

Virginia OFPA Participates in SAR Ceremony on Yorktown Victory Day

On Tuesday morning, October 19, 2021, in the graveyard of the Grace Episcopal Church on Church Street in Yorktown, Virginia, members of the Virginia OFPA participated in a ceremony of remembrance and the placement of wreaths at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr., who was the commander of the Virginia Militia during the siege of Yorktown in 1781.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Larry McKinley, a past president of the Virginia SAR. The current Virginia SAR President Jeff Thomas, who is also an Associate of the Virginia OFPA, brought greetings from VASSAR. As the principal speaker, SAR Chancellor General Mike Elston brought remarks about Governor Nelson.

Thomas Nelson, Jr. was Yorktown's most famous son and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. As the commander of the Virginia Militia during the siege of Yorktown, Nelson is said to have urged the patriot cannon to fire on his own home, the Nelson House, where General Cornwallis was said to have his headquarters, offering five guineas to the first man to hit his house. Nelson also served in the Virginia General Assembly, the Continental Congress, and was elected Virginia Governor in 1781.

A total of forty wreaths were presented at Governor Nelson's grave. Dr. Dan Warren, Past Governor General of the OFPA presented the General Order's wreath, and Virginia OFPA Governor Michael E. Weyler presented the VA OFPA wreath. VA OFPA Past President Mike Lyman was present in the Color Guard.



Virginia OFPA Associates, L/R, Michael Weyler, Dan Warren, Mike Lyman and Jeff Thomas