



NEWS

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Daughters of the American Revolution Convene in Washington, D.C. 116th Continental Congress Presents Founders Medal to Two Virginia Youths

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) The nation's capital will welcome more than 3,000 members of one of its foremost service organizations this week, with the arrival of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for their 116th annual Continental Congress. During the convention, the DAR will present its prestigious Founders' Medal for Youth to two young Virginia sisters, Rachel and Kelsi Okun, whose ThanksUSA organization has awarded over 1,000 educational scholarships to family members of active-duty military personnel.

"It's inspiring to see such patriotism and dedication in young Americans like Kelsi and Rachel," said Presley Merritt Wagoner, DAR President General. "The Daughters are so pleased to recognize their initiative to create an American history themed treasure hunt that raises scholarship money for the families of our men and women in uniform. They are truly shining examples of young people making a difference in the lives of many."

Among others to be honored during the five-day convention are Brian Lamb, Founder and CEO of C-SPAN, who will be presented with the DAR Motion Picture, Radio and Television Award for his achievement in providing public access to the American political process; U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael G. Mullen; actress Bo Derek will be recognized for her many years of promoting awareness of U.S. veteran's issues; U.S. Army helicopter pilot Lori Hill who will be honored for her bravery while serving in Iraq; and Dr. William Kelso, director of archaeology for the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities Jamestown Rediscovery project.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote patriotism, preserve American history, and support better education for our nation's children. Its members are descended from the patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. With more than 168,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide, DAR is one of the world's largest and most active service organizations. DAR is also the publisher of the award-winning magazine *American Spirit*. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit www.dar.org.

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