

The Defender

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

President, Tom Speelman
Publisher, Larry McKinley (703) 450-6041

November/December 2007
January/February 2008

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter reaches 28th birthday and...



is a vital, growing, contributing hereditary and service organization in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Since July the Fairfax Resolves has seen eight new members be approved; (page 9) have marked two Revolutionary graves one by new Chairman **Jack Sweeney** (page 10); participated in annual Congress, State mid-year, participated in historical observations such as Battle of Greenspring, Williamsburg; Kings Mountain, SC; Yorktown VA; participated in Mid-Atlantic District meeting at Annapolis, MD; Fall Leadership Meeting where we conducted the youth scholarship workshop in Louisville, KY; had some outstanding speakers on Nathan Hale and how to find sources of Revolutionary Service when all else fails. New member **Larry Lamborn** has been very supportive with speakers while new member **Darrin Schmidt** has been actively involved in getting our Web-site going (announcement of URL soon).

In October, The Chapter had both the Fairfax County Police Chief and Fire Chief at the Public Service Awards banquet. We honor these men and women elsewhere in this newsletter in appreciation for their preservation of our Public Safety and Laws establishing and maintaining our freedoms.

We spoke to five classes at Bishop O'Connell H.S. about communications and will have oration and essay contestants again this year as a result. **Bob Hampton** has found three high school J.R.O.T.C. programs to support—thanks.

We established a budget of @ \$1800 almost entirely providing awards to the community and youth of our area—now that is commitment and support of our communities where we thrive. Please remember your dues are due December 1st so we can continue this outstanding community involvement.

Important Dates/SAR Events

Dates to Remember Dec., 2007, Jan./Feb. 2008

1. Fairfax Resolves Chapter Meeting & Christmas Party

6:30 p.m. December 8, 2007

Program, Colonial Music & Entertainment
Vinson Hall, McLean, VA

2. Battle of Cowpens

Cowpens National Battlefield, South Carolina
January 14th, 2008

Commemorative Program and Wreath Laying at
General Daniel Morgan statue, Spartanburg, SC and
Cowpens National Battlefield

3. Fairfax Resolves Oration Contest Meeting
7:00 p.m. January 24th, 2008

Program, Annual Oration Contest
Vinson Hall, McLean, VA (More info inside)

4. Crossing of the Dan River
February 9th, 2008

Commemoration Program and Wreath laying
South Boston, Virginia

5. Virginia Society Annual Meeting
February 15th and 16th, 2008, Midlothian Trnprk

Sheraton South Hotel, Richmond, VA
Additional information and reservations

www.sar.org/vassar

6. George Washington's Birthday Celebration
Parade, Alexandria, VA; February 18th, 2008

7. Leadership Meeting, Feb21-23, 2008

National Organization's Spring Meeting, Louisville, KY
Information Available on National Web-site

www.sar.org

8. National History Day District V competition
February 23, 2007

George Mason University
John Sinks has detail

Message from the President

Since the last newsletter in August, fall has been a time for members of your Fairfax Resolves. Chapter members have participated in a variety of events, many which you will see in this newsletter. From the semi-annual VASSAR meeting in Lynchburg; to commemorations at Yorktown, King's Mountain, and Point Pleasant; to a grave marking of a patriot ancestor of **Jack Sweeney's** in Massachusetts, chapter members have been busy promoting activities and the ideals of the SAR.



At our September chapter meeting, we were privileged to hear Natalie Joshi's excellent presentation of "Nathan Hale, America's First Martyr." And at the November meeting, our own **Dr. John Sinks'** presentation on "Where to Look for Proof of Service When the Regular Sources Fail," a presentation sure to be useful for prospective members, members interested in supplementals, and those who want to learn more about their ancestors that are already established.

However, the brightest event among many was the Fairfax Resolves' Award Banquet to honor members of the Fairfax County Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS who put their lives on the line to protect and serve all the citizens of Fairfax County. We were particularly honored that the Fairfax County Chief of Police, **Colonel David Rohrer**, and Chief of Fire and EMS, **Chief Ronald Mastin**, attended the banquet and participated in the awards ceremony. Both the Chiefs and the honorees were very appreciative and complimentary about the banquet and the awards. **Larry McKinley** did yeoman's work to coordinate with Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS to finalize the awards and citations. You'll see more details on this great event elsewhere in the newsletter.

As we look forward to the coming months, the activity will not slack off. On December 8th, we have our Christmas Social at Vinson Hall from 6:30-8:00 for members and families. At the meeting, we'll induct some new members of the chapter and **Larry McKinley** and family will entertain us with **Music and Entertainment in the Revolutionary times**, followed by dessert-like fair (cakes, cookies, nuts -- things our forefathers would have eaten at a small community gathering. Additionally, punch and wine from Portugal (Thomas Jefferson's favorite), etc. will be the drink. On January 24th, we have the annual Oration Contest featuring students from Bishop O'Connell High School. This year, the contest will be held at Vinson Hall. February will be the annual VASSAR meeting and on March 13, our featured speaker will be Colonel (retired) Peter Badger, USMC, on the subject of Ben Franklin's "conversion" to the cause of liberty. Pete is a docent at Mount Vernon and attorney. It promises to be a fascinating presentation.

In closing, there is one other important chapter activity for which I need to encourage you participation. By now, you've all received your annual dues notice from our chapter Treasurer, **Richard Spurr**. We still have quite a few who have not yet paid their dues. They are due by December 1st in order for Richard to be able to meet suspense to pay the dues to state and national. If you've not already done so, please get your check to Richard. Thanks for your continued interest and participation in one of the most vibrant chapters in the state -- one which thanks to **John Sinks'** hard work has had eight new members approved at national since July with several others whose applications have been submitted.

*I wish you and your family a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year**. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming chapter activity.*

October Functions

The last battle of the Revolutionary War or at least where it all ended even if you don't agree on it being the last battle was Yorktown. A group of Fairfax Resolves Compatriots journeyed to Yorktown on October 19, 2007



*L to R: **Larry McKinley, John Sinks, and Darrin Schmidt** with the Fairfax Resolves wreath and Flag at the gravesite of Governor Thomas Nelson of Virginia.*



*Compatriot **Darrin Schmidt** laying the wreath for Sgt Phillip Slaughter Chapter, Virginia's newest. **Darrin** is a dual member of this Chapter. **Compatriot John Sinks** had just placed the Fairfax Resolves wreath.*



*Fairfax Resolves Flag waving in parade (SAR Flag on left looking at picture). **Compatriot Darrin Schmidt** carried the flag.*



Our Chapter Flag on right. Compatriots from several surrounding States are represented in the parade—visible in this picture are PA, VA, DE, MD and GA.

Yorktown Day, the 226th annual celebration was rather wet at times, but it cleared for the parade after the wreath laying ceremony at the gravesite of Gov. Nelson at Yorktown. This year there were hundreds of spectators attending and as usual the Old Guard, Fife and Drum Corps, Ft. Meyer, VA and 57 different units participated in the parade.

Next year, September 1st there will be a ceremony held at Versailles, Paris France (dinner included at Versailles) to commemorate the 225th signing of the Treaty of Paris. If you are interested there is a tour sponsored by the SAR to Paris for this event. Contact Larry McKinley or the National web-site www.sar.org for additional information.

Fairfax Resolves Public Service Awards Banquet 10/20/2007

Fairfax Resolves held their Public Service Awards program this year on October 20th and for the first time in our short history the Fairfax County Fire Chief Ronald Mastin and the Fairfax County Police Chief Col. David Rohrer were in attendance as we honored the two units. Our Chapter and the SAR honors our Public Safety Organizations as they guard our safety and enforce the laws that protect our freedoms established by our Revolutionary War ancestors.

We were particularly pleased with the emphasis placed on these awards by the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue and Police Departments, that we are a part of their annual awards program and the quality of the outstanding awardees for 2007. They are highlighted as follows:

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (Chief Ronald Mastin assisted)

Fire Chief Ronald Mastin-Fire Safety Award

Paramedic Technician Katja Lancing- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Award

Firefighter John Loss, Fire Safety Award

Fairfax County Police Department (Col. David Rohrer, Chief of Police assisted)

Master Police Officer Paul DeHaven- Law Enforcement Award

Detective Douglas Comfort- Law Enforcement Award



FS #1, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

The members of Fire Station #1, evening shift, McLean, VA, October 20th, 2007 Fairfax County, VA. Fairfax Resolves Awardees in the picture are: extreme left, Fire Chief Ronald Mastin; front row middle and the only woman on the shift, Paramedic Technician Katja Lancing; and second from right in front row, Fire Fighter John Loss.

When Fire Station #1 heard some of their members were being honored, the entire shift showed for the ceremony. They have great esprit. They also are quite good at helping us celebrate our birthday at Fairfax Resolves—cake and coffee were involved!!!! We were so happy they could attend and support their fellow Fire Fighters.

Fire Safety and EMS Awards



Fire Chief Ronald Mastin bringing greetings to those gathered at Vinson Hall

Chief Ronald Mastin is a 34 year fire and rescue veteran serving in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department from 1973 to 2001, then as Fire Chief for Henrico County (near Richmond) from 2001 to 2007, and then returned as **our Chief in June** of this year. He oversees 1,350 uniformed firefighters, 325 operational volunteers and 130 civilian employees in Fairfax County. With a \$170 million annual budget and 37 fire stations to maintain he is more like a CEO of a Corporation. That Corporation happens to handle fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical services, hazardous materials abatement, technical rescue, life safety education, arson investigative services, and admin and support.



Tom Speelman, middle, presenting **Chief Mastin**, right his Fire Safety Award. **Larry McKinley** read the citation

Chief Mastin says, “Fire-fighting recruits today must fulfill more training requirements and obtain more certifications. In addition to fire-fighting and life saving skills, firefighters must learn about hazardous materials and prepare for the dangers of terrorism, bio-terrorism, pandemic flu and other threats...” “A current challenge is to properly staff the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) ranks. About 75% of the 90,000 service calls the department responds to each year involve emergency medical services.” This is why cross-training in EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) skills is so important for all fire-fighters and having more paramedics assigned per station is priority.

We are so honored and privileged to have **Chief Mastin** as our Fire Chief and likewise are honored and privileged to award him the Fire Safety Commendation Medal for his years of service and continued guidance to all of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Services.

Fire Service Professionals and Technicians

Katja Lancing, like all Firefighters in Fairfax County is cross-trained in basic fire fighting skills and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) skills. Her desire was to take these basic skills to a higher level so she plunged into the Paramedic Course of training. These increased skills (preservation of life and health under emergency conditions) are difficult to achieve for the individual, but rewarding for the general public at large.



President Tom Speelman, Katja's mother, Katja & Chief Mastin

Katja not only completed the course of instruction, but she had to serve an internship as a paramedic which meant being constantly evaluated and placed under pressure to exhibit those life saving skills on a daily basis. She did all this while being a Mom of two small children. She even achieved the promotion to the Technician level and serves as one of three paramedics assigned to FS #1.

The Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal is presented to an individual who has made a contribution in the EMS field that exceeded the requirements and expectations of their job description; performance above that expected of their peers. EMS Service is evolving into a highly skilled and technical profession. Countless lives are saved each year and it is our duty to inspire and support the many selfless acts of courage and skill applied in our communities.

Paramedic Technician Lancing exhibits those skills and courage worthy of recognition and indeed we recognized a Paramedic Technician who is a valuable asset to FS #1, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the citizens of Fairfax County.

Firefighter John Loss

Through the efforts of dedicated Fire Service Professionals and Technicians covering development of equipment and techniques to detect arson, forensics, fire prevention education, Emergency Medical Treatment, etc. countless lives are saved. The Fire Safety Commendation Medal is presented to individuals for accomplishment and/or outstanding contributions in the area of fire safety and service.

Firefighter John Loss has spent his entire career, spanning 30 years of service, protecting human life and loss of property due to fires and chemicals. **Mr. Loss** grew up in New York City and was a member of the New York City Volunteer Fire Department in 1971.



Pres. Tom Speelman, John Loss and Chief Mastin

He came to Fairfax County in 1977 and started with the Department in that same year. His nominator **Joseph Kratochvil** says, “**John** knows the streets he knows the buildings and the hazards in the buildings. This valuable knowledge is transferred in a mentoring way to new and experienced Firefighters.”

He is an expert in hazardous materials and participated in the first class taught on the subject in 1982. **John** is foremost a true Fire Safety Professional and as such insures adequate fire safety protection is available for the communities thus affecting the fire rating. Many of us in the community do not know what a Fire Safety individual contributes to, but there is one thing we all should be appreciative of and that is lower insurance rates based on the fire rating.

It is individuals like **John** and **John** himself that teaches, practices and mentors others in fire safety and Firefighting business that improves the life of the community. It was with great pleasure we presented the **Fire Safety Commendation Medal Award** and a special thank you was heard from all those he has mentored. He truly has made a difference in the lives of a new generation.

Law Enforcement Commendation

Col. David Rohrer communicating his appreciation to the Chapter



Col. David Rohrer, Chief of Police Fairfax County, communicated his appreciation to the **Fairfax Resolves Chapter SAR** for being a part of the county award system and our Chapter’s attention to those who protect our freedoms.

He reiterated the mission of the Fairfax County Police Department is very similar to that of the Fire and Rescue Department in that it is to protect persons and property.

We have another CEO like individual since coordinating 27 different Public Safety and Public Service Programs from Child Abuse to Helicopter Division to the Victim Services Center requires constant attention and direction. We live in an area that has great

potential for volatility. So, **Colonel Rohrer**, we can begin to understand the pressures of your position and the leadership you are providing the County---**Thank You!!!!**

Our Chapter has been part of the County’s Law Enforcement award system for many years.

We appreciate the presence of both our Fire Chief and Chief of Police at the awards banquet and look forward to their presence and new awardees next year.

Master Police Officer (MPO) Paul DeHaven

MPO Paul DeHaven is the unit commander for the Helicopter Division and has been a Fairfax County Police Officer for 13 years. **MPO DeHaven** is one of the Division's senior members and serves as a Senior Paramedic/Flight Officer. His regular assignments are enough to exhaust most of us and he provides, often on his own time, the following services to the Police, Fire, EMS, and civilian communities:

- EMT instructor for both Departments (Police and Fire)
- Police Recruit Instructor at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy
- Fire Recruit Instructor at the Fairfax County Fire Training Academy
- Fairfax County Citizen's Police Academy Instructor
- Member of the National Capitol Region Emergency Response Team
- Medic providing support to the Civil Disturbance Unit and Dive Teams
- Flight Officer/Paramedic Training Instructor
- Advanced Life Support Coordinator



LtR: **Mr & Mrs DeHaven (parents), President Tom Speelman, MPO DeHaven, Chief Rohrer.**

Maintaining no less than six instructor or coordinator certifications in the medical and law enforcement disciplines, **MPO DeHaven** has demonstrated his skills (other than instructor). He was awarded the Bronze Medal of Valor for his life saving actions involving a mortally wounded Pentagon Police Officer. He also participated in the life saving efforts during the medevac of Detective **Vicky Armel**. This is in addition to the countless number of medevacs of seriously injured citizens and apprehensions of felony suspects. There is no doubt he is performance conscious.

Fairfax Resolves is proud to present and honor **MPO Paul DeHaven** the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. He has served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement and public safety and demonstrates the highest standards of professional excellence.

Detective Douglas Comfort

Thirty-three years ago, Detective Comfort began his law enforcement career. After twenty-four years he retired into civilian life only to realize his burning desire was to continue his career in law enforcement. He joined the ranks of the Fairfax County Police Department. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, redirected the Department's Criminal Intelligence Unit to focus on the probability of future terrorists threats in Fairfax County. Due to **Detective Comfort's** years of experience and knowledge, he was selected to become an essential member of the intelligence unit. This function grew to be an element of the National Capital Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC). The NCRIC exists to prevent, deter and investigate local terrorism.

Many of **Detective Comfort's** efforts are classified, but one recent case history was released to the public in 2003. In a joint operation with federal investigators, **Detective Comfort** was solely responsible for obtaining the legal means to collect incriminating evidence to prosecute the members of the Virginia Jihad terrorist organization. This group was in the process of acting to support Taliban efforts in Afghanistan. Several members had already received training in Pakistan. Unfortunately for this group, they chose to operate in Fairfax County. They are now serving various prison sentences.

Detective Comfort, as a testament to his knowledge and skill was featured in an article in *The Prosecutor* magazine titled, "Using the Elliot Ness Strategy against Terrorists." This six page feature article discusses why **Detective Comfort's** methods are an effective way to disrupt international terrorist organizations. Prosecutors are not the only professionals to benefit from Detective Comfort's experience. In the last three years he has taught over two thousand students in counter terrorism techniques. This accomplishment alone is worth recognition. It is for all these efforts and his personal commitment that he is awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal from our Chapter---**We are proud to present this award!!**

Fairfax Resolves Officers

2007-2008

President.....**Tom Speelman**
 1st Vice President.....**Darrin Schmidt**
 2nd Vice President.....**Larry Lamborn**
 3rd Vice President.....**Dennis Hickey, IV**
 Secretary.....**Larry McKinley**
 Treasurer.....**Richard Spurr**
 Historian.....**Rob Engle**
 Registrar.....**John Sinks**
 Chaplain.....**William Youngs**

Remember that getting to Vinson Hall is simple. Route 123 North from the Beltway is Chain Bridge Road (Dolley Madison inside the Beltway). Turn right on Old Dominion and proceed 2.5 miles on Old Dominion. After you pass under an overpass, you will see Chesterbrook Shopping Center on your left. Look for the sign for Vinson Hall on your right and turn right onto Vinson Hall Drive. Proceed through the campus following signs to the visitor parking (you can drop off at the main entrance then proceed to visitor parking). After parking, go up the sidewalk to the entrance.

Committees:

- A. Law Enforcement.....Chair, **Larry McKinley**
 Vice-Chair, **Vernon Eubanks**
- B. Fire Safety.....Chair, **William Youngs**
 Vice-Chair **Lauris Eek**
- C. Rev. War Graves.....Chair, **John Sinks**
 Vice-Chair **Jack Sweeney**
- D. Youth Programs
(C.A.R.=Children of the American Revolution)
 Oration/Essay..... Chair, **Larry McKinley**
 Vice-Chair (**Larry Lamborn**)
- C.A.R.....Chair, **Larry McKinley**
 Vice-Chair (**Bob Hampton**)
- J.R.O.T.C.....Chair, **Bob Hampton**
 Vice-Chair **Larry McKinley**
- Eagle Scholarship..... Chair **Robert Engle**
 Vice-Chair, **Larry McKinley**
- National Hist. DayChair (**volunteer needed**)
 Vice-Chair, **John Sinks**
- School Poster Contest.....Chair (**need volunteer**)
- E. Flag Committee.....Chair, **William Youngs**
- F. Veterans Comm.....Chair, **Dennis Hickey, IV**
 Vice-Chair (**need volunteer**)
- G. Teacher of the Year.....Chair (**need volunteer**)
 Vice Chair (**need volunteer**)
- H.Citizen of the Year.....Chair (**need volunteer**)
 Vice-Chair, **Dennis Hickey, IV**
- I. Outstanding Student Committee..Chair, **John Sinks**
 Vice-Chair (**need volunteer**)

J. New Member Comm..... Chair, **Larry McKinley**
 Member, **Darrin Schmidt**
 Member, **Tom Speelman**
 Member, **John Sinks**

K. Web-Site Manager.....Chair, **Darrin Schmidt**
 New Member Committee is assisting Chair
(Members in blue are active new members and we are proud of you for serving)

Registrar/Genealogist Report



John Sinks, PhD

New Members

Jack Sweeney 7/30
Bob Hampton 9/6
Steven Karppi 9/6
Lauris Eek 10/1
Carter Pate 10/1
Doug LeMasters 10/15
Ron Rice 10/30
David Holley 10/31

Applicants

Larry Chapman
David Hall

Prospective Members

Jeffrey Bigler
Thomas Cranmer
Brian Eubanks
Douglas Johnson
Ed Knippersks
Barry Mathoney

Whether helping a new applicant or working on a supplemental, sometimes we find a person the right age to be a patriot, but cannot prove service. One approach is to look beyond the military service and rendering material aid to other acceptable services that are often overlooked. These include:

- Signing petitions addressed to and recognizing the authority of the provisional and new state governments.
- Civil service under the Colonies from April 19, 1775, to November 26, 1783, inclusive
- accepting obligations or acting under direction of the provisional and new state governments

Civil service includes not only serving in lofty positions such as governor or delegate to a Continental Congress, but serving as a constable, sheriff, or town clerk. Acting under the direction of the provisional or new state government includes work mandated by the counties and towns within a state. Such activity as work on public roads, serving as a juror, appraising estates, laying off dowers for widows, collecting taxes, and overseeing elections is all valid service.

Robert Hathaway, Warren, MA

Compatriot **Jack Sweeney**, 4th great grandson of **Robert Hathaway** organized and conducted his grave-marking and registration in Warren Massachusetts. He had assistance from the SAR Chapter in MA.



The gathering at the gravesite of Robert Hathaway—forgotten Patriot of the Rev. War.

At the age of 14 ½ years Robert enlisted in the American Colonies' Army of the Revolution further assigned to the Rhode Island Regiment. He served for 15 months and after about two months at home volunteered again, this time for a year in the Rhode Island Regiment. His unit participated in several battles with the British.

Following his second Continental Army enlistment, Robert performed militia service and he responded to several alarms, but by 1780 the war had intensified in CT, NY, NJ, VA, Carolinas and GA. Robert was discharged as an 18 year old veteran in 1780.



Robert Hathaway's headstone and SAR marker

Robert lived a long time, had with **Susanna Hill**, eleven children (six living to adulthood). He died in 1852 at the age of 89 years five months. Few if any thought of his long ago service in the Army of the American Revolution. His death record lists him as a farmer and no notation of military veteran service. Cause of death, was listed as "old age".

Until 2007, Robert's grave in Pine Grove Cemetery had for over 155 years been unrecognized or recorded as that of an American revolutionary War veteran. **Robert Hathaway** is a Forgotten Patriot and by definition is a patriot that no one has ever applied for membership in the SAR or DAR or C.A.R. based on descent from that individual.



Flags standing at salute for Robert Hathaway.

Conrad Solt, Palmerton, PA

Conrad's family gathered around his bedside in 1825 to say goodbye to the patriarch. He had been a sergeant in the PA militia guarding against Indian attacks. Nearly 182 years later four of his direct descendants stood with several other guests to honor Conrad's memory.

Compatriot **John Sinks'** descendant **Frederick Nagel** was the brother-in-law of **Conrad Solt**. **John Sinks** contacted the **Solt family** and they agreed to a ceremony Aug. 4, 2007.



The Solts traveled 500 miles to see the grave. Robert and Monica Solt left & Brian Clark, SAR and Robert Solt, IV discussed the life and time of Conrad Solt. John Sinks in background. The seventh, eighth and ninth generations of the Solt family truly felt a connection with their ancestor-Conrad Solt, the son of a German immigrant and a true patriot.