

Message from the desk of Chapter President Kenneth Gorton, January 2010

REFLECTIONS & RESURGENCE

Compatriots, we have now turned the page on the beginning of the second decade of the 21st Century. Who would have envisioned the happenings during the past year and previous ten years, both within America and in the Sons of the American Revolution – Nationally, the State Society, and the George Washington Chapter.

During the decade, America experienced Y2K, election ballot disputes, terrorist attacks, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, mine disasters, changes within the Supreme Court, and a recession. 2009 encountered a financial melt-down, high unemployment, a soaring national debt, a housing crisis, political correctness, attacks within our country, questionable handling of immigration, education, the environment, underfunding of Medicare and Social Security, and the birth of Tea Parties. John Browne has described that within America there is "...a most dangerous political cocktail emerging. Its ingredients are deceptive, arrogant government based more on control and perceived misdirection than on democracy, freedom and enterprise..." With all of these negative aspects, we remain a nation that believes in our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and have faith in our citizens to come together to reverse the trends that Browne foretells.

SAR has evolved as well over the decade. Nationally, the annual Congress recognized accomplishments by Societies and Chapters, and its investment in the future through the Center for the Advancing America's Heritage is a significant initiative. The George Washington Chapter was recognized in seven of the past 10 years as the "Most Active Chapter" in its membership category in the PA Society. This past year we embraced a theme of Commitment, Connection, and Community resulting in eight new members, enthusiastic and enlightening monthly meetings, launching of the chapter website, participation in monuments, wreaths and commemorative programs, additional grave registrations, veterans and color guard activities, recognizing new citizens at a naturalization ceremony, battle reenactments, honoring a citizen for contributions to the community, and recognizing Eagle Scouts and other youth for service and involvement.

Here we are – 2010. Looking through the rear view mirror is not in vain. The challenge we face should be inspiring. Our nation has principles we will not abandon, and so fellow compatriots, embrace them and be a voice for freedom at the national, state, and local level, thus participating in the resurgence of values and the character America was founded on. The Theme mentioned above will continue, and with each of us answering the call to Reveille. Our Chapter, our community, and fellow citizens will recognize that we are an active organization striving to make an impact to preserve our liberties and advance freedom.

The February 18, 2010 monthly meeting will outline initiatives and programs in support of this Resurgence.

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