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President William L. Simpson, Jr.
2009 Message

Friends, Family and Compatriots, thank you very much for your support. I am honored to stand before you as your new Virginia Society President and I humbly accept the duties and responsibilities that accompany the title. I hope that I can live up to the standards and expectations set by past Society Presidents and I look forward to visiting the chapters and having fun at the Semi-Annual meeting and commemorating our 120th Annual Meeting next year.

The President's Initiative this year is "Celebrate Your Local History". All I ask is that chapters do something to celebrate their local revolutionary or colonial history. I also ask each chapter to research their own history and report when their chapter was founded.

My presidential project is installing a historical roadside marker on the Wilderness Battlefield, next to Grant's Headquarters, about Maj. Gen Marquis de Lafayette's maneuvers through the area during the campaign of 1781 and his two subsequent visits during his grand tour in 1824/5. The Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter is sponsoring this project and the Friends of the Wilderness and the National Park Service are involved. Currently the VDOT Historical Resources Division is reviewing the application.

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