March 12, 2020

We have been monitoring the developing public health emergency, and are implementing a plan to protect the Society of the Cincinnati and the community we serve, including members of our historic fraternity, the staff of the Society, Associates and supporters of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc., and the many teachers, students, researchers, and other visitors drawn to Anderson House, our Washington, D.C., headquarters.

We have decided to close Anderson House to members, Associates, and visitors effective immediately and continuing through April 30, 2020. Work will continue at Anderson House, and indeed we expect this will be a very productive time for our staff that will benefit our organization and its historic mission to promote understanding and appreciation of the American Revolution.

We want our members, Associates, and visitors to be safe. As a consequence, and with no small degree of sadness, we have cancelled tours, public programs, and teacher workshops and other education programs, and closed our world-class special collections library to researchers. We have closed the member rooms at Anderson House and canceled other events scheduled for April. Our leaders will meet in April to consider whether to resume normal operations in May.

We draw inspiration and guidance from our history. The founders of the Society of the Cincinnati risked their lives to create a republic — a government dedicated to the interests of all Americans. Today all Americans are at risk. Our organization has a special obligation to support the public interest and to support the republic in responding to this emergency. We encourage all Americans to take steps to slow the spread of illness. We have weathered many crises and I have no doubt that we will do so now.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

William Pless Lunger
President General