The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
250th Anniversary of the Boston Massacre
Wreath Laying Ceremony
Remembering the Victims of the Boston Massacre
Thursday, March 5, 2020
Granary Burying Ground, Boston, Massachusetts

PRESIDENT GENERAL:

<u>WELCOME</u>

What an honor it is to gather at the Granary Burying Ground, on the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Massacre, for a special wreath laying. The Daughters of the American Revolution are honored to have this opportunity to place a wreath at the grave site of: Crispus Attucks, James Caldwell, Patrick Carr, Samuel Gray and Samuel Maverick, who lost their lives during the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770.

The INVOCATION will be given by Chaplain General, Pamela Petersen Bork

Mrs. Bork.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day and for the chance to gather in this city of Boston, filled with so much history, to commemorate the Boston Massacre, an event that was at the beginning our struggle for independence. We thank you for our nation and the courage and sacrifice of the patriots

who fought for our freedom. On this day, March 5, 2020, we especially remember Crispus Attucks, known as the first martyr to the cause of American Independence; and the other men, Samuel Gray, Patrick Carr, Samuel Maverick, and James Caldwell who died with him. Grant each of us the attributes of courage, wisdom, and self-sacrifice to continue to keep our nation strong and free. In thy name we pray, Amen.

PRESIDENT GENERAL:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America will be led by Paula Renkas, State Regent, Massachusetts

Followed by the American's Creed led by Betty Bird, National Chair, Commemorative Events Committee.

Paula and Betty

Thank you, Paula and Betty.

The colors may be posted.

PRESIDENT GENERAL:

INTRODUCTIONS:

It is my pleasure to introduce some special guests who are attending today's ceremony: U.S. Semiquincentennial Commissioner & Honorary President General Lynn Forney Young; NSDAR Executive Officers

DEDICATION:

The Historian General and Chaplain General will conduct the dedication ceremony.

DEDICATION CEREMONY:

[Historian General and Chaplain General conduct the dedication.]

HISTORIAN GENERAL:

The unequalled liberties enjoyed in America today are the legacy of brave, strong patriots. In remembering the past, we honor the men and women who gave their lives for the preservation of our freedoms and our future. As we look at history, we know that we need today more of a spirit of fervent gratitude and a consecration of our own selves to the achievement of great ideals.

CHAPLAIN:

We thank you, Lord, for the lives of the men who died on March 5 and for the many patriots like John and Samuel Adams,

Paul Revere and the Sons of Liberty who espoused the cause of liberty. Especially today, we give You thanks for their loyalty and faith, their courage, sacrifice, and perseverance which are the foundations of our nation.

Help us remember the events of this day in 1770 and in the years that followed. Let us be humbled and grateful for their sacrifice and thankful for our Nation. Amen

REMEMBERING Crispus Attucks, James Caldwell, Patrick Carr, Samuel Gray and Samuel Maverick [presented by Historian General]

HISTORIAN GENERAL:

Remembering the victims of the Boston Massacre.

From the words of Patriot Joseph Warren's celebrated Boston Massacre oration of 1772, "THE FATAL FIFTH OF MARCH 1770, CAN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN."

We gather here today in Boston, the "cradle of liberty," (250 years after the "skirmish" between British troops and a group of American colonists), to remember and pay tribute to the five individuals who lost their lives in what was to later become known as the "Boston Massacre."

On a cold, snowy evening in March, these five men were drawn to a loud and unruly crowd that was gathering outside the

Customs House. With tensions already running high in Boston due to a heavy military presence, a result of the Townshend Act, it is reported that snowballs, sticks and rocks were being thrown at the soldiers. Chaos ensued and shots were fired into the crowd, causing a number of injuries and deaths.

The victims of this incident, also known as "The Bloody Massacre in King Street," are regarded as the first martyrs of the American Revolution:

Crispus Attucks, a sailor of African American and Native American descent, was the first to lose his life;
Patrick Carr was an Irish leatherworker and a resident of Boston;
James Caldwell was a ship's mate on the brig Young Hawk that sailed between Boston and the West Indies;
Samuel Gray was a rope maker; and
Samuel Maverick, at age 17, was the youngest victim of the Boston Massacre and was an apprentice ivory turner in Boston.

The March 12, 1770 "Boston Gazette and Country Journal" reported on the funeral procession throughout the streets of Boston to this site…"On this occasion most of the Shops in Town were shut, all the Bells were ordered to toll a Solemn Peal, as were also those in the neighboring Towns of Charlestown, Roxbury, & etc." Imagine being here in Boston during this time…walking with other mourners six people deep, behind the horse-drawn hearses, which were followed by a long

train of carriages belonging to the gentry of the town, all making their way to the Granary Burying Ground.

Thousands of people gathered, as the bodies were laid to rest in one vault (generously provided by Samuel Adams), in the middle burying ground, where we stand today.

The Sons of Liberty advertised the "Boston Massacre" as a battle for American liberty. This event helped unite the colonies against Great Britain and became what many refer to as a "turning point," the beginnings of the American Revolution.

Crispus Attucks, Patrick Carr, James Caldwell, Samuel Grey and Samuel Maverick, we will not forget the sacrifices that you made, becoming martyrs for liberty. Joseph Warren, we have not forgotten.

HISTORIAN GENERAL:

We, the members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, now lay this wreath in grateful recognition of the sacrifice of Crispus Attucks, James Caldwell, Patrick Carr, Samuel Gray and Samuel Mavercik. "That the memories of the martyrs whose blood was shed in the cause of liberty in 1770 will thus be preserved and honored for all time." (Boston Mayor O'Brien, 1889 Memorial Dedication.)

In honoring these individuals, we also pay tribute to and remember all other Patriots whose final resting place is in this burying ground, including Christopher Seider and to all the

heroic men and women who have served our Nation with integrity and devotion.

PLACING THE WREATH:

The wreath will be placed by President Denise Doring VanBuren and Lynn Forney Young, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commissioner & Honorary President General.

MUSKET SALUTE: Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GENERAL VANBUREN:

[President General offers remarks.]

CHAPLAIN:

Lord, we pray that this wreath will remind all who pass by of this day in our nation's history and the men who died and have been laid to rest here. In the words of poet John Boyle O'Reilly, "Call it riot or revolution, or mob or crowd as you may,/ Such deaths have been the seed of nations, such lives shall be honored for aye." We thank you for this nation that has grown from that seed in 1770 to today nurtured through the blood, sweat and tears of patriots then and now. May we be forever grateful and honor them always. Amen

PRESIDENT GENERAL:

At this time I would like to invite Julia Eacott, National Vice Chair Commemorative Events Committee, Boston Massacre 250th Anniversary, to extend thanks and appreciation to those involved in this ceremony today.

JULIA EACOTT:

Thank you, Historian General, Laura McCrillis Kessler for arranging and officiating this solemn commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Boston Massacre.

Thank you to those who helped Mrs. Kessler with the service:

- Members of the Colonel Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard, Massachusetts Society Sons of the American Revolution
- Kim White-Sawczynec, Page Chair
- Pages from Massachusetts and Rhode Island
- Photographers, Patrice Hatcher, Karen True and Ashley Casavant
- Karen Smith Public Relations for the event

- The Office of the President General and other staff of NSDAR for their attention to arranging the details of today's cerem

PRESIDENT GENERAL: The Chaplain General will now offer the Benediction.

BENEDICTION – Chaplain General.

Heavenly Father, keep the United States in Your Holy Protection. Do not let all those who have died for this country to have given their lives in vain. We thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us and our Society. Be with us as we go forth and give us a safe journey. May the peace of God abide in our hearts that we may go forth and serve You. Amen.