

SOCIETY PRESIDENT ATTENDS BATTLE OF THE CAPES EVENT

President Stuart L. Butler, President of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, presented a wreath at the annual Battle of the Capes event held at Fort Story, Virginia Beach, on September 5, 2025. The event commemorated the 244th anniversary of the French naval victory over British naval forces on September 6, 1781. The French victory enabled American forces to force the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown, October 19, 1781. Over 35 patriotic and lineage organizations participated in the event. The event was organized by the Norfolk Chapter, Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Giving the keynote address was French Admiral Pierre Vandier. Enclosed is the program describing the event and photos taken by President Butler.



War of 1812 wreath second from right



President Butler behind the Society wreath

SAR Pledge

We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

SAR Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.

Acknowledgements

MAC Xander Beals, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story
Security Office and staff for their support
U.S. Navy and Fleet Forces Band
VASSAR Color Guard

Battle of the Virginia Capes Planning Committee:

Dr. Kenneth Hawkins Robert E. Bruce IV Jeb Raitt
CAPT Christopher Melhuish, USN (Ret.)
CDR Julien Dechanet, FRA Navy Dr. Patrick Hannum
CPO Timothy Ahlgrim, USN (Ret.) Suzanne S. Camden



Second Battle of the Virginia Capes Painted by Vladimir Zveguntsoff, 1962

The 244th Anniversary Battle of the Virginia Capes

*Saturday, September 6, 2025, 11:00 a.m.
Admiral Francois Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse,
Marquis de Grasse-Tilly Statue
JEB-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia*

*Norfolk Chapter
Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution*

**Wreath Presentations
(Continued)**

Organization	Presenter
Charles Parish Chapter NSDAR	Sharleen West Past Regent
Lynnhaven Parish Chapter NSDAR	Erin O'Brien-Ehrhard Regent
Chesapeake Chapter, NSDAR	Kibby Jane Fergusson Regent
Lane's Mill Chapter NSDAR	Anita L. Bonner Honorary Regent
Society of the War of 1812 In the Commonwealth of Virginia	Stuart Butler President
Virginia Society Order of Founders and Patriots of America	Stuart Whitehead Associate
Virginia Society Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America	Faye Sobel Governor
Norfolk Mace Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists	Donna Crisp, RADM, USN, ret. National Chairman
Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge	Darrin Schmidt VA Brigade Commander
George Wythe Chapter C.A.R.	Emmy Melanie Brown Member

The Battle of the Virginia Capes Commemoration

Welcome Jeb Raitt
Invocation Dr. Mark A. Jumper
Presentation of the Colors Brett Osborn Color Guard Commander
The National Anthems France The United States of America
SAR Pledge Dr. Kenneth Hawkins
Greetings Cal "Cash" Jackson-Green, Council Member, Virginia Beach District 7 VADM Doug Perry USN Michael J. Elston, President General, NSSAR Dr. Michael Weyler, President, VASSAR Maureen Holbert, District 1 Director, VADAR
Keynote Address ADM Pierre Vandier, FRA N
Presentation of Award
Wreath Laying Dr. Patrick Hannum
Closing Remarks Jeb Raitt
SAR Recessional Robert Bruce
Benediction Dr. Mark A. Jumper