



**Dr. George H. Brandau**  
**National Society Sons of the American Revolution**  
**President General 1991-1992**

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Compiled by John Greer and John Anderson, July 2020

## SAR Magazine LXXXV-NO-4\_Spring-1991, p. 16

### Nominating Committee National Officer Selections for 1991-1992



*PRESIDENT GENERAL - George H. Brandau, M.D.*

Now completing a term as Secretary General, Compatriot Brandau is the Immediate Past Registrar General. Prior to that post, he had served as Surgeon General, Vice-President General for the Foreign District-Western Hemisphere (2 terms), President and National Trustee of the Texas Society and President of the Paul Carrington Chapter. He currently is Chairman of the George Washington Fund and a member of the Museum Board and the France Committee. Compatriot Brandau in the past has been affiliated with these Committees: Long Range Planning (Chairman 1989-90); Medical Advisory (Chairman 1988-89); Audit, Budget and Finance; Nominating; Membership Retention; Handbook; and Patriotic Action. He holds the Minuteman, Patriot, Silver Good Citizenship and Meritorious Service {with Cluster} Medals- as well as the DAR Medal of Honor. He is a retired surgeon following 40 years of solo practice. His wife, Nancy, is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

SAR Magazine LXXXVI-NO-1\_Summer-1991, cover



THE COVER PHOTO was taken at National Headquarters in Louisville. The Benjamin Franklin painting is a copy by Greg Stapko of the original rendered by Jean Baptiste Greuze in Paris in 1777. The copy was commissioned by the Pennsylvania Society some two years ago.

The President General's Message



Dear Compatriots:

This office has been accepted with both humility and enthusiasm and the officers are ready to face the imminent challenges. Thanks are extended to each Compatriot for the opportunity to serve as President General during the year. Everything possible will be done to further the progress of the National Society.

In beginning the new year it is appropriate to state objectives at the outset which include restructuring some aspects of the National Society. A number of new Bylaw changes were partly relating to financial operations at the last Congress. Also, certain alterations in other operations and administration are in order to satisfactorily position the Society for future growth and expansion. Through continuing evaluation and improvement of offering programs, there is no doubt that these objectives can be accomplished.

It is interesting to note the similarity of the Society with that of a successfully run corporation. By way of comparison the PG can be considered the CEO, the Executive Committee as the Board of Directors, the Districts as major divisions, the Committee Chairmen as mid-management personnel, and Chapters as agencies of the National Society with their leaders as Department Heads. The Members are the shareholders and must be recognized, consulted, and given the opportunity to provide input in operations. The success of American Businesses under this format can be duplicated by SAR through organization and dedication.

New reporting forms are being introduced this year. Current reports are prepared individually offering widely diverse information. These new forms will provide simplified and uniform reporting of activities of the Society at all levels. They will allow disclosure for the Trustees Meetings on one side and additional information on the reverse. All completed forms will be filed at headquarters and readily available to any member. For example, the Annual Chapter Filing Form will permit the local Chapter to

interface with NSSAR for the first time. It will provide an expression of ideas and suggestions from that level, thus benefiting the local Chapter and the National Society, both now and the future.

Other innovations and programs will be introduced this year to improve operations and membership participation. You appreciate your Society more by helping to improve it. We have a fine team this year, so let's combine our efforts to make a winner.

*George H. Brandau, M.D.*

George H. Brandau  
President General

## **SAR Magazine LXXXVI-NO-1\_Summer-1991, p. 10**

### **Meet Your National Officers**

PRESIDENT GENERAL George H. Brandau, M.D.

Past Secretary General.

Past Registrar General.

Past Surgeon General.

Past Vice-President General for Foreign District-Western Hemisphere.

Past President, Past Trustee, TXSSAR.

Past President, Paul Carrington Chapter, TXSSAR.

Minuteman, Patriot, Silver Good Citizenship,

Meritorious Service Medals.

Retired surgeon.



**New Forms for Filing Simple, Uniform Reports**

New reporting forms have been designed for the collection and maintenance of valuable data relative to every level of our Society, according to an announcement by President General George H. Brandau.

Beginning with the Fall 1991 Meeting of the National Trustees, the new program will be implemented to facilitate the preparation of simple, uniform reports by General Officers, Vice-Presidents General and Committee Chairmen. As in the past, reports will be bound and distributed to all attendees.

Two other forms are for use by State Societies and Chapters in filing Annual Reports of such information as newly elected officers and activities. A third permits summarizing voluntary contributions to the George Washington Fund.

Reports will be on permanent file at National Headquarters. Any member may obtain access to them.

**The President General's Message**



**The PG served as Master of Ceremonies for the Trustees Meeting program that saw the dedication of several new paintings, as reported on pages 4 and 5.**

Dear Compatriots:

The first four months of the 1991-92 year have been both interesting and challenging. A number of items, both carryover and new ones, have been addressed. Some of the activities will be considered in the limited space available.

The Revolutionary War Graves Program, hampered by problems in the past few months, is again progressing as the names are being

prepared for publication. This program should be completed within the coming year and will be a credit to the Society.

The National Society continues to be restricted in instituting new programs due to the limited funds available before the recently voted \$5.00 dues increase is effective. Our financial constraints will be relieved to a great extent next year.

The Society is in a major restructuring process which will result in much more efficient operations in a very few years. Valuable data on forms permitting quick reference to current and historical information on operations is now available upon request. Regular inventories, reports and improved management in merchandise and other areas are being provided. The first National Directory is being published and will be available in early 1993. A Lineage Link Data Base is in the early phase of development.



**The widow of Former President General George E. Tarbox, Jr., came to the Trustees Meeting from Colorado to see the dedication of a painting she had paid to have commissioned. President General Brandau offered the Society's warm thanks for her generous contribution.**

In the financial sector, a new Finance Committee has been created which will become the "Oversight Committee" of the Society. A comptroller/accountant will be engaged and a Selection Committee has been appointed to begin searching for the necessary help.

At the September 28th Board of Trustees Meeting, the National Society recorded the largest registration in history. There seems to be a revitalized interest in the work of committees and in the



willingness of Compatriots to serve on them. Limited financial support from the George Washington Fund for committees will begin on an annual basis this year.

The Christmas Card Program is receiving good support and will help in providing funds for committees and later non-budgeted operations. The Society appreciates your participation in this worthy program.



During the recent Atlantic Middle States Conference in Delaware, the PG chatted with District of Columbia Society President James I. Pace (left) and Delaware Society President Noel H. Kuhrt.

The \$3.00 Voluntary Contribution (\$1.00 to chapter) for the George Washington Fund through annual billing was very successful last year. For those societies which participated the National Society wishes to express appreciation. For those which did not the Society invites them to join the others by placing the item on the bill to help in building SAR.

It is an honor to serve as PG and I would like to thank each of you for your dedicated and enthusiastic support for the National Society. Our

future is bright indeed and our second 100 years should be one of growth and achievement.

*George H. Brandau, MD*

George H. Brandau  
President General

## SAR Magazine LXXXVI-NO-3\_Winter 1992, p. 2

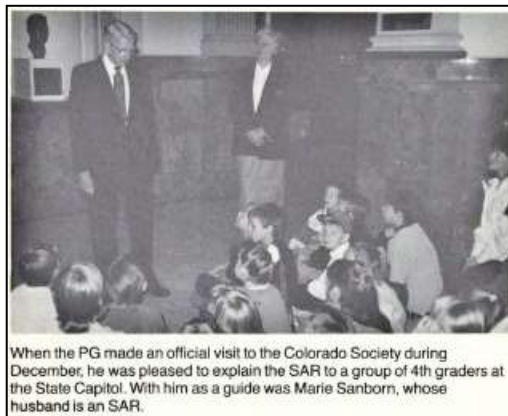
### The President General's Message

Dear Compatriots:

The National Society has been very busy since my last report in *The SAR Magazine*. An update of some of these activities will be detailed below with the belief that an informed membership will provide a stronger and more progressive Society.

The restructuring process, reported in the Fall Issue of the Magazine, is progressing on schedule. Some additional improvements at Headquarters have become effective since the last Board of Trustees Meeting, and others are imminent.

As announced earlier, the staff accountant is leaving after many years of service. I am sure you will join in wishing her happiness in the future. A replacement is under consideration by the Selection Committee.



When the PG made an official visit to the Colorado Society during December, he was pleased to explain the SAR to a group of 4th graders at the State Capitol. With him as a guide was Marie Sanborn, whose husband is an SAR.

An extensive update in our accounting system is in the process of adoption. After installation in January, many improvements in our financial operations will become apparent at Headquarters. A 486 computer with a 200 megabyte hard disk equipped with tape backup, etc., will greatly simplify the accounting problems. This state-of-the-art computer will provide more memory than the present one at approximately 8% of the cost of the old one. Networking the other operations will cost less than an additional \$10,000 and when completed, it will provide full automation at the National Society Headquarters, thus making possible many new programs and operations

Plans for the Board of Trustees Meeting are proceeding on schedule. There are several projects at present which will be reported. For example, we will receive the recommendations from the Task Force Ad Hoc Committee. A unique program for the Saturday Banquet is developing.

On January 9th, it was my pleasure to present the Gold Good Citizenship Medal to General Colin Powell at the Pentagon. There was a brief ceremony followed by remarks from General Powell. His remarks were both supportive and encouraging to the National Society.

My travels have included visits to the Central, Great Lakes and Rocky Mountain Districts, and the Ratification Banquet in Wilmington. Also, the trip to Washington was preceded with three days in Louisville. February trips included Texas, Virginia and Alabama. The enthusiasm seems high and the interest is very encouraging on the part of the members everywhere I have visited.

Visits to the National Headquarters have been reduced because of the use of a FAX machine on a daily basis. This new modality permits daily business transactions between the PG and the Headquarters staff. This marked improvement in daily operations is far more efficient and should become a must for NSSAR.



President General and Mrs. Brandau were guests of honor at the Constitution Week celebration staged by the Louisiana Society, the George Washington Chapter of New Orleans and the General Philemon Thomas Chapter of Baton Rouge; the affair was held in late September at the New Orleans Country Club. At the lectern were Society President John C. Copes III (left) and William Allerton, Chairman of the Louisiana Bicentennial Committee.

The Membership Directory is on schedule and developing according to plans. Completion and distribution is targeted for the first quarter of 1993. The Christmas Card Project for 1991-92 for the George Washington Fund will be profitable this year. A full report will be ready at the Board of Trustees meeting.

The financial situation of the National Society will greatly improve with the implementation of the dues increase voted last year. It has been difficult to operate this year with no funds for new programs or even some in place; however, the Budget will be very close to at the end of this fiscal year.

In closing, it would be inappropriate not to mention the assistance, support and hospitality provided from so many Compatriots. I would like to thank each and every one of them. To all members, I extend appreciation for the honor of serving you as President General.

*George H. Brandau, MD*

George H. Brandau  
President General

## SAR Magazine LXXXVI-NO-4\_Spring 1992, p. 2

### The President General's Message

Dear Compatriots:

Incredibly, almost a year has passed since I assumed the presidency of SAR. From installation to succession seems such a short time, and now in slightly over ten months, I am writing my final message to you, the membership. It has been a great year and an exhilarating experience.

My visitation program this year has reached almost 100,000 miles and included 28 trips. We crisscrossed the United States three times in the month of April as an example of the extensive travel. During those visits, it was our privilege to meet and visit with the many fine individuals who make up the SAR membership. The leadership potential in the Society is indeed very impressive.



The PG was on hand in Richmond during mid-February when incoming Virginia Society President Dr. Tom Sales (left) was installed. Observing was Reon G. Hillegass, Jr. (right), Vice-President General for the Mid-Atlantic District.

Nancy fell in early November, but continued to make all trips in either a wheelchair or with a cane until February. It was worth all the inconveniences to travel and to share in many meetings throughout the year. The warm hospitality extended us during our visits was genuinely appreciated and will long be remembered.

Recognizing the need for substantial changes, we made significant strides this year toward restructuring the National Society.

The year, 1991-1992, while a good beginning represents only the early phase of improving operations. Continuation of these needed reforms will depend upon the accomplishments of future administrations to update obsolete and superfluous programs in addition to the instituting of new ones.

To enumerate a few of the changes initiated this year, one must emphasize the newly introduced forms which have been accepted widely and even enthusiastically in many cases. These standard forms are now in use. They will enhance operations, both currently and in the future, by making detailed records accessible to interested members. Each chapter, committee and officer is included and will doubtless provide an ongoing history of NSSAR.

Automation by computerization of the accounting with planned link to merchandise is now in operation. A new accountant is on board to further automate this program. Ultimately, a network will link other computers in the headquarters which will result in markedly improved efficiency and additional capabilities will be apparent. These improvements will be completed at only nominal cost compared to previous computer expenditures and maintenance contracts.

A National Directory of members is in the process of preparation and will be available to the membership in the Spring of 1993. This directory will be our first and will find wide usage. The George Washington Fund is now partially funding committees on an ongoing annual basis beginning this year. The support of the \$3.00 voluntary contribution is producing good revenue and each State Society is urged to offer this item on annual bills for dues. The Christmas Card Program has generated over \$60,000 for the GWF in the past years.



During the March 7 Trustees Meeting in Louisville, PG Brandau presented a Silver Good Citizenship Medal to Mrs. James Harrison in recognition of her outstanding efforts on behalf of the SAR; her late husband was active in the Mississippi Society. Mississippi Secretary Douglas A. Harper is shown holding the SGC Certificate.

The dues increase became effective April 1, 1992. It should relieve some of the financial constraints which have limited the activities of the Society the past two or more years.

Turning to the future, many things lie ahead for the Society. Among them are the Lineage Link Data Base, a National Telephone Listing Plan, monitoring of finances, audits of operations, standard stationary, library expansion, Life Membership Program revision and others.

Perhaps the most important single factor in our progress, which is apparent to this writer, is the necessity for continuity between administrations. If we are to achieve our goals and maintain high standards, it is very necessary to link one administration to the succeeding one.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve the National Society during 1991-92. I thank the members for the confidence placed in me this year and feel that it has enriched my life. Further, I am indebted and wish to thank the officers, committee chairmen, staff and many others who supported and assisted me during my term of office. I pray for continued guidance of the destiny of The Sons of the American Revolution for service to our country.

*George H. Brandau, MD*

George H. Brandau  
President General

## Texas SAR History Volume 2. Dec. 2006 pp. 230-231

### Remembering President General George H. Brandau

GEORGE H. BRANDAU, MD  
President General  
1991 – 1992

*George H. Brandau, MD*

Patriot Ancestor: Elisha Brewster, Capt., Surg.  
First Lady, Nancy Smith

**George H. Brandau, M.D.** was installed in Kansas City as President General at the 101st Annual Congress in 1991. Prior to serving as President General, Dr. Brandau served as Secretary General, Registrar General and Surgeon General. He was Vice-President General for the Foreign District-Western Hemisphere (*two terms*), President and National Trustee of the Texas Society and President of the Paul Carrington Chapter in Texas. He has been affiliated with a number of national committees including Long Range Planning (*Chairman 1989-90*), Medical Advisory (*Chairman 1988-89*), Audit, Budget and Finance, as well as Nominating, Membership Retention, Handbook and Patriotic Action. He holds several medals including the Minuteman, Patriot, Silver Good Citizenship and Meritorious Service (*with Cluster*), as well as the DAR Medal of Honor. Dr. Brandau's greatest feeling of accomplishment was the establishment of the George Washington Fund in 1988. This Fund was founded to provide financing for the NSSAR committee operations and ultimately for other projects. It has partially funded committees on an on-going annual basis since 1991.

Dr. Brandau and his wife, Nancy, made numerous donations to the Society in furniture, art objects and money.

Following his term as President General, Compatriot Brandau became Chairman of the George Washington Fund and served on the Museum Board and Finance Committee. He is a retired surgeon following 40 years of solo practice. Nancy is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Among his accomplishments as President General was the restructuring of some facets of the National Society and changes in the by-laws relating to financial operations that positioned the Society for future growth and expansion. He introduced new forms to simplify and make uniform the reporting of activities of the Society at all levels. Under his direction, the Revolutionary War Graves Program was nearly completed, as the names were being prepared for publication. Valuable data on forms permitting quick reference to current and historical information on operations were now available on request. Regular inventory reports and improved management in merchandise and other areas were being provided. The first National Directory was readied for publication; and a Lineage Link Database was in the early phase of development.

Compatriot Brandau was instrumental in creating a new Finance Committee that became the "*Oversight Committee*" of the Society. A comptroller/accountant was hired and a Selection Committee appointed to begin searching for other needed staff. An extensive update in the NSSAR accounting



system was in the process of adoption. The Society purchased a state-of-the-art computer tape backup, which greatly simplified the accounting process. This new computer system provided full automation at the National Society Headquarters, thus making possible many new programs and operations.

Compatriot Brandau (pictured below) was pleased to present the Gold Good Citizenship Medal to General Colin Powell at the Pentagon, in a brief ceremony that was followed by remarks from General Powell. His presentation was supportive and encouraging of the National Society.

Dr. Brandau made twenty-eight visits to districts, societies and chapters that reached almost 100,000 miles. He and his wife Nancy crisscrossed the United States three times in the month of April, as an example of their extensive travel. He felt privileged to meet and visit with the many fine individuals who make up the SAR membership. He found their leadership potential in the Society to be very impressive.

Compatriot Brandau was able to reduce his visits to the National Headquarters because of his ability to use the facsimile machine on a daily basis. This new modality permitted daily business transactions between the President General and the Headquarters staff. In his opinion, this marked improvement in daily operations was far more efficient and should become a must for NSSAR. Dr. Brandau supported many innovations for the Society in looking to the future, which included the Lineage Link Database, a National Telephone Listing Plan, monitoring finances, audits of operations, standard stationary, library expansion, Life Membership Program revision and other programs.

Compatriot Brandau stressed the need for continuity between administrations, as the single most important single factor in the Society's progress. *"If we are to achieve our goals and maintain high standards, it is very necessary to link one administration to the succeeding one. I pray for continued guidance of the destiny of The Sons of the American Revolution for service to our country."*



Source: Co-Editors: Robert Franklin Jackson, Historian General and Garrett Franklin Jackson, Commander NSSAR Color Guard, *The Sons of the American Revolution, NSSAR History, Volume III, 1983-1999, An Historical Anthology*, pp. 92-94.

## **SAR Magazine 108-NO-4\_Spring-2014, p. 14**

### **President General George H. Brandau, M.D. 1916-2014**

President General George H. Brandau, M.D., founder of the George Washington Fund, passed away April 2, 2014, in Houston, Texas, after a short illness.

Brandau was keenly involved in the SAR, a long-standing member and past president of the Paul Carrington Chapter of Houston. He held two TXSSAR offices and four national offices, including NSSAR President General in 1991-92. Brandau founded the George Washington Fund, which helps to fund many causes of the NSSAR, and participated in numerous national activities of the SAR for more than 30 years, including serving as a member of the first SAR Foundation board. He received many SAR-related honors, including the DAR Medal of Honor, SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal and Minuteman Award. Brandau had fond memories as President General when he was honored to present the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal to Gen. Colin Powell, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., in 1992.



"As the only surviving member of PG George Brandau's executive committee, I celebrate the long life of my friend, 'Doc' Brandau," said President General William C. Gist Jr., D.M.D. (1995-96). "NSSAR is stronger today because of the excellent leadership of Dr. George Brandau. His most notable accomplishment for NSSAR was establishing the George Washington Fund. The important GW Fund came to fruition under another PG's regime, but it was George's initiation of the fund and his generous contribution that established the GW Fund. Dr. George Brandau was literally the father of the George Washington Fund.

"One of Doc's outstanding characteristics was his sense of humor. He always had a humorous tale to tell. In fact, he published a book of funny situations he had encountered in his years of practicing medicine. I last talked with George on the phone about a year ago. His last words to me were: 'See ya, boy.' I guess when you reach that seniority of age, you can refer to younger seniors as 'boy.' What a great man! A big loss for SAR!"

President General Howard F. Horne Jr. (1999-2000) said of Brandau, "He was a wonderful leader of NSSAR. People like George only go this way once in a blue moon!"

Compatriot Brandau was born Aug. 12, 1916, in Shreveport, La., to Charles Young Brandau and Annie Belle Bringham. George attended C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport and later Louisiana State University, majoring in economics and pre-law. At 19, while attending LSU, he was diagnosed with nephritis and was hospitalized in Vanderbilt Hospital for 265 days before resuming his education at LSU. Based on the care he received during his hospitalization and his exposure to the medical field, he decided to pursue a medical career, receiving a bachelor's degree in pre-med and graduating from Tulane University School of Medicine in 1942. He served an internship and surgical residency at Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston.

Due to this previous illness, he was rejected 13 times for military service during World War II. He volunteered his services at the recruiting station in Houston, serving with a team of physicians in examining recruits and draftees throughout the war.

"Dr. George Brandau was one of the last links to the Greatest Generation who are members of the Sons of the American Revolution," said President General Larry D. McClanahan (2001-02). "He was a gentleman as defined by George Washington."

While recognized as a leader and innovator in the society, he was a mentor to many of its members. I am fortunate to be one to whom he extended his guidance and wisdom."

Entering private practice, Brandau continued for 46 years before retiring from general surgery in 1990. He was active in organized medicine for some 30 years. He was one of the founders of the Houston Museum of Medical Science, where he served as the first operating president from 1969- 71 and continued as director of exhibits for almost 25 years.

"During the Orlando Congress Memorial Service, we were seated near Pete and Jean Thorp accompanied by Win Williams," McClanahan said. "Pete went into cardiac arrest. George vaulted a pew to reach Pete and resuscitated him, saving his life."

:I have always likened him to our bald eagle with his piercing eyes that reflected vigilance and action. He was a vital member of the SAR."

Brandau participated in numerous civic activities as a member of Rotary, The Houston Philosophical Society, The Mayflower Society, The Houston Executives Association and other organizations.

After retiring from medicine, he continued to be active in investments and sports. He was an avid golfer and played regularly at River Oaks Country Club. He wrote many articles, and in 2004, at age 88, his successful book, *Just Between the Doctor and Me*, was published.

Brandau was married for 55 years to his college sweetheart, Nancy Smith Brandau, who died in 1997. He is survived by a daughter, Nancy Cleveland, and her husband, William; a son, John; and two grandchildren, Stephen and Katie Brandau, all of Houston; and many cousins. A memorial service was conducted in the chapel of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, in which he was an active leader, with interment at Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery in Houston.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions may be directed to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 22013, Houston, TX 77227-2013, or to the charity of one's choice.

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## **Find A Grave Memorial**

[www.findagrave.com/memorial/127359567](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127359567)