

## James Monroe's 263<sup>rd</sup> Birthday at Highland

On Saturday, April 24, 2021, the James Monroe and Thomas Jefferson Chapters of the Virginia SAR co-hosted a ceremony to honor James Monroe on his 263<sup>rd</sup> birthday at Highland, his home in Charlottesville, Virginia. Master of Ceremonies for the day was Charles Belfield, President of the James Monroe Chapter.

Virginia OFPA Governor Weyler brought greetings from the Virginia Society of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, presented the Wreath of the Order and participated in the event's Color Guard.

Governor Weyler declared that today we also honor a young, 22 year old Scott, Andrew Monroe, one whom we would call a Founder, who came to America in 1641 when it was mostly wilderness, seeking liberty and a chance to raise a family and build a legacy of freedom in the new world. He raised a family and successfully passed on that spirit of liberty to his descendants, such that a century and a half later, his great-great grandson was elected as the fifth president of the United States of America. This was James Monroe's

legacy of liberty, and it is also our legacy as American.



James Monroe was not only the president of the United States, he was a Patriot who actively served his country in many ways. As a soldier in the Revolution, he crossed the Delaware with Washington and was severely wounded at Trenton. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, served as a U.S. Senator, Governor of Virginia, Minister to France, and a negotiator for the Louisiana Purchase. During the War of 1812, Monroe was both Secretary of State and Secretary of War. As our fifth president, he may be most remembered as the author of the Monroe Doctrine, stating that the Americas were now closed to any further European settlements in the Americas.

The photo shows the VASSAR Color Guard at Monroe's statue at Highland. Governor Weyler is standing on the extreme right, and Associate Jeff Thomas, President of VASSAR, is standing fourth from the right.