

THE VIRGINIA CAVALIER

The Virginia Society, Order of Founders and Patriots of America

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August 2007

THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY ROTC RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Virginia Society can be very proud of its Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Recognition Program. For a Society of our size it's probably one of the finest in the Order. The program truly got jump started in 2002 when Associate Thatcher Wood organized presentations to three Colleges and Universities in the Hampton-Williamsburg-Richmond area. Under his guidance and with his persistence it has now grown to 15 awards at eight different institutions. The Outstanding State ROTC Cadet or Midshipman Award is presented to a Cadet or Midshipman who has demonstrated superior "qualities of dependability, character, military discipline, leadership, patriotism, and an understanding of the importance of the American Heritage." This program is the hallmark of our Society

OUTSTANDING STATE ROTC CADET or MIDSHIPMAN AWARDS

The VA Society presented 15 ROTC Cadet Awards in 2007. This is a very rewarding experience, especially when you see the quality of officers that will be leading our soldiers, sailors, airman and marines.

Hampton University, Hampton, VA, May 11
Recipient: Cadet Tiffany N. Tompkins (Army)
Presenter: Roger H.W. Kirby, Deputy Awards Chairman

Radford University, Radford, VA, April 25
Recipient: Cadet Emily E. Olson (Army)
Presenter: Richard Raymond III, Councillor

University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, April 24
Recipient: Cadet Jeremiah R. Hencke (Army)
Presenter: Roger H.W. Kirby, Deputy Awards Chairman

College of William and Mary, Wmsbrg, VA, April 25
Recipient: Cadet John Adams (Army)
Presenter: Roger H. W. Kirby, Deputy Awards Chairman

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, June 05
Recipient: Cadet James A. Sipos (Army)
Presenter: Jerry Hubbard, Councillor General

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, April 26
Recipient: Cadet Richard Columbo (Army)
Recipient: Midshipman Joseph P. McConnell (Navy)
Recipient: Cadet Lindsey Randlett (Air Force)
Presenter: Thatcher Wood, Treasurer and Awards Chairman

Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA, April 24
Recipient: Midshipman Brendon Rice (Navy)
Recipient: Cadet William Mahoney Air Force)
Recipient: Cadet Jason Oberoi (Corps of Cadets)
Presenter: Richard Raymond, III, Councillor

Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA, April 26
Recipient: Cadet Brandon Price (Army)
Recipient: Cadet Jacob Collie (Air Force)
Recipient: Midshipman Andrew E. Timpner (Navy)
Recipient: Cadet Charles Tyler Freeman (Marines)
Presenter: Thatcher Wood, Treasurer and Awards Chairman

OUTSTANDING STATE National Guard UNIT Awards

This award is designed to improve morale, develop an esprit de corps, and encourage healthy competition among units.

The following National Guard Awards were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Virginia National Guard Asso-

ciation on April 28, 2007. The presenter was Deputy Treasurer for the time being. Thatcher Wood.

Recipient: 183rd Regional Training Institute
Commander, Col. Ken McGrew (Army)

Recipient: 192nd Fighter Wing, Detachment 3
Commander, Col. Jay Pearsall (Air Force)

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING ARMY ROTC UNIT AWARD

This award is made **ONLY** by the National Order. Only three such awards are presented each year. This award recognizes the contributions made by an entire college or university ROTC program and especially the unique relationship built between the cadets enrolled in the college or university Army ROTC program and the US Army in building the future officer corps of the US Army

This year the **JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY DUKE BATTALION ROTC UNIT** won the **Eastern Region Award**. The US Army TRADOC Command selects the winning recipients and this year chose JMU for having met or exceeded their Leadership and Commissioning Goals, their excellent nursing program, and their exceptional performance during the last Leadership Development and Assessment Course. Lt.Col. Rodney Lusher, Professor of Military Science, received the award from the National Order in April of this year.

Musings from the Governor

Well, one might say it's been a rather interesting spring for the Virginia Society of the OFPA.

You will note that there have been some changes in the line up of Society Officers published elsewhere in this issue of the Cavalier. Russell Scott has accepted the position as Society Chaplain and we certainly thank him for doing so. Lewis Cowardin has moved up to being the Society Treasurer effective with the last meeting of the Council in July. But Associate Thatcher Wood has graciously accepted the Council request that he stay aboard as

We, as a Society, owe a sincere dept of gratitude to Associate Wood for the many, many years he served as Treasurer. In an organization such as ours, where the makeup of the governing body changes rather frequently, it really is crucial to try and convince 'the keeper of the books' to stay on as long as possible. This is the only way to keep the records accurate, the bills paid on time, and the dues collected when required. Thatcher has done this to perfection. Thank you, sir. We're delighted to have Associated Cowardin on board with enough overlap so things should continue along smoothly.

And finally, in March, Reverend Warren resigned his position as Governor of the Virginia Society. After much discussion during a specially called meeting of the Council in April, I agreed to serve in that capacity until the next scheduled election.

Then there was that old pesky discussion about dues and money that took place during the March membership meeting. But after much back and forth it just came down to a mathematical equation. Our income is from annual dues, our expenses are a) our excellent ROTC award programs, b) publishing our bulletins, and c) covering the dues of our life members. Oh yes, the annual year's-end bonus for the Governor, but I decided to forgo that this year. And they just did not equal out. So after 15 years (that's right, not since 1993 when the World Trade Center was first bombed and First Class postage was only 29 cents) the Council reluctantly decided to raise dues. But they did so in a manner that I believe is prudent and allows for review after the first year. There's another article about this in the bulletin.

The 2008 National Court? Well there had been some serious thought given to the Virginia Society hosting the 2008 National Court in Williamsburg in 2008. In fact, planning had progressed quite nicely, but with the change in leadership, virtually no responses to informal calls for assistance in helping to actually staff committees, and a very meager margin in our budget, it was decided that the Society simply could not do justice to such a task. Disappointing – perhaps. Realistic – most

assuredly. Consequently, I so informed the Governor General, who accepted our apologies and later announced that next year's National Court will be in Boston, Mass.

The 111th General Court, in spite of the relatively short notice after taking on the position as Society Governor, I was able to secure a slot at the National Court in Basking Ridge, NJ in late May. I am pleased to say that Registrar Frank Hyland, his charming and elegant wife, Susan, and I did our best to represent the Virginia Society during both the social festivities and the official meeting. I believe we succeeded nicely. More on the National Court elsewhere.

So much for the past stuff – now for the future. In my humble view we, as a society need really only two things (neither of which is original to groups such as ours)

ONE – We need new members and quite frankly we need new YOUNG (like under 50) members.

TWO – We need ALL members to become more involved with the Society in some way.

The first need is obvious – our membership requirements are stringent and it often takes time and effort to prove acceptable lineage – so please help others with their research and their documentation. We are no longer in the day and age where 'one must do every thing for himself.'

Now to the second need. When the Governorship of the Society became vacant in March and a meeting was called to deal with that issue – only seven Council members attended. ONLY SEVEN. And when the question was asked as to who step forward or who might be drafted – there was dead silence. I'm sure someone eventually would have blinked and raised their hand none of us there wanted to see the Virginia Society, OFPA, cease to exist. But we are just a whisper away from that situation again. Our Society has some 80+ members, half live outside the Commonwealth; of the remaining 40, half simply may not be able to travel or be active due to health, that only leaves seven to fifteen of us to be 'active.' But even with that number we could do it and we could grow if the other 45 concentrate on need number one.

I have appointed Councillor General Jerry Hubbard to form a new Nominating Committee to look for a slate of officers to take office in December 31, 2008. Already, they have gone through the list and have yet to readily identify someone to approach to step up to being Governor.

OK – so perhaps you are one of the many who live out of state – how can you participate. Organize a vacation or trip back to Virginia that meshes up with a meeting. Make an extra contribution to the ROTC fund so we can free up dues money to try new advertising projects. Or recruit new members yourself. Can't drive yourself to a meeting? – look over the membership list and call someone close by who might offer a ride – be proactive.

We do have a rich heritage as a Society; we have won the OFPA Parrish award several times, we have a formidable ROTC Award program; we have a medium-size membership (at least on the books), and we do have a few men willing to try. So please – make 2007-2008 the years YOU BECOME ACTIVE in some way in the Society.

Art Batten
Governor, Virginia Society, OFPA

Welcome New Associates

Since the last edition of the Cavalier was published, Registrar Frank Hyland reports the following have been accepted in the Order and/or the Virginia Society. We extend a hearty welcome and we'll see you at the next meeting!

Douglas Graves
VA Number 183 – National Number – 5795
Founder: Thomas Graves
Patriot(s): John Graves and Thomas Graves

Robert Wayne Robins
VA Number 184 – National Number 3924
Founder: Robert Chandler
Patriot: Robert Chandler

VA SOCIETY MEETINGS

Fall 2007 meeting will be held at Williamsburg Landing in Williamsburg, VA on Saturday, September 22, 2007. Information is on the last page of this Cavalier. Please keep the date open.

The spring 2008 meeting is being planned for Saturday April 5th 2008 at the Best Western in Culpeper, VA. The speaker will be Charles Phebus, VA OFPA Historian. He will speak on his 4th great grandfather, John Shepherd. Patriot Shepherd was the longest living survivor of Braddock's Defeat in 1755, and a Revolutionary War veteran who passed away at 117 years and 9 months of age.

For anyone who cares to do wine tasting tours, on Friday April 4th, Jerry will be organizing a wine tasting tour to one of Culpeper's vineyards and will be offering a wine tasting tour on Saturday after the meeting. There is an additional cost for the wine tasting tour about \$5.00 each (unless prices go up). You can also visit the Culpeper History Museum, plus a self-conducted tour of Revolutionary War places of interest around Culpeper.

Unfortunately The Times Have Caught Up With Us!

Back in 1992 an august group of fiscally responsible gentlemen agreed that the Virginia Society of the OFPA could operate quite nicely with Society membership dues set at the reasonable sum of 15 dollars per year. After all, milk only cost 99 cents a gallon, a whole loaf of bread was on the shelf at the corner grocery store for 70 cents a loaf, and the dues notice was mailed out with only a 29 cent stamp on the envelope.

And so it went, time passed, the years rolled by, until we came to 2007. And another august group of gentlemen gathered around a table to discuss the health of the Society. One member remarked that he could not even buy a glass of milk at McDonalds for 99 cents let alone a gallon, another said at the chain store that replaced his corner grocery store a loaf of bread cost \$2.49. The Secretary commented that with this year's stamp hike each envelope would now need a 41-cent stamp.

But our Treasurer calmly noted and said, "Ah, yes,

prices and costs have gone up since 1992 but our Society dues have NOT." That's 15 years without a dues increase

Then came the realities that our income from dues was no longer covering our simple expenses. In fact during the past two years we have had to withdraw funds from our 'savings' to make ends meet.

Our expenses are primarily the cost of supporting our aggressive and excellent ROTC award program, publishing several 'top notch' bulletins a year, and ensuring that we can continue to honor the increasing cost of life memberships. Last year two of our Associates who had been making substantial 'extra' donations in support of the ROTC program passed away. All who knew them will miss these gentlemen and the ROTC program will miss their contributions.

After a great deal of honest, frank discussion at the March 2007 VA Society meeting a vote was taken to increase the dues for the first time in 15 years from \$15.00 to \$21.00 for the year 2008. The Associates also agreed to review the financial situation of the Society next year and if, but only if, need be, seek another \$6,00 increase in 2009 to \$27.00 per year.

These decisions were not made lightly, there was much talk about the impact a dues increase might have on membership retention and new applications, but the Society simply can not keep 'dipping' into its meager reserves routinely to cover 'normal expenses.'

The Virginia Society Council sincerely hopes every Associate can understand why, that after 15 years, our dues do have to be raised.

THE 'NEW' VIRGINIA Cavalier

The Virginia Cavalier has a new team. Volney Rattan, Frank Hyland and Jerry Hubbard will be responsible for *the Cavalier*. Articles for *the Cavalier* should be mailed or emailed to Jerry Hubbard, 200 Elmwood Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701-4028 or hubbarddj@comcast.net. And we DO WANT an article or two from you. Perhaps an interesting story about your founder ancestor, or how/why you

chose to join the OFPA, or even a bit of history to enlighten us all. Col. Jack Westbrook has done a wonderful job with *the Cavalier* and we all thank him for his ideas and getting us back on track; that's for sure. A Society like ours depends so much on its bulletin to keep everyone informed and Jack really came to our rescue when the call went out. We're hoping a computer-based version of the Cavalier will give the Society the option of offering members an on-line version thus shaving a bit on the cost side of the ledger and even inserting it directly into our emerging website. We're still going to try for two – three issues per year depending on cost and content. You contribute the content and your Council will track the cost!

Our very own Web Site

Take a look at the beginning of our very own state society web site at www.vaofpa.org. The web site is a donation to the Society by Don Moore, the Society Secretary. Don is also the Webmaster. We're just getting started and there lots is of work to be done but by gosh the Virginia Society has taken its first tentative steps into at least the 20th Century if not 21st quite yet. Eventually, there will be information concerning the Society, officers, pictures of Society activities and hopefully current and possibly past issues of *The Virginia Cavalier* will be available for reading. When the time is right we may need to move our site under the auspices of the national web site to conform with the National policy and that will be OK. But for now, let's enjoy what Don has given us. Just like with the Cavalier, YOU, not just the four or five members of the Council, have to tell us what you would like to see on YOUR website. Here's a flat out challenge – almost half of our membership have addresses outside of Virginia – what do you folks want to see on our web site that might make you feel a bit more connected with us?

Life Memberships

Did you know the VA OFPA Society has a life membership program? NO! Me neither, but we do. If you buy a life membership, at any time while you are a member, both your National and Society dues are paid for the rest of your life from that point onward. That's right 'for the rest of your

life!'

At the March 2007 Society meeting it was decided to update the schedule for life membership (along with the annual dues structure to reflect reality.

Life membership can now be purchased for \$1,000.00 or twenty times the total of National and Society yearly dues for the year in which you select life membership, (which ever is greater – naturally!)

If National or Society dues are raised after you have purchased your life membership (and you can almost predict that at some point one or both will go up) - the raise does not affect you as you will have already paid your dues for life – that's why we call it 'life membership.' Quite frankly, depending on your age, it can be a good deal! And then again But it's always something one should consider. If you have any questions please contact Thatcher Wood at (804)741-6088 or patriotwood@hotmail.com.

Society Officers

Governor:	Arthur D Batten
(757)850-3310	abatten@aol.com
Deputy Governor:	(Vacant)
Secretary:	Donald W. Moore
Treasurer:	Lewis T. Cowardin
States Attorney:	Frederick S. Gore
Registrar:	Francis P. Hyland
(540)923-4012	wunderlust@hughes.net
Chaplain:	Russell C. Scott
Genealogist:	(Vacant)
Historian:	Charles E. Phebus

QUIZ

Of the 13 original colonies, which one was established first and which one was established last?

Which colony was set up as a 'mediaeval experiment'?



Associate Thatcher Wood making the ROTC presentation at VMI.

Attendees at the April 2007 VA OFPA council meeting. From left to right: Secretary Don Moore; Registrar Frank Hyland; Volney Rattan; Governor Art Batten; Jerry Hubbard; and Mike Lyman. Mike Lyman is taking the picture.



Jerry Hubbard making the ROTC presentation at George Mason University.



Left— Thatcher Wood presenting the ROTC Award to Army Cadet Richard Columbo at UVA. Presentations at UVA were made April 24, 2007.

Right—Thatcher Wood presenting the ROTC Award to Navy Midshipman Cadet Joseph P. McConnell at UVA.



Left—Thatcher Wood presenting the ROTC Award to Air Force Cadet Lindsay Randlett at UVA.

FALL 2007 SOCIETY MEETING AND SOCIAL TIME

Date: Saturday September 22, 2008
Time: Business meeting will start at 10:30 a.m.
Location: Williamsburg Landing, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Menu

Mixed green Salad – 2 dressings on the side
Petit Filet
Roasted Potatoes
Southern Style Green Beans—well cooked
Fresh rolls & Butter

Apple Pie ala Mode

Iced Tea / Coffee

LADIES ARE SPECIFICALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

Directions: to Williamsburg Landing, Williamsburg VA: From Ferry Boat landing, go on Jamestown Rd to Route 199 intersection and turn right one block to Brookwood Drive.
From Richmond, VA: On I-64, take the east exit at 199E (exit 234A) to third light and turn on Brookwood Drive. Go one block and turn left into Landing.
From Norfolk: on I-64, Take the west Exit at Route 199 (exit 234A), go to the 3rd traffic light and turn on Brookwood Drive. Go one block and turn left into Landing entrance. (There is a large construction sign for JORDON's Contractor at the entrance).
Security Gate personnel will direct you to the main building at 5700 Williamsburg Drive.

Reservations must be received by Wednesday, September 19, 2007.

I, _____ will attend the September 22, 2007 Society meeting.

Enclosed is my check for (nr attending) _____ x \$22.50 total \$ _____.

Make checks payable to "Treasurer, Virginia Society OFPA."

Mail reservations to: Volney H. Rattan
5707 Williamsburg Landing Drive #42
Williamsburg, VA 23185-8011