



FEBRUARY 2026

Historic Preservation Education Patriotism



The other Tea Party

On October 25, 1774, Barker and her supporters, Edenton Ladies Patriotic Guild, met at the house of Elizabeth King to sign a resolution that protested the British Tea Act of 1773.

The petition was published in colonial newspapers and in London. The women were laughed at and mocked in the London papers. A political cartoon entitled "Edenton Tea Party" was published and released in London on January 16, 1775. The cartoon portrayed the women as bad mothers with loose morals.

Penelope Barker



With the popularity of the boycott of British goods, wearing homespun clothing became a patriotic symbol of the fight against British rule.

Due to the ongoing commitment of refusing to buy certain British goods, a ship full of imported East India Company tea was locked away in a port in Charles Town for months because it could not be sold with the tax. At the start of the Revolution a group of patriots gathered the tea and sold it to other patriots to fund the rebellion against the British.

In 1908, a plaque was dedicated by the North Carolina DAR and placed in the State Capitol Building. In 1940 a marker was placed in Edenton by the NCH historical marker program. It states, "Women in this town led by Penelope Barker in 1774 resolved to boycott British imports. Early and influential activism by women."



Edenton Tea Party

However in the colonies, these women were considered patriots. Other women followed suit by swearing off British tea and cloth. This boosted the homespun movement which had started about a decade earlier. The homespun movement was in response to the wool act where the colonies were not allowed to export wool yarn and cloth.

Regent's Message

Ten months after the famous Boston Tea Party, the "first recorded women's political demonstration in America" took place. Penelope Barker was the organizer of the Edenton Tea Party. This tea party, unlike the Boston Tea Party, was not a plan to destroy British taxed tea, it was a movement by colonial women to boycott British tea. Also, unlike the BTP these women activists did not dress in costume to hide their identities.

Penelope Padgett was born June 17, 1728, in Edenton, North Carolina. Her parents were Samuel Padgett, a physician, and Elizabeth Blount. Penelope had two sisters and lived a comfortable life of teas, church suppers, parties, and balls. After Penelope's sister died, she married her sister's widow and raised her sister's children.

This early Colonial activist wrote a statement proposing a boycott of British goods, like cloth and tea. Joined by fifty other women, the Edenton Tea Party was created.



New Member Induction



Welcome New Members
Chris Micoz and Ginny Addamo



Vets Chat January 21



Prospective CAR member
meets George Washington at the
US 250 Tour

Civics question for Naturalization

1. What is the form of government of the United States?
2. Name one power of the U.S. Congress.
3. What is one part of the judicial branch?
4. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
5. Why were the Federalist Papers important?

(Answers on Page 4)

IYKYK



President General's Message



Illuminate Our Legacy

January 2026

Dear Daughters,



When the clock is about to strike midnight Hawaii time on February 1, 2026, what will you be doing? I hope you will be tucked in your bed, dreaming of fulfilling DAR adventures to come and not still typing away on your Chapter Master Report, aka the CMR.

If you have served as a Chapter Regent, you are familiar with the CMR, which is the cornerstone of the National Society's annual reporting process. Take it from this Honorary Chapter Regent of the Washington-Lewis Chapter, Fredericksburg, Virginia: If you leave the CMR until the last minute, or if you don't involve your entire chapter leadership team in the process, completing the CMR can feel like a daunting, bureaucratic task instead of what it's designed to be: an opportunity to illuminate your chapter's legacy and preserve your good works in our historical record.

The CMR begins a national reporting process that culminates in publication of the National Society's Annual Proceedings, which are preserved in the Smithsonian Institution. (The Reporter General presents a copy of this volume to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to comply with the National Society's Act of Incorporation.) Your chapter's report for each committee is carefully reviewed by the respective committee's State Chair, who determines what to include in her own report (and which chapter accomplishments to recognize at the state level!). The State Chair's report is then forwarded to your Division Vice Chair, who reviews her assigned states' reports and makes award recommendations to the National Chair—who is responsible for preparing the overall committee report for the Annual Proceedings, as well as facilitating national-level awards.

[To Continue Reading the President General's Message Click Here](#)



VIRGINVALLEYDAR.ORG



LOG YOUR
SERVICE TO
AMERICA
HOURS

Chapter Officers

REGENT - LEIGH ROESSNER
VICE REGENT - LAURA JOHNSON
TREASURER - AMY BRADSHAW
SECRETARY - NOVA MASTROGIOVANNI
REGISTRAR - SUSAN COX LYON
LIBRARIAN - RUTH DICKIE
HISTORIAN - NANCY BLANCO
CHAPLAIN - SALLY KERSHISNIK
PARLIAMENTARIAN - CAROL LIVINGSTON

HERE

America 250! Proclamation



Mesquite City Council Meeting
January 27, 2026
Virgin Valley Chapter Daughters
of the American Revolution
obtained an America 250!
Proclamation from Mesquite
Mayor Jesse Whipple



l-r Amy Bradshaw, Jesse Whipple, Leigh Roessner

National Defender

Article By Haley Wilkinson
Director of Outreach,
Honor Flight Columbus

On the eve of every Honor Flight, the minds of our Veterans race with thoughts of service memories and anticipation for the day ahead of them, Volunteers think of the responsibilities they have and the stories they have yet to know, and staff wonder if there was anything left unpacked or logistics unexplored. However, on the eve of Mission 141, I sit with something else on my mind, someone else. I always take time to stop and reflect the night before on the 80 or so Veterans who are about to experience an unexplainable healing at the Vietnam Wall, touch the faces etched into the Korean War Memorial, or stand before the fountains of WWII naming the battles where their fathers served. But this time, another thought runs through my mind. Tonight, I am haunted by the empty chair.

I had the opportunity to meet one of the Veterans we booked for Mission 141. John, a proud Marine who served during the Vietnam War, was set to take his Honor Flight tomorrow. Tomorrow, he was to stand before the thousands of names of men and women just like him—who stepped into service for this country. Instead, there will be an empty seat on the aircraft we will board, leaving from the Columbus airport, bound for Washington D.C. There will be one less Marine looking up at the 78-foot-tall sculpture depicting Marines raising a flag on Mt. Suribachi. And there will be one less Vietnam Veteran for you to say “Welcome Home” to at the return celebration in Columbus.

To Continue Reading [click here](#)

[National Defender](#)

Answers to Civics Questions:

1. Republic • Representative democracy
2. Writes laws • Declares war • Makes the federal budget
3. Supreme Court • Federal Courts
4. The United States • The flag
5. They helped people understand the (U.S.) Constitution. • They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution.



Member Spotlight

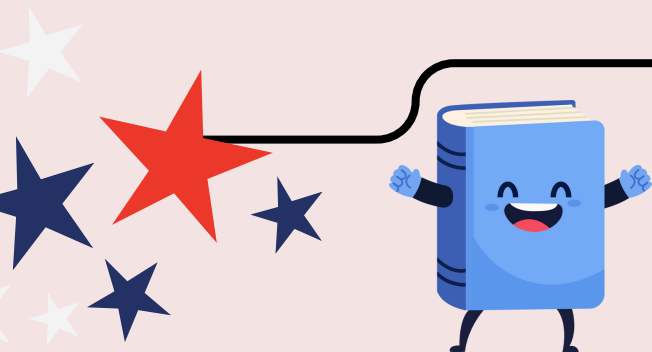
CHAPTER CHAPLAIN, SALLY KERSHISNIK JOINED DAR AS A JUNIOR MEMBER. SHE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE VIRGIN VALLEY CHAPTER IN THE SPRING OF 2025. NEW MEMBER, CHRIS MICOZ WAS INDUCTED INTO THE CHAPTER IN JANUARY OF 2026.

BOTH WOMEN SHARE THE SAME PATRIOT, WHICH ISN'T SO UNUSUAL AMONGST DISTANT COUSINS. THE ASTONISHING PART IS THAT THEY HAD NEVER MET UNTIL A CHAPTER LUNCHEON IN DECEMBER, WHERE THEY HAPPENED TO BE SITTING NEXT TO EACH OTHER.

AFTER TALKING TO EACH OTHER, THEY REALIZED THAT THEY HAD THE SAME GREAT GRANDMOTHER, WHO HAD MADE HER WAY WEST ON THE OREGON TRAIL.



Sally Kershnik and Chris Micoz



Literacy & Community Classroom



Galaxy A42 5G

l-r Amy Bradshaw, Kristi Tausinga, Leigh Roessner

A Big Thank You to Virgin Valley DAR!

We are so grateful to the Virgin Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their generous donation of 40 books to the Mesquite Works STEAM Center Youth Book Club!

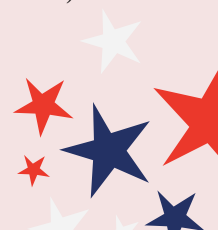
These books will help inspire a love of reading, spark meaningful conversations, and support lifelong learning for the youth we serve. Community support like this makes a real difference, and we are thankful for partners who believe in investing in our young learners.

Thank you, Virgin Valley DAR, for helping us turn pages into possibilities

(From Kristi Tausinga - Mesquite Works STEAM Center)

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."

- Margaret Fuller



February Dates of Note

Feb 2 - Army Nurse Corps Made Permanent (1901) Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee's work to establish the Army Nurse Corps paid off when Congress passed the Army Reorganization bill, making the Army Nurse Corps permanent.

Feb 6 - The Spanish-American War ends (1899) Officially ended when the U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Paris, formally concluding the conflict between the United States and Spain.

Feb 8 - The Stars & Stripes Published (1918) The newspaper of the U.S. Armed Forces was first published by American soldiers serving in France during World War I.

Feb 12 - First POWs in North Vietnam Released (1973) The first American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam were released, marking the beginning of Operation Homecoming following the Paris Peace Accords.

Feb 19 - U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Established (1941) Provides trained reservists to support Coast Guard missions during times of national need.

Feb 27 - Desert Storm Ground War Ends (1991) The 100-hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

What I Learned Today

ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL HOLIDAY, PRESIDENT'S DAY, IS HELD ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF FEBRUARY, GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY IS OBSERVED ON FEBRUARY 22ND. TO COMPLICATE MATTERS, WASHINGTON WAS ACTUALLY BORN ON FEBRUARY 11, 1731.

GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS BORN WHEN THE JULIAN CALENDAR WAS IN USE. DURING WASHINGTON'S LIFETIME, PEOPLE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA SWITCHED THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR SYSTEM FROM JULIAN TO THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR (SOMETHING THAT MOST OF EUROPE HAD ALREADY DONE IN 1582).

AS A RESULT OF THIS CALENDAR REFORM, PEOPLE BORN BEFORE 1752 WERE TOLD TO ADD 11 DAYS TO THEIR BIRTH DATES. THOSE BORN BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND MARCH 25, AS WASHINGTON WAS, ALSO HAD TO ADD 1 YEAR TO BE IN SYNC WITH THE NEW CALENDAR.

BY THE TIME WASHINGTON BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1789, HE CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 22ND AND LISTED HIS BIRTH YEAR AS 1732.



Flag Minute



Flag Day: Instituted in 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson and later made a national observance in 1949, Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag by encouraging citizens to celebrate with parades and ceremonies that honor the flag's history.

Native American Minute



Chris Newman born in 1980 is a citizen of the Choctaw Band of the Chickasaw Nation. Chris was working a high stress software job in Washington D.C. when the stress started taking a toll on his health. In 2016 Chris and his wife, Annie, decided to make a lifestyle change. They moved to rural Virginia, where they now run Sylvania Farms on forty acres in Montross, an area where Chris's Chickasaw ancestors lived and were stewards of the land for generations. His goal was to draw on the food cultivation knowledge of his Indigenous and Black ancestors. Chris is currently developing a food collective of a group of farmers that with combined resources and expertise could produce enough food to supply several full-time markets in the Washington D.C. area. Chris has a plan that by approaching large farms from an Indigenous perspective, entire ecosystems can be restored in addition to providing stable jobs and income.

Constitution Minute



Article 6, Section 2 declares that the Constitution is the "Law of the land." This means the states and the judges in those states must abide by its provisions. If there is a law which conflicts with a provision in the Constitution or in an amendment to the Constitution, the law could not be enforced. This section was much debated during ratification because it limited states' rights. Yet, without this provision, unity as a country would be impossible.

Conservation Minute



Energy Conservation: The Warmth of Green Practices Energy conservation is key to staying warm sustainably during winter without racking up high energy bills. Embracing green practices can make a big difference-start by insulating your home with weatherproofing materials to trap heat and prevent drafts. Opt for energy-efficient heating systems, like heat pumps or modern electric radiators, which use less power while keeping you cozy. Layering up with warm clothing, such as sweaters and socks, also cuts the need to crank up the thermostat. For added efficiency, programmable thermostats let you control heating schedules, warming your space only when needed. Scheduling an energy audit can pinpoint wasteful leaks or inefficiencies, tailoring your home for maximum conservation. These steps not only shrink your carbon footprint by reducing energy waste but also save money in the long run, proving that eco-friendly living and comfort can go hand in hand during the chilly months.

2026 Calendar

February 14 - 10am Regular Meeting

February 18 - 10:45 Vets Chat

March 14 - 10am Regular Meeting

March 18 - 10:45 Vets Chat

March 27-29 - State Conference - Reno

April 11 - 10am Regular Meeting

April 15 - 10:45 Vets Chat

May 9 - 10am Regular Meeting &
Installation of Officers

May 13 - 10:45 Vets Chat

June 18 - America 250! Reception at the
Mesquite Fine Arts Center