



Mernie Sams Crane

Honorary State Regent of Maryland

Candidate for the Office of Chaplain General

Join Date: December 8, 2001

Chapter: Mary Digges Lee Chapter in Laurel, Maryland

National Service: *National Chair:* DAR Museum Outreach (2022-2025). *National Vice Chair:* DAR Museum Outreach–NSDAR; Museum Docents (2016-2019). *Continental Congress Service:* Vice Chair, Memorial Service (2022-2024); Marshal (2014-2016, 2018); House (2012-2013); DAR Chorus (2004, 2007, 2008); Page (2004); Congress Units Overseas sales volunteer for seven years. *National Committee Member:* Property Beautification and Hospitality (2013-2022); DAR Museum Outreach, Docent Board Chaplain (2013-2016); DAR Museum Docent (2012-2022); DAR Genealogy Preservation “Descendants Project” Volunteer (2011). *Education & Training:* GEP 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; Members Course; New Horizons Course; Committee Leaders Course.

State and Chapter Service: Maryland State Regent (2021-2024); Vice Regent (2018-2021); Chaplain (2015-2018). *Highlights of State Regent Service:* Digitized all Maryland DAR records (over 150 bound volumes) dating back to 1903 by mobilizing Daughters from around state as volunteers. Online publication of the Maryland Revolutionary War Patriot Anthology consisting of short works of historical fiction by members and nonmembers. Raised over \$75,000 for state-owned Chapter House preservation and endowment funds. *Chapter Officer Service:* Regent, Vice Regent, Chaplain, Honorary Regent; Organizing and Charter Member (2009).

Non-DAR Information: *Professional:* Ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church who has served as lead pastor over multiple congregations. Adjunct professor at Wesley Theological Seminary and leads seminars on church leadership. Prior to ministry worked 13 years in international business, many of which involved conflict resolution work during South Africa’s transition out of apartheid. *Education & Personal:* Doctor of Ministry; Master of Divinity; Master of Business Administration. Involved with historic preservation efforts in hometown of Annapolis, chairs arts committee in D.C., leads local food pantry collections, and has joined hands-on work of restoring cemetery gravestones. One of her greatest joys has been leading multiple churches to gather together for interfaith worship throughout the year. Married to husband Jeff for 36 years. Blessed with three adult daughters (all DAR); one son-in-law with two more on the horizon; and one adorable grandson. Mother-in-law is also proud Maryland Daughter. *Community Service:* SAR: Martha Washington Medal, 2024. United Methodist Church: Conflict Resolution Facilitator; Board of Ordained Ministry, Secretary; District

Committee Ordained Ministry; developed and led UMC District Workshops; Lead Women Pastors and Future Leadership Consultation; Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; United Methodist Historical Society and Commission on Archives and History.