

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN



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PRESIDENT GENERAL WOODS ANNOUNCES THE ELEVENTH LAUREATE OF THE WASHINGTON- LAFAYETTE EAGLE

Ten years ago, then President General Forrest Pragoff made the first presentation of the Washington-Lafayette Eagle for Service of the Highest Distinction to the Society of the Cincinnati. The Washington-Lafayette Eagle is given to members who have served the General Society — and often their constituent societies as well — in extraordinary ways. It is the General Society’s only award for service. The awards are made at the discretion of the president general with the advice of other leaders. The members honored with the Eagle have all brought something very special to the General Society. Some gave it decades of loyal service. Some distinguished themselves by embodying the spirit of “cordial affection” called for in the Institution. At least one accomplished a remarkable amount in a short period of intense and dedicated service.

The award is as unique as each of these men. It is a replica of the special Eagle commissioned for his own use by George Washington. General Washington’s heirs presented that Eagle — which is distinguished by being surrounded by an oval of laurel — to the marquis de Lafayette, who wore it proudly for the remainder of his life. The Washington-Lafayette Eagle is manufactured exclusively for the General Society and it can only be worn by an honoree, known as a Laureate of the Washington-Lafayette Eagle.

During the first ten years of the award’s history, the General Society honored ten members in this extraordinary way — Catesby Jones, Mac Matthew, Ed Woods, George Chester, the Rev. Philip Roulette, Forrest Pragoff, Raynald, duc de Choiseul, Robert Norfleet, William Polk Cheshire, and William Russell Raiford. Five of the ten served a term as president general, but the citation that accompanied the presentation to each of them discussed their remarkable service to the Society beyond their three years as president general. Four of the ten never served as a General Officer. The Washington-Lafayette Eagle is an honor to which any member may aspire. The common characteristic is dedication to the Society and undeviating commitment to its mission.

At the General Society’s spring banquet on May 12, President General Jonathan Woods announced the eleventh Laureate of the Washington-Lafayette Eagle. The honoree did not know in advance that the award was being presented to him — or even at first, that the person the president general was describing was him.

“I want to take a few minutes,” President General Woods began, “to tell you about a special member and all the good he has done for our Society.

Chuck introduced a crowd of almost 200 members, Associates and guests to speaker John Avlon at the first major American Revolution Institute lecture on May 11 (below). When Chuck isn't devoting his time to the future of the Institute (and sometimes when he is) he spends it with the gracious Juliette Lloyd.

I want to do so because I don't think you know the story, and you should." He continued:

He joined the Society twenty years ago, and a few years later he got involved with us at the General Society. He soon made a name for himself as an

the most generous — helped get us going. We talked about making a difference, but we didn't really have the means.

He started to give. Most of his giving was very quiet — he was looking for progress, not applause. Within a few years, though almost no one knew it, he had given more to support education than anyone in the Society's history, and by a long way.

He knew that without more effective fundraising, we weren't going to get much done. So in 2004 he accepted the job of Development Committee chairman, and working with our new Executive Director, he modernized our Annual Giving campaigns. The proceeds doubled, and have since more than doubled again.

In the summer of 2006, with the warm concurrence of President General Rob Norfleet, he hosted a strategic planning meeting at his

oceanfront home that produced the Society's first Strategic Vision Statement, which was adopted by the Board a few months later. This was the first time the General Society ever described what it would do to carry out its historic mission. It is easy to see in that document the foundation of today's American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati.

In 2007, almost inevitably, he was chosen as a

outspoken committee member — and the thing he was outspoken about was the mission of our Society.

Like many of us, he was worried about the decline in understanding and appreciation of the American Revolution among our young people. In those days — fifteen years ago — we had an education committee but no dedicated education staff and very little money to spend on educational outreach. A few donors — George Harrison of Maryland was



General Officer, and worked with President General Forrest Pragoff to help prevent the disastrous market downdraft of late 2008 from paralyzing our fundraising efforts. We had, in fact, a record year, despite the market downturn, and another record year in 2009. And when our Executive Director told the Board of Directors he hoped one day to have the means to hire an



Education Director, he was one of the four members in the room who, on the spot, pledged the money to hire one immediately.


Despite a remarkable run, he was not elected to a second term as a General Officer. This was the General Society's loss, but it was his state society's gain, because he capped a career as a state society officer with a remarkable tenure as president of his state society, in which he was instrumental, with a group of other activists, in reforming our most conservative state society.

Together they brought the Pennsylvania Society — if not into the twenty-first century, at least into the middle of the nineteenth — by finally adopting the Rule of 1854 some 160 years after the other constituent societies.

He had no formal role in the leadership of the General Society for several years, yet he continued to give quietly for education, and engaged in an uninterrupted dialogue with our Executive Director about the mission of our Society — how to push it forward, how to build support for it, and how to make a difference. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati is the result of a decade of steady effort by dozens of people, but few of us — perhaps none of us — has had a greater hand in shaping it.

He finally returned to our formal leadership last year, when the Board of Overseers of the American Revolution Institute asked him to join their ranks and then immediately asked him to serve as the second presiding chairman of that Board. He immediately made one of the first major pledges to





the Campaign for the American Revolution Institute, and has been relentless in driving the Institute, and our Society, to fulfill the mission framed for us so long ago by our ancestors.

He is the great-great-great-great-great grandson of an artillery captain, Robert Coltman. I speak, of course, of Charles L. Coltman III, and I'm sure most of you didn't know the half of it.

After asking the surprised Chuck Coltman to join him at the lectern, the president general concluded:

Chuck, there's no way to thank you enough for your service and your generosity to our One Society of Friends and to the nation, which our Society — you never stop reminding us — was created to serve.

But we can offer you a symbol of our gratitude, and so it is my honor to present you tonight with our Society's highest honor — the Washington-Lafayette Eagle for Service of the Highest Distinction to the Society of the Cincinnati.

It is a sign of our esteem and respect, our admiration and our deepest appreciation. And I am glad your sons, Clayton and Charlie — both members — could be with us tonight to celebrate your achievements.

After a standing ovation, the president general invited Chuck to say a few words. Not normally at a loss, he thought briefly and then insisted — with characteristic modesty — that as grateful as he is for the recognition, it is premature. Much remains to be done, he said, most of all the work of building the American Revolution Institute and fulfilling the charge given to each member by his propositus to promote understanding and appreciate of the American Revolution. Chuck said he looks forward to completing this great work, and appealed to everyone present to support it. His unwavering determination made it clear that the Society had honored the right man.



Ten new members of the Pennsylvania Society joined the party at the Museum of the American Revolution. (left to right): Kurt Ryerson, William Richards, Douglas Miller, George Lewis, Jr., Frederick Knight V, Oliver Ide, Taylor Kellogg, Austin Hepburn III, John Cory, Jr. and John Cory, Sr.



A Growing Society Looks Forward to the 2019 Triennial

Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati

The Pennsylvania Society kicked off a busy season of fellowship and celebration at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia on October 14, 2017. The Society took over the museum’s second floor, where guests mingled with cocktails while Society members gathered in a top floor conference room for the annual meeting.

After a review of the Society’s plans for the 2019 triennial celebration in Philadelphia, fourteen new members were admitted to the Society, the largest group of new members in recent memory and double the number of new members added in 2016. Four new members were brought in under the Rule of 1854, which Pennsylvania only adopted a few years ago.

“The addition of fourteen new active members was a highlight of 2017 for the Pennsylvania Society,” said Jim Pringle, Pennsylvania Society president. “Many of these new men are already

involved with the 2019 triennial planning and we look forward to their participation in all aspects of the Pennsylvania and General societies.” Cliff Lewis, chairman of the membership committee, said, “I was very pleased that we were able to bring in so many new members last year. They are a good combination of new hereditary members—both original and 1854 members—and successor members.”

The Pennsylvania Society’s new hereditary members are Thomas Brooke Blake of West Palm Beach, Florida; John Raborg Cory, Sr., of Rising Sun, Maryland; John Raborg Cory, Jr., of Manchester, Maryland; Taylor Cromwell Kellogg of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania; Richard Rial Leonard of New York City; George Elder Lewis, Jr., of Jefferson, Maryland; Robin Bradley Martin of Palm Beach, Florida; Douglas Allen Miller of Spring, Texas; William Burpee Richards of Stanford, New York; Kurt Larz Ryerson of Wake

Below: Newly inducted member Frederick Knight V, at the October meeting with his father, hereditary member Frederick Knight IV, and his uncle, Mark Knight, hereditary life member.

Forest, North Carolina. Our new successor members are Austin Barry Hepburn III of Radnor, Pennsylvania; Oliver Logan Ide of Atlanta; Frederick Henry Knight V of Philadelphia; and William Appleton McCue, currently on active military duty.

We also elected officers to lead the Pennsylvania Society for the next three years. The new officers are Jim Pringle, president; Mark Ward, vice president; Randy Smith, secretary; Greg Sproat, treasurer; Dave Bassert, Jr., assistant secretary; Austin Heburn, Jr., recording secretary; and Ray Wess, assistant treasurer. Elected or re-elected to the Pennsylvania Society Standing Committee are Brad Davis, Phil Miller VI, Bill Olinger, and Oliver Picher.

Once the business of the annual meeting was concluded, the members joined their guests. Our party enjoyed the exhibitions before dinner was served in the center hall. The evening ended with a dramatic presentation about the tent Washington used as his headquarters during the Revolutionary War, which is a highlight of the museum's permanent collection.

With nearly one hundred Society members and guests in attendance, the evening at the museum was a great success and a good omen for the triennial. Planning for the May 2019 triennial is in "high gear," President Pringle said. With major decisions on venues and caterers made, the important details now are being finalized. Cynthia MacLeod, superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, is helping the Pennsylvania Society incorporate many of the important sites in Philadelphia's historic district into the triennial itinerary.

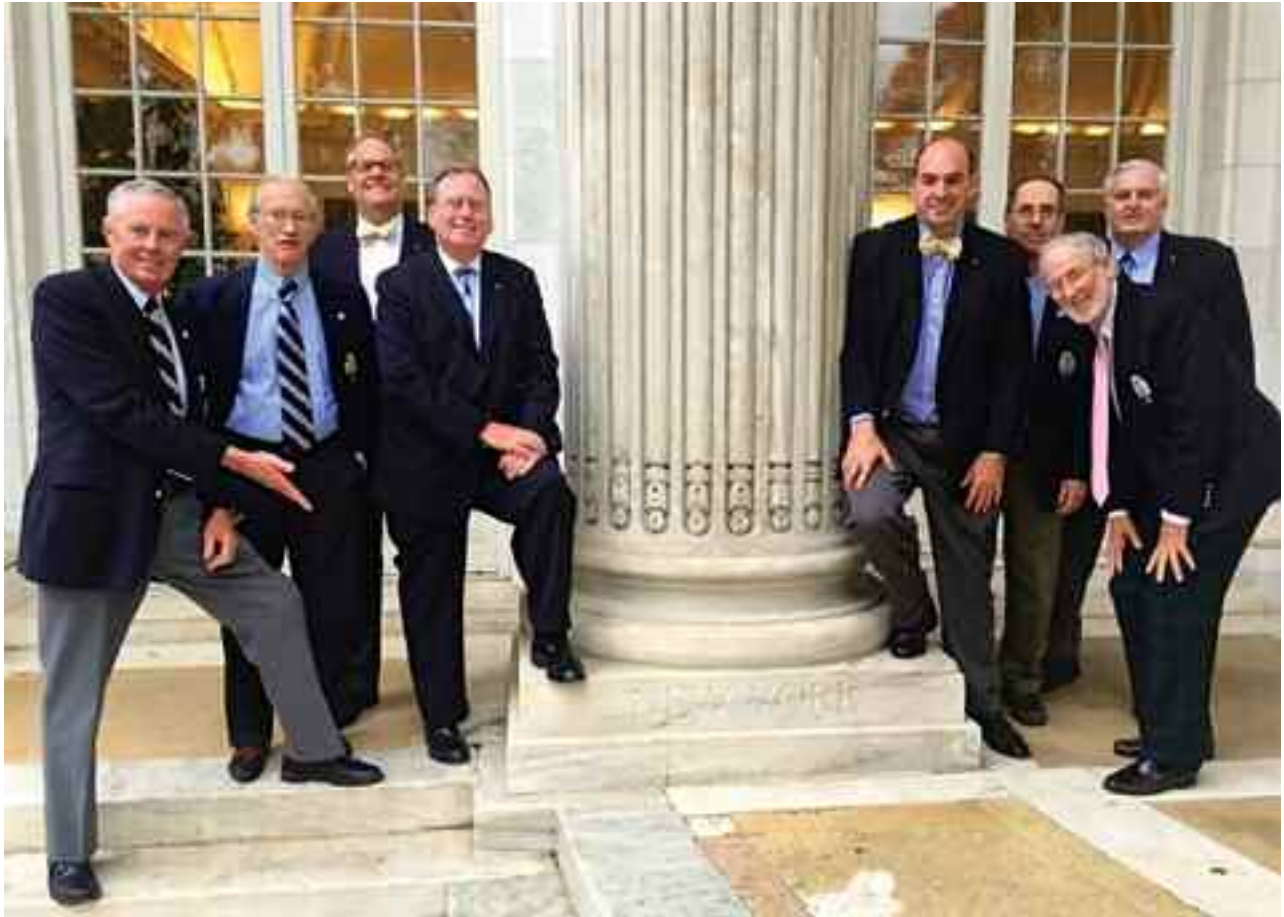
On December 10, the Pennsylvania Society hosted members and guests for the rehearsal of the annual reenactment of Washington's troops crossing the Delaware River to attack Trenton. This is the second year the Society has hosted

this event, which drew seventeen Society and family members. Attendees included President General Jonathan Woods and Maryland member Tim Sellers, in addition to five Pennsylvanians and their family members. With snow on the ground, the heated grand marquee tent overlooking the action provided a warm spot to watch the reenactors (admittedly, General Washington and his men didn't enjoy a heated tent). After the reenactment, the group walked to the nearby Washington Crossing Inn for a hearty lunch.

Sixty Society members and guests gathered on February 19 at The Union League in downtown Philadelphia for the Society's annual luncheon honoring General Washington. The featured speaker was local historian Michael C. Harris, who shared little known facts about the Battle of Brandywine. Harris had been tipped off that the audience included many experts on the American Revolution, so he focused on obscure anecdotes about the battle and its aftermath. Harris recently published *Brandywine: A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, September 11, 1777*.

Randolph Smith,
Secretary





Leaders of the New York Society hunted down the New York pillar at DAR headquarters in Washington when they visited there in November.

A Winter of Honors

New York State Society of the Cincinnati

On November 25, 1783, the British evacuated New York City after more than seven years of occupation. General Washington and his victorious American Army entered the city just as the last units of the British army left Manhattan. The New York State Society of the Cincinnati celebrates this event with our fall meeting at Anderson House.

At that meeting, Robert Linlithgow Livingston, Jr., and Trevor Alexander McClurg Potter were admitted to hereditary membership and Alan Philip Zdimal to successor membership. A moment of silence was observed for past New York Society president Isaac Hayden Lutterloh, Jr., M. D., who passed away in June 2017. Edward Allen Seidel, M. D., announced that the restoration of the John Trumbull portrait of

Bryan Rossiter, sergeant-at-arms of the New York Society in the early 1800's, has been completed. His portrait is on display in the Original Library at Anderson House.

After the meeting we toured the Daughters of the American Revolution Library and Museum. We wrapped up the day with a black tie dinner at Anderson House, at which Patrick K. O'Donnell, author of *Washington's Immortals*, offered an account of an elite Maryland regiment, best known for its heroic service at the Battle of Brooklyn. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Society presented President John Arthur O'Malley with the New York State Society Cincinnati of the Year Award.

Our winter meeting activities began on February