

# RECENT PATRIOT NEWS

FROM THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



NJSSAR President Robert C. Meyer

DECEMBER 2023

## SAR, NJSSAR AND PASSAR VISIT TRENTON BARRACKS, BATTLE MONUMENT AND DELAWARE RIVER CROSSING



From Left to Right NJSSAR Color Guardsman Jake Rue, PASSAR Color Guardsman Chris Snyder, NJ Sons of the Revolution President Ben Strong, Princeton Cranbury Chapter President and State Historian Roger Williams, Mary Addington, SAR Secretary General Darryl Addington, Back Row left to right NJSSAR Color Guard Commander and West Fields Chapter President Jay Hershey, PASSAR Color Guardsman Spencer Snyder, PASSAR Color Guard Commander Fred Fronseca, NJSSAR Color Guardsman Carl Hausman, and NJSSAR Color Guardsman Earl Grondyke



General George Washington and his commanders inspecting troops prior to crossing

### Trenton Battle Monument Wreath Laying, Delaware River Crossing Events Attended

When on December 25th of 1776, the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army General George Washington, crossed the Delaware River from Pennsylvania into New Jersey on his way to rout the Hessians in Trenton, he did so in poor weather conditions, with poorly clothed troops and with poor visibility under cover of darkness. On December 10, 2023, two hundred and forty seven -(247) years later he did so again, this time in the fog and the rain, but with a sideline of onlookers properly dressed for the occasion complete with umbrellas, raincoats, cell phone cameras, pizza, and refreshments, but no less excited to watch this incredibly iconic event proceed.

At a location about 1500 feet north of that tiny Delaware River vehicle bridge that collects side view mirrors thanks to its narrow width, a few hundred onlookers stood in the rain on the Pennsylvania and New Jersey sides of the river and watched the dense fog obscure the river from view just as General Washington and his troops descended its banks and entered the Durham boats. Watching this reenactment, and knowing how the momentum of the war was proceeding up to this point, leaves an onlooker in awe of the fortitude, and audacity that led to the decision to strike the enemy this way. The reenactment is a sight that every American should see at some point in their life given its significance on the outcome of the Revolutionary War. Fortunately, as if scripted by film writers, the fog cleared enough to make the crossing visible for the audience and safe for the reenactors.

United States Marine Corp Major General Jason Q. Bohm served as narrator for the crossing reenactment and prepared the crowd with background information on the crossing and ensuing battle and led the crowd in the proper guttural shout, that distinctive Marine battle cry, "Oorah". Secretary General of the Sons of the American Revolution Darryl S. Addington was also in attendance accompanied by his wife Mary and State Historian and Princeton Cranbury Chapter President Roger Williams as well as members of the NJSSAR Color Guard.

Earlier in the day Secretary General Addington, Roger Williams and members of the NJSSAR Color Guard participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Trenton Battle Monument. When I

asked the Secretary General about the significance of the crossing and the battle, he stated " *This battle was a major turning point of the war. General George Washington provided, by this battle, great moral support to the people and to congress, and proved that he could lead the army to victory and the colonies to freedom.*"

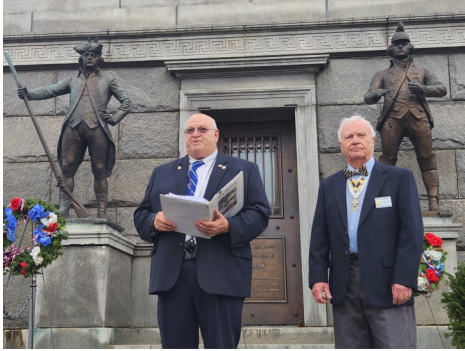
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**NJSSAR and PASSAR at Trenton Battle Monument Wreath Laying and Washington Crossing Reenactment December 10, 2023**



On Sunday morning, December 10th of this year, a solemn ceremonial wreath laying took place at the Trenton Battle Monument where, as State Historian Roger Williams explained "...our liberty began". Darryl S. Addington, Secretary General of the Sons of the American Revolution came from North Carolina to be part of the day's historic and pivotal events. Mr. Addington, a retired medical doctor, has been with the SAR for 26 years and is the prior SAR Surgeon General. He has also served as Treasurer General, Membership Chair and as prior Tennessee SAR President. Darryl and his wife Mary, pictured lower left, arrived on Friday the 8th of December and began their visit to NJ accompanied by Robert Meyer, NJSSAR President. They visited the Princeton Battlefield site, the old barracks in Trenton, see photo lower right, and Washington's Crossing State Park. Secretary General Addington told me before leaving the battle monument, "In my entire time with the SAR I have always asked my wife Mary, "should we do this?" if the answer is yes, we do it, she has been at my side all the way". Sound advice from an American Patriot. The NJSSAR is proud to promote patriotism, serve the community, and inspire and educate the public about the history of the American Revolution.

Robert C. Fischer, Patriot Newsletter Editor