



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, Inc. honor Robert M. S. McDonald at their annual George Washington Birthday Ball

New York: On February 16, 2018 Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, Inc. (SRNY) hosted the 141st Annual George Washington Birthday Ball in honor of George Washington and to benefit Fraunces Tavern[®] Museum. This year's **Distinguished Patriot Award** was presented to **Robert M. S. McDonald** of the United States Military Academy. The award ceremony and gala dinner was emceed by NBC's **George Whipple III** and took place at a private club in Manhattan.

It was a fantastic evening honoring McDonald and celebrating the 286th birthday of George Washington. President of the SRNY, **Ambrose Richardson**, stated in his welcoming remarks: "Tonight we celebrate George Washington, [a man who] spent seven and a half years in the field risking his life, to oppose the greatest military force in the world, and was unanimously chosen as President by the electors on two occasions."

McDonald, a professor of history at the United States Military Academy, author, and specialist on the early American Republic, echoed that sentiment: "Toward the end of the Revolution, when [King] George III heard of Washington's plans to give up power, resign his commission, and return home to Mount Vernon, he scoffed in disbelief. 'If he does that,' the king said, 'then surely he's the world's greatest man.' And that's exactly what George Washington did, and that's exactly what George Washington was."

All funds raised from the event benefit Fraunces Tavern Museum, a program of the SRNY that has been serving the NYC community for over 110 years and the historic site where George Washington gave his final farewell toast to his officers on December 4, 1783.

Fraunces Tavern Museum Executive Director, **Jessica B. Phillips**, called on the principles of the enlightenment, and the quest for knowledge that were championed by George Washington and other heroes of the American Revolution to exemplify the Museum's continued pursuit of excellence in public education and to thank guests for their valued support. "There is one place in New York City that is dedicated to preserving the history of the American Revolution and educating the community about American's founding. Over the last seven years the Museum has doubled annual attendance, tripled public programming offerings, and increased public support by 22%. None of this would have been possible without the people in this room."

Some of the night's attendees included Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., Anne Farley and Peter C. Hein, and Lorraine Bell; as well as esteemed members of Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, the Knickerbocker, New York City, and Mary Washington Colonial Chapters of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the New York Society Southern Dames of America.

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About Fraunces Tavern Museum:

Fraunces Tavern Museum's mission is to preserve and interpret the history of the American Revolutionary era through public education. This mission is fulfilled through the interpretation and preservation of the Museum's collections, landmarked buildings and varied public programs that serve the community. You can stand in the room where General George Washington said farewell to his officers and explore seven additional galleries that focus on America's War for Independence and the preservation of early American history. To learn more, visit our website at frauncestavernmuseum.org.

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