

Patriots Day - Grave Marking - Blessing the Soil

On Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the Masonic Cemetery in Culpeper, Virginia, the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter of the Virginia SAR, celebrated three events in one live gathering. The first was Patriots Day, April 19, 1775, as seen by Virginia. The second was the placement of an SAR grave marker at the grave of General Edward Stevens, commander of the Culpeper Minutemen during the Revolution. The third was the Blessing of the Virginia Soil to be taken to Waxhaws, South Carolina. Master of Ceremonies for the day was Charles Jameson, President of the Culpeper Minutemen and guest speaker at our March 27 Spring Meeting.

Virginia OFPA Governor Weyler participated in those celebrations by bringing greetings from the OFPA at the beginning of the ceremonies, by carrying the OFPA Flag in the Color Guard and by presenting the OFPA wreath at General Steven's grave. Other Virginia OFPA members in attendance were Jerry Hubbard, Past Governor, Doug Graves, Councilor, and Jeff Thomas, President of VASSAR.



Governor Weyler bringing greetings.

The OFPA flag is over his left shoulder.

The Patriots Day presentations were made by VASSAR Past President Bill Schwetke, who spoke on the impact that Lexington and Concord had on Virginia, and by Charles Jameson, who spoke on General Stevens' contributions throughout the Revolution.

The marking of General Stevens grave included the unveiling of the marker by Michael Dennis, Color Guard Commander of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter and a direct descendant of General Stevens, and a musket volley salute by the VASSAR Color Guard.

Finally, an urn was filled with Virginia soil and blessed by Father Henry Minich. The VASSAR President Jeff Thomas will carry the soil to South Carolina and spread it on the grave of Virginia soldiers mascred at Waxhaws by Colonel Banaste Tarlton in 1780.



Attendees in front of General Stevens' grave: Jerry Hubbard is at the left end, Jeff Thomas is 7th from the left, Governor Weyler is 8th from the left. Doug Grave was the photographer.