**Society Members Attend General Society Bicentennial Celebration in New Orleans**

**This message from President Fritts Jan 19, 2015**

Defenders:

During the period 6-10 January 2015 The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia was well represented at the War of 1812 Bicentennial Observances conducted in New Orleans. We had five members (Cowherd, Fritts, Nash, Poland and Smith) and two dual members (Barlow and Edwards) representing us.

Based on the comments I heard everyone enjoyed all the events and especially enjoyed the FOOD. Sadly the event didn’t get all the media attention that Fort McHenry received.

The highlight of New Orleans for me was not the actual events but talking to other State Society members and General Officers and hearing all the good things they had to say about the Virginia Society. I received several complements concerning the Virginia newsletter and web site. Also had very positive comments made about the number of events that members from the Virginia Society participated in.

At the General Society Board meeting Virginia was one of two States that was acknowledged for its Grant proposal. In fact, I was told by a couple General Society officers that the Virginia Grant proposal was excellent and could be used as an example by States applying for Grants in the future.

At the Board meeting it was announced that the next General Society meeting will be held in Springfield, Ill in Sept 2016. Another announcement was the decision by the General Society to award a TRUE grandson award. There are two people eligible for the award. One of those is a Virginian. I’ll have more to say about this at our 20 Feb meeting.

I want to thank everyone who represented Virginia at New Orleans!

President Fritts

Below is a group picture that was taken in New Orleans.

Pictured top row left to right Col John Barlow, Jr. ret (dual member Del), Dr. Wallace Smith, Dennis Fritts, William Nash, Chuck Poland, LTC James White ret(GA Society),Lenard Cowherd II

Not pictured dual member Isiah Edwards, Jr (MS)

 Bottom Row left to right Nancy Barlow, Sally Smith, Sheila Fritts, Virginia White, Mary Cowherd

 LTC White is not associated with the Virginia Society but he and his wife Virginia participated in a lot of the events with us

