



# FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



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Compatriots, I begin this newsletter with the sad news of the passing of Compatriot James Francis Hoak on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March and of former Compatriot Julian M. Quarles, Jr. on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. There have also been two deaths in our VASSAR family as well. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Past VASSAR President Kent Webber died. Kent was President in 2013-2014 and installed our Chapter officers at our January 2014 meeting. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Sherry Davenport died. Sherry was the wife of immediate past VASSAR Color Guard Commander Peter Davenport.

I also want to mention some good news. Since our last newsletter, we have a new Compatriot, Joseph L. Price, who was initiated by our immediate Past VASSAR President, Reverdy Wright, at our April joint meeting with the General Daniel Morgan Chapter which was held in Staunton. We will also soon welcome to our Chapter Compatriot Steven R. Giddens who is in the process of transferring his membership from his Chapter in Vermont. We also have several who are in the process of joining the SAR and our Chapter. We also look forward to having Compatriots of the General Daniel Morgan Chapter attend our future meetings.

Our Chapter continues to remain active by participating in a number of events. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, Past Chapter President Hank Almond and I, along with my wife, Norma, represented our Chapter and presented our Chapter wreath at the dedication of a VASSAR monument commemorating those patriots buried in Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, VA. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Chapter President Tom Pettit, VASSAR and Chapter Chaplain Roy Martin and I represented our Chapter at the Graves Mountain Multi-Chapter Meeting in Syria, Virginia. Tom and I were accompanied by our wives, Daille and Norma. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Tom also represented our Chapter at the JMU ROTC Awards Ceremony where he presented our Chapter's ROTC Award to Cadet Major Michael J. Linza. I represented our Chapter at the Harrisonburg High School JROTC Awards Ceremony on May 13<sup>th</sup> where I presented our Chapter's JROTC Award to c/Major Abby Castro. Norma and I also attended the grave marking ceremony held by the George Washington Chapter on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Trinity United Methodist Cemetery in the Wilkes Street Complex in Alexandria honoring Patriot Abraham Faw where I presented our Chapter wreath. Compatriots Hank Almond and Randy Atkins continue to be active in our Eagle Scout Recognition Program. Hank presented a certificate to Aiden Harbick on May 16<sup>th</sup> and three more certificates will be mailed by the end of May. We continue to participate in the Naturalization Ceremonies and I wish to thank all our Compatriots who have represented our Chapter at these events. Future such ceremonies are scheduled to be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>. These will be held in the U.S. Federal District Court Building in Harrisonburg with the exception of the July 6<sup>th</sup> ceremony which will be held in the Shenandoah Natural Park at the Big Meadows Amphitheater and the September 8<sup>th</sup> ceremony which is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. I urge that if you have not attended this ceremony, please consider doing so. No ceremonies are planned for November or December.

Our May meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Pano's Restaurant in Harrisonburg. Our speaker was William Hawk, Professor of Philosophy at James Madison University, whose topic was "Teaching Students Ethics". Compatriot Randy Atkins has graciously agreed to reschedule his presentation on "How We Memorialized and Honored our Fallen Soldiers from WWI" to our September meeting.

On Memorial Day, Compatriots from our Chapter will participate with the Massanutton Chapter, DAR in a ceremony honoring those from our community who gave their lives in service of our country during both World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and in Afghanistan and Iraq. The ceremony will be held at noon at the Memorial Obelisk located between Memorial Hall and the baseball field at JMU on South High Street. In tribute to their sacrifice, the names of these individuals will be read aloud by members of the DAR and SAR. Several Compatriots of our Chapter will participate in this event. As mentioned in a communication sent by our Corresponding Secretary on April 21<sup>st</sup>, the SAR will participate in The National Memorial Day Parade being held in Washington, DC on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. Unfortunately, the deadline for participation has passed. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, at noon, our Chapter will again be sponsoring the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Compatriot Paul Hatmaker on the steps of the Rockingham County Court House in Harrisonburg. This will be the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year that this event has taken place. Also, I want to remind you of the Annual Congress of the SAR which will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> in Boston, the SAR Atlantic Middle States Conference to be held in Albany, New York on August 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and the Semi-Annual Meeting of VASSAR on September 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in Williamsburg at the Woodlands Hotel/Conference facility. We are also in the very early stages of working with the General Daniel Morgan Chapter and hopefully the DAR, CAR and local genealogical groups in trying to set up a free course in genealogy open to the general public. There does appear to be a significant interest in genealogy and we hope to tap into that not only in the interest of gaining new memberships but, more importantly, in teaching how genealogy research can be done properly. As we all know, there is a lot of information available but a significant portion is often “bogus”. The CAR will be holding two meetings in our area in the future. The Mid-Southern Regional Meeting will be held on July 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Staunton Conference Center at 152 Fairway Lane at Exit 125 on I-81 while the State Meeting will take place in Staunton the spring of 2017.

In April, our Corresponding Secretary, David Dean, forwarded to you a communication from VASSAR President Ed Truslow in which he stated his four Presidential Initiatives for his year in office were stated. Our Chapter has, as of this date, met three of these initiatives. I would like to emphasize two. NSSAR has adopted a program of recognizing SAR members who are veterans with a Certificate of Patriotism. They have requested that each veteran fill out a simple form and forward to our Chapter President for his approval and then he will forward it to NSSAR. This form, when completed by the Compatriot, will contain not only his branch and dates of service but also a short history of his service. This will be a record kept by NSSAR. As of late April-early May of this year, 1509 Compatriots have been registered. There is one problem in downloading the form. There is a website address which must be clicked to open the form. Unfortunately, clicking it while using several widely used browser systems such as Internet Explorer and Firefox will not open it. The link must be cut and pasted into a new email. However, it does easily open if clicked while using Google Chrome. I would urge that all Chapter Compatriots who are veterans complete and submit this form to our Chapter President, Tom Pettit by e-mail ([tomdd747@comcast.net](mailto:tomdd747@comcast.net)) or mail it to him at 285 Steeplechase Drive, Penn Laird, VA 22846. The second initiative I would like to emphasize is that of a contribution. The form for this has been sent by e-mail from Compatriot Dean on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The funds obtained will be used to support the new American Revolutionary Museum being built at Yorktown and a total contribution up to \$10,000 will be matched by VASSAR's George Knight/Kenneth C. Patty Memorial Trust Fund. The check should be made payable to VASSAR-Knight/Patty Trust Fund with “ARMY Initiative” in the memo line. Such contributions will also earn the Compatriot credit toward rank in the Virginia Society First Regiment. The First Regiment is a means by which VASSAR recognizes those who have made significant contributions to all or any of the Trust Funds of the Society. These funds significantly aid the various endeavors of the Society.

Finally, I remind you that **as of September, our Chapter will no longer meet at Pano's Restaurant but instead will meet at the Wood Grill Buffet at 1711 Reservoir Street in**

**Harrisonburg.** We will continue to meet at 5:30 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, January through May and September through December.

In closing, I want to emphasize again, as I have done so many times in the past, that our Chapter's continued existence is dependent upon the active support and participation of our membership. We cannot continue with only a handful of active members. We need your support and participation. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming summer events as well as at our September meeting at the **Wood Grill Buffet, 1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.**

Christopher N. ("Kirk") Sheap M.D.