



1 December 2010

Gentlemen:

The Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia has enjoyed another exceptional year.

#### Finances

Thanks to the stewardship of Past President J.E.B. Stuart, IV, our Society continues to exceed Wall Street's expectations! In today's economic climate that is quite a statement. Thanks to your generous contributions to the Patriots Fund we continue to provide scholarships to deserving young people and support other worthy causes such as Yorktown Day, Stratford Hall, Fraunces Tavern, and the James Monroe Foundation. We are particularly pleased to have made a \$5,000 contribution to the World War I Memorial Fund in the name of Frank Buckles, America's last WWI veteran and a member of our Virginia Society since 1948. For those of you who wish to make a contribution you may note the amount on your dues renewal notice and include with your payment.

#### Events

The Virginia Society's 115<sup>th</sup> annual George Washington's Birthday Dinner was enjoyed by well over 200 members and special guests. This year's speaker, Commander Paul Galanti, USN (ret.) was another breath of fresh air. Commander Galanti, long a friend of our Society, shared his thoughts on America today – thoughts that did not fall on deaf ears. We again enjoyed representation from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corp, and our evening was kicked off by the VMI Pipe and Drum Corp leading our own Society Color Guard into The Commonwealth Club ballroom. The presentation of our Society's flag collection as a backdrop for the new member induction is as good as it gets – my thanks to Captain of the Color Guard, Ned Trigg, for his efforts. We proudly accepted the newest addition to our flag collection, this one given by the Pitzer family honoring General Andrew Lewis. This flag, along with our own Society flag were present later in the year when General Lewis's bust was unveiled in the old House Chamber at the Virginia Capitol in March - our thanks to the Pitzer family for their generosity.

Please make plans to attend the 116<sup>th</sup> edition of our George Washington's Birthday Dinner to be held 19 February 2011, when our guest speaker will be First Sergeant Matthew Eversmann, USA (ret.), Chalk Four leader in the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu. This battle was the subject of Mark

Bowden's book, Blackhawk Down, and Ridley Scott/Jerry Bruckheimer's Academy Award winning movie of the same name.

Mother Nature was again kind to the Society throughout 2010. Our outdoor activities went off without incident or umbrellas. In May we enjoyed perfect weather for the General Membership Meeting at the Virginia House. In October we stayed dry for Yorktown Day, and in November we had textbook fall weather at Fort Pocahontas for our oyster roast. Over 100 members and guests enjoyed Paynie and Harrison Tyler's hospitality and we thank them for providing the perfect location and weather for an afternoon on the James River in Charles City County.

Please visit our website, [www.vssr.org](http://www.vssr.org), to view all of these activities.

### Membership

If this section sounds familiar, well, it is. I would be remiss if I did not stress that new members are the lifeblood of any organization. Ours is no exception. Our Membership Committee - Carter Reid and Bev Mauck - continues to do an exceptional job of following up on membership inquiries and the subsequent vetting of applications. We need your help in giving them more to do! We are consistently gaining 20-25 new members each year, but unfortunately attrition keeps us from making our goal of 500 members. If you have sons, grandsons, brothers, fathers, nephews, or uncles who are not yet members, please help us grow. The short form for membership takes 10 minutes to complete and typically requires only a birth certificate or two to prove qualifying descent. Carter, Bev, and I will be happy to assist with this so please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. Inquires may also be sent to [membership@vssr.org](mailto:membership@vssr.org).

### Dues

Enclosed you will find your annual dues statement, please remit these by 3 January 2011. We have held dues at \$70 annually, and we hope that you will consider converting to a life membership of \$1100, or \$650 for children 12 and under. Your timely remittance of dues will be most appreciated. The administrative time our Society Assistant, Mary Stuart Cruickshanks, spends tracking down past due members is more than we need. To that end, please note: **In 2011, invitations to the George Washington's Birthday Dinner will be sent only to those members whose dues are current.**

I want to thank the Society's Officers and Board of Managers, past and present, for their contributions and dedication to moving us forward. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I close by wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing you in what we hope will be a very prosperous new year.

Cheers,



Thomas G. Vance  
President