goals of the organization.

Amid the celebration, we conducted essential business, heard reports, and elected our officers for the next term. Please join me in congratulating the following members, who will assume their roles on June 29 at the conclusion of Continental Congress:

State Regent elect: Sandra Isner-Johnson; State Vice Regent elect: Mary E. Johnson; State Chaplain elect: Mary Ellen Brown; State Recording Secretary elect: Stella Moon; State

Corresponding Secretary elect: Deborah Burge; State Organizing Secretary elect: Georgette Ward; State Treasurer elect: Annetta Siers; State Registrar elect: Heidi Ware; State Historian elect: Barbara Channel; State Librarian elect: Teresa Noland

Let us rally behind these newly elected officers, offering our full support as they lead WVDAR into the future. I wish them strength, wisdom, and joy in their service, knowing they will carry forward our mission with grace and dedication.

We also were thrilled to present several members and the Organizing Regent of our newest chapter, Jonathan Sheppard Chapter, to the assembly. We recognized Grace Arthur as our WV Outstanding Junior, and we had two 60-year members in attendance who were presented with membership certificates, Fern Nutter and Marilyn "Susie" Rogers.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to prepare for the 134th Continental Congress, June 25-29. Our West Virginia delegation will kick off our participation on Wednesday morning with our much anticipated WV Breakfast and at the

Table of Contents

<i>State Regent's Message</i>	1
<i>State News</i>	2
<i>With the Chapters</i>	7
<i>District News</i>	27



scheduled open house in Memorial Continental Hall of our beautiful WV period room. These events promise to display our state's pride and hospitality on the national stage, and I encourage all who can to join us for this inspiring gathering.

I am delighted to announce that at the 134th Continental Congress, Ronald Wroblewski, a distinguished West Virginia veteran, will receive the prestigious Volunteer Veteran of the Year award on Saturday during National Defense Night. This honor celebrates his extraordinary service, and we owe immense gratitude to Stephanie Smith, regent of the Westmoreland Chapter, and Heidi Ware, state chair of the Service for Veterans Committee, for their dedicated efforts in nominating him. Join me in applauding their outstanding work and Ronald's well-deserved recognition.

As my time as State Regent during the Larke administration draws to a close, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each of you. Your hard work, unwavering dedication, and boundless



enthusiasm have been an inspiration to us all. Together, you have truly made "West Virginia Bloom Through Service and Friendship," leaving a legacy of love and commitment that will continue to sparkle brightly.

With warmest gratitude,

Jane

Jane Jacobs Larke
WVDAR State Regent 2022-2025

From the State Corresponding Secretary

It has been my pleasure to serve as the WVDAR Corresponding Secretary as well as chair of the Regent's Special Project for Early Literacy for our outstanding State Regent Jane Larke. What a tremendous administration we have had as thousands of books were given to children, thousands of children were read to, and hundreds of class-rooms had books donated to them. We are so giving! I also commend our members who took my challenge and became authors during this administration.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of you, my DAR Sisters. WVDAR is an amazing organization, and I look forward to seeing many of you at district meetings soon.

Cynthia Kolsun, WVDAR Corresponding Secretary

From the Desk of The State Historian

It is my pleasure to express my thanks to all West Virginia Daughters for their cooperation with my office during the Larke Administration—and for how they have worked so hard to make West Virginia DAR sparkle.

During the past 3 years, our chapters recognized a total of five West Virginia teachers of history and social studies for their outstanding contributions to our children's education, including Mr. Brian Casto of Milton Middle School, who was nominated by Anne Bailey Chapter to be considered as NSDAR's Outstanding Teacher of American History.

We also recognized four teachers for state-level honors: Alyson Whitacre of Harpers Ferry Middle School, nominated by Bee Line Chapter; Brian Kesterson of Williamstown High School, nominated



by Westmoreland and Blennerhassett chapters in successive years; Stephanie Bragg of PikeView High School, nominated by Matthew French Chapter; and Ryan Stanton of Wheeling Park High School, nominated by Wheeling Chapter.

Collectively, we have placed three America250! Markers, a Lafayette Trail Marker, and several Patriot grave markers. We have also recreated and rededicated a monument commemorating Fort Van Metre in the Northern Panhandle, recognized efforts to preserve the mast of the *U.S.S. West Virginia* in Morgantown, and dedicated a bench honoring Revolutionary-era Patriots in Ripley. Early in May, we even dedicated a roadside marker near Charles Town to honor Eugenia



Note the date for NSDAR's founding and the "No. 1" engraved on the back of Eugenia Washington's spinning wheel insignia.

Washington, one of our society's four founders and our first Registrar General; she bore the member designation NSDAR No. 1.

All this merely scratches the surface. Individually and collectively, we have remembered our Patriots by remembering their names and honoring their sacrifices. We have read to children, presented books to schools and libraries, and maintained and restored the burial sites of our Patriots and other veterans. At every turn, we have celebrated the milestones of our Revolutionary heritage – "Tea, anyone?"

As we move closer to July 4, 1776, we will be even busier. I congratulate and welcome Barbara Channell as our next State Historian. I know she will lead us well in the exciting days to come, and I look forward to supporting her efforts.

In DAR Sisterhood,
Darla Treat Courtney

From the State Recording Secretary

State Officers, State Chairs, District Directors, and Chapter Regents: If you are filing an addendum to your report from this year, please get it to me by July 1.

Thanks for all the cooperation and support you have given me during the Larke Administration; I have enjoyed getting to know all of you.

All the best,
Katherine Genung, WVDAR Recording Secretary

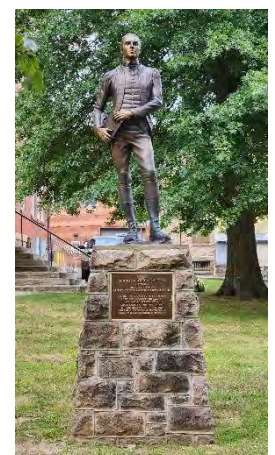


Franco-American Memorial Committee

The Franco-American Memorial Committee (FAMC) encourages states and chapters to celebrate, commemorate, and educate their communities about the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour and about events with a Franco-American theme not related to the Lafayette Farewell Tour. During the last year of the Larke Administration, the West Virginia Society, NSDAR, preserved part of our Franco-American heritage in multiple ways. This article provides a summary of our FAMC activities.

On August 18, 2024, the kickoff of the weekend of the Bicentennial of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour to America, WVDAR celebrated this event in Fayetteville. West Virginia Daughters from every district gathered in front of Lafayette's statue at the Fayette County Courthouse for photos and then proceeded to the Charlie McCoy Town Park for a picnic. Desserts served were homemade Lafayette gingerbread with fairy butter and traditional French mocha dessert swirls. Mayor Sharon Cruikshank presented the WVDAR with

a proclamation declaring the day a time to celebrate Lafayette's Farewell Tour. Raffle baskets with a French flair included French wines, a round of Brie, a Lafayette pin from the Insignia Store, and the book *Hero of Two Worlds*. Note cards with Lafayette's image on the front were given to all attendees. Thank you to the





committee who planned this event: State Regent Jane Larke, Barbara Channell, Janet Leslie, Stella Moon, WV FAMC State Chair Mickie Richardson, and Carolyn Scheydt.

On September 25, 2024, the Wheeling and Woodburn chapters hosted a dedication ceremony for a new historical marker commemorating the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's visit to the City of Wheeling. When Joan Gibson attended a Lafayette Marker dedication in Pennsylvania, she spoke with Julien Icher, the founder and president of the Lafayette Trail, Inc., concerning the placement of a marker in Wheeling. Debi Smith met with Julien, the City of Wheeling, and local historians for permission to place the marker at Heritage Point, a prominent location near the Ohio River where Lafayette arrived by riverboat in 1825, and the language on the marker. After the death of Debi Smith, Lisa McNeil continued with the plans. The event highlighted the historical significance of Lafayette's travels and his contribution to the American cause. Following the unveiling of the marker, a lecture from Mr. Icher highlighted Lafayette's contributions to the Revolutionary War



and his time spent in what is now West Virginia. The Pomeroy Foundation paid for the marker. The Woodburn and Wheeling chapters split Mr. Icher's fees. The Wheeling Chapter paid for the reception, travel expenses, and room rental. Officials from the City of Wheeling and representatives from ten DAR chapters attended. State Regent Jane Larke and WV FAMC State Chair Mickie Richardson

were present. Members of the American Friends of Lafayette organization were also in attendance. Thank you to the Wheeling and Woodburn chapters for this educational commemoration!

In March 2025, Suzanne Cronquist, FAMC East Division vice chair, reviewed the FAMC award entries submitted to the FAMC Division vice chairs. In June, Suzanne and Mickie Richardson plan to attend the FAMC Awards Ceremony at Continental Congress.

In April 2025, Suzanne Cronquist and Lisa McNeil set up a table at the WVDAR State Conference with the Lafayette Tour schedule information and Lisa's invite to the Wheeling Lafayette events in May.

Mickie Richardson attended the Marquis de Lafayette Trail Marker dedication in Marietta, OH, on May 18, and she attended the reenactment of Lafayette's Farewell Tour in Gallipolis, OH, on May 22. In Gallipolis, history was relived with the reenactment of the arrival of General Lafayette, portrayed by Michael Halbert, that included Lafayette's actual welcome speech as recorded by the local newspaper of the time.

State Regent Jane Larke will attend the SAR's Bicentennial Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour at Monument Place in Wheeling, WV, on May 24. As of the writing of this article, Lafayette, portrayed by Ben Goldman, is scheduled to arrive in a horse drawn carriage that and be met by a SAR color guard and the WVU File and Drum Corps. Lafayette is to make a presentation, and Mayor Dennis Magruder to read a proclamation from the City. The Wheeling Chapter is providing a reception of cake and punch for the event.

Nineteen West Virginia chapters noted activities in the Franco-American Memorial Committee on the 2024 Chapter Master Report. Chapters recorded 198 volunteer hours hosting or participating in a Lafayette Tour event. Other chapter activities included Lafayette programs, Lafayette minutes and Franco-American minutes read at chapter meetings, Lafayette Tour Proclamations, collaboration with other Franco-American organizations, use of social media to publicize a Franco-American related event, and donations of Franco-American related literature.

Mickie Richardson

Franco-American Memorial Committee State Chair



Welcome New Members

February 5, 2025-May 5, 2025

Anne Bailey

*Elizabeth Ford
Lori Lambert*

Bee Line

*Evelyn Abbess
Mallory Anderson
Polly Curtis
Betty Johnson
Alice Newton
Maria Elena Vollmar
Karla Yarbrough*

Blennerhassett

*Cristy Hanlon
Erin Phillips**

Buford

*Cheryl Hodge
Jane Jarvis
Amy Jones
Elizabeth Withers*

Cheat River

Sydney Deal
Linda Firebaugh
Barbara Hildebrand*

Colonel Charles Lewis

*Michaela Williamson**

Highlands of the Potomac

*Milene Kent
Ashley Price
Sharon Price
Laurie Roberts*

James Wood

Sharon Goode

John Cooke

Dusty Addair

Jonathan Sheppard

Iverna Tanner

Ohio Valley

Barbara Minor

Pack Horse Ford

*Ann Dyer
Emily Warner*

South Branch Valley

Courtney Blank
Quinn Lindsey**

Westmoreland

*Donna McCoy
Sarah Walling
Sandra Wiehe*

Wheeling

*Catherine McDowell
Elizabeth Ramsey
Sheila Stephens*

William Henshaw

*Carey Given
Marcy Hamby-Sowder*

**Junior*

President General's Project

The West Virginia State Society Daughters of the American Revolution has 40 chapters and has 100 percent participation in the President General Project! The amount required for our membership was \$13,852.50. WV chapters donated \$15,140.50.

The State of West Virginia and the administration of State Regent Jane Larke is WV PROUD to Support President General Pamela Rouse Wright's President General Project! Our efforts will directly support the restoration work being done in Memorial Continental Hall as we prepare our headquarters buildings for a grand salute to our nation in celebration of America 250!



Dina Braniff, WVDAR President General Project Chair, and Pamela Rouse Wright, NSDAR President General, at WVDAR State Conference May 2023 Project Sales Display, Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV.





DAR Leadership Training

West Virginia Daughters sparkled as they soared through the Galaxy during the 2024-2025 year. The DAR Leadership Training courses engage and encourage membership involvement in our Society.

Triple Crowns were in the air with sixteen WVDAR Daughters reaching the trifecta in Leadership Training! This is three more Triple Crowns than were awarded last year, making a



total of 39 WVDAR Triple Crown recipients. Thirteen members completed the Members Course, thirteen the Committee Leaders Course, and fifteen the New Horizons Course. Twenty-two members completed courses throughout the year with seven of these Daughters “new” DAR members. This is thirteen more Daughters than completed courses in 2023-2024. Years of WVDAR membership of course completers ranged from 2 months to 30+ years!

The following chapters were recognized with awards based on members completing courses:

- The WVDAR Executive Board earned the National Sparklers award.
- Seven chapters (Blennerhassett, Colonel Morgan Morgan, Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Colonel John Evans, Elizabeth Zane, Matthew French, Old Hickory, and South Branch Valley) earned the National Twinkling Star award. This was four more chapters than were recognized with this National award last year.
- Three chapters (Blennerhassett, Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Colonel John Evans, and Old Hickory) earned the National Shooting Star award. Last year only one chapter achieved the

Shooting Star level.

This year’s Triple Crown winners were: Stacey Adams (Blennerhassett Chapter), Susan Arnold (Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Colonel John Evans Chapter); Beth Belcher (Kanawha Valley Chapter), Mary Ellen Brown (Blennerhassett Chapter), Rita Cochran (Elizabeth Zane Chapter), Brenda Fisher (Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Colonel John Evans Chapter); Heather Harrison (Old Hickory Chapter), JoAnn Jones (Old Hickory Chapter), Helene Kerns (Member at Large); Teresa Lomasney (South Branch Valley Chapter), Barbara McFarland (Wheeling Chapter), Stella Moon (Matthew French Chapter), Beth Goodwin-Niggemeyer (Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter), Tina Seese (Ohio Valley Chapter), Mindi Snider (Daniel Davisson Chapter), and Lynn Stanley (Bee Line Chapter).

Heidi Wilkinson (William Henshaw Chapter) completed the Committee Leaders Course. Gloria Batten (Jonathan Sheppard Chapter), Kay Ferrill (Anne Bailey Chapter), Cathy Hebb (Blackwater Chapter), Terry Noland (Captain James Allen Chapter), and Joceyln Woods (Captain James Allen Chapter) completed the Members Course.

Congratulations to our award recipients for these achievements!

Mickie Richardson
WVDAR State Leadership Training Chair



Constitution Week

The West Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution are amazing! During the past three years we have had most of the chapters participating in many things involving Constitution Week.

Chapters rang bells, obtained many proclamations, made programs for school children and had displays in libraries, schools, and government buildings. A couple of the smaller chapters had week long programs.

Chapters made kits for the elementary children



and gave book marks to the older students. A total of 5,981 kits and book marks were distributed to school age students. Churches were also distributing book marks for Constitution Week. Also bells were rung at churches and in Court House squares. One chapter gave graduating students a copy of the Constitution Book.

Several chapters made banners and posters. A few chapters displayed Garden Flags. Chapters displayed banners across streets and in government buildings. Churches and scout groups were contacted and participated. We had two chapters who had marquees.

Constitution Week is shared by WVDAR September 17-23, but we can share the Constitution every day.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as Constitution Week Chair during the Larke Administration.

Best wishes for continued success for each chapter.

I remain your loyal servant in WVDAR.
Carolyn Kesterson



Patriot Records Project



Are you seeking new recognition for your DAR ribbon? Consider joining the Patriot Records Project Committee. By indexing 10,000 names on documents from the Revolutionary War era, you will become eligible to purchase a pin recognizing your contributions. This pin serves as

a testament to your involvement in the DAR and can be worn with pride.

For those who wish to further their participation, you may earn the Patriot Records Project bar by indexing an additional 10,000 names. This bar will be engraved with a quill for each subsequent 10,000 names indexed, commemorating your dedication and hard work.

To learn more about this initiative, please visit the Patriot Records Project Committee page on the members-only website (members.dar.org).

Judy Mathias
State Chair Patriot Records Project Committee

WITH THE CHAPTERS

Anne Bailey Chapter

Anne Bailey Chapter members Nickie Evenson and Mary Johnson attended the naturalization ceremony for the United States District Court,



Southern District of West Virginia, Chief Judge Robert W. Volk presiding, at the Robert C. Byrd Federal Courthouse in Charleston on January 17 and provided handouts to 34 new citizens. Nickie and Mary were even caught on camera by the WOWK-TV cameraman during the Pledge of Allegiance and were seen during the local news broadcast!



For the month of February, Nickie Evenson created a Black History Month display, "Celebrating Black History," at the Cross Lanes Library.

April saw several chapter members—State Registrar Patsy Adkins, Chapter Registrar Marsha Cobb, acting Western District Director Nickie Evenson, Regent Mary Johnson, and Vice Regent Stephanie Shahbandy—at State Conference in Bridgeport. Member Kay Ferrell could not accept her Members Course award in person because of a fall that left her with a broken bone, and she will receive her award at the June chapter meeting.



L-R: Marsha Cobb, Mary Johnson, State Regent Jane Larke, Nickie Evenson, and Patsy Adkins



Regent Mary Johnson attended the Bee Line Chapter dedication of the Eugenia Washington Highway Historical Marker and Patriot grave markers for Samuel and Thornton Washington at Harewood, the Washington home in Charles Town, on May 5. Mary, who is part of the highway historical marker review committee at West Virginia Archives and History, was thrilled to be there in person—even if the sole came loose on one of her shoes before the wreath presentation!



Courtesy Mary Ellen Brown



Bee Line Chapter

Bee Line Participates in Naturalization Ceremony

Members of the Bee Line Chapter in Charles Town recently took part in naturalization ceremony welcoming new citizens at the U.S. District Court Building in Martinsburg. Citizenship and service are core values honored by DAR, and few occasions capture these values better than do the rituals surrounding new Americans as they take their oath of allegiance to the United States.

On Friday, April 25, a class of 51 prospective



Bee Line members Marilyn Bremilst, Sharon Carrigan, and Alice McCarthy serve refreshments at the U.S. District Court in Martinsburg following a naturalization ceremony.

citizens presented themselves at the District Court, with the Honorable Chief Judge Gina Grove [Gina Groh] presiding, as they took the last step in completing their long journey toward naturalization. Representing countries of origin on six continents, they were greeted with remarks from all

levels of government, as well as from Alice McCarthy, honorary regent and Americanism chair for Bee Line Chapter. McCarthy added a personal welcome and shared her own family’s joy over her daughter-in-law’s journey toward citizenship.

McCarthy’s remarks focused on four “Vs” representative of each new citizen. First, “vision,” which refers to the strength of vision required for a person to choose a new country, learn its language and its customs, and become part of its future. Then, “voice,” which embodies the manner in which Americans speak out for themselves, their families, and their country. Next came “vote”: being an American means embracing both the right to vote and the will to vote, the act of choosing those who govern us. And finally, “victory,” a word that captured the essence of the naturalization ceremony itself. By taking the oath, each new citizen became a full citizen, with the same rights

Contents of the welcome package presented to new citizens by the members of Bee Line DAR.



and responsibilities as all other citizens. McCarthy then flashed a “V” sign, asking everyone to return that signal in recognition of their victorious arrival as new citizens. She ended with a blessing sent by her own mother, Dorothy Davenport, age 101: “Keep up the good work, you’re in my prayers, and Victory!”

McCarthy presented each new citizen with a welcome package that included a flag lapel pin, a pocket copy of Constitution, a patriotic bookmark, and a letter from the women of Bee Line welcoming their new fellow citizens. The letter stated, in part: “Your status as a naturalized citizen is no less important than that enjoyed by those of us who descend from the original patriots who helped to establish this nation. In fact, you have earned your citizenship by dedication, hard work, and determination whereas we have acquired ours simply by birth. Together, we share the hopes and



dreams of generations of immigrants who came to these shores in search of a better life."

After the ceremony, Bee Line presided over a reception honoring our community's new citizens, along with the friends and family who had supported their journey. Chapter members Marilyn Bremilst and Sharon Carrigan joined McCarthy in offering refreshments and congratulations to those assembled.

Bee Line DAR Honors Patriots and Founder at Harewood

The first weekend in May has been busy for the women of Bee Line Chapter DAR. Gathering on the lawn of the Harewood Estate near Charles Town, they welcomed members of the Washington family, of other DAR and lineage society chapters, historical interpreters, and the public to a celebration recognizing Eugenia Washington, who helped to found DAR in 1890, and honoring Samuel Washington and his son Thornton as Patriots of the American Revolution.

Harewood was chosen for the ceremony because of its history. Built by Samuel Washington and dating to 1770, it was the home of both Samuel and Thornton as well as the ancestral home of Eugenia, who was born at Megwillie, a separate estate carved in part from Harewood lands. Walter Washington, a direct descendant of Samuel and Harewood's current owner, provided the welcome to those assembled, and Heidi Ware, Bee Line Chapter's regent, served as the event's moderator.

Saturday's ceremony honored Samuel and Thornton Washington with markers designating



The color guard unit from General Adam Stephen Chapter SAR prepares to post the colors.

them as Patriots of the American Revolution. It also honored Eugenia Washington with a roadside historical marker acknowledging her role as one of the four women who founded NSDAR.

Those in attendance included not only the members of Bee Line Chapter, but also

NSDAR Registrar General Cynthia Parnell stands with Bee Line Regent Heidi Ware and NSDAR Corresponding Secretary General Janet McFarland as Ware presents them with a canvas representing highway marker honoring NSDAR founder Eugenia Washington.



representatives of several nearby DAR chapters, other lineage society groups, and patriotic organizations located in Virginia and West Virginia. Special guests included two DAR national officers, two former DAR national officers, and several current and former state and district DAR officers. They also included Washington family members representing the National Society of Washington Family Descendants. Altogether, the event welcomed about 120 guests.



Descendants of Samuel and Thornton Washington sit on the porch at Harewood, after dedicating Patriot markers honoring their ancestors.

Shown left to right are Austin Washington, Fleming Saunders V, Robert Asbury, Walter Washington, and Fleming Saunders V.

The ceremony began with a processional by the color guard unit organized by the General Adam Stephen Chapter SAR. An honor guard composed of living history interpreters from the 8th Virginia Regiment accompanied the color guard and stood in reverent attention throughout the day's proceedings.

Once the colors were posted, Bee Line Chaplain Sharon Carrigan offered an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alden Glassman of the Lawrence Augustine Washington Chapter C.A.R., and the National Anthem, sung



With Harewood in the background, Malinda “Mindy” Davis, America250 National Vice Chair; Cynthia Parnell, Registrar General; Heidi Ware, Bee Line Chapter Regent; Jane Larke, West Virginia State Regent; Janet McFarland, Corresponding Secretary General; Barbara “Barby” Frankenberry, past Curator General; and Darla Treat Courtney, West Virginia State Historian.

by Bee Line member Elizabeth “Liz” Ruffner.

Highlights of the ceremony included a letter from NSDAR President General Pamela Wright, read by America250 Committee National Vice Chair and former Vice President General Melinda “Mindy” Davis. The letter complimented the chapter and the Washington family on their efforts “to ensure the accomplishments, memory and spirit of our Patriot ancestors will be appreciated by future generations.”

NSDAR’s National Corresponding Secretary General Janet McFarland and National Registrar General Cynthia Parnell both offered remarks that emphasized the importance of recognizing the sacrifices of our Nation’s founding generation, as represented by Samuel and Thornton Washington, and the vision of Eugenia Washington in helping to create the NSDAR. Parnell, who currently serves as Eugenia’s direct successor in the role as the Registrar General, spoke of her personal debt to the example provided by NSDAR’s founding registrar. She also presented the Society of Washington Family Descendants with a gift: a copy of a DAR application approved and signed by Eugenia during the early 1890s.



Living history interpreters of the 8th Virginia Regiment accompanied the color guard and stood in reverent attention during the day’s proceedings.

reminding American women of their shared heritage as beneficiaries of the American Revolution. The founding of NSDAR with its core values of education, historic preservation, and patriotism was the direct result of that hope. The highway marker honoring Eugenia Washington is located about 1 mile east of Harewood along WV 51 near Ambler Road.

After the formal dedication of Eugenia’s marker, Watts spoke about the role played by the Washington family during the Revolution itself—and not just through the leadership provided by Samuel’s brother, General George Washington, who was a national figure. She explained how such individuals as Samuel, who served as a county lieutenant, and Thornton, a teenager who carried messages and money at his Uncle George’s request, had supported the cause of independence on a more local basis. As Watts framed it, the energy and the commitment of Patriots like Samuel and Thornton were key to the eventual success of the American Revolution. The Patriot markers honoring Samuel and Thornton



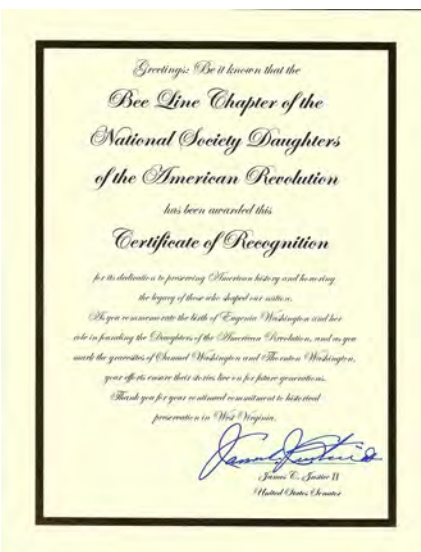
Washington were placed on the wall surrounding the Washington family cemetery at Harewood.



Living wreaths placed beside markers honoring Samuel Washington and his son Thornton at the Harewood Cemetery.

At the end of the ceremony, wreaths honoring all three Washingtons were placed by the National Society of Washington Family Descendants, a past NSDAR curator general, two WVDAR state officers, the WVDAR Eastern District director, six West Virginia DAR chapters (including Anne Bailey, Bee Line, Pack Horse Ford, Shenandoah Valley, South Branch Valley, and William Henshaw), and two Virginia chapters (Fort Loudoun and Lane’s Mill). Wreaths were also presented by the Lawrence Augustine Washington Chapter C.A.R.; General Adam Stephen Chapter SAR; West Virginia Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812; West Virginia Society, Daughters of American Colonists; the Adam Stephen Association; and the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

To bring the ceremony to a close, the Adam Stephen color guard fired a militia salute to honor the service of the Washington family, and after a benediction by the chaplain, retired the colors.



Certificate of Recognition presented to Bee Line Chapter by Senator Jim Justice.

Finally, in recognition of their efforts, the Daughters of Bee Line Chapter received a Certificate of Recognition from the Office of Senator Jim Justice, acknowledging the significance of this occasion. The recognition stated in part, “As you commemorate . . . Eugenia Washington and her role In founding the Daughters of the American Revolution, and as you mark the gravesites of Samuel and Thornton Washington, your efforts ensure their stories live on for future generations.” This comment mirrors exactly the fundamental goals and values of DAR.



Blackwater Chapter

Each year, the month of March is designated as “Women in American History” Month in which notable women are celebrated along with their accomplishments.

The Daughters of the American Revolution’s “Women in American History” Award is being presented during “Women in American History” Month by DAR chapters across our country. It is meant to honor great women—past or present—who have made a notable contribution in their communities resulting in a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals.

At their March 8 meeting held at Blackwater Lodge, Blackwater Chapter members honored Christine Luchok Fallon, who was unable to attend, and the late Sarah Thompson Fletcher with this prestigious award.

Christine Fallon, Reporter of Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, retired on September 25, 2024, after more than 30 years of court service. In 2011, she became the 16th person—and the first woman—to hold this position, which is one of the four officers of the court. She served as the Deputy Reporter of Decisions from 1989 to 2011.

Fallon earned her B.A. at West Virginia University in 1974, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and her J.D. at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law in 1977. She, then, was admitted to the Florida, Pennsylvania, and Supreme Court Bars and subsequently practiced law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Tallahassee, Florida.

Fallon was a legal editor at the Research



Institute of America in Washington, D.C. from 1982 to 1989. She has been active in the Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions, serving in several capacities, including president.

As the Deputy Reporter, she assisted in the editing and publication of 72 volumes of the United States Reports. In her capacity as the Reporter of Decisions, Fallon oversaw the publication of an additional 29 volumes.

During her tenure, Fallon worked closely with the Court staff to ensure the editorial quality of the Court's opinions. She also played an integral role in the Reporter's Office transition from a primary paper-based process to one employing advancement in electronic publishing and digital records management.

"Chris Fallon has performed a critical 'behind the scenes' role at the Court in ensuring we employ consistent-style conventions and checking the accuracy of our legal citations, as well as managing the publication of the bound volumes of U.S. Reports," said Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. "My colleagues and I deeply appreciate her tireless dedication to ensure the quality of our opinions as Deputy Reporter and Reporter over the past three decades."

WVDAR State Regent, Jane Jacobs Larke, accepted the award for Fallon.

Sarah Thompson Fletcher was born in Arthurdale, WV, to Ben and Dorothy Mayor Thompson and was a descendant of the owner of the Thompson Lumber Company and of hard-working farmers who owned a few thousand acres of land in Canaan Valley where she was raised.



Her life was characterized by a passion for learning, service, and adventure. Her education began in the two-room Cosner Grade School in Canaan Valley. She later graduated from Mountaineer High School in Thomas.

Sarah pursued her passion and became a nurse. She continued her education and earned a master's degree with the first graduating class from the WVU Advanced Nurse Practitioners Program. Dedication to healthcare led her to work in labor and delivery and later with Youth Health, where she assisted teenage girls during their pregnancies. She also served with the Hospice of Randolph County before her retirement.

Sarah's impact extended beyond her professional life. Besides being a loving wife and mother, she was a devoted member of the Buena Chapel United Methodist Church in Canaan Valley, where she held a representative position for the conference and served as a lay preacher as well as a Sunday school teacher. With a caring heart, she sponsored two boys at the Living Hope High School in Kenya, Africa, and visited them on multiple occasions. Her thirst for knowledge took her on numerous other domestic and international trips including visits to Alaska, Israel, and Italy.

Sarah's mother was a weaver and a National Heritage Fellow who learned to weave at the Arthurdale Homestead. She taught Sarah the art and the love of weaving. Sarah and her mother were known statewide for many decades, and they taught weaving to scores of individuals. Sarah was a talented weaver in her own right, and she later assumed the operations of her mother's business, the Ben's Old Loom Barn in Canaan Valley, continuing her family's legacy.

She was a remarkable individual and left an indelible mark on the people in her community. Her love for volunteering earned her the coveted "Tuckineer" Award from the Tucker County Chamber of Commerce in 2016. She was a member of the Canaan Valley VFD Ladies Auxiliary, the local book club, the American Nurses Association and the WV Nurses Association, who once recognized her with the "Nurse of the Year" Award. She was also a naturalist for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Sarah enjoyed sharing her family's history, investing in her community, and keeping her mind sharp until the end. She passed away in 2023

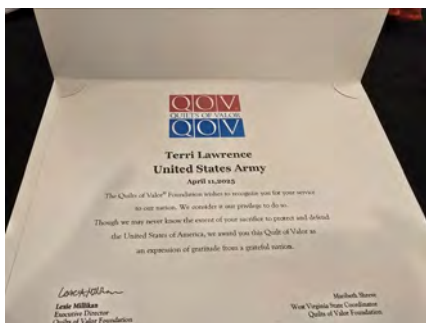


at the age of 80. Sarah's son, Ben Fletcher, and her niece, Jennifer Snyder, were present to accept this award, which was presented by Blackwater Chapter Regent, Cathy Hebb. Also attending the ceremony was Sarah's nephew, Mike Fletcher.



Blackwater Chapter members attending the 120th WVDAR State Conference were Marlayne Nestor, Terri Lawrence, Cathy Hebb, State Regent Jane Larke, Phyllis Garcia, Debbie Stevens, and Daryla Rapp.

Including certificates of individual achievement, Blackwater Chapter received a total of 18 certificates on Saturday evening. Most notable chapter awards were a 1st Place for Most Books Donated to Children (1,416) in Support of State Regent's Early Childhood Literacy Project, 1st Place for our support of the Honor Flight, and a certificate of recognition for being one of only two West Virginia DAR chapters who erected an America 250! Patriots Marker during 2024.



We are looking forward to having another successful year in 2025.

During the WVDAR State Conference's Friday evening

"R.E.D. A 'Sparkling' Celebration of America's Spirit" Banquet, Blackwater Chapter's Terri Lawrence was one of three WVDAR women

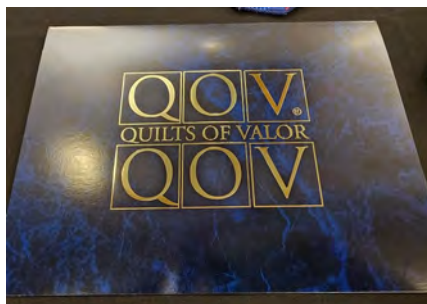
attending the Conference who were wrapped in their very own Quilt of Valor during a program given by West Virginia State Coordinator, Mrs. Maribeth Shreve. Terri was honored due to her service in the U.S. Army. Three women and seven men were honored during the program.



The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of



Valor. Due to the enormous amount of time required to make each quilt, it is impossible for every deserving veteran to be honored with one. (The waiting list is extremely long and distinguished.)



Terri's certificate reads:

Terri Lawrence United States Army April 11, 2025



"The Quilts of Valor Foundation wishes to recognize you for your service to our nation. We consider it our privilege to do so. Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice to protect and defend the United States of America, we award you this Quilt of Valor as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation."



Terri's Blackwater Chapter DAR sisters congratulate her on receiving this incredible honor and we wholeheartedly thank her for her service to our great country!



While the Saturday morning Business Meeting at the recent WVDAR State Conference was in progress, Blackwater Chapter Regent, Cathy Hebb, had the pleasure of escorting our conference



guests—First Vice President General Virginia Storage, DC State Regent Yvonne Liser, and Illinois State Regent

Christina Bannon to the historic home of Revolutionary War Patriot, Levi Shinn, for a tour by Shinnston's own Kathleen Panek, owner of the Gillum House B&B, who was wearing authentic period clothing.



The log dwelling was built in 1778 and measures 37 feet long and 20 feet deep. It features a large interior chimney providing fireplaces for several interior rooms including two upstairs bedrooms. It is

the oldest standing house in Harrison County and was last occupied by a family in 1972, the year the house was obtained by the Shinnston Historical Society. (A small kitchen and bathroom were added to accommodate the tenants.) Tours can be arranged through Mrs. Panek.

As Mrs. Storage and I chatted on the drive back to the hotel, she remarked, "I've probably been past that place 43 times and have never been in it until today!" (Mr. Storage is actually from Shinnston.) She and the other guests found the tour of the home very interesting!



Captain James Allen Chapter

Captain James Allen Chapter from Beckley has had an active 2025 so far. We kicked off the new



year by dedicating a memorial bench at the

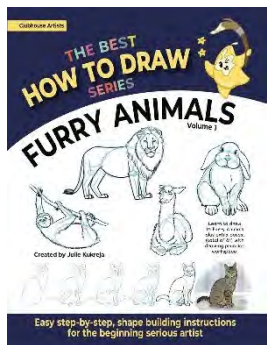


American Legion Cemetery in Beckley. This was a joint America 250! Project with the John

Beckley Chapter, NSSAR. The ceremony was attended by members of local and state governments, WVDAR, WVSAR and the public. A short program at the cemetery was followed by a catered reception at the recently relocated Raleigh County Veterans Museum. Many thanks to museum administrator Ron Hedrick for his work on the bench placement, for the reception space and for his dedication to veterans and our community.



In April the WVDAR State Conference was held in Bridgeport, WV. Karen Bonifacio, Cherri Farley, Terry Noland, Samantha Shleser, Linda Whitman and Jocelyn Woods represented our chapter. Jocelyn and Terry were recognized for completing the Members' Course, and Terry was installed as state librarian. It was a wonderful weekend packed with plenty of opportunities for fun and fellowship with Daughters from all over West Virginia.



We have a published author among us! Julie Kukreja has written and illustrated book #1 of an instructional art series called *The Best How to Draw Series*. Although it's aimed at children, anyone who wants to learn to draw would find it helpful. When she's not working on a book, Julie is creating her own beautiful art. Julie is a

chapter member and daughter of Linda Whitman.

Cherri Farley and Amy Choate are working on their Members Course and Jocelyn Wood is

working on the New Horizons Course.

For her Members Course Project Cherri enlisted the help of the chapter to donate goodies to the security department at the Beckley VAMC. She is pictured here with a wagonload plus 2 big bags of loot and a very happy recipient!



We can't talk about DAR courses without thanking state coordinator Mickie Richardson for her help!



Captain James Allen Chapter welcomed new members

L-R: Sally Chapman (Regent), Velma Lilly and Ginger Lilly (transferred from VA), Nikie Mitchell (reinstated & transferred), Terry Noland (registrar) and Carolyn Jones.



L-R: Sally Chapman, new member Jocelyn Woods, Terry Noland, new member Amy Choate, and Carolyn Jones.

with a ceremony conducted by Chaplain Carolyn Jones at our April meeting.

In support of children's literacy, chapter members contributed funds to purchase the first six books in a historical fiction series about the American Revolution. The books



by J. E. Ribbey center on the family of twelve-year-old Mercy Young as they navigate their way through the War starting with the Battle of Lexington. A set of books was donated to each of the 5 middle schools in Raleigh County, with a set also going to the main

branch of the Raleigh County Library.

On April 29, Cherri Farley, Linda Whitman and



Ginger Lilly (pictured r-l) represented our chapter at the Veterans Fair held at Summersville Armory. They set up a beautiful display with treats and information about DAR and our support and appreciation for our veterans. The chapter donated gift cards to be used as door prizes for the event.

Also in April, Ginger and her sister Velma Lilly cleaned veterans' grave stones at the American Legion Cemetery in Beckley as a service project.

In early May, Linda Sumner and Linda Whitman visited the Commission on Aging Senior Center on Kanawha Street in Beckley where they filled the planter at the front door with colorful flowers that



will attract pollinators. Thanks ladies for keeping our Chapter blooming in service to our community!



Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter

Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter participated in the Marion County History Expo in March. We had a display table for the chapter and one for Marquis de Lafayette Commemoration. Members enjoyed dancing, music, and introduced the public to our chapter. A local YouTube contributor included us in his video.

Eight of our members attended State Conference. Junior member Ashley Maxwell served as a page. We received 22 awards for our chapter. Two of our Hodars, Mark



Niggemyer and Lloyd Smith, received Quilts of Valor. Beth Niggemyer received her Triple Crown for classes. Barbara Channell was installed as state historian.

At the April George Rogers Clark Chapter SSAR meeting, Regent Barbara Channell and Pattie Norman presented Chris Vincent and Lloyd Smith with the Bronze Hannah White Arnett Award. Pattie Norman also attended 2 SAR grave markings.

April 10, the State Gold Star Mothers Flower Garden and Bench was dedicated in Fairmont, WV.



Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter was honored to complete the memorial with this beautiful addition. As the Gold Star Mothers Memorial was the Regent Project of Malinda Davis, 2016-2019, we were honored to have her bring greetings and



Sandra Skar, Secretary of WV Gold Star Mothers Shirley White, Past Vice President General Malinda Davis, WV State Regent Jane Larke, Chapter Regent Barbara Channell, 1st Vice President WV Gold Star Mothers Rosa Shilling



share her family story of a Gold Star Mother. Representatives from the WV Gold Star Mothers recognized their fallen sons. SFC Brandon Hodge; HG, 1st BN 201st Field Artillery Regt. WVARNG presented each Gold Star Mother with a yellow rose. Regent Jane Larke and State Chaplain Barbara Holt performed the dedication ceremony. Marion County Honor Guard gave the salute, Braeden Sharps played taps and Marion County Color Guard posted the colors. Our members taking part in the program were Chapter Regent Barbara Channell, Beth Niggemyer, Ashley Maxwell, Chaplain Patty Haught and Registrar Pattie Norman. The event received media coverage on WBOY and *Times West Virginian* newspaper.

In March we held our elections for the 2025-2028 term. Those holding office will be:

- Regent: Beth Niggemyer
- Vice Regent: Sandy Kisner
- Chaplain: Patty Haught
- Recording Secretary: Resa Smith
- Treasurer: Ashley Maxwell
- Registrar: Barbara Channell
- Historian: Rebecca Walters
- Librarian: Denise Noseworthy



Daniel Davison Chapter

On February 10, Daniel Davison Chapter hosted a tea at the Bridgeport Public Library to celebrate their America 250 grant which provided books on American patriots to five local libraries. Librarians from



all five libraries attended along with WVDAR Regent Jane Larke, a representative from U.S. Senator Jim Justice and members of the public. Tami Reeves instituted the grant in its entirety with support for the tea from Laura Fullen and Kathy Miller. WBOY-TV covered this event.

Chapter members enjoyed the 120th WVDAR conference held in Bridgeport April 11-13. We are very proud of Mindi Snider for being the recipient of her cords for completing all three DAR courses this fall and winter. At the conference last year, Tami Reeves received her three cords, so we now have two members wearing their tiaras at formal DAR events.



In June, chapter members will erect a Flag Day display at the Bridgeport Public Library and present gift bags to new United States citizens at the naturalization ceremony in Clarksburg.



Highlands of the Potomac Chapter

The Highlands of the Potomac Chapter held its 3rd anniversary social on March 2. It was held at the Candlewyck Inn. Regent Darlene Frederick conducted the opening programs including a patriot song, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the American's Creed. She greeted guests, spouses and SAR members and prospective members.



Patrick Henry, aka Diana Harvey, gave the *full* "Give me Liberty" speech. This was to celebrate the 250th anniversary of this speech given on March 23, 1775. Shelia Dyche, commemorative events chairman, read



that on February 1735, Morgan Morgan created the 201st Field Artillery in Virginia. Today, celebrating 290 years and located in Clarksburg, WV, the 201st, is the oldest artillery in the United States. The invocation was given by Chaplain Shirley Pyles. The meal was served.



On March 17, Patrick Henry also gave his speech to a group of students. These students are a part of the Youth With A Mission school in Keyser. All the students received a copy of Patrick Henry's speech.



James Wood Chapter

Spring has been a busy time for James Wood Chapter. At our February meeting we were pleased to hear from a HODAR who participated in an Honor Flight. He had an interesting and emotional story to share.

In March, we met at the beautiful McCandelish House in the Parkersburg Historic District. The house was built in the 1860s and the current owners have invested a lot of time and money to restore it to its original beauty. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We enjoyed our annual Guest Day meeting in April. We were honored with a visit from WVDAR Regent Jane Larke, other state officers and guests from other chapters. Craig Pyles, Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park director, shared with us about the island. There is a lot of history on the island, and we encourage everyone to visit.

The following weekend was the State Conference. We enjoyed working with Anne Royall Chapter to host the Saturday luncheon. State Conference is always an enjoyable experience meeting new friends, renewing old friendships and sharing ideas with other chapters.

Our chapter received many awards at the conference. We were honored as first place in WVDAR with our America 250 bench adding thirteen



additional Patriots discovered buried in Wood County. Thank you for giving us this honor.

The May meeting included the election of new officers, Oath of Membership to Sharon Goode, and a Memorial Service for Daughters who passed in the last year. Daughters also brought in family heirlooms to share, including a Civil War long gun, quilts and antique jewelry.

New officers for James Wood installed May 3 include: Susan Nutter, regent; Louise Wince, vice regent; Jane Richards, secretary; Stephanie Detrio, treasurer; Julia Hoffman, registrar; Olga Thomas, chaplain; Barbara Vierheller, historian; Mary Anne Murray, librarian.

Congratulations to new James Wood officers.

Our chapter has enjoyed working with Regent Larke. We appreciate all of the support, advice, and friendship we have shared and look forward to working with our new officers.





Jonathan Sheppard Chapter

The Jonathan Sheppard Chapter is proud to be the newest DAR chapter in West Virginia, confirmed on March 5, 2025, with 22 members. We held our first meeting on March 15, and State Parliamentarian Brenda Cheuvront was on hand to administer the oath of office to Regent Gloria Batten and Chaplain Kay Hill, followed by all other officers and new members. At that meeting members donated items and put together a basket for the annual volunteer fire department raffle that evening.



Cassie Mason,
Cherokee Wilkey

Four of our members were able to attend the state conference, 3 of them first-time attendees. They felt very welcome and were impressed with the offers of help and support from other WVDAR daughters. One of our members, Cherokee Wilkey, was honored to receive a Quilt of Valor in recognition of her service in the U.S. Navy.



Cherokee Wilkey

On April 21, our chapter participated in a grave-marking ceremony in Parkersburg with the Capt. James Neal SAR Chapter. Regent Gloria Batten and Treasurer Shirley McCoy placed a wreath from our chapter on the grave of patriot Joseph Cook.



Shirley McCoy,
Gloria Batten

We celebrated our new chapter with a luncheon on April 26 and were honored to have our State Regent Jane Larke and State Parliamentarian Brenda Cheuvront in attendance. Daughters from eight chapters in West Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina joined us to celebrate our new chapter. Our members are very enthusiastic and proud to be part of a DAR chapter!



L-R Front: Shirley McCoy, Kay Hill, Rebecca Rodak, Carole Menefee. Back: Naomi Lockhart, Barbara Corbitt, Cherokee Wilkey, Gloria Batten, Jane Larke, Mary Lou Sheppard, Rebecca Sheppard, Deborah Darling, and Cassie Mason



Matthew French Chapter

Roberta Catherine Kniffen Woodson, a 53-year member of the Matthew French Chapter, passed away on January 30, 2025. The chapter will remember her in a June memorial service.

The Chapter Master and State Reports were completed in a timely manner. In February, the chapter meeting was moved to a Zoom meeting due to inclement winter weather. Cindy Masterson, an associate member, presented the "125th Anniversary of DAR Participation in the Paris Exposition of 1900."

In March, the Margaret McKensey N.S.C.A.R.



Olivia Morgan and Maria Anne Barrera, Margaret McKensey N.S.C.A.R.

celebrated its first members, Olivia Morgan and Maria Anne Barrera. Olivia is the daughter of Opal Morgan. Maria Anne is daughter of Janice Barrera and granddaughter of Stella Moon.

Member Nell Bowman presented a program on Jane Addams, the founder

of Hull House.

Opal Morgan delivered a sunshine bag of school supplies donated to Trena Hurley at



Opal Morgan presents the Sunshine Bag to Trena Hurley, Brushfork Elementary School teacher.



Brushfork Elementary School. Trena was all smiles and most appreciative of the donation.

Stella Moon, regent; Heather Farley, vice-regent and treasurer; Michelle Sparks, registrar; JoAnna Fredeking, librarian; Nell Bowman and Nicole Bowman, attended the WVDAR State Conference. The chapter was awarded 24 certificates for various honors. The chapter placed first in digital scrapbook and pressbook for small chapters. Michelle Sparks was recognized for her outstanding contributions as a volunteer genealogist. Stella Moon was recognized for



Nicole Bowman, Michelle Sparks, JoAnna Fredeking, Nell Bowman, Stella Moon, and Heather Farley

completing the Committee Leaders and New Horizons Courses. She was awarded the Triple Crown. Stephanie Bragg, PikeView High School's civics and social studies teacher, was recognized as an Outstanding Educator by the WVDAR.

In April, JoAnna Fredeking presented a program on John Philip Sousa, The March King. JoAnna played *Stars and Stripes* when she was a member of the Mercer Elementary and Princeton High schools' bands.

The chapter recognized Mercer County teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week with

donuts for the elementary schools and cookie trays for the middle and high schools. The teachers enjoyed the treats and being thanked for their commitment to teaching our youth.

Teacher Appreciation Week, Anna Lilly, PikeView High School principal



Pack Horse Ford Chapter

Pack Horse Ford Chapter celebrated 109 years of service during its annual birthday luncheon at The Sycamore at Stonebridge restaurant in Martinsburg on Saturday, February 15, 2025. Despite the burst of rain, sleet, and snow, attendees braved the storm and enjoyed a delightful lunch and interesting program.



Historian Kathy Klein decorated all the tables with an arrangement of roses, flowers, and greenery. Chaplain Kathy Sholl placed Valentines and candy kisses at each place setting. The chapter was honored to welcome Eastern District Director Margaret "Margie" Ways.

Mike Benson was the featured speaker. He currently serves as the president of the General Adam Stephen Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). He is also the husband of Pack Horse Ford Chapter member Susan Benson. Benson presented a program providing details of the upcoming local events for the Bee Line March 250th Anniversary Celebration. The planning started nine months ago. The Bee Line March is the account of a regiment of 100 Berkeley County men led by Captain Hugh Stephenson, the Berkeley County Riflemen, and a regiment of 100 men from Frederick County led by



Captain Daniel Morgan, who marched 600 miles to Cambridge, Massachusetts in only 24 days. Once there, the brave men from our area helped to expel the British from Boston.

There are a number of exciting events planned, including a parade on June 14, 2025, starting at Morgan's Grove Park and proceeding to Elmwood Cemetery, both in Shepherdstown. The Shepherdstown Pack Horse Ford Chapter will hold a wreath-laying ceremony on June 14 at 11 a.m. The public is cordially invited. On that same day at Morgan's Grove Park, there will be musket and drill presentations by Revolutionary War Militia. Uniformed SAR members, children's games, BBQ, and more are planned.

The chapter was organized in Shepherdstown on George Washington's birthday on February 22, 1916, by Anna "Pink" Chapline Phillips. In 2017, Regent Kathy Sholl began the annual tradition of lighting three candles, each candle to represent the past, present, and future. Cindy Jones Nicewarner was the chapter historian, 2013-2019, and she wrote the candle lighting ceremony. Historian Kathy Klein led the candle lighting ceremony this year.

Pack Horse Ford Chapter received a \$500 grant from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to print 300 colored brochures titled, "Revolutionary War Patriot Burials in Shepherdstown, West Virginia," and to distribute these copies to the local community free of charge.

Copies were recently shared with the



Kathy Sholl, Lois Kimble, and Addison Reese providing brochures to the Shepherdstown Public Library.

Shepherdstown Public Library, Shepherdstown Welcome Center, and the Historic Shepherdstown Commission and Museum, each receiving 100 copies of the brochure. The brochure's purpose is to highlight Shepherdstown's role in the American Revolution. The brochure will encourage residents and visitors to explore the town's graveyards and to get a jump-start on the Bee Line

March's 250th Commemoration in June 2025. The brochure will also educate visitors to Shepherdstown on the part men and women played in helping to achieve American independence and the patriots who are buried in Shepherdstown.

The preface of the brochure states in part, "Mecklenburg, Virginia, which is now Shepherdstown, WV, played a significant role in achieving American independence from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War years, 1775 to 1783. A town of about 1,000 residents, primarily of German and English descent, Mecklenburg saw as many as 100 of its citizens serve as soldiers in the Continental Army. It has been said that the town had a larger per capita of men in service than any other town in Virginia. Other residents furnished material aid to the colonists' war effort and/or held Berkeley County, Virginia, leadership positions."

"This brochure provides brief information on the patriots that are buried in Shepherdstown with an emphasis on their Revolutionary War service...It is hoped that, as our nation nears its 250th anniversary, the information contained herein will lead to a greater appreciation of these remarkable individuals and help showcase the important part Mecklenburg played in the American Revolution."

The brochure includes the names of patriot graves found in Shepherdstown, including the Reformed Graveyard, Old English Episcopal Graveyard, Elmwood Cemetery, Shepherd Burial Ground, and patriots on government or private property.

The brochure also highlights the "Bee Line March Monument," located inside the gate of Elmwood Cemetery. The monument was erected in 1932 by the Pack Horse Ford Chapter, DAR. The monument is a seven-foot-high granite shaft with a large bronze tablet commemorating the 98 citizen-soldiers of Captain Hugh Stephenson's Company of Riflemen that made the 24-day, 600-mile trek from Morgan's Spring near Mecklenburg, Virginia to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the summer of 1775. Carved at the top of the monument are the words "The Spirit of 1775."

The bronze plaque on the monument contains the following inscription: "Less than half-a-mile eastward is the famous spring around which,



from their rendezvous on lands of Bedinger and Morgan July 17th, 1775, Captain Hugh Stephenson's Company of Virginia Riflemen, 98 volunteers, started on their bee-line march to Bostontown, 600 miles away, reporting to George Washington on August 11th. They all pledged to meet at this spring fifty years hence, if alive."

The 13-page brochure provides 15 colored photos of graves or graveyards, addresses for each graveyard, and GPS coordinates. A DAR America 250! Celebration Grant made the printing of this brochure possible. Printing was provided by Specialty Printing and Marketing in Shepherdstown.

In March, our chapter recognized 124 students in grades five through eight from three local schools for participating in the American History Essay Contest. First place winners in each age category read their essays. Students placing first, second, and third in each category were presented awards. Three first place winners from our chapter won first place for the state and were invited to attend the awards luncheon at State



Conference in Bridgeport: Emily Hendrix, 5th grade, Mill Creek Intermediate School; Jacob Severance, 6th grade, Saint Joseph School; Jimena Olivera, 7th grade, Saint Joseph School.

Pack Horse Ford Chapter First Vice Regent Lois Kimble presented three cadets with DAR awards during the Jefferson High School United States Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) awards ceremony in April.

The recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Pin, certificate, and \$250 was awarded to Cadet Claire Burkhardt, a senior in the program who served as a Squadron Commander this year, responsible for



Claire Burkhardt



Breandan Mullins

developing and molding nearly 90 first-year cadets.

The recipient of the Bronze JROTC Medal, certificate, and \$250 was awarded to Cadet Breandan Mullins, a junior who now serves as the Kitty Hawk Honor Society Commander.

The Dorrene Gageby Hale Scholarship award was awarded by the Pack Horse Ford Chapter to Cadet Bradley May. May plans to attend West Virginia University and major in business. He was selected for this scholarship based on his outstanding academic achievement and leadership within the Corps of Cadets.



Bradley May

The annual chapter picnic was held in May. Five members of General Adam Stephen Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution were recognized for their enthusiastic support and participation in chapter activities and events during these six years of Regent Cindy Nicewarner's tenure. These men were presented with the Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal: Mike Benson, Marty Keesecker, Don Hale, Steven Englebright, and Jim Auxer.

Chaplain Kathy Sholl swore in the new chapter officers that will serve June 30, 2025, through 2028:

Chapter Regent - Susan Benson

1st Vice Regent - Becki Hill, M.D.

2nd Vice Regent - Rosalind Grenfell

Chaplain - Kathy Sholl

Recording Secretary - Nicole Saunders-Meske



New chapter officers sworn in while Don Hale looks on

- Treasurer - Emilie Platt
- Registrar - Lauren Turco
- Historian - Kathy Klein
- Librarian - Ann Hunter

Cindy Nicewarner has completed two three-year terms as chapter regent. She extends much appreciation to her board, many who have served more than one term of office: First Vice Regent Lois Kimble; Second Vice Regent Rosalind Grenfell; Chaplain Kathy Sholl; Recording Secretary Nicole Saunders-Meske; Treasurer Katherine Genung; Registrar Lauren Turco; Historian Kathy Klein; Librarian Patricia Toffling; and Parliamentarian Cheryl Brown. Cindy is very grateful to chapter members and friends in the Eastern District and across the state for making these six years a memorable experience.



Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Shenandoah Valley Chapter celebrated long-standing member Margaret "Margie" Ways's nomination for the WV Outstanding Literacy Award and Excellence in Community Service Award at their January meeting.



Margie standing between previous "Woman in the Community Award" recipients Barby Frankenberry (displaying her certificate as a visual aid to what Margie will be receiving) and Sally Ann Greenfield.

In February, the Shenandoah Valley Chapter gifted Friends of Happy Retreat (FoHR) with the book *Founding Gardeners, The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation*, by Andrea Wulf. *Founding Gardeners* had been chosen by chapter members to read for their third Book Club discussion. They presented the book to Archivist and Historian Marjorie Gaestel with a request that it be passed along for inclusion in the library currently being developed at Happy Retreat. Along with other DAR members in another chapter, Darla Treat Courtney played a supporting role in developing Happy Retreat's onsite colonial herb garden, which in turn provided a connection to the book's subject matter. Thus, the book is symbolic of the many ways in which various local institutions and organizations overlap and cooperate in their core values and service orientation.



During the Shenandoah Valley Chapter NSDAR, March 11, 2025, meeting held in the Arden United Methodist Church Family Life Center, Susanne Long Horner presented Margie Ways, with an appreciation certificate for her help with the "Wreaths Across America" program that was held in the Arden UM Church and graveyard, December 14, 2024. Susanne Long Horner, Shenandoah Valley Chapter NSDAR member, coordinated this annual event with the assistance of members of the John Augustine Washington Society Children of the American Revolution.



Seven Shenandoah Valley Chapter members attended the West Virginia State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (WVDAR) 120th State Conference held at Bridgeport Conference Center, Bridgeport WV, April 11-13, 2025. The conference theme "West Virginia 'Sparkles' for the Red, White, & Blue" was enjoyed by chapter members.

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Our chapter definitely “Sparkled” bringing home 23 chapter and individual awards from our 2024 programs and reports.

Margie Ways was installed as State Officers Club President for the 2025-2028 term. The focus for the State Officers Club is to provide training and support for WVDAR members taking on new leadership roles.



Margie standing between previous "Woman in the Community Award" recipients Barby Frankenberry (displaying her certificate as a visual aid to what Margie will be receiving) and Sally Ann Greenfield.

Shenandoah Valley members Barby Frankenberry and Margie Ways enjoyed the “Hats Off to America” Cameo Club Luncheon. Margie was installed as Club Treasurer and Barby as Club Historian.

Jerell Wright, Shenandoah Valley Chapter regent, and her daughters Karsen and Mary, Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.), served as pages for the conference. They were instrumental in keeping the conference running smoothly.

Our 2025 Chapter and State American History Essay winner for 8th grade, Natalie Albright, and her family also attended the WVDAR State Conference “Celebrating Our Sparkling Stars” award luncheon on Saturday, April 12.

And the winner is “Sovereignty!” Shenandoah Valley Chapter members joined by John Augustine Washington C.A.R. members Karsen and Mary Wright (who helped host the meeting) enjoyed a Kentucky Derby Party on May 3 in accompaniment to Shenandoah Valley NSDAR’s monthly meeting. The meeting concluded with the



Pictured Front: Jerell, Karsen and Mary Wright, and Margie Ways; Back row left to right: Deanna Kay, Carol DeHaven, Debbie Ford, Sally Greenfield, Brenda Pruett, Barby Frankenberry, Penny Hoeflinger, Sylvia Rhodes; Standing Tina Marquart

installation of our new and returning officers, installed by chaplain Sylvia Rhodes.



South Branch Valley Chapter

Our chapter held its first regular meeting for 2025 in March with a memorable event. Judy Bowyer, regent, gave the oath of membership to her granddaughter Courtney Blank.

Courtney has been a member of C.A.R. for eight years and is a welcome addition to our chapter. Also at this meeting, JoeAnn Eye circulated the current *American Spirit* magazine which had an article (and photo!) about our chapter’s America 250! event.



We were all pleasantly surprised to be included in this national magazine.





April brought us to the 120th WVDAR State Conference, hosted by the Northern District chapters at the Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport, WV.

Keynote speaker was Marybeth Shreve, who began quilting in 2003 and is now the WV state coordinator, Quilts of Valor.



She recounted the history of the Quilts of Valor organization; its purpose and the requirements necessary to obtain one of these handmade quilts. The quilts are a **thank you** to veterans to remind them of our appreciation for their service and sacrifice. In a very moving ceremony, eleven

veterans received the "Quilts of Valor" including Regent Judy Bowyer's husband Ron Bowyer.

At our chapter meeting later in April, we welcomed another member to the



NSDAR as Eleanor Higgins was given the oath of membership. Eleanor is the daughter of member Jerin Higgins.

In early May, member Bonnie Myers attended the Bee Line Chapter's Historical Marker Dedication for Eugenia Washington, one of the four founders of DAR. This was immediately followed by Patriot Grave Markings for Samuel Washington (brother of George Washington) and Thornton Washington (nephew of

George Washington) where she placed a wreath on behalf of South Branch Valley Chapter.

In June, some members of our chapter plan to celebrate the Bee Line March, commemorating Jefferson County's key Revolutionary War event. In 1775, 98 riflemen from Shepherdstown marched 600 miles in 25 days to support General Washington in Boston, earning the "Bee Line" nickname for their quick pace. The commemoration features a Sons of the American Revolution march from Morgan's Grove Park to Elmwood Cemetery, followed by a Daughters of the American Revolution wreath-laying ceremony at the Bee Line March monument. The public is welcome to join both events.



Westmoreland Chapter

April 19, 2025, was a day filled with monumental achievements for Westmoreland Chapter DAR. It was a jubilant celebration as the chapter commemorated its 50th anniversary. Members and guests enjoyed a patriotic red, white, and blue tribute which included a balloon arch, dainty flowers in gold vases with tinkling lights. A delicious meal with a beautiful cake made the event even more festive.

After dinner, Regent Stephanie Smith unveiled the return of the long, lost chapter charter to the joy of its members. The charter, signed on April 19, 1975, became lost in a former regent's home and was poised to be sold at an estate sale in Ceredo, WV, when the significance of the document was realized, and the Ceredo Historical Society was contacted. The charter was housed there for a while until space became limited. The Wayne County Genealogical and Historical Society then received a request to house the document. It was only then that someone realized that Westmoreland Chapter was the rightful owner of the charter. A member of the WCGHS contacted Registrar Wylma Skean who almost broke into tears as she was shown the precious treasure.



Skean then contacted other ladies from Westmoreland Chapter who also were stunned that this missing piece of history had returned home. The members at the party cheered as the story of the charter's return was shared and the charter was unveiled. State Regent Jane Larke attended the event and was thrilled to be there for the charter's unveiling, but the night was still young and one last award filled the night with electricity.

Earlier in the week, State Regent Larke contacted Westmoreland Chapter's regent to share the fantastic news that the veteran that she had nominated, Ronald Wroblewski, had been chosen as the recipient of the National DAR Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award. What a perfect night to honor Mr. Wroblewski with this award. Mr. Wroblewski will be honored at the Continental Congress on National Defense Night on June 28. Mr. Wroblewski has volunteered thousands of hours serving veterans.



The 50th Anniversary of Westmoreland Chapter was a night to be remembered. It was a blessing to celebrate the history and members of such a wonderful chapter. May the ties of DAR friendship and fellowship continue to help Westmoreland to grow and be a positive force in their community.



William Henshaw Chapter

Service Blooms Like Spring Flowers for the William Henshaw Chapter, NSDAR

The spring months of 2025 have been a particularly busy time for the members of the William Henshaw Chapter, NSDAR. Pocket flags that were previously prepared by the chapter members, were distributed to deploying troops by members Julia Gates, Janet Farmer and Shelley Hamilton. Additional flags were folded at the WVDAR State Conference and service thank you cards prepared as well. They will be distributed at a future date to

veterans at the Martinsburg VA. Prayer blankets will also be delivered. The prayer blankets were made by member Janet Farmer.

The April meeting saw the presentation by the Nominating Committee of the slate of officers to be voted on at the May meeting. These included Regent, Deborah E. Hammond; Vice Regent, Pamela Brush; Recording Secretary, Shelley Hamilton; Treasurer, Laura Shifflett; Registrar, Joanne Krishack; Historian, Jackie Richards; Librarian, Angela Daley and two candidates for chaplain that were acted upon at the May meeting. Chaplain, Shelley Hamilton, reported that she had sent 32 seed packets to the Hindman Settlement School for their annual seed shower. This marks the second year in which Shelley Hamilton has participated in this worthwhile effort. Congratulations also to new member, Krist Hamby-Sowder, who was installed by Chaplain Shelley Hamilton.



Jane Larke, WV DAR State Regent, Deborah E. Hammond, Pamela Brush, Laura Shifflett, Joanne Krishack, Jaqueline Richards, Angela Daley.

State Regent Jane Larke attended the May meeting of the chapter, and following the election of officers, officiated at the installation ceremony for the new officers. Shelley Hamilton and new Chaplain, Eileen Southerly, will be sworn in at a later meeting. The new officers will not assume their posts until after the National DAR Conference or Continental Congress in the month of June. State Regent Jane Larke also presented service awards that were received at the WV DAR conference in the month of April. Attended by members Carey Given, Joanne Krishack, Pamela Brush, Julia Gates and prospective member, Cynthia Thompson, the conference provided vital



information on upcoming dates of note and awarded first place distinction for the small chapter Scrapbook Competition to Jackie Richards and third place, small chapter Press Book to Deborah E. Hammond.

Following the meeting, members of the chapter attended a historical marker dedication

honoring Eugenia Washington and Patriot grave markings for Samuel Washington and Thornton Washington. The event was sponsored by the Bee Line Chapter, DAR. Members Joanne Krishack, Julia Gates, Carey Givens, Pamela Brush and Prospective Member Cynthia Thompson, were in attendance.



DISTRICT NEWS

*Patricia Goodwin, Central District Director
Christine Mundy, Chapter Regent
and
Elizabeth Zane Chapter, NSDAR*

Cordially Invite You to Attend

The 78th Central District Meeting
Saturday, July 19, 2025
*Registration and Refreshments: 9:00 AM
Meeting: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Lunch: Noon*

Bicentennial Inn, Green Room
90 East Main Street,
Buckhannon, WV 26201

RSVP by July 1, 2025

Send Registration Form and Check to:
Eileen Johnston
440 Norvell Drive
Buckhannon, WV 26201
5506egmj@gmail.com

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

DAR Chapter: _____

Office (chapter and/or state) _____

State Committee Chair: _____

Are you a military veteran? ___ Branch of service: _____

Breakfast: table centerpiece assortment of fruit, croissants, scones, and muffins; coffee/tea

Lunch: Baked chicken, potato casserole, corn, side salad, rolls, and cake; beverages

Please mail this form with check for **\$38.00** payable to:
Elizabeth Zane Chapter, NSDAR to Eileen Johnston,
440 Norvell Drive, Buckhannon, WV 26201. Checks must be received by July 1, 2025.

Please indicate any dietary restrictions on the back.

District	Director (2025-2028)	Secretary (2025-2028)	Treasurer (2025-2028)	District Meeting 2025
Central	Pat Goodwin Trans-Allegheny	Kathy Kidd Tanners Cross Roads	Linda Huggins Cheat River	July 19, 2025 Hosted by Elizabeth Zane
Eastern	Judy Bowyer South Branch Valley	Jerell Wright Shenandoah Valley	Bonnie Myers South Branch Valley	August 16, 2025 Hosted by Highlands of the Potomac
Northern	Julia Hoffman James Wood	Anna Carson Ohio Valley	Annetta Siers Anne Royall	August 23, 2025 Hosted by Anne Royall
Southern	Stella Moon Matthew French	Linda Whitman Captain James Allen	Deborah Phillips General Andrew Lewis	July 12, 2025 Hosted by Matthew French
Western	Nickie Evenson Anne Bailey	Linda Quinn Keeling Kanawha Valley	Sheila P. Stevenson Westmoreland	August 9, 2025 Hosted by Buford



Keep an eye in your e-mail for announcements from the WVDAR about other upcoming district meetings.



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

If you haven't checked out the public-facing WVDAR Facebook page or the WVDAR Website, consider doing so. Ask to be added to the members Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1911199812483471>) so that you can follow WVDAR and chapter news.

In addition, the website has a members-only section that requires a login. Reach out to current WVDAR Volunteer Information Specialist Ericka Chevront (until the end of June) or the next VIS Chair about setting up a password.

In that section, members will find *WVDAR News* from recent administrations, proceedings of the Cheryl Brown Administration and eventually of the Jane Larke Administration, a few governing documents, and the State Information Packet (SIP). The SIP of the next administration will be added, likely before Fall. In case you don't know, the SIP has information from state officers and committee chairs that may include contests, deadlines, tips and other guidance useful to your chapter for your own activities.



Members of several WVDAR chapters attended Hoot Owl at the West Virginia Archives and History Library on May 16, the first Hoot Owl held since COVID. Hoot Owl is an opportunity to perform research in the library after hours. (Your trusty newsletter editor was working.)

From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who has submitted articles to the *West Virginia DAR News* over the course of State Regent Jane Larke's administration. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as her newsletter editor and to read about the numerous ways in which West Virginia Daughters have fulfilled her state theme, "West Virginia Blooms Through Service and Friendship." I hope to see many of you at one of the upcoming district meetings this summer.

Mary Johnson, Newsletter Editor
annebaileydar@gmail.com

