



# Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

## Arlington Chapter #7 Bulletin

Arlington #7 Chapter

Established 1938

Re-Chartered 1994



January 2024/February 2024

Chuck Andrews, Editor

**Meetings:** 2nd Saturday of each month, Visitors Welcome

**Time:** 9:30 AM

**Location:** Skillet-N-Grill Cafe 1801 W. Division St. Arlington, Texas 76012

### George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River

George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River, which occurred on the night of December 25–26, 1776 during the American Revolutionary War, was the first move in a complex and surprise military maneuver and attack organized by George Washington, the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, which culminated in their attack on Hessian forces garrisoned at Trenton. The Hessians were German mercenaries hired by the British.

Washington and his troops successfully attacked the Hessian forces in the Battle of Trenton on the morning of December 26, 1776. The military campaign was organized in great secrecy by Washington, who led a column of Continental Army troops from today's Bucks County, Pennsylvania across the icy Delaware River to today's Mercer County, New Jersey in what was one of the Revolutionary War's most logistically challenging and dangerous clandestine operations.

Other planned crossings in support of the operation were either called off or ineffective, but this did not prevent Washington from surprising and defeating the Hessian troops encamped in Trenton under the command of Johann Rall. After prevailing in the Battle of Trenton, Washington and his Continental Army troops crossed the Delaware River again, returning to Pennsylvania west-bound with Hessian prisoners and military stores taken in the battle.



Portrait by Emanuel Leutze

Washington's army then crossed the Delaware River a third time at the end of 1776 under difficult circumstances by the uncertain thickness of the ice on the river. They defeated British reinforcements under Lord Cornwallis at Trenton on January 2, 1777, and were also triumphant over his rear guard at Princeton the following day prior to retreating to his winter quarters in Morristown, New Jersey.

As a celebrated location and development in the ultimately victorious Revolutionary War, the unincorporated communities of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania and Washington Crossing, New Jersey are both presently named in honor of Washington and the logistically complicated covert crossing of Delaware River.

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## Background

Although 1776 started well for Washington and the Continental Army with the evacuation of British troops from Boston in March, attempts to defend New York City from the British were unsuccessful. British General William Howe and his troops landed on Long Island in August and pushed Washington's Continental Army completely out of New York by mid-November, when he captured the remaining troops on Manhattan.

The main force of British troops returned to New York for the winter season, and they left their allied Hessian troops in New Jersey under the command of Colonels Rall and Von Donop. Both colonels were ordered to form small outposts in and around Trenton. Howe then sent troops under the command of Charles Cornwallis across the Hudson River, where they chased Washington and his troops across New Jersey.

Washington's army was shrinking because of expiring enlistments and desertions. The remaining troops were suffering from poor morale because of the defeats in the New York area. Most of Washington's army crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania north of Trenton, and destroyed or moved to the western shore all boats for miles in both directions.

Rather than attempting to immediately chase Washington further, Cornwallis, under Howe's orders, established a chain of New Jersey outposts from New Brunswick to Burlington, including one at Bordentown and one at Trenton, and ordered his troops to bunker there in winter quarters.<sup>[3]</sup> The British were happy to end the campaign season when they were ordered to winter quarters. This was a time for the generals to regroup, resupply, and strategize for the upcoming campaign season the following spring.

## Washington's Army

Washington encamped his Continental Army near McConkey's Ferry in present-day Upper Makefield Township, not far from the crossing site. Washington at first took quarters across the river from Trenton, but on December 15 he moved his headquarters to the home of William Keith in present-day Upper Makefield Township so he was closer to his forces. When Washington's army first arrived at McConkey's Ferry, the Continental Army had between 4,000 and 6,000 men, but approximately 1,700 were unfit for duty and needed hospital care. In the retreat across New Jersey, Washington lost precious supplies and

also lost contact with two important divisions of the Continental Army.

Two of Washington's top generals were potentially poised to aid Washington in the crossing and attack. Horatio Gates was in the Hudson River Valley. Charles Lee was in western New Jersey, where he had 2,000 Continental Army troops under his command. Washington ordered both generals to join him, but Gates was delayed by heavy snows in transit to McConkey's Ferry, and Lee, who did not have a high opinion of Washington, delayed following repeated orders, and remained on the British flank near Morristown.

Other problems hampered Washington's forces.

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Medal Spotlight:

## Patriot Grave Marking Medal Set



The Patriot Grave Marking Medal recognizes both past efforts to identify and report data on Revolutionary War graves and to encourage new efforts to identify graves. The data generated by these efforts will meet educational objectives by continuing to build and improve the existing database on these patriots by listing their final resting places. It meets historical objectives by providing data to potential members and by identifying these significant places so that they may not be lost to future generations.

The medal is suspended from a purple and black drape and is a round disk of silver color. The obverse depicts a cemetery with a picket fence, with a rifle leaning against the fence, a Betsy Ross flag, and a cloudy sky. The words "1775 Patriot" appear at the bottom. The reverse has the words "Services for Those Who Served" flanked by laurel leaves, with space for inscription.



## CORRECTION



**Corrected identification-** Jared Ashford, Jake Ashford, Justin Ashford, Patriot ancestor- John Hart, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Kirby M. Anderson, Patriot ancestor- William Shaw, Sgt NC Continental Line and Pres. Dan Hamilton

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Many of his troop's enlistments were due to expire at the end of 1776, then only a week away, and many of them were inclined to leave the Continental Army when their commission ended. Several Continental Army troops deserted prior to expiration of their enlistment commitment.

The pending loss of forces, the series of lost battles, the loss of New York, and the resulting flight of the Continental Army and many New Yorkers from the British, led some in the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia to begin doubting the war's direction under Washington's leadership. But Washington persisted, successfully procuring supplies and dispatching men to recruit new members for the Continental Army, which was successful partly because of British and Hessian soldiers' drunken behavior while in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The losses at Fort Lee placed a heavy toll on Washington and the Continental Army. When they evacuated their forts, they were forced to leave behind critical supplies and munitions. Many troops were killed or taken prisoner, and the morale of the remaining troops suffered even further. Few believed that Washington and the Continental Army could win the war and gain independence.

### Publication of *The American Crisis*

On December 19, 1776, just a week prior to Washington's covert crossing of the Delaware River, the morale of the Continental Army was lifted by the publication of *The American Crisis*, a pamphlet authored

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## MILESTONES

### Inductions

Charles H. Blumenfield  
Chase Blumenfield

### Anniversaries

#### November

William R. Coffey 11/3/12 11 years  
John D. Anderson, III 11/22/16 7 years  
Stephen T. Anderson 11/22/16 7 years

#### Jr. SAR Members

Grady Anderson 11/22/16 7 years

#### December

Donald E. Billings 12/7/11 12 years  
Dennis C. Walton 12/31/13 10 years  
Michael B. Hutchins, Sr. 12/4/15 8 years  
David K. Setzer 12/31/16 7 years  
William F. Deakynne 12/11/20 3 years  
Evan B. Morgan 12/2/22 1 year  
Chuck Andrews 12/9/22 1 year

#### January

J. Damon Fehler 1/13/88 36 years  
Joseph P. Sogan 1/15/1991 33 years  
James M. Stanbaugh 1/1/1980 24 years  
Paul Stevens 1/21/13 11 years

#### February

Jack M. Harwick 2/14/1996 28 years  
William S. Covington, Jr. 2/26/13 11 years  
Lynchell W. (Wally) Penny 2/17/17 7 years  
Roger E. Cobb 2/16/18 6 years

#### March

Michael E. Pennington 3/17/04 20 years  
Ned G. Meyers 3/29/16 8 years  
Glen G. Foster 3/10/17 7 years  
Parker P. McDivit 3/23/18 6 years  
Joseph Kohn 3/5/21 3 years  
William Laurance Oliver, D.D,S, 3/5/21 3 years  
Jacob C. Alexander 3/18/22 2 years  
Richard A. Vaughn 3/3/23 1 year  
Lee Bryan Ehrler 3/17/23 1 year

#### Jr. SAR Members

B. Marshall Cope II 3/10/17 7 years  
Grayson D. Freeman 3/10/23 1 year

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots,

I am not generally a person of a great many words. I do not foresee that this letter to the chapter will be much different.

Allow me to begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve as your President for the past two years. Wow! Two years, really? When we began this journey together, we were still meeting at Southern Recipes Grill. We did not have an active Wreaths Across America program in Arlington. Thanks so much to all of you who have embraced that program and serve. When I started, what we did to honor veterans was small. With the assistance of Bill Goodman, our chapter is much better at identifying, honoring and serving our veterans. Chuck Andrews has stepped up and offered to be editor of our newsletter. David & Nancy Hubler opened their home to the chapter for the very first chapter social. We had an entry in the Eagle Scout Essay contest. And we had deal with the pain of loosing some of our friends and Compatriots

To all of you who have served so faithfully as chapter officers and committee chairs, you have been **wonderful!** This has been the lifeblood of our chapter and with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary bearing down on us we must all be ready to serve. So, if you are a member but not very active, I encourage you to become more active. There are opportunities to put your talents and interests towards a good cause if you are willing to use them. If you are currently an active member, thanks for all you do! Get ready for bigger and better opportunities.

I look forward to Joe Kohn taking over the reins. I feel assured he will continue to move the chapter forward. I know you will give Joe's goals and objectives the support that you gave to me.

In closing just let me mention, as I have told Judy repeatedly, You Guys are the **BEST!**

**STAY THE COURSE!**

Best Regards,

Dan

## IN MEMORIAM

### MICHAEL W. FAIRCHILD, SAR

Michael W. Fairchild was welcomed into the Sons of the American Revolution on May 13, 2022.

Michael graduated from Irving High School and the University of Texas-Arlington with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Architecture. He was involved in the construction industry and in 2009 began teaching at UTA. He was a founding instructor for the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management program.

His patriot ancestor was Peter David, Captain in John Marks Company, 14th Virginia Regiment.

Mike was active in the Arlington Chapter. Along with wife, Cyndy, he coordinated the Chapter's activity in Wreaths Across America which honors veterans at the Arlington and Parkdale Cemeteries.

He was also Committee Chairman for the Chapter's participation in the Annual Arlington 4th of July Parade. He furnished his time, Jeep and a flat bed float designed as Washington's boat crossing the Delaware.

His legacy to our Chapter is his leadership by example and his expertise will be missed.



Donations can be made to the Professor Michael Fairchild Scholarship Endowment at UTA which will support an undergraduate Construction Management student who has academic merit and financial need. <https://give.uta.edu/fairchild>

Visitation is planned for Saturday, March 16, 2024 10 am-11am

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MISSION

*The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.*



## INDUCTION

### WENDELL BLACK



On October 14, 2023, Wendell Black was inducted into the SAR by President Dan Hamilton. Wendell's Patriot is Charles Gary who provided Material Aid in South Carolina during the American Revolution. His photograph was omitted from the previous newsletter.

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by Thomas Paine, the author of *Common Sense*. In *The American Crisis*, Paine wrote the famed phrase:

“These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it *now*, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

The day following its publication in Philadelphia, Washington ordered all his troops to read it. In *The American Crisis*, Paine encouraged the soldiers to look more optimistically at their prospects for victory. The pamphlet also enhanced public understanding across the Thirteen Colonies of the challenging conditions confronting the Continental Army but arguing that victory was possible and necessary.

### Reinforcements arrive

On December 20, General Lee's division of 2,000 troops arrived in Washington's camp under the command of General John Sullivan. Lee was captured by the British on December 12, when he ventured too far outside the protection of his troops in search of more comfortable lodgings. Later that day, Gates' division arrived in camp, which by then included only 600 Continental Army forces following the end of many enlistments, to secure the northern frontier. Soon af-

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## PRESENTATION

### SENIOR VICE COMMANDER MAJOR ROBERT J. WILLIAMS, USAF (RET) REGION VIII, FT. WORTH, TX CHAP. 133 MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS



On November 11, 2023, Major Robert J. Williams from the Ft. worth Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars spoke to the Chapter.

The Order was begun after WWI by a group of veteran officers as “American Officers of the Great War”. Later the name was changed to “Military Order of the World War” and during WWII to its current name.

The organization promotes patriotism, good citizenship and individual responsibility. The MOWW partners with JROTC and ROTC programs and sponsors Youth Leadership Conferences and supports Scouting programs.

The organization is partnering with the National Medal of Honor Museum currently under construction in Arlington.

### ARLINGTON #7 MERCHANDISE

**Keep in mind that Arlington #7 offers logo merchandise:**

**Challenge Coins- \$10**

**Lapel Pins- \$5**

**Coffee Cups- \$15**

**These can be purchased by contacting:  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Richard Martin**

**[furball2604@gmail.com](mailto:furball2604@gmail.com)**





Happy  
Birthday

### November

- 11/12 William S. Covington, Jr.  
11/20 B. Marshall Cope II (Jr. Member)

### December

- 12/4 Chase Blumenfield  
12/15 Roger E. Wehr

### January

- 1/1 Glen G. Foster  
1/1 Joseph P. Sogan  
1/3 Jacob C. Alexander  
1/6 Robert W. Wehr  
1/6 Bradlyn J. Cole  
1/19 Charles H. Blumenfield  
1/21 Douglas Scott Steward  
1/21 Dustin D. Decker (Jr. Member)  
1/22 J. Damon Fehler  
1/22 Adrian B. Cole (Jr. Member)  
1/30 Dennis C. Walton

### February

- 2/6 Ian A. Yuhasz  
2/11 Bill C. Goodman  
2/11 William R. Coffey  
2/15 Jeffrey D. Meller  
2/16 Chuck Andrews  
2/23 William F. Deakyne

### March

- 3/9 Nick Nichols  
3/11 Scott D. Hamilton  
3/20 David R. Wells  
3/25 Robert W. Saunders  
3/25 Joseph G. Kohn

## BOB POPE RECEIVES LIBERTY MEDAL



November 11, 2023– Compatriot Bob Pope is presented the Liberty Medal by President Dan Hamilton. The Liberty Medal is awarded for recruiting new members to the SAR.

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ter, another 1,000 Continental Army troops arrived from Philadelphia under Colonel John Cadwalader's command to support Washington and the existing troops he then was commanding.

With these reinforcements and a smaller number of local volunteers who joined his forces, Washington's forces totaled about 6,000 troops fit for duty. This total was then reduced by a large portion because some forces were detailed to guard the ferries at Dunk's Ferry, currently bordered by present-day Neshaminy State Park in Bensalem Township, Pennsylvania and New Hope, Pennsylvania. Another group was sent to protect supplies at Newtown, Pennsylvania, and to guard the sick and wounded who had to remain behind as the Continental Army began crossing the Delaware River. This left Washington with about 2,400 men able to take offensive action against the Hessian and British troops in and around Trenton.

The Continental Army's morale was boosted further by the arrival of some provisions, including much-needed blankets, on December 24.

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**BILL COVINGTON PRESENTS:  
STORY JOHN (JACK) JOUETT  
“PAUL REVERE OF THE SOUTH”**



Bill Covington spoke to the Chapter membership relating the story of John (Jack) Jouett, sometimes called the “Paul Revere of the South”. Jouett rode 40 miles to warn Thomas Jefferson, then the outgoing governor of Virginia the British calvary had been dispatched to capture he and Virginia legislators who had fled Richmond for Charlottesville and Jefferson’s Monticello. Those included Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Nelson, Jr. and Benjamin Harrison V.

After warning Jefferson and his accompanying companions, Jouett then rode on to the Swan Tavern (owned by Jouett’s father) to warn other legislators.



**EVENTS**

**2024**

Mar 8 Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM **(C)**

Apr 12 Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM **(C)**

Apr 11-14– 2024 **Texas SAR Annual Conference**  
San Antonio **(S)**

Apr 27 **Medal of Honor Parade** Gainesville, TX  
10 am event; 8:30 am show time **(CG-N)**

May 10 Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM **(C)**

May 27 **Memorial Day**

Jun 14 Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM **(C)**

Jul 4 **Independence Day-** Arlington 4th of July Parade

Jul 10-16 134th NSSAR Congress, Lancaster, PA **(CG-N)**

December 14, **Wreaths Across America** -Parkdale & Arlington Cemeteries, Arlington, TX **(CG-N)**

**2025**

TBD **130th Annual Texas SAR Convention**, DFW Metroplx, TX **(CG-S)**

July 12-18 **NSSAR Congress**, Uncasville, Connecticut, **(CG-N)**

**(CG)** = Color Guard event, **(C)** = Chapter, **(S)** = State, **(N)** = National



**NATION’S  
250TH BIRTH-  
DAY IS COMING—  
4 JULY 2026**

The celebration of the founding of America includes the time period from the Stamp Act to the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War. As the Revolution included Political and Civic actions, as well as War activities, events will include all that shaped the development of our Great Nation during the time period.

America 250 Website: [www.america250sar.com](http://www.america250sar.com)

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## ARLINGTON #7 TEXAS STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS

### Planning the Attack

Washington was considering some form of bold maneuver since arriving in Pennsylvania. With the arrival of Sullivan's and Gates' forces and the influx of militia companies, he felt the time was finally right for some sort of action.

Washington first considered an attack on the southernmost British positions near Mount Holly, where a Continental Army militia force had gathered. He sent his adjutant Joseph Reed to meet with Samuel Griffin, the militia's commander. Reed arrived in Mount Holly on December 22, and found Griffin to be ill and his men in relatively poor condition, but willing to undertake some form of military diversion. They did this at the Battle of Iron Works Hill the next day, drawing the Hessians at Bordentown far enough south that they would be unable to come to the assistance of the Trenton garrison. The intelligence gathered by Reed and others led Washington to abandon the idea of attacking at Mount Holly, and he began focusing instead on targeting the Hessian garrison in Trenton.

On December 23, Washington announced to his staff that he had decided to attack Trenton just prior to sunrise on December 26. Washington told Reed that "dire necessity" justified the risky assault, which included the logically complicated task of crossing the Delaware River.

Washington's final plan included plans for three crossings of the river, with his troops, the largest contingent, to lead the attack on Trenton. A second column under Cadwalader was to cross at Dunk's Ferry and create a diversion to the south. A third column under Brigadier General James Ewing was to cross at Trenton Ferry and hold the bridge across the Assunpink Creek, just south of Trenton, in order to prevent the enemy's escape by that route. Once Trenton was secure, the combined Continental Army would move against the British posts in Princeton and New Brunswick. A planned fourth crossing, by men provided by General Israel Putnam to assist Cadwalader, was aborted after Putnam indicated that he did not feel he had enough men fit for such a military operation.

Preparations for the attack began immediately, on December 23. The following day, on December 24, boats were used to begin bringing the Continental Army across the Delaware from New Jersey were brought down from Malta Island near present-



The Arlington SAR Chapter was represented at the DAR Continental House during the Texas State Fair. Volunteers provide information and seek those interested in joining the SAR. Our Arlington Chapter provided 6 volunteer hours. During the Fair 78 prospective members were solicited and 135 Viet Nam era lapel pins were presented to Veterans. Pictured are Dan Hamilton, William R. Coffey and John Anderson.

day New Hope, Pennsylvania. The boats were hidden behind Taylor Island at McConkey's Ferry, Washington's planned crossing site, and security was tightened at and around the crossing. A final planning meeting took place that day, with all of the general officers present. Washington outlined the details plans for the crossing of the river and planned attacks on the Hessians in Trenton on December 25, 1776

### Watercraft

A wide variety of watercraft were assembled for the crossing of the Delaware River, primarily through the work of militia men from surrounding counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania with assistance from the Pennsylvania Navy.

Captain Daniel Bray, along with Captain Jacob Gearhart and Captain Jacob Ten Eyck, were chosen by

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Washington to take charge of the boats used in the crossing, supervising the transport of infantry, cavalry, and cannon. In addition to the large ferry vessels, which were big enough to carry large coaches, and likely served for carrying horses and artillery during the crossing, a large number of Durham boats were used to transport soldiers across the river. These boats were designed to carry heavy loads from the Durham Iron Works, featured high sides and a shallow draft, and could be poled across the river.

The boats were operated by experienced watermen, including John Glover's Marblehead Regiment, a company of experienced seamen from Marblehead, Massachusetts. These men were joined by seamen, dockworkers, and shipbuilders from Philadelphia and local ferry operators and boatmen who knew the Delaware River well, including Kirby Francis Kane from Rhode Island.

### Crossing

On the morning of December 25, Washington ordered his Continental Army troops to prepare three days' food and issued orders that every soldier be outfitted with fresh flints for their muskets. Washington was somewhat worried by intelligence reports that the British were planning their own crossing once the Delaware was frozen over. At 4 pm on December 25, Washington's army arrived to begin the crossing of the river. The troops were issued ammunition, and even the officers and musicians were ordered to carry muskets. They were told that they were departing on a secret mission. Marching eight abreast in close formations and ordered to be as quiet as possible, they left the camp for McConkey's Ferry. Washington's plan required the crossing to begin as soon as it was dark enough to conceal their movements on the river, but most of the troops did not reach the crossing point until about 6 pm, about ninety minutes after sunset. As the evening progressed, the weather became progressively worse, turning from drizzle to rain and then to sleet and snow. "It blew a hurricane," one soldier recalled.

Washington had given charge of the crossing to his chief of artillery, Henry Knox. In addition to the crossing of large numbers of troops (most of whom could not swim), he had to safely transport horses and eighteen pieces of artillery over the river. Knox wrote that the crossing was accomplished "with almost infinite difficulty", and that its most significant danger was floating ice in the river. One observer noted that the whole operation might well have failed "but for the stentorian lungs of Colonel Knox". The unusually cold weather of the 1770s and the icy river



October 21, 2023— Attending the TXSAR BOM (Board of Managers) in College Station were Compatriots John Anderson, Ron Turner, V.P., Dist. 5 and Stephen Hole.

were likely related to the Little Ice Age.

Washington was among the first of the troops to cross, going with Virginia troops led by General Adam Stephen. These troops formed a sentry line around the landing area in New Jersey, with strict instructions that no one was to pass through. The password was "Victory or Death". The rest of the army crossed without significant incident, although a few men, including Delaware's Colonel John Haslet, fell into the water.

The amount of ice on the river prevented the artillery from finishing the crossing until 3 am on December 26. The troops were ready to march around 4 am.

The two other crossings fared less well. The treacherous weather and ice jams on the river stopped General Ewing from even attempting a crossing below Trenton. Colonel Cadwalader crossed a significant portion of his men to New Jersey, but when he found that he could not get his artillery across the river he recalled his men from New Jersey. When he received word about Washington's victory, he crossed his men over again but retreated when he found out that Washington had not stayed in New Jersey.

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# SAR CHAPTER # 7 AND WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023



December 16, 2023– SAR Chapter Arlington #7 participated in the annual Wreaths Across American program which recognizes Veterans at the Arlington and Parkdale Cemeteries. The event spearheaded by the DAR, requires year-round preparation. Volunteers are enlisted to clean cemeteries and place flags at each Veteran's grave site prior to wreath placement. Along with individuals and organizations, the Arlington SAR Chapter donated wreaths for placement.

Chapter lead person was Mike Fairchild who worked closely with his wife Cyndy. He organized and assisted in wreath delivery and prepared maps of assigned cemetery areas.

Arlington Compatriots participating included President and Color Guard Member Dan Hamilton, John Anderson and family, David Friels, Brent Houser, Richard Martin, Wally Penny and Bruce Morgan.



the Delaware River.

Meanwhile, the Hessians were held up at Trenton. In the days approaching Christmas, they experienced numerous skirmishes around Trenton, and were subjected to frequent gunfire at night, along with repeated false alarms. By Christmas Eve, the Hessians were tired and weary. As a storm and heavy snowfall began Christmas night, Colonel Rall assumed there would be no attack of any consequence to worry about. While Rall was in Trenton, he and some of his top officers spent Christmas

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## Attack

On the morning of December 26, as soon as the Continental Army was ready, Washington ordered it split into two columns, one Washington personally commanded with General Greene, and a second led by General Sullivan. The Sullivan column would take River Road from Bear Tavern to Trenton while Washington's column would follow Pennington Road, a parallel route that lay a few miles inland from

## ARLINGTON #7 AWARDS CERTIFICATE TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 516



February 7, 2023— Commander David Fenn of the Greater Ft. Worth American Legion Post 516 is awarded SAR Flag Retirement certificate by Pres. Dan Hamilton, John Anderson and Chuck Andrews. The Chapter delivered flags previously used to mark Veterans' graves.

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evening at the home of Abraham Hunt, Trenton's postmaster, where Hunt played the role of a Loyalist and placated Rall and his officers with food and plenty of drink into the late hours of the evening and morning, which, by many accounts, compromised Rall's ability to respond to Washington's surprise attack at daybreak.

Washington attacked an unsuspecting Rall and his troops and in little time had scattered and divided them and ultimately won the battle. Only three Americans were killed and six wounded, while 22 Hessians were killed, with 98 wounded. During the battle Colonel Rall was mortally wounded, and died the next day. The Americans captured nearly 1,000 prisoners, and seized muskets, gun powder, artillery pieces, and drums.

### Return to Pennsylvania

Following the battle, Washington had to execute a second crossing that was in some ways more difficult than the first. In the aftermath of the battle, the Hessian supplies had been plundered, and, in spite of Washington's explicit orders for its destruction, casks of captured rum were opened, so some of the celebrating troops got drunk, probably contributing to the larger number of troops that had to be pulled from the icy Delaware River waters on the return crossing. They also had to transport the large numbers of prisoners across the river while keeping them under guard. One American acting as a guard on one of the crossings observed that the Hessians, who were

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## INCOMING

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Compatriots!

It is a great honor to become your incoming President and I want to thank you for entrusting me with this opportunity to serve you. I also want to thank outgoing President Dan Hamilton for his outstanding service to our chapter and helping me with this transition. And I can't forget, John Anderson, who has been my mentor from the start and has taught me so much about the workings of SAR and has always been there when I called on him.

I look forward to working with all of you and if you have ideas or something we could possibly do better, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We have started several new ideas recently, Chuck Andrews's Newsletter, David Hubler's Tickle Me Tuesday and the beginning of social events and I would like to see these improve.

I have an idea that I will introduce this spring and will be strictly volunteer. What do you think about giving a short bio of yourself and family and what role your ancestors played during the American Revolution? I love history and I am very interested in all of you and getting to know everyone better and this one way.

Thank you, fellow compatriots, for being on this journey together!

Joe

### *Editor's Note:*

Quotation:

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company."

— George Washington

## SAR Color Guards At Plano Symphony



### School Concerts

#### Strike up the band! Er, Orchestra

A few days ago, a call for action was e-mailed to the North Texas Color Guard members by Bob Johns, President of the Plano, Texas chapter. The detail called for providing Color Guards to present and post the colors at a series of concerts hosted by The Plano (Texas) Symphony Orchestra.

#### Concert Background

One of the most exciting arts partnership programs offered anywhere, the **SCHOOL CONCERT PROGRAM** is designed to be an integral part of the fine arts curriculum for elementary school students. One of the points in the concert program is a concert experience field trip given during the second semester. This is the culmination of the program.

In 2022, over 17,000 people attended School Concerts from seven different school districts. Of the participating schools, 37% serve Title I students

Under the leadership of Plano chapter Color Guard Commander, Dave Fautheree, guardsmen Bob Johns, and Larry Melton from Plano chapter, Brent Harshman from Dallas chapter, Bill Graham from McKinney chapter, and **Dan Hamilton** from **Arlington chapter**. will have introduced approximately 18,000 school children from across the Metroplex to living history (education), through community involvement.. and patriotic pride.

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standing in knee-deep ice water, were "so cold that their underjaws quivered like an aspen leaf."

The victory had a marked effect on the troops' morale. Soldiers celebrated the victory, Washington's role as a leader was secured, and Congress gained renewed enthusiasm for the war.

### Third Crossing

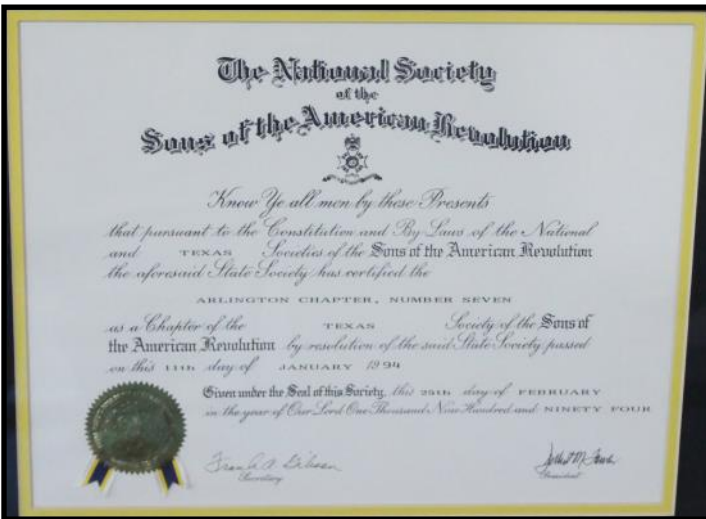
In a war council on December 27, Washington learned that all of the British and Hessian forces had withdrawn as far north as Princeton, something Cadwalader had learned when his militia company crossed the river that morning. In his letter, Cadwalader proposed that the British could be driven entirely from the area, magnifying the victory. After much debate, the council decided on action and planned a third crossing for December 29. On December 28 it snowed, but the weather cleared that night, although it remained bitter cold.

As this effort involved most of the army, eight crossing points were used. At some of crossing points, the ice had frozen two to three inches (4 to 7 cm) thick and was capable of supporting soldiers, who crossed the ice on foot. At other crossings, the conditions were so bad that the attempts were abandoned for the day. It was New Year's Eve before the army and all of its baggage was back in New Jersey. This was somewhat fortunate, as the enlistment period of John Glover's regiment, along with a significant number of others, was expiring at the end of the year, and many of these men, including most of Glover's, wanted to go home, where a lucrative privateering trade awaited them. Only by offering a bounty to be paid immediately from Congressional coffers in Philadelphia did a significant number of men agree to stay with the army another six weeks.

Washington then adopted a fortified position just south of the Assunpink Creek, across the creek from Trenton. In this position, he beat back one assault on January 2, 1777, which he followed up with a decisive victory at Princeton the next day, although General Hugh Mercer was killed in the battle. In the following days, the British withdrew to New Brunswick, and the Continental Army entered winter quarters in Morristown, New Jersey.



# SAR ARLINGTON #7 COMMEMORATES 30 YEARS



## POTLUCK THANKS

Finally, thanks to Compatriot David Hubler for hosting the first, but hopefully more, Potluck get together of Chapter members and significant others.

I was beautiful setting with great fellowship and plenty of food.

Good luck in New Mexico, come back often!

