



**Date:** March 9, 2020

**To:** All Defenders

**Subject:** Upcoming Presidential birthday ceremonies for Presidents Tyler, Madison, and Monroe and ROTC award ceremonies.

This is to remind all Society members of the upcoming presidential birthday ceremonies for Presidents Tyler, Madison, and Monroe. In the past, our Society has attended and laid a wreath during these ceremonies. Both the Madison (March 16, 1:30pm) and Monroe ceremonies (Hollywood, April 28, 11am), including the one held at the Monroe birthplace (April 25, 10am) site near Colonial Beach, Virginia, include many other historical organizations and patriotic organizations. The Tyler ceremony at Hollywood starts at 11am. Therefore, I ask that as many Society members attend as many of these events as possible so that our participation can be documented for possible inclusion in the General Society's magazine *War Cry* or the Society's website. The U.S. military, often the Marine or Army units nearest the site, conducts an elaborate and elegant program on behalf of the President of the U.S. with guest speakers. Details about these events can be obtained from the Montpelier (Madison) and the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, and Hollywood Cemetery websites.

In addition, on April 4, 2020, there will be a joint VASSAR and Society of War of 1812 grave-site commemoration of 13 Revolutionary War and 24 War of 1812 veterans buried at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, 20421 Airmont Road, Bluemont, Virginia (Loudoun County). Please attend this event if possible as a lot of work and expense has been expended by those responsible for this event.

Also, many of Virginia's state and private colleges and universities will soon be conducting ROTC award ceremonies for outstanding cadets in these programs. The Society has in the past provided a member to personally attend these events and hand out the Society of the War of 1812 certificates and medals. The certificates are procured by the school from Lt. Col. Pollock of the General Society and are given to the Society member at that time. The medals are not automatically provided to the schools as the state society procures these. So far, several members have volunteered to present these awards: Old Dominion and Wesleyan (Butler);

Norfolk State (Furr); William and Mary (Butler); George Mason (Walden); University of Richmond (Nash) to include Randolph-Macon and Longwood-Hampton Sydney). We would like to have someone volunteer to hand out the award at VMI since our past presenter cannot be there this year. Also, we have no one for the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech or Virginia Commonwealth. Those who would like to volunteer for these schools or others, please let President Butler know as soon as possible.

Stuart L. Butler

President

Society of the War of 1812 for

The Commonwealth of Virginia