



**John Paul Jones Chapter  
The Maryland Society  
Sons of the American Revolution**



Annapolis, Maryland

16 March 2021

## **John Paul Jones Chapter - 2020 Annual Report**

As a great author once wrote, “It was the best of times it was the worst of times”, as we began 2020 with a bang. Our newly installed leadership team; Chapter President Michael J. Kelley, Jr, Vice President Ronald L. Shuey, Treasurer Ronald Nielson, Secretary Mark D. Deeds, envisioned great things ahead of us. Two thousand nineteen was a banner year for the Chapter and we were prepared to improve and grow even more in 2020.

We began the year supporting Wreaths Across America when gathered to help clear the 2019 wreaths from the tombstones at the Annapolis National Cemetery in January.

We had our first meeting of 2020 on 8 March at our usual gathering place, Union Jacks Pub in Annapolis, MD. The highlights of this meeting were our outstanding youth contestants such as:

- Eagle Scout Benjamin Van Brunt was presented The Arthur M. & Bernadena King Eagle Scout Essay Award. His essay went on to win the State contest, and the State Society presented him the award at the George Washington luncheon. His essay now goes on to the National competition, with the winner announced at the National Society Congress in July.
- The George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest Chapter winners and participants were Emma Weltz, Morgan Riggleman, and Noelle McDowell. The Chapter heard and judged two contestants for the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest. The Chapter’s two contestants were Morgan Riggleman and Noelle McDowell. Noelle McDowell was judged to be the





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winner of the contest and was awarded the Chapter Certificate, Medal and check for \$100.00. Miss McDowell will now continue on to the State Society competition in April.

- Noelle McDowell was presented the Maryland State Society's Award for winning the 2019 George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay contest. The award consisted of a certificate, medal, and a check for \$500.00. Her essay now goes on to the National competition, with the winner announced at Congress in July.



We inducted two new members by our Chapter President, Andrew and Adam



Hoffensetz, descendants of Mordecai Gist. We recognized our Chapter Newsletter Editor, William Wood, for his outstanding service and efforts at developing and publishing our new newsletter, The Serapis.

We recognized Sandra P. Deeds, for her outstanding support to the John Paul Jones Chapter during the past Chapter President tenure of 2018-2019 with the Lydia



Darragh Medal. We presented past Chapter President



Christopher Beck with medal for the Maryland 400 Honorary Regiment

at the rank of Sergeant. The Chapter President also presented Rand Tomcala with Lafayette Medal for his exemplary support to the State Society's effort to digitize Compatriots application records into the new SAR Patriot

Record System. Chapter



Compatriot Alden 'Oz' Sanborn presented the Chapter with a book titled The John Paul Jones



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Commemoration at Annapolis April 25, 1906 published by the US Government Printing Office in 1907.

For Chapter business we firmed up the Chapter's event calendar by scheduling the dates for the rest of 2020. We also chose to table the discussion of our Chapter Coins until we were able to review the proofs from the vendor.

What we did not know then was this was our last in person meeting for our Chapter in 2020. The Pandemic drastically changed our way forward, we adjusted our lives and our Chapter to the realities of the new priorities to keep our Compatriots, and ourselves involved and remain healthy. We needed to make extensive adjustments to the way our Chapter moved forward. Fortunately, our Chapter President and Youth Programs Chairman fearlessly led us into that new world and worked extremely hard to keep our most important work, our youth programs, moving forward. We figured out how to have virtual gatherings, adjusted the way we kept in contact with each other and moved ever forward.

In late March we received the proofs to the Chapter's new Challenge Coin which was approved by our Chapter in 2019. The coin is stunning and we moved forward with this acquisition.



When we got to our second meeting on 3 June, which we held virtually, we were still learning how to conduct business.

- We recognized our Chapter Oration Contest Winner Noelle McDowell as the new Maryland State Society Winner. Noelle McDowell was judged to be the winner of the contest and was awarded the State Certificate, Medal



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and check for \$500.00. Miss McDowell would continue on to the National Society competition.

- Our new Chapter Compatriot, Owen Stern, won the Chapter Poster Contest and submitted his poster for competition at the State Society.
- c/2nd Lt Corey Mattis of Northeast HS MCJROTC received the Bronze ROTC Award. Our State President Eugene Moyer virtually swore in two new SAR member David and Owen Sterns. The Sterns were welcomed to JPJ by our President, Michael J. Kelley.

For Chapter business we reviewed and adjusted for all the event cancellations across our and fellow societies. The Chapter discussed and chose to move forward with all meetings to be virtual and in-person, when possible, to allow maximum participation by all members and guests.

On 27 May, we presented the Chapter's Horace Porter Award to MIDN 1st Class Madeline Angeli, 27 May 2020. Unfortunately, due to concerns about the Pandemic, we were unable to present the award in person at the History Departments annual award ceremony. We mailed the Award to her following graduation. Attached is a photo of the newly remodeled award that the Chapter authorized, had manufactured and awarded in

conjunction with the History Department of the United States Naval Academy, who determines that Midshipman, who, through their exceptional research and work, is worthy of such an award. The Chapter also presents a certificate, and a lengthy letter explaining in greater detail the remarkable efforts of Horace Porter in his historical research as well as his lengthy and costly work using his own funds to find the



remains of Captain John Paul Jones while serving as our US Ambassador to France in Paris during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Those efforts resulted in the return of our



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great Revolutionary War hero, John Paul Jones, to our shore through the efforts of President Theodore Roosevelt and the US Navy, and eventually to his final resting place in the Crypt below the Chapel at the US Naval Academy. This award has been a continuing joint project of the US Naval Academy History Department and the John Paul Jones Chapter of the MDSSAR since 1977.

On 5 September, we held our first combined virtual and in-person meeting at Union Jacks in Annapolis. We were able to recognize and present many awards.



- Owen Stern for winning the Americanism Poster Contest at the Chapter and State levels



- Makenna Carleton and Faith Romeo with Chapter Outstanding Citizenship Awards



- c/CPO Kojo NNoma-Addison with Sea Cadet Bronze Good Citizenship Medal



- c/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Emma Waltz with the Bronze ROTC Medal





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- Josh Brown with the Fire Safety Commendation Medal

- Frank Blucher and Douglas Schwaab with the Law Enforcement Commendation Award



- Jimmy Patz, Jack Peterson, and Travis Loving with the Life Saving Award
- Craig Eichelberger with the SAR/CAR Bronze Medal of Appreciation
- Michael J. Kelley with the Bronze SAR Color Guard Medal

We had an in person induction ceremony for several new members including; Louis Frederick Giles III, Christopher Anthony DiJulio, Owen David Stern, David James Stern, Todd Christopher Moe, Joshua Michael Davies, and Graham Merrick Davies.



Our Chapter President, Mike Kelley, proudly announced the delivery of our new Chapter coins, which are now available for purchase. To improve our outreach and increase the SAR and Chapter's exposure within local community, the Chapter discussed



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participating in potentially four annual local Anne Arundel Car shows, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. Participation to include having a place to show our colors and interact with local car owners and guests. Participation might also include sponsoring the selection and award for an SAR sponsored trophy. Any costs incurred would be limited to the purchase of a trophy. The Chapter also discussed attending local equestrian events with the same goal in mind.

As we approached the end of the year, we decided to forego our Christmas Gala. It was not in the best interest of our Compatriots and we held a virtual meeting to conduct the requisite Chapter business.

We recognized the outstanding efforts of our Compatriots and others in helping the Chapter continue its important business through the traumatic year. We presented the following awards:

- Dr. Stephanie Kathleen Kelley was presented with the Lydia Darragh Medal
- Mrs. Sandra P. Deeds was presented with the Martha Washington Medal
- MSgt Jari Villanueva, USAF (Ret) and Emma Weltz with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal
- Mark D. Deeds, Ron Shuey, Ron Nielson, Guy Kerby, Barry McKown, and Michael Kelley was presented with the Bronze Sherman Medal
- Robert Rice with the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal
- Mark D. Deeds with the Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service

We inducted Jim Wilkison as our newest Chapter Compatriot.

Our usual gathering place, Union Jacks, shuttered its doors so we took up the business of finding a new meeting location. We discussed and confirmed our continued support of Wreaths Across America. Our new Chapter Genalogist/Registrar, Robert Rice, reported he is working with 38 potential new Compatriots. Robert also established a new page on the Chapter web site to keep applicants and fellow Compatriots apprised of our recruitment progress.

Past Chapter President Mark D. Deeds presented to the Chapter, the 2021 Chapter Officers Slate. The people that will lead us into the new year were named, the slate was



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passed unanimously, and the new officers were sworn in by our State Society President Eugene Moyer. Our leadership team for 2021 included Ronald Shuey, President; Kevin Eichelberger, Vice President; Michael J. Kelley, Treasurer; Mark D. Deeds, Secretary.

On 16 December John Paul Jones Chapter representatives continued their support to Wreaths Across America by helping unload the semi full of wreaths for covering the graves of our fallen servicemen through the winter holidays at the Annapolis National Cemetery in conjunction with Wreaths Across America. Due to the Pandemic those who were allowed to help lay the wreaths were extremely limited, but one of our chapter

officers, Robert Rice, has been a key figure in helping the Wreaths Across America organization in planning and carrying out the Annapolis portion of this annual event.



Throughout the year, the John Paul Jones Chapter fully supported and State Society initiatives and events. We had very good representation at all State Society functions. Our Chapter is very well represented and active in the State Society Leadership and Committees. We are passionate and enthusiastic at stepping forward and volunteering for State Society missions and functions.

Two thousand twenty was a tumultuous year. We reinvented the way we did business. We altered the way we conduct our outreach to each other, to our constituents and to our community in the end it will make us stronger. Through all of it, we met the goals of our Society and we found ways to thrive through all of it. Unfortunately,





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throughout the pandemic we had several Compatriots sick with COVID-19, some still recovering, but fortunately we did not lose anyone as a direct result of the Pandemic.

We look forward to 2021 to continue our growth and development. We believe it will be an exciting and exceptional year for us and the State Society.

Respectfully Submitted

*Original Signed by Mark D. Deeds*

Mark D. Deeds

Secretary

John Paul Jones Chapter

Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution

