



*George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee
Alexandria, Virginia*

May 22, 2017

Mayor Allison Silberberg
Members of the Alexandria City Council
City Hall, Alexandria, Virginia

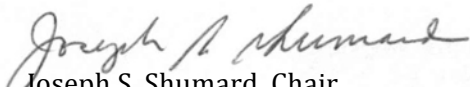
Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of the Alexandria City Council,

With over 34,000 members the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) is the largest male lineage organization in the U.S. consisting of more than 500 local chapters including several international societies. The SAR is dedicated to inspiring the community with the principles upon which our nation was founded, commemorating the people and events of the American Revolution and fostering patriotism. Clearly, the goals of the Sons of the American Revolution are closely aligned with the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee.

The George Washington Chapter is the largest SAR chapter in Virginia and meets regularly in Alexandria. Since the Chapter was established more than 62 years ago, it has been an active participant in and a supporter of the George Washington Birthday Celebration. Chapter members participate in numerous community outreach events which include historical commemorations twice a year (Veterans Day and Fourth of July) at the tomb of George Washington; Memorial Day parade in Washington, D.C. and Revolutionary War graves ceremonies. The SAR Color Guard enthusiastically participates in these and other activities in order to encourage patriotism. Other community programs focus on encouraging and supporting veterans in VA hospitals; recognizing those who have distinguished themselves in the preservation of law and order; sponsoring Eagle Scout Awards; oration, poster and essay contests; JROTC and ROTC recognition; and fostering a better understanding of U.S. history in schools. As part of the George Washington Birthday Celebration the SAR in conjunction with the DAR is responsible for the ceremony commemorating the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier which is held at Old Presbyterian Meeting House and precedes the parade.

The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee respectfully recommends that The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution be added to the official membership of the Committee.

Sincerely,


Joseph S. Shumard, Chair