The Westminster Chapter of the MDSSAR celebrated its 30th charter day anniversary with a luncheon and awards ceremony at Cockey’s Tavern, Westminster Maryland. Cockey’s Tavern is the site of the original charter meeting that was held on 9 March 1985. This has been a very productive year. The first Dinner/Business meeting for the year was held at The Buttersburg Inn in Union Bridge, Maryland and a business meeting was held at the Carroll Non-Profit Center in Westminster. Specific details on the chapter’s accomplishments are described below.

**Chapter Meetings:**
The Chapter held the Annual Summer Dinner/Business Meeting on 4 September 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in The Buttersburg Inn Restaurant in Union Bridge, Maryland. The speaker for the evening was Avelina Balesstri, the winner of the chapter’s and State 2013-2014 Rumbaugh Orations contests. Avelina commented on her recent experiences representing the State in the National Orations Contest that was held during the Annual NSSAR Congress in July 2014. Besides our guest speaker, MDSSAR President Douglas Favorite and George Lewis, President of the Lawrence Everhart SAR Chapter were in attendance. Medals and Awards Chairman, Charles Hedges presented Leonard Easton with the SAR Meritorious Service Medal for his service as the Chapter Treasurer and his recent work as the Chapter Registrar.

Bill Hiatt, Nomination Committee chairman, reported the slate of Chapter Officers for 2015-2016 as follows:

- President: James F. Engler, Sr
- Vice President: Patrick M. Trainor
- Secretary: Charles R. Hedges
- Treasurer: Leonard P. Easton;
- Registrar: Ryan P. Trainor
- Chaplin: Vacant

The Chapter held its Fall meeting at the Carroll Non-Profit Center in Westminster, Maryland on 21 October 2014. The slate shown above was unanimously approved.

The Chapter recognized the 30th anniversary of its charter with a luncheon and awards ceremony at Cockey’s Tavern on 21 March 2015. The speakers for the event were the winners of the chapter’s Knight Essay and the Eagle Scout Scholarship contests. Chairman Petruccelli thanked Lauren Swam for her participation in the contest and presented her with the SAR Chapter Essay Contest winner certificate. Additionally, SAR President Douglas Favorite presented her with the State Essay Contest winner’s certificate and medal. Following the completion of the Essay reading “The Shout Heard Around The World”, the winner of our Eagle Scout contest, Jeremy Price presented his essay, “A Father’s Sacrifice, A Son’s Service, A Grandson’s Remembrance.” Bennett Auwaerter, Winner of the Chapter Orations contest was not present to receive his award. It will be presented at the MDSSAR annual meeting on April 18, 2015. His orations speech “A Revolutionary Man, Paul Revere” will be presented at that time. Chapter President-elect, Jim Engler and the Chapter Medals and Awards chairman presented the Chapters Distinguished Service commendation to William Hiatt in recognition of his long and continuous service to the chapter. Other awards presented to chapter members is as follows:

- Roger Sherman Medal – Arthur Petruccelli
- Meritorious Service Medal – Charles Hedges
- War Service Medal – Lou Abel (to be presented at the Westminster Memorial Day Parade)
- 25 Year Membership – Harry Griffith
- 30 Year Membership – Cecil Massie
- Past president certificate – Cecil Massie

NSSAR and MDSSAR Activities
Our chapter vice president, Jim Engler, served this past year as Second Vice President for MDSSAR and chapter member Art Petruccelli served on the MDSSAR Board of Managers. In these roles, they attended all the MDSSAR Board of Managers Meetings.

MDSSAR Annual Meeting
On Saturday, 12 April 2014, the Maryland Society SAR held its annual meeting in Westminster attended by six of our Chapter Compatriots. Following luncheon, the new MDMSSAR officers were sworn in, including our own VP Jim Engler, serving for the next year as MDSSAR Second Vice President. VP Engler was also awarded by MDSSAR the Meritorious Service Medal for services at the state level.

Committee Reports

Americanism
Our chapter submitted a report of our activities for 2013 to the NSSAR Americanism Committee. In our class (chapters of 1 to 49 members), the Westminster Chapter came in 32nd out of 55 in the Liberty Bell Competition (service to the community) and 44th out of 55 in the President General’s Streamer Competition (service to SAR). Good for our first attempt. We have submitted for 2014.

Awards
Awards were made to non-SAR and SAR members. Awards to non-SAR members included:
- Rumbaugh Orations Award: Bennett Auwaerter (to be presented at the annual MDSSAR meeting on 18 April 2015)
- Knight Essay Chapter Award and State award: Lauren Swanson on 21 March 2015
- Eagle Scout Award: Jeremy Price on 21 March 2015

The following were awarded during this reporting period to SAR members
- Chapter Meritorious Service Medal: Leonard Easton on 4 September 2014
- Chapter Distinguished Service Medal: William Hiatt on 21 March 2015
- Chapter Meritorious Service Medal: Charles Hedges on 21 March 2015
- Chapter Roger Sherman Medal: Arthur Petruccelli on 21 March 2015
- 25 Year Membership pin: Harry Griffith on 21 March 2015
- 30 Year Membership pin: Cecil Massie on 21 March 2015
- Past president pin: Cecil Massie on 21 March 2015
- War Service Medal: Louis Abel, planned to be presented on Memorial Day 2015

Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition. The winner of the Eagle Scout Competition is Jeremy Price of Westminster, a member of Troop 1750. His Eagle Scout Essay, “A father’s Sacrifice, A Son’s Service, A
Grandson’s Remembrance” was presented at our Luncheon meeting on 21 March 2015. He came in second place at the state level. The state winner, from Baltimore County, submitted his application via our chapter as well.

Flag Awards. The Chapter presented its flag certificate to Mr. and Mrs. William Lizor of Eldersburg, Maryland on 2 December 2014. An article appeared in the *Carroll County Times* regarding the presentation (“SAR gives flag award” 7 January 2015)

Grave Marking. On Saturday, 12 April 2014 at 4:00 P.M., at the Hampstead Cemetery, Hampstead Maryland, the Westminster Chapter dedicated an SAR marker to the gravesite of Compatriot Richard Hyson. The event was supported by elected representatives; the president and immediate past president of the MDSAR, the Daughters of the American Revolution (SAR); the Maryland Color Guard; Hyson family members and guests. Jim Engler, Sr., Vice president of the Westminster Chapter SAR and 2nd Vice President of the Maryland SAR conducted the grave marking ceremony. Assisting Jim were Compatriots Hiatt, Hedges, Massie, Easton and Petruccelli. The event was reported in the *Carroll County Times* on 23 May 2014

Informational Session. Our Chapter’s first informational session for prospective members was held on Saturday afternoon 31 May 2014 in the Large Meeting Room of the Westminster Branch Public Library. Three prospective members were assisted with their applications. The Session was opened by VP Engler, who gave an overview of what SAR is all about, with examples from our own chapter activities. We also had a informational panel in the back of the room. Anne Regent of the William Winchester DAR gave an overview of genealogy research and the application process. Our attendees then worked on-on-one with a DAR or SAR member to fill out as much of their applications as possible. We had publicized the event and invited several men that had expressed interest in the past in joining the SAR. Our chapter appreciates the help provided by the William Winchester DAR, in particular to Regent Anne Andrews, Ann Horvath, Kay Bernstein, Fran Williams, and Susan Stith. Thanks as well go out to SAR attendees: President Massie, VP Engler, Registrar Leonard Easton and Secretary Charles Hedges, who brought an early framed SAR membership certificate and photographed the event.

Knight Essay. Knight Essay Chapter Chair, Art Petruccelli, announced that the chapter winner for the 2014-2015 essay contest was Lauren Swan, a senior at Manchester Valley High School. Her essay, “The Shot Heard Around the World” was presented at our 21 March 2015 Luncheon/Business meeting. Her essay also placed first in the State Level Competition and will represent the State Society in the SAR National competition.

Rumbaugh Orations. The 2013-2014 winner of our chapter’s first orations contest won at the MDSSAR Annual meeting on 12 April 2014. She represented the state at the National Congress in July. The 12 April 2014 event was reported in the *Carroll County Times* on 21 May 2014. The 2014-2015 Chapter Orations Contest was originally planned for 17 December 2014, no participants registered. The contest was rescheduled for 18 February 2015 and had two participants. Bennett Auwaerter, winner of the Orations contest will receive his Westminster Chapter orations award certificate at the MDSSAR Annual meeting on Saturday 18 April 2015 at Baldwin’s Station, Main Street, Sykesville, Maryland, where he will compete at the State level at the 2015 MDSSAR Annual Meeting.

Memorial Day Parade. On Monday, 26 May 2014 at 10:00 A.M. Westminster SAR Compatriots marched in the 2014 Westminster Maryland Memorial Day Parade. We had eleven Compatriots this year, who assembled on Monroe Avenue and passed along Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street on the way to the Westminster Cemetery. The parade itself was televised on the local cable service. We thank all who marched and special thanks to Bill Hiatt who organized our participations and thanks to Compatriot Lou Abel and his family, who lent the use of two classic cars this year. Immediately, following the conclusion of the parade we placed a wreath at the Westminster cemetery as part of the Memorial Day ceremony.
Outstanding Citizenship. Each year, the Westminster Chapter SAR presents Outstanding Citizenship Awards (pin and certificate) to members of the Senior Class at each county high school (public and private) in Carroll County. Compatriots from our chapter personally present the awards at each of the schools during the June graduation ceremonies. The awards presented for 2014 were as follows:

- Carroll Christian School, 30 May – Marcus Goodwin
- Century, 5 June – Austin Michael Hasupert
- Francis Scott Key, 5 June – Kurt Woodworth
- Liberty, 4 June – Nigel Young
- Manchester Valley, 5 June – Emily Hochheiser
- North Carroll, 4 June – Rachel Mann
- South Carroll, 2 June – Brady J. Scales
- Westminster, 3 June – Kristen Marie Murphy
- Winters Mill, 2 June – Jared Richard Sharp

Publicity. Compatriot Art Petruccelli has set up a Facebook page for the Westminster Chapter Youth Programs. The goal is to have a permanent contest-generic page where announcements of contest deadlines and reminders can be advertised on social media.

ROTC/JROTC Recognition Programs. On 8 April 2014 Westminster Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) president, Dr. Cecil Massie, presented the chapter’s SAR Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) award to Cadet David S. Thornberry. Thornberry is a freshman studying history from Germantown, Maryland. The Green Terror Battalion ARMY ROTC President’s Review was held at the McDaniel College, Baker Memorial Chapel Westminster, Maryland. The chapter worked toward JROTC awards for 2015, but was informed there were none meeting the criteria this year; we will try again in 2016.

Westminster Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Educational and Youth Outreach Program. On 11 December 2014, President Elect Engler signed on behalf of the Chapter a one year partnership with the Carroll County Public Schools. The intent of the partnership is to get information about our youth programs into the public schools through official channels in the hopes of increasing student participation. An article about the partnership appeared in the Carroll County Times (“Westminster SAR partners with CCPS” 2 December 2014).

Membership. At the end of 2014, our membership stood at 31. We had one new member approved by NSSAR. Clarence Donald Warner. Compatriot Warner came in as a result of the chapter’s efforts at its Informational Session.

We wish to thank all of the officers and members of the MDSSAR for their support as we continue our activities for 2015-2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles R. Hedges, Secretary