



THE DRUMBEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WASHINGTON STATE COLOR GUARD

Jun 2025 (2nd Qtr. Apr/May/Jun)



YOUR COLOR GUARD



SPRING 2025

(2nd Quarter)

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Commander](#)

[From the Deputy Commander](#)

[Color Guard Events](#) Throughout the State

WA State Color Guard [Event Schedule](#)

[Color Guard Patches](#)

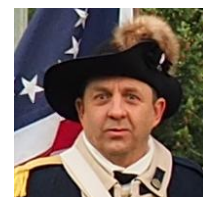
[Another Color Guard!!!](#) (SAMS)

AMERICA'S FIRST VETERANS AND THE FACE OF THE SAR

From The State SAR Color Guard Commander

Compatriots,

At this year's state conference, a change of command ceremony took place where I became this state's 4th Color Guard Commander. After months of having Neil ask if I would become the next state CG commander and many conversations with my loving wife to make sure that my heart and head were in the right place, I accepted the appointment. I did so having found another way to serve the county that I love and to bring honor to the generations of men and women who have served her with honor.



A bit about me, my journey to my current position began in my youth. I was with our cub scout pack's color guard and my father was in the color guard while in the Air Force and talked about it. My grandmother laid another cornerstone when she took me to DAR meetings and events like the annual one at the UW honoring George Washington. In January of 2020 I joined the Sons of the American Revolution in the Alexander Hamilton Chapter before transferring later that year to the new George Rogers Clark Chapter in Olympia. Pvt Richard Rue is my primary patriot. Over the last 5 years I have served as chapter registrar (2020-2024) and I am the current VP and Color Guard Captain for our chapter.

My first Color Guard event was in a hunting frock that Art Dolan had loaned me back in the fall of 2020. His generosity and encouragement rekindled that desire to serve in a color guard unit again. I hope all of the chapters have loaner uniforms for those that want to attend Color Guard events but don't have a uniform. It is a fantastic way to get others into the Color Guard and participating with us.

At the state Conference 2 Silver CG medals were awarded, Art Dolan & Dick Motz received the Von Stuben Medal and Neil Vernon was awarded the Patriot Medal for his service as the WASSAR Color Guard Commander and State Historian. Job Well Done! I encourage all CG members to go over the list of events that they have attended with their CG Captains to see if they now qualify for the bronze or silver CG medals. At the same time many of you along with your non-CG members may also qualify for the Bronze, Silver or Gold America 250 medals.

We are now in our busy season and I encourage all chapters to submit Color Guard events to [Dick Motz](#) to be added to the [Color Guard Event schedule](#). I rely heavily on the CG Event Calendar to determine where I can go and look at it weekly to see if any new submissions have been added. If I don't know about it, I can't see if I can attend. My goals in the coming months are to attend at least 2 events per chapter and 1 chapter meeting once they start back up.

I want to say a special thanks for Dick Motz for agreeing to stay on to continue support for the newsletter, website and Color Guard Event Schedule. His work in these areas is greatly appreciated and needed. Next a huge shout out to Art Dolan and Neil Vernon for the support that they have given me so far, I'm sure they will be hearing from me with questions. Lastly a very special thanks to a wonderful lady, my wife Ramona who has fully supported me and encouraged me on my SAR & Color Guard journey.



Romana
CG First Lady

Stay safe, stay busy, stay hydrated and I hope to see you soon.

Respectfully Submitted, [Eric Olsen](#), WA State-SAR, Commander, WA State Color Guard.

From The Deputy Commander



Dick Motz
Deputy Commander
WA St Color Guard

It has been requested that I continue as the editor of the **CG newsletter**. I have considered this request and have decided to continue as Deputy Commander but in a **limited capacity**.

I will continue to publish the **CG newsletter**, update the **CG schedule**, update the **CG Web site**, update other CG documents as needed. I will also provide computing support to the CG commander as needed.

NOTE to all Chapter CG Captains: Please continue to send me any **Notable CG News**, all your **Scheduled Events** for the CG schedule, and a summary/photo of all your **Completed Events** for the CG newsletter.

I still have a **limited quantity** of the sew on Color Guard Patches are still available at a cost of \$4.00 each.

If you want them mailed the postage cost is: 3 or less - \$1.00, 4 to 6 - \$2.00, 7 to 9 - \$3.00.

NOTE: Authorized for WA State Color Guard members only.

The patch measures 4"x4"

Send me, [Dick Motz](#), an E-Mail for purchase.



The WASSAR Color Guard now has a group page on [Facebook](#).

Come Join The Group!!!

Respectfully submitted, Walter R (Dick) Motz, Deputy Commander Washington State Color Guard.

Regional Area Color Guard Events in Apr/May/Jun

State Conference 25-26 April

State Patriot Medel Awarded

Compatriot Neil Vernon served on the State Board of Directors for seven years, and served as State Color Guard Commander from 2019 to 2025. During his term as Color Guard Commander, the State Color Guard experienced significant growth, nearly doubling in size. He served on the 2021 Congress Host Society Planning Committee, and represented the State Society at three National Congresses. He contributed to the success of Patriot Week 2024, participating in community outreach presentations and the Liberty Tree Dedication in Hoquiam. As State Historian, he spent approximately 480 hours scanning 8800 documents, comprising nearly 40,000 images. His service to the State Society and its members, and the selfless giving of his time, talents, and resources have contributed immeasurably to the success of our Society, and reflects admirably upon himself, the Washington Society, and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



Von Steuben Medals Awarded

Dick Motz (#6) and Art Dolan (#7) were presented with the coveted **National Von Steuben Medal** for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard.



The medal is awarded for sustained service to the Society as a Color Guardsman at the National or District Levels. Recipients must already have been awarded the Bronze and Silver Color Guard Medals.

Description: The National Von Steuben Medal is gold in color, and depicts a likeness of Baron Friederich von Steuben.



Commemorative Wall Tile Presented To USO At Sea-Tac

Sever members of the Color Guard attended the donation of a commemorative wall tile to the SeaTac USO.



The wall tile

CG Members in uniform were: Neil Vernon, Eric Olsen, Dick Moody, Richard Roddy, and Will Palmer. Other CG were: Stan Granberg, Conrad Plyer, John Herr, Perry Tayler, Viren Lemmer, Bruce Bock, Paul Winter. Other SAR members were: Greg Lucas, Keith Weissinger, Robert Sexton, and Dick Paul.

The Change of Command (COC)

On 26 Apr 2025, the Command of the WASSAR Color Guard changed hands from Compatriot Neil Vernon to Compatriot Eric Olsen.



At left:
Awaiting entrance of
Color Guard for the
Change of Command.

All past and current
Commanders were
gathered for the
ceremony



The Color Guard enters for
the COC under the command
of Neil Vernon.



The Color Guard
assembled and
awaiting the reading
of the official orders.



The Deputy Commander reads
the official orders
and the flag is tranfered.



New Commander
Leads the Color Guard
from the area



Prior to the COC all the past/present Commanders
assembled for historic group photo with the first
uniformed CG member. Pictured above are:

- Eric Olsen
(New Commander, 2025-)
- Neil Vernon
(3rd Commander, 2019-2025)
- Lee Thomasson
(1st Color Guardsman, 2001)
- Bob O’Niel
(1st Commander, 2011-2017)
- Art Dolan
(2nd Commander, 2017-2019)



Color Guard assembles for group photo with
The new Color Guard Commander



Official Order

Northern Region Events

19 April: the Seattle SAR Chapter and the Rainier Chapter (DAR) held an Open House at the DAR Chapter house in Seattle to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. We were honored to have several speakers. Compatriot Doug Webb who spoke on the battle of Lexington and his ancestors response to the events, meeting the retreating British at Memotony, MA (Now Arlington) and what took place there. Second, we were honored to have the Washington State CAR President, Danika Bendickson to deliver a program on the Children of the Revolution and present her annual program of "Operation Battle Buddy" which is focused on active duty and first responders. Following we had compatriot Kent Troy (AH), who over zoom from North Carolina, presented more detail facts of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Our last speaker was DAR Jane Ritchey, who spoke on the Women of the Revolution.



Doug Webb

Neil & Danika

19 April: The Seattle chapter hosted a grave marking ceremony at the Lake View Cemetery in Seattle to honor the First Washington State SAR President, Simon Winfield Scott. A memorial bench was placed at the gravesite. Seven other WASSAR presidents, also buried at Lake View are identified on the Bench. The CG/F&D presented the colors. Compatriot Stan Granberg conducted the ceremony which was followed by a Wreath Laying ceremony that included NSSAR Librarian General, Keith Wiessinger, Washington State Color Guard, SAR and DAR chapters. More than 40 participated in the ceremony.



17 May: Armed Forces Day Observance: Sedro-Woolley Museum. The George Washington Chapter Color Guard presented the colors, opening the Armed Forces Day program hosted by the Sedro-Woolley historical Museum. William Bentler, Rod Jenny, JohnMark Jenny, Brian Bayley and Lee Shuirman talked about their uniforms, patriot ancestors and the national observance of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Ann Washington DAR President Kim Kimmy spoke to the audience about DAR endeavors in the Skagit region.

Lee Schuirman gave his oration. about the history and meaning of the national colors to an appreciative audience.

26 May: Members of the Color Guard & Fife & Drum participated in the Memorial Day observance held at the Maple Leaf cemetery in Oak Harbor.

Participating members were:

(back l-r) John Kraft, Bill Bentler, Alonde Droege, Mike Moore, Charley Frisk, Marshal Anderson, Tim Smith, Jim Carpenter, Brian Bayley.

(front l-r) Jan Lemer, Neil Vernon, Viren Lemmer, Mike Bendickson, Chris Fridley.



Southern Region Events



1 Apr: Members of the WASSAR Color Guard gathered together for a Memorial Service at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington. On this day they honored LTC Edwin Prentice Dierdorff 1936-2024 US Army Vietnam and H Beecher Dierdorff 1908-1978, Col US Army WW II. They were the father and grandfather of State Chaplain Edwin Dierdorff.

Members present were: Neil Vernon, Mike Moore, Eric Olsen, Stan Granberg, Lawrence Bowman, John Herr

14 Apr: Veterans from the Honor Flight were greeted at SeaTac Airport from their trip to Washington D.C., by members of the WASSAR Color Guard. This was a large contingent of Veterans who served in the Cold War, Vietnam, Korea, and we were honored with two WWII veterans.

Color Guard attending were: Stan Granberg, Timothy Smith, Neil Vernon, and Michael Moore



19-20 Apr: Eric Olsen of the GRC Chapter and the local Sacajawea Chapter DAR participate in the Lexington – Concord commemorative event hosted by the Spirit of 76 Living History Association. The event was held at the Chehalis Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis, WA. The event was well attended by many families who were next door for a train ride.

2 May: DAR Annual Conference: The WASSAR color guard posted the colors for the event.

CG members were (l-r) Charley Fisk, Viren Lemmer, Ralph Lienen (HODAR), Larry Heckethorne, Tom Barham, Eric Olsen, John Herr, Mike Moore, Terry Barker, Melonie Lienen



19 May: Honor Flight: CG members Stan Granberg, Timothy Smith, Neil Vernon, John Herr, and Michael Moore greeted 17 returning veterans.





25 May: Members of the WASSAR CG attended the 56th Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Fir Lane cemetery in Spanaway.

Members participating were:

(l-r) Mike More, John Herr, Ralph Leaning (HODAR), Jerry Bordelon.

Kneeling is the CG Commander, Eric Olsen

31 May: DAR PLAQUE DEDICATION.

Members of the Color Guard/Fife and Drum Corps participated in the Eliza Meeker plaque dedication ceremony held at the Meeker Mansion

Members present were:

(l-r) back row: Thomas Barham, Jan Lemmer, Terry Barker, Melonie Liening, Stephanie Conroy; (front) John Herr, Viren Lemmer, Jacqueline Riddell (DAR State Regent), Alonde Droege, Mike Moore, Ralph Liening; kneeling is Eric Olsen.



15 Apr: 5 of the George Rogers Clark chapter members interacted with the public who were at the Olympic Air Show for the annual Father's Day Weekend. Conversations were had on the SAR's youth programs, Patriot Ancestors, and the American Revolution. Left to right: Lawrence Bowman, Dick Moody, and Eric Olsen.

Also in attendance were: Lew Maudsley and Terry Church

21 Jun: Tenino Family Fun Day. Despite the rainy weather, Eric Olsen & Dick Moody of the George Rogers Clark chapter attended the 2025 event. This was a short notice event for the chapter but they made it work. Enough locals attended the event to keep both CG members busy talking to parents and youth alike about the American Revolution and the different youth contests that the SAR offers. Another good day putting the SAR and America's 250th in the public's eye.



29 Jun: The GRC Chapter CG members attended the memorial service for 1st Class Michael O Halliday (USCG Ret).

Eric Olsen, Dick Moody and Lew Maudsley joined the Patriot Guard and local VFW at the Olympia Golf and Country Club to honor the veteran. After the service all quietly retreated to leave his friends and family to remember him.

Eastern Region Events



29 March: Compatriot Steven Winmill attended the West Valley JROTC "Ram Battalion" Military Ball in Yakima.

Steven presented Cadet Travis McQuiston with a Certificate and Bronze Medal courtesy of the Mid-Columbia SAR Chapter.

15 April: Members of the Mid-Columbia Chapter SAR, along with both Local Chapters of the DAR, attended the Naturalization Ceremony at the Richland Federal Bldg.

CG Members were (l-r) Randal Roach, Richard Roddy, and Kelly Schultz.



17 May: Spangle Days Parade: Spokane #1 kicked off the annual Parade this morning. Thanks to Doug Jonas, Tracey Prock, Teresa Palmer, Willy Palmer, Carl Durkoop, Dale Ryan, Wes Corder, and Joyce Corder for their support

26 May: The Mid-Columbia Chapter participated in Laying Wreaths for Memorial Day and The National Moment of Remembrance to honor our veterans who failed to come home. Members participating were: Richard Roddy, Randal Roach, Kelly Schultz, Larry Flint, Karen Schultz, and Jan Huges.



14 Jun: Fairfield flag day parade. Spokane #1 celebrated both Flag Day and the 250th birthday of the Army. Members present were: Dale Ryan, Carl Durkoop, Roger Woodruff, Rob Scott, Daniel Ulbright, Willy Palmer, Doug Jonas, Stan Wills, Rob Hill, and Tracey Prock.

21 Jun: Members of the Spokane #1 Chapter participate in the Founders Day Parade held in Medical Lake. Participating members were: Tracy Prock, Carl Durkoop, Robert Korn, and Rob Scott



21 Jun: Members of the Spokane Chapter attended the Slippery Gulch Parade held in Tekoa.

Pictured are : Axle Valentine, Teresa Palmer, Willy Palmer, Joyce Corder Wes Corder, Hemi Hawkins, and Dale Ryan



21 Jun: The Mid-Columbia Chapter participated in the Prosser Scottish Fest and Highland Games. They are accepted as a "Clan," and participate in the opening Ceremonies. They also took a few minutes for their chapter meeting. Two members are directly related to King Malcom III of Scotland, considered the Founding Father of modern Scotland who started the Scottish Games in order to find the best men (strongest) to serve as soldiers and royal messengers. Richard Roddy, Randal Roach, Kelly Schultz, Larry Flint and Conn Clark with DAR and Mary, Queen of Scots

Western Region Events



17 May: Armed Forces Day Parade.

CG Members were (Standing l-r) Briorn Doar, Perry Tayler, Noah Chase, Tim Smith, Charley Fisk, Alonde Droege, Eric Olsen. (Front l-r) Mick Hersey, Jan Lemmer, Viren Lemmer, Neil Vernon, Fred Gilbert.

26 May: Memorial Day. Members of the JPJ Chapter WSSDAR presented Colors at the Tomb of the Unknown in Ivy Green Cemetery Bremerton. A New flag line also debuted; it is an Eagle Scout Project that Mick Hersey Coordinated with the City of Bremerton.

Members pictured were: Noah Chase, Fred Gilbert, Mick Hersey, and Pat Burch.

Also attending were: Brian Dorr, Mark Whiteaker, and Hugh Tucker.



Presentations (Summary)

Note: photos are no longer provided due to restrictions)

2 April: The George Washington chapter presented to 25 students at Whittier Elementary in Everett. They presented the "History of the American Flag", "A Day in a Life", and "An Overview of the Battle of Lexington. The students were engaged and appreciated the presentation. SAR members that participated were Neil Vernon, Bill Bentler, Grant Rauzi, and Richard Seeder

4 April: The George Washington chapter presented to 27 students at St Brendan's in Bothell. They presented the "History of the American Flag" and "A Day in a Life" and "An Overview of the Battle of Lexington. SAR members that participated were Neil Vernon, Bill Bentler, Grant Rauzi, and Michael Moore

8-5 April: The John Paul Jones chapter Education Team gave three presentations at the McCleary Museum and Event Center. The presentations started with Brian Dorr with a presentation speaking about his patriot ancestry family business as a tanner in the Boston area and participated in the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The second presenter was Fred Gilbert who spoke about events that led up to the American Revolution and his ancestor who was a CT Continental soldier. This was followed by Bob Smalser who spoke about the evolution of the Long Rifle and his patriot ancestry supporting Gen. Washington as a Sharp Shooter. At the conclusion of the presentation, JPY Perry Tailor presented chapter challenge coins to the museum staff for their fantastic support.

8 April: The John Paul Jones chapter Education Team joined Jane Richie of the DAR, to give a total of nine presentations to the fourth graders at the Hidden Creek Elementary School in Port Orchard. The presenters were: Fred Gilbert and Bob Smalser. They were joined by Jane Ritchey. Fred dressed in colonial attire as a Boston Shop Keeper and discussed how a shop keeper had to adjust to the ongoing political climate of 1775, Bob Smalser's presentation addressed the challenges living on the Western Frontier and Jane Ritchey demonstrated how flax played a key role in 1775 colonial life, from harvesting flax, spinning the flax fiber, and weaving the fiber into linen from which cloths were made. Fred Gilbert the Education Lead presented JPY Challenge coins to all the teachers and principle.

22 April The George Washington chapter presented to 69 students of the 5th grade class at West Mercer Elementary on Mercer Island. They presented the "A Day in a Life" and the overview of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The students were engaged and appreciated the presentation. Following the presentation, a certificate of appreciation and a set of the commemorative USPS stamps of "Battlefields of the American Revolution" was presented to the school. SAR members that participated were Neil Vernon, Bill Bentler, Grant Rauzi, and Michael Moore.

28 April: The Seattle chapter presented "A Day in a Life" and the overview of the "Battle of Lexington and Concord" to 121 students at Lakeridge School on Mercer Island. The students were engaged and appreciated the presentation. As a special treat for the students, Washington State C.A.R. president, Danika Bendickson, presented the Children of the Revolution. SAR members that participated were Neil Vernon, Steve Clayton, and Michael Moore.

8 May: The George Washington chapter presented to 58 students at Island Park Elementary on Mercer Island. They presented the "A Day in a Life", "Youth in the Revolution", and "An Overview of the Battle of Lexington and Concord". The students enjoyed learning about the artifacts and they had a chance to try carrying water bags with a yoke. Following the presentation, a certificate of appreciation and a set of the commemorative USPS stamps of "Battlefields of the American Revolution" was presented to the school. SAR members participating were: Neil Vernon, and Grant Rauzi.

13 May: The Spokane #1 chapter presented a Living History Program for 35 1st graders at Valley Christian School in Spokane Valley. The kids love to dress up in colonial clothing.

29 May: The George Washington chapter to five 5th grade classes comprising of 143 students at Eagle Creek Elementary in Arlington, WA. We presented the "A Day in a Life", "Youth in the Revolution", and "An Overview of the Battle of Lexington and Concord". Following the presentation, a certificate of appreciation and a set of the commemorative USPS stamps of "Battlefields of the American Revolution" was presented to the school. SAR members that participated were Neil Vernon, Bill Bentler, John Kraft, and Lee Schuirman

16 May: Neil Vernon presented the "History of the American Flag" to 53 residents at the Wesley Retirement Community in Des Moines, Wa.

22 May: Cascade-Sentienial chapter members, Steven Furhiman and Larry Flint gave a presentation to 54 students from 3 combined 5th grade classes at Wide Hollow Elementary School in Yakima. The subject was the Battle of Lexington & Concord and the start of the Revolutionary War. Larry talked about his Patriot Ancestor, his uniform, and the militia. Steven also discussed his patriot ancestor.

22 May: Mid-Columbia members Richard Roddy, Randal Roach and Larry Flint gave presentations to three fifth grade classes of, A Day in the Life of Colonial America, to Lincoln Elementary School in Kennewick. They were kind enough to bring the classes, sequentially into the same room so we could leave our display of colonial artifacts laid out. Some of the

kids had their Revolutionary War Posters on the wall. Their teacher was pleased to learn that we have a poster contest.

29 May: The George Washington chapter to five 5th grade classes comprising of 143 students at Eagle Creek Elementary in Arlington, WA. We presented the "A Day in a Life", "Youth in the Revolution", and "An Overview of the Battle of Lexington and Concord". Following the presentation, a certificate of appreciation and a set of the commemorative USPS stamps of "Battlefields of the American Revolution" was presented to the school. SAR members that participated were Neil Vernon, Bill Bentler, John Kraft, and Lee Schuirman.

5 Jun: The Ft Vancouver chapter with the Vancouver WA Chapter of the DAR gave an American history presentation to students at the Columbia Elementary School in Woodland on what it was like to live in America in the 1700s, describing their efforts as "little snapshots".

FV chapter members participating were: Paul Winter, Jeff Lightburn, George Vernon, Jimmy Norris, Larry Heckethorne, Doug Barber. Others present were Dave Witter (Lewis and Clark Chapter), Joel Simmons (OR CG Commander).

Another Color Guard!!!

28 Apr: Yours truly (yes that is me in a kilt) participated in the opening ceremonies at the 54th Annual [Tacoma Highland Games](#) in Graham WA.

I am also a member of [Post 1889](#) of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS) Color Guard.

SAR Members who are veterans with Scottish ancestors are eligible to join SAMS. SAMS National web site [LINK](#) for any that are interested



Respectfully submitted, Walter R (Dick) Motz, Deputy Commander Washington State Color Guard

Publication Schedule

The Color Guard Newsletter Will Be Published Quarterly (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec)

Article submission, Deadlines, and Publication Dates

- **CG Captains** to submit scheduled event summaries (who/what/when/where) with at least one photo and any other news worthy events from their chapter. Download the [NL Check List](#)
- Each article must be in **Word** format (text only) preferred font is **Calibri**.
- Any related photos are to be in **JPG** or **PNG** format.
- Formatting of the article is not required as it will be reformatted to fit space available.
- Articles are to be submitted to the [Newsletter Editor](#) no later than the **25th day of the last month** of the quarter (below). Exceptions will be made for events occurring after the deadline.

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Qtr</i>	<i>Published on</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Winter	1	31 Mar +/-	1 Jan to 31 Mar	No later than 25 Mar
Spring	2	30 June +/-	1 Apr to 30 Jun	No later than 25 Jun
Summer	3	30 Sep +/-	1 Jul to 30 Sep	No later than 25 Sep
Fall	4	31 Dec +/-	1 Oct to 31 Dec	No later than 25 Dec

Thank you, the editor.

