



The Drumbeat

Official Publication of
The Sons of the American Revolution
Washington State Color Guard

Dec 2025 (4th Qtr. Oct/Nov/Dec)



Your Color Guard's Activity



Fall 2025

(Documenting the 4th Quarter)

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America's First Veterans

And the face of the SAR

From The State SAR Color Guard Commander

Compatriots,

The last three months have been busy ones for many of us as we participated in events in St Paul, Oregon and throughout the state of Washington. In mid-November members several chapters of the WASSAR CG met up in St Paul, Oregon to participate in and assist the Oregon Society SAR in a wreath laying ceremony at the only known American Revolution veteran in be buried in Oregon and the PNW. In attendance was the PG Michael Elston who will also be at our state conference in April. This was a fantastic example of what can happen when we work together and also of what a musket volley looks like. You can check out the event at this [LINK](#) as broadcast on FOX 12 in Oregon. The same weekend the Pacific District meeting was held in Vancouver, WA where a combined OR and WA color guard posted colors in a packed meeting with several national officers in attendance.



November ended on a strong note as many chapters attended Veterans Day events throughout the state and once again, we had a good showing at the Auburn Veterans Day Parade. Wreaths Across America in December was another fantastic success as you all worked with various organizations to post colors and lay wreaths across the state of Washing at the final resting place of our nation's veterans.

Reports continue to come in to me on the presentations that some our chapters have been giving to students across the state. Well Done!

As the year draws to a close it's time to reflect back on the last year and what we the WASSAR Color Guard have accomplished and to also look ahead to 2026. There is going to be some fantastic events for us to participate in to include but not limited to posting colors for the new WADAR Ann Cochran Chapter in the Lewis County area, assisting the Oregon Society Color Guard at the unveiling of a new Memorial that they have been working on for over 20 years to our state conference where our PG Michael Elston will be in attendance. It will be an exciting year for the SAR and for the WASSAR.

As I write this Christmas is right around the corner and my thoughts turn to those brave Patriots who were with George Washington 248 years ago. The days were short, nights cold and long and food in short supply. Yet in a couple of weeks' time, they would pull off an amazing feat and defeat the Hessians in Trenton, NJ. It's now up to us to carry that torch of freedom that they kept burning during those long cold winter nights.

A final thought, I have been researching and acquiring new flags from units that our ancestors served with during the American Revolution and plan to have many of these new flags at our state Conference in April where those CG in Uniform will have an opportunity to be the first to carry one of these flags many of which I have not seen in this state before. I hope to see you there.

Lastly my wife and I hope that you and your families had a Merry Christmas and wish you and your families a happy and fantastic 2026.

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

From The Deputy Commander

Fellow Guardsman...

• **Color Guard Patches Available:** I still have a **limited quantity** of the sew on Color Guard Patches. They are 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). Send me, [Dick Motz](#), an E-Mail for purchase. **NOTE:** Authorized for WA State Color Guard members only. The patch measures 4"x4".



• **To all Chapter CG Captains:** Please continue to send me:

- An [Event Scheduling Request form](#) for events to be added to the CG on-line schedule.
- Any notable CG News for the CG Newsletter
- A summary text/photo for all your Completed Events for the CG newsletter. (see [Publication Schedule](#))

Respectfully Submitted, [Dick Motz](#), Deputy Commander, Color Guard, WA State SAR





SAVE THE DATE!!!

2026 SAR Washington Society Conference

April 24-25, 2026

Seattle Airport Marriott, 3201 S. 176th St, Seattle, WA

YOU CAN BOOK YOUR ROOMS NOW-- BY PHONE OR ONLINE

We have a limited room block for the nights of April 23, 24, and 25

- **By phone:** call 1-800-314-0925 and use code "WASSAR 2026"
- **Online:** go to: <https://book.passkey.com/go/WASSAR2026>

SAR room rate: \$159/night plus tax (\$181 total)

PARKING: Daytime only--\$16.00/day + tax. Pick up sticker at registration desk.

Overnight (24 hours) --\$25.00/day + tax. Charges will be on hotel bill.

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY 2026

QUESTIONS: Contact Dick Paul, Chair of the 2026 WASSAR Conference Planning Committee.

E-mail: dickpaulinc@comast.net. Phone: (425) 373-6542



Chapter Local News

22 Oct (JPJ): President Brian Dorr, Vice President Mick Hersey, Color Guard Captain Fred Gilbert, and retired Los Angeles Battalion Chief Hugh Tucker recognized members of the **Bainbridge Island Fire Department** for their response to the Pacific Palisades Fire in California (January 2025). Thank you: LT Matt Phillips, FF Max Hale, FF Danny Sackett, and FF Matt Williams for your service! Also pictured is Fire Chief Jared Moravec - who was presented with a certificate to the department with the names of the firefighters. Congratulations, and thank you for your exceptional service.



27 Oct (JPJ): Mick Hersey was awarded the Bronze Citizen Award along with Todd Best and Josh Fisher. Doug Nelson and Bob O'Neal were presented Letters of appreciation from the Mayor of Bremerton and photo from USS Reagan. The group then went to Lowes in East Bremerton and presented them with a Flag Certificate and Certificate of Appreciation



4 Nov, America 250 Presentation (SP) Chapter members along with support from the DAR America 250 committee, participated in a presentation from Lorraine Ralston, the America 250 state coordinator. The event was held at the Valley Library. Members present were: Doug Jonas and Roger Woodruff

11 Nov: Doug Jonas and Dale Ryan of the Spokane chapter participated in the Pomery Marker re-dedication.



Regional Area Color Guard Events in Oct/Nov/Dec (4th Quarter)

Northern Region Events

31 Oct: I had the pleasure of attending Celebrate America 250 at Sky Valley Education Center in Monroe with SAR members Andrew Chaffin, Stephen Clayton, Neil Vernon and Tim Doughty. The school had display tables, along with activities for the children to experience what it was like to live in different time periods in America.



11 Nov: 100th Anniversary - Joseph Berg plaque replacement. Berg, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in France. The George Washington Chapter Color Guard of the Washington State Society Sons of the American Revolution helped Karen Manatt of the DAR with family members at the rededication ceremony of the Joseph Berg Memorial in downtown Mount Vernon,



Washington.

15 Nov: The George Washington SAR Color Guard attended the Veterans Day parade in Burlington.

CG Members were: John Mark Jenney, Rod Jenney, Bill Bentler, Jack Foster, Chris Fridley, and Marshall Anderson



13 Dec: Wreaths Across America Mt Vernon, Hawthorne Cemetery, Though the city was experiencing an extreme flood threat from the Skagit River, and downtown Mt Vernon had been evacuated, the weather was clear, sunny and fairly warm.

(l-r) Russ Oliver, Ken Carlson, William Bentler, John Kraft, Bruce Bock. Also present were Rod Jenny and Marshall Anderson.

Coins now available in the SAR store

Army

Navy

Marine

Southern Region Events

13 Oct: Color guard members from the Alexander Hamilton and George Rogers Clark Chapters gathered at SeaTac Airport to welcome home the 4th and final Honor Flight for 2025. As usual all the men were smiling and this time there was a WWII/Korean War veteran on the flight. Bonus this time is that Terry Church who is also a member of the George Rogers Clark chapter was present and is looking and putting together a uniform.

(l-R) Lawrence Bowman, Mike Moore, Eric Olsen, Dennis Case, and Tim Smith



19 Oct: Members of the Washington State Color Guard went to Enumclaw, WA to help the Mary Fell Stevenson Chapter DAR for a Historic Monument Dedication of their chapter's namesake. Mary Fell Stevenson and her husband Frank were considered the father and mother of Enumclaw. The wind blew and the rain fell but spirits weren't dampened. Many thanks were given to the Color Guard members for making the trip to Enumclaw.

(L-R): Bill Bentler, Melonie Liening, Alonde Droege, Charlie, Frisk, Viren Lemmer, & Eric Olsen



2 Nov: Members of the George Rogers Clark Chapters color guard met up at Brighton Park Grange #163 for the 3rd annual Thurston County Pomona Grange Veterans Appreciation Day. This was the 2nd year that the chapter posted colors for this event. Many of the attendees said how much they appreciated the posting of colors and what a great job they had done. Past chapter president Art Dolan gave a presentation on the evolution of the U.S. flag that was very well received.

CG members were (l-r) Dick Moody, Lew Maudsley, Lawrence Bowman, Art Dolan, & Eric Olsen.



Lemmer, Michael Bendickson, John Herr, Lawrence Bowman, Melonie Liening (F&D/DAR), & Harold Steenbergen.

8 Nov: Auburn Veterans Day Parade. The WASSAR Color Guard/Fife and Drum Corp attended the annual Veteran's Day parade in Auburn. This year the SAR group was #130 out of 147 entries and was led by the WASSAR Color Guard Commander Eric Olsen. Other members present were:

(l-r) Ralph Liening (HODAR), Brian Dorr, Tim Smith, Charlie Frisk, Eric Olsen, Matt Bendickson, Viren Lemmer, Danika Bendickson (CAR), Mike Moore, Jan



11 Nov: Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony. Members of the George Rogers Clark Chapter once again joined forces with the Sacajawea Chapter to honor Vietnam Veterans at the Vietnam Memorial in Olympia, WA. With the sunny but cold weather, turnout was better than the last few years.

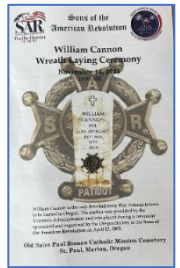
(l-r) Art Dolan, Kevin Saville (GRC), Eric Olsen, Jesai Bancroft-Conners (DAR), Dick Mood



16 Nov: The WA CG with NSSAR PG Michael Elston were privileged to participate in a wreath laying ceremony on the grave of Private William Cannon (1755 - 1854) in St. Paul, Oregon. Private Cannon is the only known Revolutionary War veteran buried in the state of Oregon.

WA CG Members present were:

Eric Olsen, John Kraft, Viren Lemer, Mike Moore, Garry Carpenter, Larry Heckthorne, and Perry Taylor



13 Dec: Wreaths Across America, Washington Soldiers Home Cemetery, Orting. The Alexander Hamilton Color Guard posted the Colors for the ceremony. After a torrential rainfall three days beforehand, the clear skies and brilliant sunshine streaming through the trees and warming the ground helped make the ceremony more memorable.

Participating CG members were: (l-r) Thomas Barham, Michael Moore, Ralph Liening, Jerry Bordelon, John Herr, Charles Frisk.



13 Dec: Wreaths Across America, Masonic Cemetery, Tumwater. Members of the George Rogers Clark Color Guard gathered for the ceremony in support of the Sacajawea Chapter DAR for Wreaths across America. After a week of heavy rain, and record floods the weather was sunny and pleasant making for a great event.

(l-r): Eric Olsen, Kevin Saville, Lew Maudsley, Franida Maudsley, Lawrence Bowman

Eastern Region Events



7 Oct: Compatriot Larry Flint, along with associate Compatriots Brandon Moore and Cody Huls presented to approx. 125 people at the Harmon Senior Center in Yakima. They were assisted by Susan Maiza of the Yakima DAR Chapter. Artifacts, Colonial history, and period correct clothing were shared with those in attendance. It was a very eventful night, enjoyed by all that attended.

18 Oct: The Mid-Columbia Chapter held their meeting while manning a table at the 2025 Yakima Veterans Stand Down Event at the SunDome in Yakima, WA. Our state CG Commander Eric Olsen drove 3.5 miles to attend their meeting and lend support at the event. The event was well attended by many Veterans and at least 3 names were gathered.

(L-R) Richard Roddy, Conn Clark, Randal Roach, Eric Olsen, Jan Hughes (SAR Ladies Aux), 2 Spirit of 76' members, and Larry Flint.



7 Nov: ROTC Veterans Assembly: Compatriots Cody Huls (membership pending), Larry Flint Steve Winmill and Randal Roach join the Yakim, West Valley, High School, Army JROTC to honor our Veterans at a school assembly

8 Nov: Mid-Columbia Chapter SAR joined with the Kennewick and Columbia River DAR Chapters for the West Richland Veterans Day Parade today.



13 Nov: Spokane Chapter #1 members Rob Scott, Doug Jonas, Stan Wills, and Will Palmer partnered with our local PBS station, KSPS, and the May Hutton, Jonas Babcock, and Spokane Garry chapters of the DAR to participate in a special preview of Ken Burns' new documentary, "*The American Revolution*". The event drew an enthusiastic audience and concluded with a lively panel discussion. Afterward, attendees stopped by for photos, and several parents reached out to request our Patriot Chest living history program for their local schools. A special thanks to Cindy Lundberg for coordinating this event with KSPS.

(l-r) Rae Anna Victor(DAR), Rob Scott, Doug Jonas, Susan Silva (DAR), Stan Wills, Wil Palmer and Teresa Palmer (DAR).

14 Nov: Mid-Columbia compatriots attended and supported the Veteran's Resource Expo and Stand Down event at the Southridge Sports Pavilion, Kennewick. Chapter members greeted and shared SAR information throughout the day. Numerous individuals signed up to start the ball rolling on their potential membership.



13 Dec: The Spokane #1 chapter, partnering with the Spokane DAR & CAR, laid 385 wreaths on the graves of veterans at South Pines Cemetery in Spokane Valley, Washington. It was unusually warm for December, and the



sunshine drew many community volunteers who came out to honor and remember our veterans.

(l-r) Dale Ryan, Stan Wills, Doug Jonas, Bob Korn, Rob Hill, Wes Corder, Chris Pedersen, Rob Scott, Will Palmer.



13 Dec: Wreaths Across America: The Mid-Columbia Chapter participated in wreath laying for the National, Wreaths Across America program. This was a joint effort with Columbia River DAR and Civil Air Patrol at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Richland, followed by a small ceremony at the grave of Civil War Veteran, William Johnston, at Resthaven Cemetery in Richland

(l-r) Richard Roddy Conn Clark Brian Smith Larry Flint Randal Roach and Arthur Broady with Event Speakers



Western Region Events



booth was set up by Mick Hersey and Fred Gilbert. Chapter members assisting were Noah Chase, Pat Burch and Ray Schreiber. Lots of interest in the booth learning about our First Veterans and Genealogy tracing their lineage.

8 Nov: Veterans Day Ceremony Bremerton: the John Paul Jones Chapter by recognizing and honoring our veterans with a display booth at the Veteran's Recognition Day at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. The event was celebrated by various veteran support organizations. Several thousand veterans and attendee supported this event. Veterans from WW-II (one Navy Sailor pictured with JPJ VP Mick Hersey), Korean, Vietnam and War on Terror were all recognized. The expanded

100-year-old WWII veteran Radioman Jack Glomstad was honored at the event.





13 Dec: Wreaths Across America Ceremonies were held at Ivy Green Cemetery in Bremerton and Bethel Cemetery in Kitsap County. JPI Chapter members participating were Perry Taylor, Brian Dorr, Mick Hersey, Hugh Tucker, Pat Burch, Noah Chase, Fred Gilbert, members Mark Whiteaker, Paul Wyncoop, Joe Lecato and newest Junior member Tyler Mark. Color Guard members in period dress were Brian Dorr, Mick Hersey and Pat Burch. Over 5000 wreaths were placed in 24 cemeteries in Kitsap County in this our 14th year participating.

Presentations (Summary)

Note: photos with students are no longer provided due to restrictions

27 Oct: The John Paul Jones Education Team spent the day with the eighth-grade classes at Fairview Middle School, Bremerton. The presentation team presenters were; Fred Gilbert, Bob Smalser and the Washington State SAR President Viren Lemmer. Viren started the presentation explaining what the SAR is and talked about the differences between the uniforms the presenters are using. Fred introduced the speakers and talked about some of the causes of the revolution, the start of the revolution with Lexington 19 April, 1775 to the time General Washington departs Valley Forge with a new trailed Continental Army. This was followed by Bob Smalser who spoke on the involvement of the Western Pennsylvania frontier militia, the evolution of the long rifle one of General Washington's secret weapons, the PA sharpshooters along with their tactical use as well as the day-to-day life of the frontier farming family. All presenters were in their period attire with a copy of the Declaration of Independence, a newspaper from 1781 with the stamp act stamp and our 250th flag



31 Oct: The Seattle education team along with Ranger Chapter President Tim Doughty presented to the student body (K-8) of the Sky Valley Education Center in Monroe Washington for their 250th Celebration. Over 200 students were present for the event. Neil Vernon presented the "History of the American Flag" as the first speaker of the day. A display table of artifacts with SAR brochures and program literature was available as the students, parents, and teachers made their round of the booths. Andrew Chaffin, Stephen Clayton, and Neil Vernon were all in period Uniform.

The school was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation of Celebrating the 250th Anniversary, a WASSAR Challenge Coin, and a framed copy of the Declaration of Independence.

3 Nov: The JPI education group taught an hour on the Rev War to five classes of 8th Graders at Fairview Middle School in East Bremerton. 150 or so students. Viren Lemmer, our state president, joined us. His ancestor was a musician, who wore the reverse colors of the Continental Army uniform. Other members were Fred Gilbert,

4 Nov: The Seattle Education team in period clothing attended the Madrona School Veterans Day Assembly of over 400 students (K-8). Prior to the presentation of the Colors, Neil Vernon, with the assistance of students, introduced the flags of each military unit. The presentation of colors was performed by Christopher Clayton, Stephen Clayton, and Richard Seeder.



10 Nov: The John Paul Jones Education Team spent the day with the eighth-grade classes at John Sedwich Middle School, Port Orchard, WA. The presentation team presenters were; Fred Gilbert and Conrad Plyler. Fred introduced the speakers and talked about some of the causes of the revolution, the start of the revolution with Lexington 19 April, 1775 to the time General Washington departs Valley Forge with a new trained Continental Army. This was followed by Conrad Plyler who discussed the militia of the south and why the focus of the revolution moved to the resource rich South. All presenters were in their period attire with a copy of the Declaration of Independence, a newspaper from 1781 with the Stamp Act stamp and our 250th flag.



The John Paul Jones Chapter finished two days of presentations at the Ridgetop Middle School, Silverdale, WA. The first day was 1 Dec and the presenters were: Fred Gilbert, Chapter Education Coordinator and Bob Smalser, Chapter Education Adviser. Fred discussed what led up to the American Revolution through Valley Forge and General Washington leaving Valley Forge with a well-trained Army. Bob discussed the Western Frontier Militia and Riflemen and how they were General Washington's secret weapon starting with the Siege of Boston. He also discussed what life was like on the frontier and the process of what it took for the German community to immigrate to PA. The second day of presentations was 5 Dec. On the 5th our SAR State President Viren Lemmar joined the team with a full day of presentations. Fred Gilbert discussed the signing of the American Revolution and how it affected not just the colonies but all of Europe, Battle of Long Island, Burning of Danbury, CT, Battles of: Long Island, Saratoga and Philadelphia then on to Valley Forge. Bob discussed the militia and how the colonists invented the PA Long Rifle. Viren Lemmar followed and presented the critical responsibility of the Fife and Drummer as the commanders, and how the commanders communicated to the troops on the Battle Field by using the fife and drummer.

Fred Gilbert presented the teachers with a John Paul Jones Chapter challenge coin and President Viren Lemmar presented Ms. Shauna Barnett with a WA State SAR challenge coin and thanking all the teachers for their community support.

Statistics: Ridgetop Middle School: For both days:

Total number of students 240, Teacher and Aids: 9 Presentations: 21

2025-2026 School Year since Sept: 840 students, 26 Teacher/Aids, Presentations: 58

FY 2025, Jan-Dec: Students 1111, Teachers/Aids: 29 Presentations: 71

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 **MS 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.
- Would like articles to be submitted within a week of the event but ***NLT*** the ***25th day of the last month*** of the quarter (below). Exceptions will be made for events occurring after the deadline.

Send to: the [Newsletter Editor](#)

<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.

