

President's Pen

It is an honor and privilege to have been elected at the June Annual Meeting to serve as the Virginia Society President. With the Bicentennial Celebrations of the WAR 1812 being widely in the U.S. it is probably the best time ever to be a member of the Society of the War of 1812 and help achieve the objective of the Society in educating the public about this war. In the short time I have been your president, I sought to work hard to bring out our message.

On the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the Declaration of War with Great Britain, I participated in a salute to President James Madison held on June 18th at The James Madison Memorial, in the James Madison Building, The Library of Congress. This was an exciting event featuring the US Marine Corps Chamber Ensemble, reading Madison's letters and the Declaration of War, and the presentation of a wreath. The Salute was planned and hosted by the District of Columbia War of 1812, and attended by several General Society Officers, including President General Lt. Col. Larry Casey, who also gave greetings

Another major Bicentennial Celebration of the War of 1812 was sponsored July 28th by The National Park Service and the staff, volunteers and interns of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial. Arlington House is located in Arlington National Cemetery, overlooking Washington, D.C. Arlington House has a unique association with the War of 1812. It was built by the step-grandson of George Washington - George Washington Parke Custis. Custis fought in the Battle of Bladensburg and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His daughter married Robert E. Lee, son of "Light-Horse Harry" Lee whose opposition to the war nearly cost him his life in the Baltimore Riots. General Langan, killed by the Baltimore mobs is buried at Arlington. A number of War of 1812 soldiers and sailors are also buried at Arlington. The Bicentennial program included demonstrations of music, musket and cannon firing by The Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Following the cannon fire the Fife and Drum Corps led a procession to the graves of George Washington Parke Custis, General Langan, and Unknowns. Thanks to the National Park Service my wife Judy and I were treated like royalty, receiving the VIP red carpet treatment. For me the highlight of the celebration was laying a Virginia Society Wreath at the grave of Washington Park Custis, with the Fort McHenry Corps serving as honor guard. Out wreath was the only one laid at this grave. (Editor: See photos from this event on page 24)

My participation on Bicentennial Celebrations will continue August 17-19 in Boston, when the General Society will host meetings and major events, including a Private Tour of USS Constitution.

As with most everything, you get out of things what you

put into them. I would like to encourage every member of the Virginia Society to get further involved in our activities and programs. I realize that you have many demands on your time and there are other good organizations, which would benefit from your talents. But I firmly believe that this is the time to stand up for the War of 1812. I urge you to attend Virginia Society and other Bicentennial events, and to consider volunteering to serve on one or more committees. Virginia has both standing committees and special committees.

Standing Committees are:

- Audit Committee:
- Budget and Finance Committee:
- Graves Location and Registration Committee
- Grave Markings Committee:
- Newsletter Committee
- Records Depository Committee
- Membership Committee

Special Committees. Committees being considered for this year subject to approval by the Board of Directors:

- Bicentennial Committee:
- Meetings Committee:
- Publication Committee:
- Awards and New Programs Committee
- By-Laws Updates Committee
- Color Guard Committee

If you are interested in volunteering for one or more of these committees, or would like to help out in another capacity, please e-mail me at reapdickie1@verizon.net.

Please plan to attend the Virginia Society Meeting, Friday, September 14, 2012, in Charlottesville. We are seeking to have the meeting at Ashland-Highland, the former home of James Monroe

May God Bless you and America

John N. Dickie

VIRGINIA SOCIETY UNIFORMS & ACCESSORIES

You may have noticed in a lot of our photos in the newsletters and on our website that the Virginia society members stand out and are well recognized because they wear the blue blazer sport coat with the blazer patch and that they also wear the James Monroe tie, (our VA Society tie). For medals they wear the large society insignia medal,* the Virginia Society Medal and now many are wearing the General Society of 1812 Bicentennial Medal and all are wearing the Virginia society name plate. On the back page of each issue of *The 1812 War Cry*, that all members receive from the General Society are where many of these items may be obtained. For

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