



December 2019

Chapter Officers: 2019-2020

Regent

Alicia Hillmer
alicia7183@msn.com

Vice Regent

Martha Newton
marthanewton1102@aol.com

Chaplain

Anne Kline
Annekline143@gmail.com

Secretary

Susan Ashby
whaandsuzi@outlook.com

Treasurer

Donna Sayre
DSayreDAR@gmail.com

Registrar

Myra Wiggins
myrawigDAR@gmail.com

Historian

Linda Tague
tag114@comcast.net

Librarian

Denise Bayliss
mbayliss@cox.net

Website:

www.fotrDAR.org

Falls of the Rappahannock

Chapter NSDAR



December Meeting

Thursday, December 12,

7 pm

President General's Project

Maggie & Ginny Dunning

5927 W. Carnifex Ferry Rd, Fredericksburg VA

Potluck Refreshments

Purple Onion Gift Exchange



Message from our Regent

I hope you all had a very happy Thanksgiving!

Our November meeting was such a delight. I look forward to sharing some fellowship time with you at our upcoming December meeting, potluck and gift exchange.

As we close out this year and this decade (say what?!?!), lets reflect on what we accomplished individually and collectively for DAR in 2019.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find a sheet to help jog your memory of all the things you've done in 2019 that we should report to DAR. Please fill this out and turn it in at the next meeting, via email or you can mail them to my house at 310 Edwards Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22405.

The board will be meeting on January 3 to complete our year end reporting. We so appreciate you and all you do for our chapter and for DAR. And we look forward to all the exciting things we will do together in 2020!

If you aren't able to make the December meeting, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Alicia



Founding Daughters

Mary Desha was born on March 8, 1850, in Lexington, Kentucky. She was well educated and for a short time studied at what is now the University of Kentucky. When her family was impoverished by the Civil War and the women were needed to provide an income, Miss Desha and her mother opened a private school in which they taught their friends' children. Several years later, Miss Desha accepted a position with the Lexington public school system and remained there until she took a job as a clerk in Washington, DC, in December 1885.



After spending a few years in Washington, Miss Desha accepted a teaching position in Sitka, Alaska, in 1888. She found the living conditions endured by the Alaskan natives unacceptable and her written protest to the government in Washington resulted in a federal investigation. She returned to Lexington in 1889, but shortly thereafter accepted a post in Washington as a clerk in the pension office. She later worked as a copyist in the Office of Indian Affairs.

Miss Desha continued in the civil service until her death and also spent her own time after working hours acting as an Assistant Director of the DAR Hospital Corps during the Spanish-American War in 1898. Mary Desha died on January 29, 1911. Her fellow Daughters honored her memory with the first memorial service ever held in Memorial Continental Hall.

Upcoming Events



Daughters and their guests from near and far are invited to celebrate the holiday season at NSDAR Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The 18th Annual DAR Christmas Open House will be held Wednesday, December 11, 2019 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy holiday refreshments while listening to carolers and musicians in Memorial Continental Hall, which will be elegantly decorated for Christmas. Docents and staff will be on hand to answer questions as attendees tour 31 period rooms, the DAR Library and the Americana Room's newest exhibit, "A Piece of Her Mind: Culture and Technology in American Quilts." Santa is even taking time out of his busy schedule to attend so bring your whole family!

In the spirit of the giving season, help us to help those less fortunate. Visitors are encouraged to bring new and lightly used children's books to donate to our DAR Open House book drive.

Join the NSDAR Executives and Headquarters staff in welcoming the public to our beautiful building. The DAR Open House is a great opportunity for you to encourage prospective members, or others wanting to learn more about the DAR, to attend this festive celebration. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to get a taste of history during this holiday season!

Please invite others to the DAR Open House by directing them to dar.org/openhouse.

Chapter Chat

Wanted:

Stories, Photos, News and High Sea Adventures

This is YOUR Chapter Newsletter , please send stories, photos, news about your family/ancestors, and historical trips to the editor so that she can make this newsletter more about YOU!

Send all information to sonja.k.johnson@gmail.com

As the holiday season approaches, share your holiday cheer by surprising a friend, family member, fellow Daughter or prospective member with a gift subscription. I gifted a subscription to my father, who loves history, mailed directly to his office so he can share it in his waiting room. Also, consider spreading the word about DAR and our mission by offering a gift subscription to a local school, library, retirement community or other patriotic organization.



We will send you an elegant gift card on which you can inscribe a personal message to notify the recipient that their gift subscription to our National Society's official magazine will begin soon. Wouldn't it be a delight for someone to unwrap a gift that continues for a full year?

This gift continues to shine brightly all year long, but it takes just minutes to order. Visit us online at www.dar.org/americanspirit. Or, call our toll-free number: 1 (866) 327-6242.

Please bring the following to every meeting:

Box tops

Ink Cartridges

Coupons

Coke bottle caps

SERVICE to AMERICA!

Our Chapter hours donated total as of

November 30 , 2019

1564

Please remember to log your hours!

<http://services.dar.org/members/committees/ServiceToAmerica/>

The Service to America! Committee encourages community service by **all** members on **all** levels as a means of honoring our heritage. You may now count your DAR hours!

January Meeting

Thursday, Jan 9, 7 pm

Portable Education Program: Colonial Household

Speaker: Alicia Hillmer

Hostesses: Myra Wiggins & Susan Harvin

Place: Howell Library 806 Lyons Blvd Fredericksburg

Honor Flights

12/6/19-12/7/19 Friday-Saturday

GROUP: veterans from Honor Flight Austin

Note: Special WWII Pearl Harbor commemorative flight

ARRIVAL: 12/6 TBD

ACTIVITIES: TBD

DEPARTURE: 12/7 Return to DCA 4:25 PM

More info on the website: [Honor Flights](#)



President General's Message

Dear Daughters,

For many Americans, this is a land of plenty and we are fortunate enough to look forward to an abundance of blessings this holiday season. There will be gift giving, caroling and (surely!) overeating. Surrounded by family and friends, we will toast – and roast! – each other. We may raise that glass to those who have gone on before us – and to those yet to be born.



'Tis the season to celebrate with those we love – how fortunate we are indeed to be citizens of the free and prosperous nation founded and sustained by our ancestors. But some Americans will not be together this holiday season – instead, they will be stationed in places faraway and foreboding in order to defend freedom around the world.

I write, of course, of the members of the U.S. Armed Forces, especially those who are deployed in war zones this yuletide. I ask you to pray for them, and for their families. Imagine Christmas morning without your father or your husband, your wife or your mother. Then imagine your loved one in a dangerous place completing a dangerous assignment. It's sobering to realize that hundreds of thousands of American heroes will be separated from their loving families this holiday season in order that we might safely celebrate with our own.

As many of you know, I am a Blue Star Mother. My eldest son, who graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2013, is currently stationed stateside. However, he spent the Christmas of 2017 deployed in a war zone in southern Afghanistan. I often told people that this mother's coping mechanism was best explained that "he was always in my thoughts, and yet, ironically enough, I could not allow myself to actually think about him or what he was doing." It was simply too painful.

Our family's experience explains why I am so very grateful to every Daughter and every chapter who took time from the rush of the holiday season to send a care package or even just a card to one of our deployed personnel. While all of our DAR service projects are vitally important and critical to our Society's enduring mission, those that benefit our active duty men and women in uniform hold a special place in my heart.

At 18 years, the War on Terror is the longest in our nation's history. Please take a moment during your holiday get-togethers to raise a prayer for the men and women who are defending liberty in far-off places like Afghanistan, Iran and Syria. If you have a loved one in service, please accept our profound gratitude for your family's sacrifice. And finally, let us all pray for the time when war is no more, and no mother needs to worry about her child's safe return.

With grateful hearts, my family and I wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons. While we celebrate in the Christian faith, I extend sincere best wishes as you celebrate in your own traditions. Thank you for your commitment to our work as a member of Today's DAR – 'tis the season to shine, and you are truly radiant!

Rise and Shine for America,

Denise Doring VanBuren
President General

Wreaths Across America

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Culpeper National Cemetery is requesting your presence and help in disseminating information to the public regarding our annual Holiday Wreath-laying to Honor Veterans. This annual holiday wreath-laying ceremony is to honor and remember our nation's Veterans. Last year, over 1,000 people braved the weather to help lay over 7,500 wreaths on Veteran's gravesites. To date, we have over 2,800 wreaths sponsored for Culpeper National Cemetery with a goal of laying a wreath on every Veterans grave, over 10,650.

The ceremony will be: Saturday, December 14, 2019
@ 12:00 PM

Culpeper National Cemetery, 305 US Avenue Culpeper
VA, 22701. (Historic side, next to the administration
building).



Life Membership by Susan Harvin

Members have you thought about becoming a DAR Life Member?

Life membership ensures that your DAR dues continue to be paid if you should become unable to pay due to financial stress, someone else handling your finances, or just forgetting they are due. Currently the fee to become a Life Member is \$1,200. This can be paid in installments until age 65 and gives a member the Pending Life Member status.

A member aged 65 or older must pay in one payment of \$1,200. This fee includes National dues, President General's contributions and a \$10 credit toward state dues. Members must pay any remainder of the state dues and chapter dues. Some chapters waive the chapter dues for Life Members of a designated age.

Please see the complete details on the DAR Members Only website OSG1004 and OSG1005. Falls of the Rappahannock currently has two Life Members who will gladly show you their beautiful Life Membership pins.

November Meeting Highlights

It was a wonderful day with Daniel Chichester giving a lecture on the Chichester Farm. Touring the property and house, and seeing Eugenia Washington's grave



Our Regent Alicia and Chaplain Anne at the wreath laying ceremony

Service to America Opportunities

From Anne Kline:

I will collect supplies each meeting and distribute to the Stafford, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Animal Shelters. Old towels were number one on the requested items list.

I volunteer at the Stafford Animal Shelter and there is such a need for volunteers. It can be as easy as coming in for 30 minutes to play with the cats or take a dog out in the enclosure for some one on one love.

Volunteers must fill out an application and have it notarized and allow a simple background check before getting on the volunteer list.

All hours can be logged in at the DAR website for credit.

ANIMAL DONATIONS

Large Rawhides	Large Nyla Bones	Cat Toys
Dog Toys: stuffed or durable	Cardboard Scratch posts	Plastic litter boxes
Plastic Cage Crock for Dogs (L & S)	Soft Treats	Small Cat Beds
Grain Free Dog Food (Hard & Soft)	Grain Free Cat Food "	Purina Kitten Food
Collars & Leashes	Small animal treats for rabbits, hamsters & guinea pigs	Kong's: lg and XL
Non-Clumping Cat Litter	Arm & Hammer Litter Deodorizer	Laundry Detergent
Hand Sanitize	Fabulosity, Original Pine-Sol or any floor cleaner	Towels
Blankets	Newspaper	Shampoo
Flea & Tick Treatment		

Coats for Veterans

Falls of the Rappahannock Chapter members collected 28 coats, jackets and sweaters for vets in need this winter. Originally, the plan was to donate the items to the VA through the VFW. The coat drive was cancelled, as the VA did not need the coats at this time. Items were donated to the Purple Heart. Thank you for your generosity.

Linda T

FOTR in the Community

[Anne Kline](#), [Susan R Harvin](#) and Donna Courtney had a memorable day at the National Defense Luncheon held at the Inn at Stratford Hall.



Falls of the Rappahannock Chapter, Falmouth, VA - representing at Old Dominion Honor Flight-Mission One as a Guardian (November 2nd) (I represented as a Veteran & DAR member) Carrie Pierce

Falls of the Rappahannock Chapter, handed out 200 US Flags at the NYC 100th Anniversary Veterans' Day Parade.



Travels to Historic Places by Susan Harvin

Grave of Anne Pamela Cunningham

Ann, the only child of Col. Robert and Louisa Cunningham, was born in 1816 at Rosemont Plantation, Laurens County, SC. At age 17 Ann was crippled in a horseback riding accident after which she was sent to hospitals in Philadelphia for treatment. While returning to SC after a trip to take Ann to Philadelphia the steamboat passed a derelict Mt. Vernon. Louisa wrote Ann about the sad state of Washington's home and wondered why the women of the country could not save it.

This inspired Ann to found the Mt. Vernon's Ladies Society to save Mt. Vernon. Ann and her ladies worked tirelessly to raise funds for the restoration of the property and it is said that during the Civil War she convinced both the Southern and Northern Armies to spare it. Ann is considered to be one of the early founders of historic preservation.

Ann died at age 58 at Rosemont Plantation and is buried in Columbia in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery. There is a DAR Chapter in Columbia named for her.



DAR Schools

Chapter should plan now for the collection of and donation of costume jewelry for the “Baubles, Bangles & Beads” Campaign. All jewelry can be brought to the State Conference in March.



Veterans



For the capstone project required by the DAR New Horizons course Susan Harvin is collecting regular size toiletries for Hunter Homes McGuire Veterans Hospital in Richmond.

Susan will be collecting these at our December and January meetings. These will be sent to McGuire in January along with lap robes.

Thank you so much for helping our Veterans and for helping a FOTR member complete the DAR courses.

Conservation: Susan Harvin

Earth Day

April 22, 2020 will be the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. This observance of environmental awareness has evolved from 1960's school students bouncing to school on large rubber balls to a more serious awareness of the state of our planet.

For the last several years the Falls of the Rappahannock Chapter has joined local groups and the citizens of Fredericksburg to observe Earth Day by holding a 'friending' booth at the Fredericksburg Earth Day Festival on the banks of the beautiful Rappahannock River.

Our members have contributed seeds, soil, newspapers and their time to teach children, and a few adults, the proper way to plant and care for plants. In 2020, FOTR hopes to join in the Festival at Old Mill Park. Please plan to come to Old Mill Park and celebrate Mother Earth.



Recycling for the Holidays



If you want to know if your wrapping paper can be recycled or not, use the scrunch test. Scrunch up the paper in your hands and then let it go. If the paper stays scrunched up then it can be recycled but, if it unfolds by its own accord, then it likely contains non-recyclable elements.

Store gift bags rather than recycling right away. They can usually be reused more than once with a new tag.

Falls of the Rappahannock Chapter Pink Sheet

What Did You Do for DAR This Year?

Name: _____

Please keep track of activities completed during this calendar year so we can report on our Chapter Master Report (CMR) in January 2020. Submit this form by December 31, 2019, at the latest.

Are you or did you serve in the Armed Forces? (Branch and status)

American Heritage: _____

Did you participate in any of the following contests: Art & Sculpture, Fiber Arts, Crafts, Literature & Drama, or Music?

American Spirit: Please rank favorite articles/topics: (1=Most, 8=Least) Historic Places ____ Collections ____
Travel and City Highlights ____ Genealogy ____ Antiques ____ Women's Issues ____ History ____ Book
Reviews ____

Americanism: _____

Did you refer to the DAR Manual for Citizenship located online on the DAR Members' Website or participate in any Naturalization classes?

Commemorative Events: _____

Did you participate in any 4th of July parades or celebrations?

Community Classroom: _____

Did you volunteer, write lesson plans, or provide monetary donations for any community classroom? Please provide information regarding grade level.

Conservation: _____

Did you participate in Earth Day, Arbor Day, or No Straw September Challenge? Do you consistently recycle plastic? Did you participate or organize for a beach, lake, or river cleanup?

DAR Magazine: _____

Are you a subscriber? Please list your favorite sections in order: Historic Places, Collections, Travel and City Highlights, Genealogy, Antiques, Women's Issues, History, and Book Reviews.

DAR School: _____

Did you purchase the Sunfish pin or donate to a DAR School this year? Provide totals.

Historic Preservation: _____

Cemetery preservation, museum donations/volunteering, cultural events, monuments, etc.

The Flag of the US: _____

Did you distribute flags, flag literature, or Flag Codes, and if so, how many? Count Braille flags separately.

Literacy Promotion:

Did you participate in literacy programs, read to or mentor students (including family), or donate books/funds?

Service to America:

Do you log your Service to America volunteer hours? If not, please give hours and description.

Women's Issues:

Did you participate in Women's Issues-related service projects or the essay contests? Provide details.

DAR Genealogy Preservation:

Do you participate by categorizing supporting documentation or special projects? If so, how many documents or hours?

Patriot Records Project:

Do you participate by indexing names for this project? If so, how many names were completed this year?

Patriotism:

Did you attend military functions, march in parades, visit historical places or national parks, 4th of July celebrations, etc.

Veterans:

Did you attend any Veterans activities or services, volunteer at Veterans Homes, include miles traveled, monetary donations and items donated (clothes, toiletries, gifts, games, books, magazines, etc.)

Volunteer Genealogists:

Did you take any of the GEP training this year? Did you attend any non-DAR training or help another chapter with an application? Provide details.

Junior Membership:

Did you purchase Junior Sales items? If so, approximately how much did you spend?

Membership:

Did you enroll or complete the Member or New Horizons course this year?

America 250!:

Did you submit information regarding "Our Patriots" this year?

Librarian:

Did you donate an item for the DAR Library from their Wishlist? Provide details.

If you would like to report an activity that is not listed on this sheet or you don't know what category it belongs to, please note it below and we will add it to the appropriate sections.

Thank you for helping us gather the information we need for this annual report!