



National Sojourners Inc.

Old Dominion Chapter #364

President's Message

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Thanks for attending our November meeting of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364, National Sojourner's. Lady Margaret and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting on December the 17th, 2008. We continue to meet at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge located at 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50). The Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge is less than a mile west of Interstate 495. Our uniform is Coat and Tie for our members. If you haven't been to a meeting in a long time, please come back for our Holiday Special. We will have a short program about the Christmas' of George Washington followed by a couple of great musicians leading our holiday program. If you come to all our meetings, thanks for your participation and loyalty to the unit we will see you on the 17th.

At the November meeting it was my privilege to address our guests, the R.O.T.C. Cadets, their Instructors, their parents, and our members at the R.O.T.C. Appreciation Night. I spoke about George Washington of whom I asked the question, "America's Greatest Warrior, or One of Our Most Committed Men?" I am including part of that talk below for those who were unable to attend.

 Washington; first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his

countrymen. George Washington may not have been the most successful warrior in the history of our country but my conjecture is that he is certainly one of the most committed. In 1751 George Washington accompanied his half brother to Barbados where Lawrence who was ill at the time with tuberculosis, hoped to regain his strength and return to health. It was in Barbados that George contracted smallpox that scarred his face for life, but fortunately for him and the country it also made him immune to that particular disease. That same disease later went through his Continental Army like a hot knife thru butter. The next year George's brother Lawrence died and at that time George began his military career.

He was commissioned a major in the militia. George was appointed adjutant of the southern district of Virginia. In 1753 he was given the assignment by Governor Dinwiddie to deliver an ultimatum to the French at Fort le Boeuf. This fort was located over 300 miles away in the Ohio Valley.

- Order French to "cease fortifications and settlements within His Majesty's Dominions".
- French adamant and cocky in their rejection of Britain's claims
- Recorded a careful description of the fort in his notebook.

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- Washington's trek thru the wilderness – horses hampered by deep snow – George Washington and his guide proceeded on foot thru Indian infested forests to Williamsburg more than 500 miles away.

- Had to build a raft to come down the Allegheny River – thought it would be frozen – thrown into the freezing water

- Finally reached Will's Creek, 50 miles from Winchester on 7 Jan. 1754.

Washington's report was printed and the Virginia assembly voted to pay him 50 pounds. His comment on the money, "I was employed to go on a journey in the winter (when I believe few or none would have undertaken it), and what did I get by it? My expenses borne." Note: Not the last time he would have trouble with the government and money.

- 1754 – Commissioned a lieutenant colonel by Dinwiddie.

- Ordered back to the Ohio Valley to secure the site of the Ohio Company's fort.

- At Great Meadows, Pennsylvania Washington's men surround and attack a party of French soldiers without warning. 10 Frenchmen were killed, including the chief officer, and 21 were captured.

- Attacks French party near Fort Duquesne

- Fort necessity was "badly sited", in an open swampy area, over which a nearby hill gave a commanding view

- This and other less-than-brilliant maneuvers would earn Washington criticism from some military strategists.

- On July 3rd, a superior force led by the brother of the senior officer killed at Great Meadows compelled Washington to surrender and taking advantage of his ignorance of French got him to sign an admission that he had "assassinated" Joseph Coulon, the Sieur de Jumonville.

Disillusioned with what he considered Dinwiddie's mismanagement of Virginia's military establishment, and bitter because of a ruling that colonials could not rise above the rank of captain in the British army he resigned his commission at the end of 1754

- After the fiasco of Fort Necessity, Washington

wrote: "I have heard the bullets whistle; and, believe me, there is something charming in the sound." Shortly after this the bullets lost their charm

- In May of 1755 Washington was appointed aide-de-camp to General Edward Braddock in a 1,300-man expedition against Fort Duquesne.

- At the Monongahela they met a French and Indian force. Braddock's men were trained in the traditional European methods of battle. They were surrounded and decimated by enemies adept at frontier warfare.

- Braddock himself was slain, and 63 of his 86 officers were killed or wounded.

- The regulars panicked and fled; according to George Washington, the Virginia colonials alone "behaved like men and died like soldiers."

- George Washington himself had two horses killed under him, and four bullets pierced his coat before he organized a retreat.

- Returning to Virginia, George Washington was named a colonel and commander in chief of militia

- Now at the age of 23 he was called upon to defend the 300 mile frontier from what they believed would be an imminent French and Indian attack

- But inadequate troops and provisions, limited authority, and a royal governor who would not give him permission to seize Ft. Duquesne, considered to be the key position in the West, made his task impossible.

- For more than 2 years Washington doggedly defended Virginia's long frontier with ill-equipped, unpaid militiamen. In 1758, a British force under Gen. John Forbes was assigned to march on Ft. Duquesne. George Washington served as Forbes's acting brigadier, and when the French abandoned and burned the fort, the main objective of his strategy for Virginia's defense was achieved.

He resigned his commission and retired to 16 years of publicly uneventful but privately joyous life.

There is a lot more to be said and much more to read about General, Brother, President George Washington. I hope you take the time to read about this great man. I hope you read about his battles, and his diplomacy. I hope you read about

his love of family and his farming innovations and his faith. There is much to be gleaned from the fields of his life.

This small part of his life took place when he was a very young man. Yet, later when called upon Washington lent his name, his fortune, his life, and his all to the cause of freedom. Washington was prepared to pitch in whatever he had.

This is one of the reasons we salute you tonight, is decisions are made by those who show up. The future will be decided by those who show up. Battles will be won by those who choose to show up.

There was a time when I wasn't sure about the future of the ROTC / JROTC programs. The military wasn't very popular back then. But I want to thank you for being willing to stand up and be counted. For being part of the solution, not part of the problem. All clichés aside, THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF A GREAT PROGRAM that I am sure will help to prepare you for the future, and

help to make a more secure future for all of us as well.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

My lady and I want to thank each and every one of you who have taken your time through all these months to come and be with us at Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 of the National Sojourners. Our chapter is a great organization. It is great because of one important factor that ranks above all others, and that factor is its members. I am honored to come together with you for meetings, meals, and moments of friendship. If you have been kept from our meetings because of poor health please know that you remain in our thoughts and prayers. Come out to your meeting. We hope to see each of you soon.

“Thomas”

Commander's Message

On station in the Western Counties to study and learn of the ways of the Indians. Will return with a full report at the sign of the next full moon. Wishing all the very best for the Holiday Season !!!

EIAR
Thanks, Les

19 November 2008 Meeting Minutes

THE QUILL ACCORDING TO BILL – To Be Continued, but for now, Bro. Ralph Smith brings you ...

Opening / Call To Order

Our ranks were more than doubled with the presence of nine ROTC – JROTC Unit representatives and their guest helping us celebrate Military Night and received a warm welcome from President Tom Little. Following a fine dinner of “Short Ribs” the President called the Chapter to order at 1955 hrs. at the Arlington – Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188. Chaplain Pro Tem Michael Kastle offered the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. President Tom delivered the Purposes of National

Sojourners followed by the Toast To The Flag by Bro. Scotty Cameron.

The Secretary

offered to read the Minutes of the previous meeting but retreated with a call to accept them as published followed by a unanimous viva voce vote.

The Treasurer

reported a check book balance of \$2,246.25 and \$8,821.35 in our Capitol One money market account.

There were 19 OD-364 and 25 ROTC - JROTC guest present this evening contributing a total of \$825.00.

Twenty One of our ROTC / JROTC guest were

compensated.

A donation of \$25.00 was received at the end of the meeting ... thanks to all.

A check was written in the amount of \$25.00 and designated for Collingwood.

Introductions

of Chapter VIP's and their guest were completed. The President asked that the Instructors of the ROTC / JROTC introduce themselves and their cadets. A list is appended for the record.

Camp Commander's Report:

Although unable to attend this evening, Commander Albers requested that the following be relayed:

Thanks to all who attended the October Bivouac. I believe both new Heroes will long remember the evening.

This Saturday 22 November 2008 at 1830 hours at the Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 there will be a Bivouac. Dinner is lasagna / garlic bread, etc. The Bivouac has been called to test the worthiness of a Rekrut Jeffrey Eugene Hodges, who has been traveling under the name of Grand Master of Masons in the Colony of Virginia...No charge!

The next Light Horse Harry Lee Bivouac is scheduled for Wednesday, 28 January 2009.

Committee Reports

Americanism:

The 2009 National Sojourners Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference will be held in Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (FFVF), Valley Forge, PA July 16 through July 19. All high school sophomores and juniors are eligible to attend. Applications may be made through a National Sojourners Chapter. Information is available at the National Sojourners web site www.nationalsojourners.org. Cost is \$430.00 per student but help is available through the Sojourner's Scholarship Program, where Chapters help subsidize tuition or sponsor students.

Wellness and Sadness:

Mark Harford - elected to membership last month, is recovering from a heart attack and hopes to attend in December.

George Harrington – via email which the Presi-

dent read, apologized for not keeping us up to date. Last summer George developed pneumonia and while being treated had a fall and has undergone physical and occupational therapy but is home now under Ruth's loving care and sends his regards.

Important Notes:

National Sojourners Bulletin Board is back on line. The National Registry is now PASSWORD protected for your privacy. If you wish to post your Email address on the NATIONAL REGISTRY please complete the [Registry Form](#). You will receive an email confirming the posting and providing a password. If you need to update your NATIONAL REGISTRY information please complete the [Registry Update Form](#).

Recognition: Bro. Ralph Smith was called to the podium by President Tom Little where a letter from the Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism was read designating Ralph as Patron No. 569 and presented him with a distinctive plaque, pin, and certificate.

Bro. Ralph responded with a bit of the history and purpose of Collingwood, the new American Legacy Center and invited all who had never visited to do so.

The Program –

“America's Greatest Warrior or One of Our Most Committed Men” was presented by President Tom Little. First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, George Washington may not have won many battles but his unwavering commitment saw him win the war.

A brief history of his early life was provided beginning in 1751 when George accompanied his half-brother Lawrence to Barbados through 1758, when he served as an acting brigadier under General John Forbes then marching on Ft. Duquesne, was filled with a myriad of adventures which molded and prepared him for what was to become his greatest achievement. A copy of this excellent presentation is available upon request.

Old Business:

Brethren, the chapter is still in need of a permanent secretary and a Web Master. Please contact

the President if you can fulfill either of these.

A volunteer has stepped forward.

New Business

The next Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday 17, December

Good of the Order

The Gavel was passed and Chaplain Pro Tem Kastle delivered the closing prayer. With nothing further claiming the attention of the Chapter President Little closed it in due form at 2103 hours.

Ralph W. Smith Jr., P.P.
Secretary Pro Tem

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

WHO: All High School Sophomores and Juniors

WHAT: 2009 National Sojourners Spirit of American Youth Leadership Conference

WHERE: Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (FFVF), Valley Forge, PA

WHEN: July 16-19, 2009

HOW: Make application to a National Sojourners Chapter
See details on the National Sojourners website at:
www.nationalsojourners.org

COST PER STUDENT: \$430, but ask about the Sojourner's Scholarship Program, where Chapters subsidize tuition and sponsor students.

December Meeting Announcement

The next Chapter Meeting is on
Wednesday, 17 December 2008, at the
Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge
located at 8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Social hour before dinner. Dinner is at 1900 Hours
in Fairfax Room on lower floor of Lodge at \$20.00 per person.
Please make reservations through Brother Joe Spruill
at 703-615-6275 or joe.spruill@yahoo.com
by the end of the day on Sunday, 14 December.



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