



# THE DRUMBEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE WASHINGTON STATE COLOR GUARD

Jun 2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Apr, May, Jun)



[The Editor](#)



## IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Commander](#)

[Color Guard Patches](#)

[Color Guard Events](#) Throughout the State

State Color Guard [Event Schedule](#)

# YOUR COLOR GUARD

SONS OF THE AMERICAN

EVOLUTION



# THE FACE OF THE SAR

## From The Commander

### Compatriots,

What a busy quarter! The Annual State Conference was hosted by the Spokane #1 April 28-29 where 45 of the 93 Color Guard members attended! Thanks to all who worked on hosting the conference and participated in the Color Guard activities. I received many praises from the State officers.

I was my honor during the State Conference to witness the presentation of the second recipient of the Color Guard Von Steuben medal. Congratulations Marion "Mick" Hersey. Also, during the conference Compatriot Dale Ryan received his Silver Color Guard medal. During this quarter parades and ceremonies have once again started up where the Color Guard displays' the SAR public face. These include the Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day events. Also Honor Flights are back! Multiple school and civic presentations also occurred with the John Paul Jones team leading the way of reaching over 1,000 students this year! Lastly, Cascade Centennial experienced to two members lost. In both instances the Color Guard was called upon. I wish to express my gratitude to those who were able to answer the call to duty in such short notices. The family members truly appreciated our presence and the way we honor our fallen comrades. During all of these events it has been my pleasure to witness how the Color Guard comes together regardless of chapter affiliations. And our efforts have the most positive effect!

**Looking forward:** The parade season is upon us. I encourage the continuation of the cross chapter participation.

The summer months will be busy. Be sure that your activities appear on the online Color Guard schedule. The time will go by quickly and it will be soon upon us to renew our chapter meetings in September. I encourage all of the Color Guard to attend your chapter meetings. Being both the face and the strength of the WASSAR, we need to strengthen our chapter attendance. Through the Washington State SAR Color Guard we have a special bond and comradeship by working together to achieve our local chapter, our State, and the Nation SAR Society goals.

I am personally grateful for my association with each and every one of you and for your support.

**Respectfully Submitted, Neil A Vernon, WA State-SAR, Commander, WA State Color Guard.**



## A Thank You To The Color Guard

Many thanks for recruiting, organizing, and leading members of the WASSAR Color Guard to participate in the recent graveside service for Mark Mitchell, a compatriot of the Cascade Centennial Chapter. I've heard a couple of first-hand reports on how much Sue (Mark's widow) and the family appreciated the significant presence of the SAR at the service. Please extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Color Guard participants. I've copied all SAR compatriots who, to my knowledge, participated in the service. Many of them are WASSAR Color Guard members, and others are participating Cascade Centennial members not in the Color Guard. All are greatly appreciated. As my association with SAR continues outside of my own chapter, my appreciation continues to grow for the role our State Color Guard plays in important events - you are indeed "**The face of the SAR.**" Including the Compatriot Grave Marking at the Renton Congress a couple of years ago, the last two annual WASSAR Conferences, and the two recent services for Cascade Centennial compatriots (Mark Shaffer and Mark Mitchell), I've had the opportunity to observe the Color Guard proudly representing our organization in a most visible and professional manner. I especially appreciate the fact that so many Color Guard members took the time to honor two recently fallen fellow compatriots, even if not from their own chapter. With sincere thanks,

**Dick Paul, President Cascade Centennial Chapter**

## Color Guard Patch Available

The Deputy Commander has created a sew on patch for the **WA State Color Guard members only.**

The patch measures 4"x4" (at right)

A limited quantity are still available. The cost is \$3.25 each.

If you want them mailed the cost is:

- More than 3 the postage is \$9.90.
- 3 or less the postage is \$1.00

Members of the CG may contact the [Deputy Commander](#) for purchase





## Color Guard Events Throughout The State

### Regional Area Color Guard Events In Apr, May, Jun

#### Northern Region

**21 Apr: Island Park School Presentation.** The Seattle chapter education team presented the History of the American Flag and A Day in a Life program from the Patriot Chest to the Island Park Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. We had one large session of 75 students. The Education team was very impressed with the attentiveness and knowledge of this group of students. The program was warmly received and we have been invited back for next year. The presentation team consisted of: Neil Vernon (Team Lead), Robert Korn, Stephen Clayton, and Grant Rauzi. After the presentation, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the School with a WASSAR challenge coin for the promotion of Education, History and Patriotism during the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution. No photo was available for this event.



**26 May:** Grant Rauzi and David Horsley presented awards to the University of Washington ROTC cadets. The Cadets that received the SAR Silver ROTC Medal were: Carter Delp, Luke Dobbins, Nicholas Gonzales.

Neil Vernon presented 1812 awards to cadets Julian Ruatos and Colin Rice.



**27 May:** Neil Vernon of the SE Chapter presented the "History of the American Flag" to more than 20 residents of the Normandy Park Senior Living Center.

More than 30 flags were discussed. After the presentation, a certificate of appreciation was presented to the staff for promoting patriotism during the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary period.



**29 May Memorial Day:** For the third consecutive year, the Washington State Color Guard was invited to participate in the Oak Harbor Memorial Day "Service of Remembrance" held at Maple Leaf Cemetery. Led by WA SAR State Color Guard Commander Neil Vernon, and NSSAR Drum Major Viren Lemmer, members of the George Washington Chapter, the Seattle Chapter, and the Alexander Hamilton Chapter marched together to lead the OHHS NJROTC and the Orion Sea Cadets to present the Colors to a crowd of about 400 including numerous local and state dignitaries, several Gold Star Families, many veterans, and local Veteran's Service Organizations. Always a favorite at this event is the Historic Flag Line provided by the George Washington Chapter. Oak Harbor is a town of about 25,000 residents and is home to the Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, WA.



Attending were CG Members: (L-R) Viren Lemmer, Jan Lemmer, Chris Fridley, John Kraft, Bruce Bock, Mike Moore, Terry Laxton, Bob Korn, Jim Carpenter, Marshall Eberhart, Rodney Jenny, Johnmark Jenny, Stephen Clayton, Bill Bentler, and Neil Vernon (in front) and Marshall Anderson (not in photo).



**Southern Region**

**George Rogers Clark Chapter Activities:**

- 1 Apr:** Sacajawea D.A.R. chapter, Flag Presentation.  
Participants: Art Dolan, Dick Moody
- 12 Apr:** Griffin Elementary School, Colonial Life.  
Participants: Art Dolan, Dick Moody, Lew Maudsley
- 14 Apr:** Support JPH Colonial Presentation, Silverdale Elementary School. Participants: Bob Smaller, Conrad Plyler, Art Dolan, Doug Nelson, Fred Gilbert
- 26 Apr:** Griffin Elementary School, Colonial Life.  
Participants: Art Dolan, Dick Moody
- 3 May:** Griffin Elementary School. Participants: Art Dolan, Dick Moody
- 9 May:** Olympia Lions Club, Thomas Paine: Forgotten Founding Father. Participants: Art Dolan
- 10 May:** Griffin Elementary School, Colonial Life.  
Participants: Art Dolan, Dick Moody

- 15 May:** Meeting with Lt. Governor Heck, Posting Colors in Senate.  
Participants: Art Dolan
- 16 May:** Griffin Elementary School.  
Participants: Lew Maudsley, Dick Moody
- 23 May:** Griffin Elementary School. Participants: Lew Maudsley, Dick Moody
- 29 May:** DuPont Posting Colors, Memorial Day. Participants: Eric Olsen, Art Dolan, Dick Moody, Lew Maudsley
- 1 Jun:** Flag Presentation, Lacey Lions. Participants: Art Dolan
- 7 Jun:** USS Stark ceremony, Mossy Rock, WA. Participants: Art Dolan, Dick Moody, Eric Olsen, Paul Winter.
- 14 Jun:** Flag Presentation Capitol Dome (Flag Day).  
Participants: Art Dolan



**23 Apr:** The George Rogers Clark Chapter posted the colors in the Washington State House of Representatives, in Olympia.

Participating were Art Dolan, Lew Maudsley, and Lee Thomason.



**24 Apr Honor Flight:** The Alexander Hamilton, George Rogers Clark, and Seattle Chapters joined forces to greet the first, 2023, returning Honor Flight veterans. The 54 veterans were from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The organization was one of the largest group of greeters and as one returnee stated: "This reception is even better than the one in Baltimore last Friday!" Art Dolan said, "There is no greater joy than representing the **First Veterans** thanking the current veterans for their service. Standing in SeaTac, shaking hands with the returning veterans who keep our freedom alive, polishes every letter of Patriotism. If you have ever considered joining the Color Guard, this event, which occurs 4 times a year, is one you should not miss."

Participates were: (L-R) Stan Granberg, Robert Corn, John Herr, Mike Moore, Neil Vernon, Art Dolan, and Dick Moody.



**22 May Honor Flight:** The Alexander Hamilton, George Rogers Clark, and Seattle Chapters again joined forces to greet the second returning "Honor Flight" from Washington DC this year. Pictured at right, Robert Korn, David Horsley, Michael Moore, Neil Vernon, Dick Moody, Eric Olsen.

At right Mike Moore greets one of the returning veterans.





**28 May Memorial Day Fir Lane:** Ceremonies observing Memorial Day Weekend took place in Spanaway. The holiday is an opportunity to pause, reflect and remember the more than one million men and women who have perished in our nation's wars.

For 30 years at Fir Lane Memorial Park in Spanaway, surrounded by more than 2800 late veterans, a ceremony for Memorial Day filled with gratitude and remembrance for those who died serving our great country. Participating were: Mike Moore, John Herr, Jerry Bordelon, Skip Stephen, and Ralph Leining (HODAR).



**29 May Memorial Day.** A Memorial Day Event to honor Dupont's fallen heroes with a wreath laying. Colors were posted by members of the George Rogers Clark & Alexander Hamilton Color Guard Units. Sacajawea DAR & George Rogers Clark SAR members also laid wreaths at the Ross Plaza Veterans Memorial. The event was open to the public.



**7 Jun, Funeral for the Navy Veteran killed during WW II** was at Swofford Cemetery in Mossyrock, WA

Representing the WA State Color Guard were: Mike Moore, Jerry Bordelon, Bob Nofsinger, John Herr, Paul Winter, Neil Vernon, Eric Olsen, Art Dolan, and Joe Coorough.



**14 Jun, Flag Day.** The CG posted the colors at the Tacoma Elks Lodge celebration. Members present were Mike Moore, Jerry Bordelon, & John Herr. Ralph Liening (HODAR) was also present.



**14 Jun, Flag Day.** Art Dolan and Dick Moody presented the flag history in the State Capitol to two school groups, parent chaperones, state workers, and one pair of newlyweds.

The tradition of celebrating Flag Day in the State Capitol returns after COVID buildings closure 2020-2022.





**17 Jun:** The Ocean Shores Flag Day Parade was at least an hour long in duration. CG members from 3 chapters (GRC, AH, & SE) participated.

Participants: (L-R) Lee Thomasson, Dick Moody, Lew Maudsley, Mike Moore, Eric Olsen Art Dolan. In front: Neil Vernon, Dick Motz.



After the parade the SAR/DAR group visited the traveling Vietnam Wall that was in the area, to place wreaths.



### Eastern Region

**20 May:** Spokane #1 participated in the Spangle WA morning parade. Here is a picture of Spokane #1 marching in the Spangle Parade. Carrying banner is Patience Ryan.

(l-r) Dale Ryan, Stan Wills, Corder, Will Palmer, Rob Scott, Tracy Prock. We marched in this parade in the morning of 20 May but had to cancel the evening parade in Spokane due to excessive heat. It was already in the mid 80's when we marched in Spangle.



**10 Jun Flag Day:** Spokane #1 participated in the Fairfield Flag Day Parade. This is the longest running Flag Day Parade in America. The first parade was held was held 1910 in Fairfield, WA. Fairfield has had a Flag Day Parade every year since.

(l-r) Tracy, Prock, Denny Shaw, Stan Wills, Will Palmer, Carl Durkooop, Rob Scott, Vicki Pickett-in the trailer, not pictures are Dale Ryan and Patience Ryan.





**17 Jun:** The Mid-Columbian chapter attended the annual **Scottish Fest** in Prosser. Richard Roddy, Jan Hughes, George & Connie Boice, Brian McReynolds and Larry Flint participated in the opening ceremonies with the Scottish Veterans group. The event seemed to be back to its usual size. There were many, varied activities, the games of strength of course, dancing contests, good food. They used the large tarp shelter this year to give up plenty of room and to provide better shade. They had several people sign up for their mailing list, including a couple of new member prospects and one lady from the DAR. The display was honored with a visit by **Mary Queen of Scots**, who had been holding court at the event, most of the day.



Brian with Her Majesty, Mary Queen of Scots

**26 Jun:** Spokane #1 participated in the New Citizens Ceremony in which 120 new citizens from 44 countries were sworn in. To make it special Spokane #1 recreated the original swearing in ceremony from 3 Feb 1778 at Valley Forge. We did it to show the new citizens that the Oath has not changed very much. Stan Wills swore in Dale Ryan, Tracy Prock, Rob Hill and Doug Jonas all of whom wore militia uniforms. It was well received by over 200 guests and will be added to additional ceremonies. it is one way to get more members involved in programs.



(L-R) Tracy Prock, Dale Ryan, Stan Wills, Rob Hill, and Doug Jonas.

**Western Region**

**3 May:** The John Paul Jones Chapter had a great time at Cougar Valley Elementary School in Silverdale, WA. The JPJ education team; Fred Gilbert, Doug Nelson and Perry Taylor gave presentations to three fifth grade classes, 60 students in total. The students had an opportunity to visit the display, handle item and ask addition questions to the team. At the conclusion of the presentation, Perry Taylor, Chapter President, gave the JPJ challenge coins to: Principle, Monday Galbreath (see photo); lead teacher Jeff Winger and other teachers Wes Stern and Sarena Cathcart. The JPJ Chapter Education Team has presented historical presentation to 1115 students in the 2022-2023 school year.



**20 May: Armed Forces Day Parade:**

Great turn out for the annual Armed Forces Day parade in Bremerton.

Participates were: (l-r) Fred Gilbert, Noah Chase, Perry Taylor, Viren Lemmer, Jan Lemmer, Neil Vernon, Stephanie Conroy, Skip Stephen, Terry Barker, Mick Hersey, Mark Whiteaker, Eric Olsen





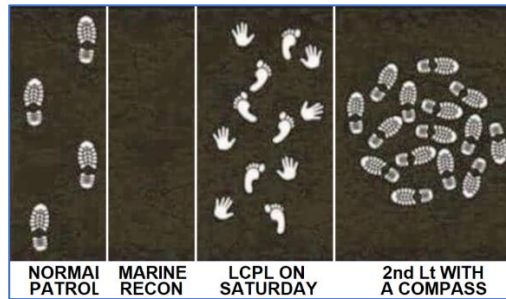
29 May Memorial Day event at Artondale Cemetery, Gig Harbor. Representing the WASCG was Ken Roberts



## Military Humor & More



Military Humor highlights is from the [Facebook group](#) by the same name



## The Washington Trail - Publication Schedule

The State Newsletter will be published quarterly to include the State BOD meeting.

Text should be in "WORD" format. Font: **Calibri** Size: 11 point

Margins					
Top:	0.4"	Bottom:	0.4"	Headers and footers	
Left:	0.4"	Right:	0.4"	Header:	0.1"
Gutter:	0"	Gutter:	Left	Footer:	0.1"

Photos should be in **JPG** or **PNG** format and separate

Could it be a regular feature? **Yes.**

Multi page items? **Yes, but should be no more than 2.**

Edition	BOD	Period covered	Deadline	Published on
Winter (1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr.)	Jan	1 Jan to 31 Mar	No later than 24 Mar	1 Apr +/-
Spring (2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr.)	Apr	1 Apr to 30 Jun	No later than 25 Jun	1 Jul +/-
Summer (3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.)	Jul	1 Jul to 30 Sep	No later than 24 Sep	1 Oct +/-
Fall (4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr.)	Oct	1 Oct to 31 Dec	No later than 25 Dec	1 Jan +/-

**News from the Chapters:** A single article on a topic of interest from each chapter will be accepted each quarter.

A [media links](#) page has been provided to give access to each Chapter's Facebook page, Newsletter, and Web Site for those that have them. All articles/submissions are to be sent to the [Editor](#) no later than the above indicated dates. (6/13/23)