The SAR Colorguardsman

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Vigil at Washington's Tomb

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Acceptable Content

Color Guard activities at the chapter, state, and national levels should be submitted. These include any events featuring Color Guard participation, such as parades, grave markings, safety or training exercises, flag retirements, posting or retiring colors at meetings, and the presentation of Color Guard medals (Bronze, Silver, Von Steuben, Gold, Molly Pitcher, etc.). National Color Guard events listed in this magazine are also eligible for submission.

All submitted images must clearly show Color Guard involvement. Entries without guardsmen present will not be included. Each submission should also be accompanied by a brief description of the event.

Events that do not include the color guard should be submitted to the SAR Magazine instead of the SAR Colorguardsman.

All relevant submissions should be sent to:

Colorguardsman@gmail.com

Cover photo: The National Society Color Guard spends the day at Mount Vernon honoring General George Washington. Photos by Tim Massey and Deb Nesbitt

Commander's Greeting



Guardsmen,

Fast and furious since Congress. The Color Guard staff have attended many National events serving our Society and honoring our Patriots. For all the Color Guard members who have served at the events I appreciate your willingness to take the staff direction without argument. We are all volunteers with the right motivation and intent and I want you to know how much I appreciate your patience.

Some public service announcements. Look at the National website under members and click the Color Guard tab. From there you can download any of our forms, review safety videos, keep up on the latest information and we are hopeful to start a picture gallery.

As you look at the website you can see the Guardsman who volunteered to stand watch at General George Washingtons tomb. Roughly 50 members were in attendance and guarded the tomb from 9 AM-4:00 PM changing every 15 minutes. During each guard change our purpose and mission statement was read to the crowd who gathered and who attended a colonial fair. In addition, guards were posted to answer questions. Brochures were passed out along with flag lapel pins which were given to young members of the crowd. Over 300 pins were given out over the course of the day.

It was a privilege to leave Washington's tomb and join PG Greenly at Arlington cemetery where the PG laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier. When we arrived at the tomb there were two groups of honor flight veterans watching the changing of the guard. As they turned to leave, I greeted several veterans and was honored to be in a few pictures. The most memorable was a 96-year-old vet in a wheelchair who I thanked for his service, and it choked me up that he then thanked me.

I can't stress safety enough. We had a very good group at the vigil of Washington's tomb but several members who brought their flint locks were unfamiliar with the basic handling of their weapon. We were not firing but if we were I am afraid some members would have had to stand down. VC Patrick Wesolosky, AC Stephen McKee and SO Jacob Vink spent a significant amount of time inspecting weapons and going over basic instructions. In the end they looked sharp.

Shooting it is a stressful situation, and our guys are justifiably nervous. But the officers in charge need to slow things down and make sure all are capable and trained to use their weapon properly. State Commanders need to ensure that all their members are properly trained to shoot and understand and follow basic commands.

Recently one of our members was injured in an artillery demonstration which required surgery. Again, another incident where a photographer was kneeling in front of a firing line not 15 feet from the shooters who took aim and fired over his head. We have got to do a better job policing the events and checking to make sure those members wanting to participate are properly trained.

Battle flags: As you know we have 24 new battle flags added to our inventory. At Leadership we will recognize 5 compatriots who have donated to have a flag designated to their Patriot. If you are interested in this opportunity, give me a shout or Patrick Wesolosky. The intent is to grow the number of Battle flags and with the donations improve the quality of our inventory and be able to help some states or chapters improve their inventory.

Other Issues: Color guardsmen of the year applications can be found on the website and need to be turned into me by December 31, 2026. A discussion and vote will take place at Spring Leadership. You can also find the after-action report on the website which must be filed after every National event and a copy sent to me and the Historic Sites Committee for review.

As a reminder at all National events no medals are to be worn on uniform, and while presenting no singing, praying, saying the pledge or removal of covers. If any member is uncomfortable with this, have them step out of line and allow them credit for attending.

Thank you and please reach out with any questions or issues.

Ken Goodson
National Color Guard Commander

SAR Color Guard National SAR

Click the SAR Logo above to access the Color Guard Handbook

Safety: Water, Rest, Reporting



Greetings Color Guardsman, I'm packing up for the NSSAR Fall Leadership. There have been several National Society events since Congress.

Most recently there was the Guard event at General George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Huzzahs to our Color Guard Commander Goodson and Vice Commander Wesolosky applied good safety hydration measures for this event, lots of bottled water and snacks for the color guardsmen providing guard duty. Many in Regimentals and it was a warm day. All remember water is a must have. Don't assume someone else is taking care of the water for the guardsmen.

An earlier event, the Battle of the Capes event also in Virginia, had over 500 people attending. Lots of French and US military and the LT Governor of Virginia. There was plenty of water on hand, but being next to the ocean behind a large sand berm it can get warm. This year it was a combination of numerous speeches. For many of the French military they had to stand in formations. Our Color Guard not that long. I learned that four French military members got wobbly from standing and the heat. We had a new member of my Chapter attending as a U.S. Navy medical officer and he assisted with those wobbly military members. The military are much younger and fit than most of our Color Guard which bring me to the safety message of "Take a Seat". This is not a sign of weakness, but providing a place for Color Guardsmen to sit or take a break at events is important. Watch your fellow color guardsmen and if they are looking a little weary, find seating please. No face plants on the hard pavement please.

Very pleased that our Color Guard Committee is promoting the hydration at events.

As the National Society Color Guard Commander has mentioned in his comments, there have been two Color Guard Safety incidents, recently, that are being investigated. One with black powder firelock firing and the other with artillery firing that resulted in injury.

The concern with all accidents/incidents is documenting and reporting them. For the record, I did recommend Accident/Incident reporting in the SAR Color Guard Magazine July 2024 issue, Volume 13, Number 2, page 7 on my Summer Event Safety, Black Powder Incidents.

The Virginia Society SAR Color Guard has this on their Website (Version: March 2026) and is under our Virginia Color Guard Handbook (draft), Annex D: Accident-Incident Procedures.

I have provided this to the National Society Command Group for consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Brett Osborn
NSSAR Safety Officer

Safety and Instructional Videos

Escort and Flag Duty
Firing Drill
Safety Inspection
Sword Drills

Note from the Editor

Compatriots,



Thank you all for again sending your events in what has been a very busy summer for all of us. I'm hopeful that the activity level will stay high as the temperatures start going down.

One point of improvement for *most* states is in reporting and submitting your National Events. Several trickled in as the deadline approached, but with one week left before the deadline, I had only received one of eleven National Events that occurred in our submission window.

You're already sending in your Field Report to Commander Goodson and the Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee, including an event description and photos. Just add the colorguardsman@gmail.com address when you make that submission to ensure your event is covered.

Keep up all the great work,

Jacob A. Vink
Editor, The SAR Colorguardsman

National Color Guard Events

The events in the table below count as National Color Guard Events for earning the Silver and Von Steuben Color Guard Medals. **Dates listed are approximate**. Please contact the State Color Guard Commander for more information and correct dates.

Approximate Date	National Event	Location and State Website	Contact State Color Guard Commander
17 January	Battle of Cowpens	Gaffney, SC	email
01 February	Battle of Cowan's Ford	Huntersville, NC	email
14 February	Battle of Kettle Creek	Washington, GA	email
14 February	Crossing of the Dan	South Boston, VA	email
27 February	Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge	Currie, NC	email
03 March	Battle of Brier Creek	Sylvania, GA	email
13 March	Last Naval Battle	Cape Canaveral, FL	email
15 March	Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Greensboro, NC	email
03 April	Battle of Thomas Creek	Jacksonville, FL	email
12 April	Halifax Resolves	Halifax, NC	email
13 April	Battle of Bound Brook	Bound Brook, NJ	email
16 April	Frederica Naval Action	St. Simons Island, GA	email
18 April	Medal of Honor Parade	Gainesville, TX	email
07 May	Battle of Pensacola	Pensacola, FL	email
Memorial Day Saturday	Sprit of Vincennes Rendezvous	Vincennes, IN	email
29 May	Battle of Fort San Carlos	St. Louis, MO	email
29 May	Buford's Massacre	Lancaster, SC	email
05 June	Battle of Ramsour's Mill	Lincolnton, NC	email
11 June	Machias Battle of US Navy	Machias, ME	email
17 June	Battle of Bunker Hill	Boston, MA	email
30 June	Battle of Alligator Creek	Callahan, FL	email
26 June	Battle of Springfield & CT Farms	Springfield, NJ	email
28 June	Battle of Monmouth	Monmouth, NJ	email
15 July	Fairfax Resolves	Alexandria, VA	email
02 August	Siege at Fort Laurens	Bolivar, OH	email
19 August	Battle of Blue Licks	Carlisle, KY	email
27 August	Battle of Brooklyn / MD 400	Brooklyn, NY	email
05 September	Battle of the Capes	Virginia Beach, VA	email
06 September	Battle of Groton Heights	Groton, CT	email
07 September	Battle of Cooch's Bridge	Newark, DE	email
08 September	Battle of Eutaw Springs	Eutawville, SC	email
12 September	Gathering at Sycamore Shoals	Elizabethton, TN	email

National Color Guard Events

The events in the table below count as National Color Guard Events for earning the Silver and Von Steuben Color Guard Medals. Dates listed are approximate. Please contact the State Color Guard Commander for more information.

Approximate Date	National Event	Location and State Website	Contact State Color Guard Commander
19 September	Vigil at Washington's Tomb	Mount Vernon, VA	email
21 September	Battle of Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge, LA	email
04-06 October	Point Pleasant Battle Days	Point Pleasant, WV	email
06 October	Battle of Chestnut Creek	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	email
07 October	Battle of Kings Mountain	Blacksburg, SC	email
17 October	Battle of Saratoga	Stillwater, NY	email
19 October	Yorktown Days	Yorktown, VA	email
22 October	Battle of Red Bank	National Park, NJ	email
19 November	Siege of Fort Morris	Midway, GA	email
09 December	Battle of Great Bridge	Norfolk, VA	email
25 December - 03 January	Ten Crucial Days	Trenton, NJ	email

The events in the table below count as National Color Guard Events for earning the Silver and Von Steuben Color Guard Medals, but will occur at locations around the country. Please contact your local State Commander for information on these dates.

Approximate Date	National Event	Location
22 February	Washington's Birthday	Nationally
Late February/Early March	Spring Leadership	Louisville, KY
18 April	Patriot's Day	Nationally
30 May	Memorial Day	Nationally
14 June	Flag Day	Nationally
04 July	Independence Day	Nationally
July	National Congress	Location Varies by Year
September/October	Fall Leadership	Louisville, KY
11 November	Veteran's Day	Nationally
15 December	Wreaths Across America	Nationally
Any Date	Liberty Tree Dedication	Nationally
Any Date	Fields of Honor / Healing Field	Nationally
Any Date	Massing of the Colors	Nationally
Any Date	Honor Flights	Nationally

State Society Color Guard Commanders

The list of State Commanders below is the most up to date that the editor has. If you find an error, please send the correction to colorguardsman@gmail.com. For information about State or National Events, please contact the Commander of the state in which the event occurs.

Each commander is emailed each new issue of The SAR Colorguardsman for distribution to the guardsmen within his state. Any questions about the distribution of the new issue should be directed to the respective state commander.

State	Color Guard Commander	Primary Phone	Email Address
Alabama	Joseph D. Barker, Jr.	334-221-3641	Jbark151@yahoo.com
Arizona	Mark Seifert	602-770-0838	mseifert@cox.net
Arkansas	Charles McLamore	501-209-9513	pcmcmountain@yahoo.com
California	Kevin Forrest	949-233-4048	kevinnu93@gmail.com
Colorado	Tom Wellborn	303-810-3100	wellborns@mindspring.com
Connecticut	David Perkins	203-948-7974	dperkinssr8@gmail.com
Delaware	Larry Josefowski	302-857-0123	josefowski@gmail.com
Dakotas	Don Kellogg	605-662-7060	dkelloggster@gmail.com
Florida	Kevin Shurte	954-588-2908	kevinshurte2009@comcast.net
Georgia	K. Scott Collins	706-207-1663	scottcollins1775@gmail.com
Hawaii	Elwin Spray	937-426-1086	Elwinspray@Gmail.com
Idaho	Terry Patterson	208-286-8169	terrypatterson1876@outlook.com
Illinois	Jon Fixmer	630-639-2213	jfixmer73@yahoo.com
Indiana	Jacob A. Vink	616-402-5709	vinkjacob@gmail.com
Iowa	Mike Rowley	515-975-0498	mjr1825@gmail.com
Kansas	Brian Vasquez	785-282-7647	wstark1745sar@gmail.com
Kentucky	Patrick Wesolosky	859-223-6371	65moots@gmail.com
Louisiana	Ted Brode	318-325-6519	tbrode@comcast.net
Maine	Wayne Howard Mallar	207-942-9586	Essex103@aol.com
Maryland	Gerald Earl Harris	301-980-7032	harrisge04021958@aol.com
Massachusetts	Christopher Tourtellot	808-492-8850	tallturtle@yahoo.com
Michigan	John G Lepisto	616-901-5371	jglepisto@comcast.net
Minnesota	Terry Sater	262-443-9257	saterterry1@gmail.com
Mississippi	William Ronald Humphrey II	601-954-4027	kronyn@gmail.com
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New Hampshire	Curtis Herman	603-305-1307	colorguard@nhsar.org
New Jersey	Ed Glidden		eglidden@yahoo.com
New Mexico	Robert E. Vance	575-808-1844	revance58@gmail.com
New York	Michael Companion	518-885-5445	mikecompsar@gmail.com
North Carolina	John Elliott		jlenc777@gmail.com
Ohio	Kevin Driesbach	740-474-6582	kdriesbach@yahoo.com
Oklahoma	Mike Williams		mjwilliams1056@yahoo.com
Oregon	Mark Stevens	503-983-1067	cobcorp@aol.com
Pennsylvania	Fred Fonseca	610-547-7660	fredfons@msn.com
South Carolina	Nelson Bowling	704-213-1462	nbowling@lancastercitysc.com
Tennessee	Cliff Kent	423-517-0284	marneexpress@ebpfi.com
Texas	Bill Sekel	830-992-5619	firstsgtusmcret@gmail.com
Utah	Jesse Black	801-201-7731	utsarcolorguard@gmail.com
Virginia	John Lynch	757-345-8483	Jsldmsc@gmail.com
Washington	Eric Olsen	425-286-5275	eolsen.sar.grc@gmail.com
West Virginia	MP Brady	256-740-1053	mpbrady30@aol.com
Wisconsin	Robert Haglund	920-621-1416	haglundrobert@sbcglobal.net

How are those poles always the exact same height?!

The National Color Guard Staff is always asked how we get our adjustable flag poles to the same height so quickly at Leadership and Congress.



The secret is we measure them, mark them with a sharpie, and then we lightly score them with a pipe cutter.

Work easier, not harder.

Patrick Wesolosky
National Vice Commander

Color Guard Staff Still At Work



As most of our compatriots, guests, and guardsmen are saying their final goodbyes and finishing their last cocktails at the conclusion of Leadership and Congress banquets, the Command and Support Staff stays busy packing flag stands, rolling, organizing, and packing the flags in their correct case and making sure everything will be ready for the next meeting.
Photo Gina Possanza, National SAR HQ Staff

National Society SAR Color Guard Commanders

1989-1990	Donald N. Moran California SAR
1990-2000	David J. Gray Massachusetts SAR
2000-2002	Garrett Jackson California SAR
2002-2004	Edgar Grover Kansas SAR
2004-2006	Peter K. Goebel Empire State SAR
2006-2007	Charles R. Lampman California SAR
2007-2009	Larry Perkins Ohio SAR
2009-2011	Joseph W. Dooley Virginia SAR
2011-2013	J. Michael Tomme, Sr Georgia SAR
2013-2015	Michael J. Radcliff Texas SAR
2015-2017	David W. Hoover Maryland SAR
2017-2019	Mark C. Anthony Georgia SAR
2019-2020	James Fosdyck California SAR
2020-2022	Lou Raborg Maryland SAR
2022-2023	T. Brooks Lyles, Sr. North Carolina SAR
2023-2025	K. Scott Collins Georgia SAR
2025-2026	Robert C. Meyer New Jersey SAR
2026-2027	Kenneth L. Goodson, Jr. Michigan SAR

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

Congratulations Compatriots and Ladies!

The following Guardsmen and Ladies have been recognized for their service with the Silver Color Guard Medal, Von Steuben Color Guard Medal, or Molly Pitcher Medal. We thank them for their dedicated service to the SAR Color Guard.



Von Steuben Medal

Richard Wright (NH)
William Frederick Rand (TN)
John Cohen Daniels (TN)
Joshua Ivan Daniels (TN)
Lane Gideon Daniels (TN)
Patrick Wesolosky (KY)



Silver Color Guard Medal

Kevin R. Shurte (FL)
Patrick McMurchie (KY)
Hans Fritz Hunt (FL)
Charles A. Adams II (FL)
G. Kevin Schultz (IN)
PZ Horton III (TN)
Stephen Eric Conrad (OH)
Nicholas Mihora (FL)
James B. Stinnett Jr. (KY)
Lawrence Hillis (AL)
Shildon Bahi Hawley (TX)
Johnmark Jenny (WA)
Rodyney D. Jenny (WA)
Fred Duncan (TX)
Daniel R. Hamilton (TX)
Jerry Benjamin Raffield (FL)
Mark Randall Snider (FL)
Joseph Burton (TX)
John Vinson Richard (CA)
Bruce Alan Wearda (CA)
Robin Prestion (FL)
David Mills Ramseur (FL)
David Spangler (VA)
Mark Douglas Crain (VA)
Harry William Elder (FL)



Molly Pitcher Medal

Kathy Shurte (FL)
Robin E. Green (TN)

The **National Von Steuben Medal** may be awarded for sustained service to the Society as a Color Guardsman at the National or District Levels. This medal may only be earned after five years of service after receiving the Silver Color Guard Medal Recipients must already have been awarded the Bronze and Silver Color Guard Medals.

The **Silver Color Guard Medal** is for service at the District and National levels. The medal is awarded for at least three years of service at the applicable level. The three years may be broken, not continuous. Award of each medal may be for retroactive service, so that any living compatriot may receive it, even if he cannot march anymore. An SAR Color Guardsman must have the Bronze Color Guard Medal before he can be awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal.

Many women who are the wives, daughters, sisters, girlfriends, and other female relatives and companions of SAR Color Guardsmen routinely and with great dedication support their SAR Color Guardsman and the SAR Color Guard. The **Molly Pitcher Medal** may be awarded to women who have supported the SAR Color Guard at the State, District and National Levels.

Color Guardsman of the Year - Nominations Now Open

The National Society SAR Color Guardsman of the Year is elected at the Spring Color Guard Committee meeting. The Gold Color Guard Medal is presented at the subsequent National Congress. In addition, the Color Guardsman of the Year will carry the National Society SAR Flag at the subsequent Fall Leadership Meeting, Spring Leadership Meeting and Annual Congress. The following compatriots have been elected as the National Society SAR Color Guardsman of the Year:

1998	Lowell Nichols	Indiana SAR
1999	Edgar Grover	Kansas SAR
2000	Robert Grover	Missouri SAR
2001	George Lamp	West Virginia SAR
2002	James McCafferty	Maryland SAR
2003	Ray Zimmerman	Maryland SAR
2004	Charles R. Lampman	California SAR
2005	Lester Foster	Maryland SAR
2006	Andrew M. Johnson	Virginia SAR
2007	George Thurmond	Georgia SAR
2008	Charles F. Bragg	Indiana SAR
2009	Chales Newcomer	Georgia SAR
2010	John H. Franklin	Ohio SAR
2011	Paul I. Prescott	Georgia SAR
2012	Thomas B. Green	Texas SAR

2013	Gerald R. McCoy	Missouri SAR
2014	Samuel C. Powell	North Carolina SAR
2015	Robert P. Cunningham	Indiana SAR
2016	Karl Jacobs	California SAR
2017	Paul Wilke	Ohio SAR
2018	Edward P. Rigel, Sr.	Georgia SAR
2019	Gary O. Green	North Carolina SAR
2020	Robert Avyn Sapp	Georgia SAR
2021	Paul Callanan	Michigan SAR
2022	George Strunk	North Carolina SAR
2023	Allen Greenly	Georgia SAR
2024	Brett Osborn	Virginia SAR
2025	Scott Giltner	Kentucky SAR
2026	William Schwetke	Virginia SAR

Nominations for National Color Guardsman of the Year must be submitted to the National Commander by e-mail or U.S. Mail no later than the December 31 preceding the National Congress at which the SAR Color Guardsman of the Year is to be awarded the SAR Gold Color Guard Medal.

To be considered for SAR Color Guardsman of the Year, a Color Guardsman must have completed at least three years of service at the National level. Each State Society and Chapter Color Guard may nominate one compatriot each year for the SAR Color Guardsman of the Year. State Societies and Chapters should consider the Compatriot who best exemplifies both the spirit of the Sons of the American Revolution and the use of Color Guards to display that spirit.

From among all nominations, the SAR Color Guardsman of the Year is elected by the eligible voters attending the Spring meeting of the National Color Guard Committee. Eligible voters shall include:

- All previous recipients of the Gold Color Guard Medal
- One representative from each state society. This representative shall be selected by either the state society President or the state society Color Guard Commander. In the event the state society has not formally selected a voting representative, the Color Guardsmen from a given state who are attending the Spring meeting of the National Color Guard Committee may decide among themselves who shall vote for the SAR Color Guardsman of the Year.

At the following NSSAR Congress the awardee should be escorted by the National Color Guard Commander and one other Color Guardsman of the awardee's choosing who shall carry the state flag of the awardee.

The Nomination form for Color Guardsman of the Year is available on the Color Guard Committee webpage.

Vigil at Washington's Tomb



On September 19, 2026, SAR color guardsmen gathered at George Washington's Mount Vernon home for the Vigil at Washington's Tomb. Recognized as a National Event, the gathering brought members together to honor Washington, engage with visitors, and share the spirit and purpose of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Throughout the event, color guardsmen took turns standing vigil at Washington's tomb. The setting gave participants an opportunity to pay their respects while offering the public a visible reminder of our organization's commitment to honoring the people and principles of the American Revolution. Standing watch at Washington's final resting place was the central purpose of the day, combining a solemn tribute with an opportunity to represent the SAR before the public.

Pleasant weather helped make the day especially enjoyable, and a colonial vendor fair added to the atmosphere. Together, the vigil and fair provided a welcoming setting for conversations with visitors. Members interacted with the public, promoted the SAR, and handed out flag pins to children. These exchanges complemented the formal tribute at the tomb, allowing participants to connect with visitors while sharing their enthusiasm for the organization.



Those attending included National Commander Kenneth Goodson, Vice Commander Patrick Wesolosky, First Adjutant Ed Rigel, Jr., Artillery



Commander Steven McKee, and Assistant Safety Officer Jacob Vink. Their participation, alongside fellow color guardsmen, helped make the event both a tribute to Washington and an opportunity for public outreach.

The Vigil at Washington's Tomb offers a unique combination: the privilege of honoring Washington at his home, fellowship with fellow SAR members, and the chance to introduce our organization to the public. This year's pleasant conditions and accompanying colonial vendor fair made the experience all the more inviting.



Members looking for a meaningful event to put on next year's calendar should keep this one in mind. Whether standing vigil or engaging visitors, participants can contribute directly to the SAR's mission of remembrance and education. Join us next year to honor Washington, represent the SAR, and help make this National Event an even stronger expression of our shared commitment to preserving America's Revolutionary heritage.



Thanks to Deb Nesbitt (MI) and Tim Massey (TN) for the photos of the event.

Fall Leadership

Compatriots and guardsmen from across the country gathered at the Galt House in Louisville, KY for the Fall Leadership meetings on October 1-3, 2026.

The Color Guard Committee met on Friday and discussed safety concerns, upcoming National Events, and the new battle flag project (see last issue for additional information).













The Color Guard Committee honored Ken Goodson, Gary Dunaway, Brett Osborn, Chris and Kristi Canine, Gary Green, Patrick Wesolosky, and Robert Vance for their contributions to fund battle flags to honor their Patriot ancestors.



The National SAR Color Guard, lead by Commander Kenneth Goodson, presented and retired the colors at the Saturday evening banquet.



The fife and drum corps played during the ceremony and helped the guardsmen keep step.



Reports From the Field

State Society highlights since the last issue. Submissions should be made through each state's Color Guard Commander. Please refer to submission guidelines on page 2.

Alabama

The Alabama Society color guard had a very busy Independence Day with celebrations across the state. At the town of Hartselle's "America 250 Fourth of July Freedom Celebration," the Tennessee Valley Chapter presented the town with a Liberty Tree and had educational displays of flags, uniforms, weapons, camp equipage, and food with color guard members interacting with the public and their questions.



Also on Independence Day, the Tennessee Valley Chapter SAR; the five Madison County DAR chapters, and the John Hunt Chapter CAR participated in the American Eras Parade in downtown Huntsville. The SAR's float design represented the signing of the Declaration of Independence portrayed on the front side of the float and a Revolutionary War camp scene portrayed on the back side where an officer was reading the new document to a group of soldiers and civilians.



ALSSAR color guard presented the colors for the planting of Liberty Trees at the Chelsea History Museum and Pelham City Park in August.



In September, the Alabama Society color guard held a "Steuben Day" training at the American Village in Montevallo and presented the colors for three Constitution Day celebrations hosted by the DAR in Huntsville, Athens, and Opelika.

Arizona

Arizona SAR Compatriots kicked off the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a pop-up tavern and posting the Colors at the Sharlot Hall Museum's American Heritage Day in Prescott AZ on July 3, 2026. Six Color Guardsmen staffed the pop-up tavern from 10am – 3pm and posted the colors at 12:30pm for a program that including the National Anthem, reading the Declaration of Independence and a dramatic performance of Patrick Henry's speech by Compatriot Dennis DeAtley. The pop-up tavern was a big success as Compatriots engaged attendees with living history discussions and hand-outs.

Sally Jackson, Director of Museum Development stated: *"From welcoming visitors at the Colonial Tavern to posting the Colors, you brought history to life from the moment guests arrived. The Tavern was a wonderful introduction to the event, and visitors appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the Revolutionary era. I also want to thank you for the dramatic reading of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death!" We heard so many wonderful comments throughout the day, and it was clearly one of the highlights of the event. It was exactly the kind of engaging, living history experience we hoped American Heritage Day would offer."*



Color Guard at Sharlot Hall on July 3, 2026. Left to right is AZSAR Color Guard Commander Mark Seifert, Barry Goldwater Chapter; AZSAR/Prescott Chapter President Jack Berry; Jim Clarke, Barry Goldwater Chapter; Robert Black, Prescott Chapter; Phoenix Chapter President Scott Nivens; Bill Walters, Prescott Chapter and Dennis DeAtley, Prescott Chapter.

The Tucson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution led the 4th of July Parade on Mt. Lemmon, our conveniently located nearby mountain, as we have for the last 10 years. We were thus at 9000 feet and 76 degrees (rather than in balmy Tucson at 104 degrees). We were joined by members of the DAR and CAR, and the Tucson Presidio volunteers in Catalonian garb (the tiny Presidio of Tucson contributed toward the American Revolution). We were given the award for 'most patriotic' entry, and had a significant number of enthusiastic younger participants.



Arizona SAR Compatriots from chapters around the State, joined together in comradery and patriotism to lead the July 4 Parade in Prescott AZ, to more than 11,500 in-person spectators and 5,000+ live stream viewers. Twenty-one Compatriots stepped off with flags flying and drum beating as the lead unit among over 120 in the parade. Compatriots were from the Prescott, Phoenix, Palo Verde, Tucson and Barry M. Goldwater Chapters.



The theme for the parade was "Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom," befitting SAR's mission. Some Compatriots also participated in the ceremonies of the world's oldest rodeo in Prescott on July 4 after the parade. (Parade Spectator and Viewer Sources: In-Person, Prescott City Hall; Live-stream viewers, Eye-On-Prescott Live Facebook and website.)



Members of the Barry M Goldwater Chapter Color Guard participated in a Constitution Day celebration and Proclamation with the Turquois Gems Chapter DAR on September 17 in Chandler AZ. Rob Welch, District VPG rang the Constitution Bell and Erin Sandmann Turquois Gems Regent read the Proclamation.

California

On July 3rd, the Harbor Chapter and South Coast Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution joined forces at the Nixon Library for a full day celebrating America's 250th anniversary. Alongside

our compatriots from DAR and C.A.R., we set up a living history encampment with period tents and patriot chests, giving visitors a hands-on look at what camp life looked like during the Revolutionary era. Our firing demonstrations were a highlight for the crowd, bringing a little noise and spectacle to the history lesson.



The Nixon Library really went all out for this one with flyovers overhead, a concert, a car show, and even a naturalization ceremony welcoming new citizens, all happening alongside our encampment. It was a fitting way to spend the day: honoring the nation's founding while celebrating the newest Americans joining it. Great turnout, great weather, and a great showing from our SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. family working side by side.



What a 4th of July! Huntington Beach's parade brought out the whole patriotic family — SAR chapters from Harbor, South Coast, Orange County, and Sons of Liberty marched alongside our DAR sisters from Butterfield Trail, Los Cerritos, Western Shores, and Clara Barton, plus our C.A.R. youth from El Redondo and Lt. George Nixon Societies. Seeing that many chapters and generations turn out together is what makes this event special every year.



Being first in a parade that stretched 2.5 miles with over 500,000+ people watching is no small thing. It's a lot of responsibility to set the tone, and I think we did the moment justice. Definitely one to remember, and a great way to keep the America 250 spirit rolling into the rest of the summer.



The City of Cerritos' Let Freedom Ring Celebration at the Civic Center on July 4th drew approximately 15,000 community members to celebrate our Nation's 250th year of independence, featuring rides, entertainment, a bell-ringing ceremony, and fireworks. SAR Color Guard participated with a joint contingent from the Orange County, Harbor, and South Coast Chapters, commanded by Kevin Forrest.

On July 8th, Compatriots from Harbor, South Coast, Riverside, Orange County, and Sacramento Chapters came together for a truly memorable America 250 commemoration at Knott's Berry Farm's Independence Hall replica, joining a public reading of the Declaration of Independence. The setting couldn't have been more perfect — a full-scale recreation of the Philadelphia building where the real Declaration was signed in 1776 — giving SAR a wonderful opportunity to bring living history to a much wider audience than our usual chapter meetings reach.



Commander Kevin Forrest stepped into the role of Colonel John Nixon, the man who delivered the Declaration's first public reading in Philadelphia back in 1776, and brought real energy and presence to the performance. Members of the C.A.R. and D.A.R. joined us for the occasion as well, and we're grateful for their partnership in making the day such a success.

The reading was a hit with everyone who caught it — the docent on site loved the experience, and crowds of guests making their way to and from Soak City stopped in their tracks to watch. So many asked when the next showing would be that we had to explain, with a smile, that this wasn't a recurring show — it was a special one-time reading happening in perfect sync with similar events across the entire country as part of America 250. Knowing they were part of something bigger, happening coast to coast at that very moment, only added to the excitement in the air.



Yosemite Chapter Color Guard at the Fresno Community Concert Band Memorial Day program: “Echoes of Courage”, Sunday May 24, 2026. Shaghoian Concert Hall, Clovis, CA. Pictured from Left to Rt: Randy Dhindsa, CA SAR State President, Scott Nichols, Yosemite Chapter President, Compatriot Jackson Dhindsa, Compatriot Curtis Replogle, Jim Riley, Executive VP Yosemite Chapter.



Yosemite Chapter Color Guard presenting the National Colors at an incoming Central Valley Honor Flight, Fresno Air Terminal, Sept 2, 2026. Pictured from L to R: Compatriot Harlie Smith, Compatriot Curtis Replogle, Yosemite Chapter President Scott Nichols.



Yosemite Chapter Color Guard presenting the National Colors at an incoming Central Valley Honor Flight, Fresno Air Terminal, Sept 2, 2026. Pictured from L to R:, Yosemite Chapter President Scott Nichols, Compatriot Curtis Replogle, Compatriot Harlie Smith



NRA Black Powder Safety Class at gun range in Madera, CA. From L to R: Compatriots Scott Nichols and Dan Gabe from the Yosemite Chapter and Compatriot Ron Niewald from Delta Chapter on September 09, 2026

Connecticut

The CTSSAR Connecticut Line/Color Guard & Living History Unit and CTSSAR Compatriots participated in various aspects of the 245th Anniversary and Remembrance Ceremony of The Battle of Groton Heights and the defense of Fort Griswold on Sept 6, 2026.

This event is hosted annually by the Friends of Fort Griswold and the State of Connecticut Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park to commemorate the battle and the terrible American losses that occurred on Sept 6, 1781.



Groton City Mayor Jill Rusk was the Keynote Speaker and MC for the ceremony, and she was assisted by Hali Keeler, President of the Friends of Fort Griswold.

The Battle of Groton Heights was the last major battle in New England and the Northeast during the Revolutionary War and one of the bloodiest of the entire war.

Descendants of the 88 killed during the battle are asked to participate in the reading of the roll of the honored dead. Two wreaths were laid at the site of Col. Ledyard's death inside the fort.

During his speech during the ceremony, Col David Perkin's reminded the audience that this is remembrance week for 9/11 in the United States and what occurred at Fort Griswold and on 9/11 should never be forgotten. We should not forget the loss of American Lives and the American blood that was shed and sacrificed for our liberty, then and now. He also emphasized service over self and to remember those lives lost for our freedom.



At the conclusion of the ceremony a three-volley musket salute was fired by the Connecticut Line followed by taps.

SAR members from Connecticut, Maine, and Ohio participated in the events that day.

Delaware



Commander Larry Josefowski and Safety Officer Darrell Cromer present the colors at a Liberty Tree Dedication in Magnolia, Delaware in September, 2026.



The Battle of Cooch's Bridge was commemorated on September 05, 2026.

Florida

Despite Florida's summer heat, the Chapter and State Color Guards of the Florida Society remained exceptionally active throughout the season as we proudly celebrated America's 250th birthday. From commemorative ceremonies, patriotic events, and Color Guard presentations, Florida's Compatriots continued to honor our nation's Revolutionary heritage while bringing the spirit of 1776 to communities across the state.



Members of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter presented the Colors at the Weekley Brothers PRCA Rodeo on June 20 at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in "Cowboy Town" Davie, Florida. The patriotic spirit was unmistakable as cowboys, cowgirls, families, and rodeo fans gathered for this spectacular event. The Color Guard was proud to add a touch of Revolutionary tradition and patriotism to an enthusiastic crowd that could not have been more welcoming.



The 2026 Commemoration of the Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge was well attended by members of the SAR, DAR, and CAR, along with local officials and members of the public. More than 30 Compatriots attended the June 20 event in uniform, demonstrating strong support for preserving and commemorating Florida's Revolutionary War heritage. Three members of the St. Augustine British Regiment also joined the Color Guard, adding an impressive historical presence to the ceremony.



The Florida Society Color Guard mustered in Wauchula, on June 26 to help Hardee County launch its semiquincentennial celebration. "Celebrating America's 250th in the Heartland" was a memorable patriotic event featuring a patriotic choir, George and Martha Washington imitators, a 10-member Color Guard, and an firing demonstration. The Color Guard was proud to join the community in marking this historic milestone and celebrating the enduring legacy of American independence.

Members from four Florida Society chapters, including State President Jonathan Hunt and Senior Vice President Douglas Gibbens, participated in a Color Guard at the U.S. District Courthouse in Fort Myers on July 2, helping launch the community's America 250 celebration. Although no musket firing was conducted, the Color Guard received special permission to bring its historic muskets inside the courthouse—a unique opportunity to showcase our Revolutionary War heritage in a federal setting.



The Tampa Chapter of the FLSSAR has undertaken an ambitious program of three Liberty Tree dedications this fall. Its Color Guard, the Hillsborough River Camp, with support from the Samuel Adams, General Thomas Sumter, and George Washington Camps, has presented the Colors at two of the three ceremonies held to date.



On August 29, the Color Guard participated in the dedication of the Tampa Liberty Tree at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park. On September 17, the Color Guard presented the Colors at the dedication of the Temple Terrace Liberty Tree at Ben Lomond Park. The third dedication, scheduled for November 14, will honor a Liberty Tree and Memorial Bench at Hillsborough Veterans Memorial Park on U.S. Highway 301 in Tampa.



On August 6, members from four FLSSAR chapters joined the Central Florida Chapter and members of three DAR chapters for the dedication of a Liberty Tree on the grounds of the Orlando VA Medical Center in Lake Nona, Florida.

On Saturday, September 26, the Central Florida Chapter held a Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremony honoring the memory of five Compatriots who have passed away. The memorial service was held at Glen Haven Memorial Park in Winter Park, Florida, with Color Guard members from the Central Florida, Daytona-Ormond, and Fort Lauderdale Chapters in attendance. Their presence provided a fitting tribute to the lives and service of these Compatriots and reflected the SAR tradition of honoring those who came before us.





The Okeechobee Chapter Color Guard proudly marched down Broad Street in Okeechobee, Florida, during the community's annual Labor Day Parade on September 7. The celebration also included a variety of activities at nearby Flagler Park, bringing residents together for a day of community spirit and patriotic fellowship.



On Thursday, September 17, the Pensacola and Panama City Chapter Color Guards joined forces at Pensacola International Airport to welcome home 17 Florida veterans returning from Washington, D.C. The Color Guards proudly stood ready to honor these veterans and express gratitude for their service and sacrifice. It was a well-deserved and heartfelt welcome home.

The Hillsborough River Camp (HRC) Color Guard of the Tampa Chapter, FLSSAR has had a busy summer, supporting the local NSDAR chapters, 250th Celebrations, Honor Flights and other veteran events, 4th of July Events, and Liberty Tree Dedications. We also do many events jointly with our surrounding chapter camps.



On the morning of July 4th, Safey Harbor, FL held its annual 4th of July Parade where hundreds lined the streets of this small FL town. The Hillsborough River Camp and Samuel Adams River Camp again proudly marched in the parade representing the SAR. (Banner carrier & commander Will Wagner-Hart; Bill Swain, Terry Doan, Art Hays, Mike Williams, Matthew Balencie, Tim Shaner)



The evening of July 4th, the Echebucsassa NSDAR coordinated the East Pasco Celebrates America 250th Program in Dade City, FL – a celebration of remembrance, singing, proclamations, and commemoration. The Hillsborough River Camp, Tampa Chapter Color Guard, proudly posted the Colors at the beginning of the event. (Bill Swain, Mike Williams, Will Wagner-Hart/Commander, Dwight Hamborsky, Terry Doan, Dick Young)



On Jul 11th, the Hillsborough River Camp with associate members from the South Shore Chapter SAR, presented the Colors for the LifePath Hospice Veteran's Walk Event held in Sun City Center, FL. LifePath wanted to create an event similar to an Honor Flight for veteran's who may not be able to travel to Washington DC, but to get a similar welcome walk after a veterans celebration back through the hallways to a welcome / picture area. (Will Wagner-Hart/ Commander, Steve Burrill, Mike Williams, Ron Windsor, Ed List, Dwight Hamborsky, Terry Doan, Dick Young)

On Aug 29th, the Tampa Chapter SAR dedicated its 1st Liberty Tree in Tampa, FL. The Liberty Elm and sign were both donated by the City of Tampa. The event was a success and was attended City officials who made proclamations, and supported by our local NSDAR chapters as well. Hillsborough River Camp, Samuel Adams River Camp, Gen Thomas Sumter Camp, and George Washington Camps posted the Colors



posted the Colors for the event. (Tim Shaner, Mike Williams, Paul Pardee/FLSSAR Adjutant commanding, Will Wagner-Hart, Robbie Robinson, James Gaskins, Dwight Hamborsky, Warren Wilson, Terry Doan, Bill Swain)



On September 15th, the Hillsborough River Camp with associate members from the South Shore Chapter SAR, and the Samuel Adams Camp welcomed back the veterans of the West Central Honor Flight #58 to the St Petersburg-Clearwater Airport. As the veterans proceeded off the jetway, we split into two color guard lines and escorted them down the hallways of the airport through many waiting crowds also waiting to thank them for their service upon their return home. (Tim Shaner, Mike Williams, Steve Burrill, Robbie Robinson (SAC/Commander, Will Wagner-Hart/HRC Commander, Warren Wilson, Bill Swain)



On September 17th, the Tampa Chapter SAR dedicated its 2nd Liberty Tree in Temple Terrace, FL. The city designated an established Grand Live Oak in Ben Lomond Park as it's Liberty Tree, and the Tampa Chapter provided the sign commemorating the designation. This event was also well attended by city officials and congressional aides making proclamations, as well as supported by other local SAR and NSDAR chapters. The Hillsborough River Camp and Gen Thomas Sumter Camp personnel provided the color guard. (Paul Pardee/ FLSSAR Adjutant commanding, Mike Williams, Robbie Robinson, Joe Dato, Bill Swain)

Indiana



The Indiana SAR Color Guard continued their long standing annual tradition and partnered with the Indianapolis Symphony at the Prairie at Conner Prairie in Fishers, IN. The yearly celebration of July 4th features several nights of patriotic music from the Symphony, drawing thousands to the crowd each night. State Commander Jacob Vink leads the guard during the performance of John William's Theme to the Patriot.



Genealogist General Wayne Eells celebrates 250 years of independence with his grandson prior to the performance on July 02.



On July 20, 2026 SAR Color guardsmen from the Continental Chapter, Indiana Society provided a musket salute at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Muncie, IN as a kickoff for a patriotic 250th stage show at the annual Delaware County Fair. Shown here is L to R: Dennis Babbitt, Commander Mark Kreps and James McNabb. The Amvets followed up with their salute making it a Partners in Patriotism event.



The Indiana SAR Color Guard turned out a large group to participate in the Monroe City Parade on September 20.

On September 12, 2026, the Anthony Halberstadt Chapter SAR was honored to lead the annual Grabill Country Fair Parade in northeast Indiana as part of the community's America 250 observance. The combined SAR-DAR-CAR contingent opened the event by conducting the flag-raising ceremony as a local vocalist sang the National Anthem, then stepped off at the head of the parade.



The marching unit included 10 participants in Revolutionary War attire. Indiana SAR State Color Guard Commander Jacob Vink traveled from the Indianapolis area to lead the formation. Three members carried authentic muskets, while six carried the United States, Betsy Ross, Indiana State, Anthony Halberstadt Chapter SAR, America 250, and General Washington flags. Six members of the Children of the American Revolution also participated, four in period attire. Three CAR members carried banners at the front of the unit, while other CAR members, DAR members, and chapter volunteers distributed more than 600 handheld American flags and over 60 pounds of candy along the route.



One of the most meaningful sights occurred as the Color Guard moved through the crowd: young parents could be seen teaching their children to stand and place their hands over their hearts as the American colors passed. The parade route, expected to be about one mile, ultimately covered approximately 1.75 miles. At the conclusion of the event, parade organizers invited the SAR-DAR-CAR group to return and lead the parade again in 2027.

On August 03, the Indiana SAR Color Guard marched in the Jasper Strassenfest festival and parade.







L to R Mark Kreps, SAR District Color Guard Commander, Muncie Police Chief Nathan Sloan, Muncie Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Ninde, Corey Kissick Director of the Delaware County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) who all spoke during the ceremony held in Muncie, Indiana at the City Hall Auditorium. located in Muncie, IN. At the far Right James McNabb, President of the Continental Chapter of Muncie, Indiana brought in the colors for the event with Amvets Rep. Patrick Romack (not shown). Group photo taken by Janet Kreps





On Friday, September 11, 2026, a Clarence A. Cook Chapter - Indiana SAR and David Benton Chapter color guard detail presented the colors during the National Anthem during the Indianapolis Opera's Opera in the Park program at Garfield Park in Indianapolis. The beginning of the program commemorated the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001. Thanks to DigitalDadIndy on Instagram for the use of the photos.



The Continental SAR Chapter Color Guard presented and posted colors for the Sept 17, 2026 Constitutional Day Ceremony at the Frankton, Indiana Public Library located in northern Madison County, IN. The Program was hosted by the Kikthawenund Chapter of the DAR. The color guard posed with other SAR members for a group photo.



Indiana SAR participated in another parade in Mitchell, IN and had a great turnout.



On September 27, 2026, the Anthony Halberstadt Chapter SAR joined the Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter DAR and William Berry Society CAR for the dedication of a new William G. Pomeroy Foundation Hometown Heritage marker at St. Louis Catholic Church in Besancon, Indiana. The marker commemorates the French immigrants who settled the area as early as 1850, formed a farming community, and erected St. Louis Catholic Church there about 1871. Approximately 150 people attended the dedication.

A combined CAR-SAR Color Guard presented the Colors at the outdoor ceremony. William Berry Society CAR members Broderick and Benson Kaufman led the formation, followed by Anthony Halberstadt Chapter Color Guardsmen Brad Mills, Jeff Jones, and Gary Stebbins. Members of the William Berry Society CAR also unveiled the marker, which was blessed by the Very Rev. Mark A. Gurtner, Vicar General of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The St. Louis Choir performed the National Anthem before participants processed to Besancon Hall.



The dedication brought together hereditary societies, church and historical organizations, and community leaders to recognize the area's Franco-American heritage. New Haven Mayor Steve McMichael and Allen County Commissioner Ron Turpin presented proclamations, and Fort Wayne City Councilman Geoff Paddock participated in the program. Anthony Halberstadt Chapter President Jeff Jones offered greetings on behalf of the SAR during the reception that followed the dedication.



George Rogers Clark Chapter, Daniel Guthrie Chapter, Cradle of Liberty DAR & Ladies auxiliary members attended the Bloomfield Parade on October 04.

Iowa



On September 21, Iowa Society Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley with the local VFW and American Legion Color Guard. Rowley was the keynote speaker for a ceremony to honor Civil War and WWI veterans buried in the Cherokee (Iowa) Mental Health Institute Cemetery who were never given military burial honors.



WWI reenactor Dave Ruffcorn joined with Central Iowa Chapter SAR members Ron Rittel (in GAR suit) and Mike Rowley for the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Gold Star Monument in Des Moines, Iowa



IA Society member Dr William McMillan stands with Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate and Mrs McMillan at a ceremony reading the Declaration of Independence at the Iowa Living History Farms Chapel in Urbandale, Iowa



Iowa Society SAR Color Guard with Adair Iowa American Legion at the Casey, Iowa Parade

Kentucky

The 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks was commemorated by the Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter, Kentucky Society SAR, on 15 August 2026. Approximately 300 attendees were present, including members of the SAR, DAR, CAR, representatives of other lineage societies, and the general public. Participation included 30 SAR chapters, 16 DAR chapters, 4 CAR societies, and representatives from 10 SAR state societies.



National officers in attendance included President General William A. Greenly, Treasurer General Kenneth S. Collins, Registrar General Keith Weissinger, Central District Vice President General Harold Cox, and International District Vice President General Ed Rigel Jr. Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter President Lee Muncy served as master of ceremonies.



The ceremony's color guard consisted of one fifer, two drummers, 29 riflemen, and 45 flag bearers. During the memorial program, the Honor Roll of Patriots killed in the battle was read, with a bell tolled after each name. *Amazing Grace* was performed on fife and drum as the musical tribute, accompanied by the rifle/musket detail executing the solemn drill "mourn on arms." The Patriots were further honored with 76 wreaths placed at the monument and a formal flag□folding ceremony. The commemoration concluded with a flintlock gun salute followed by the sounding of Taps.



The Battle of Blue Licks, one of the final engagements of the American Revolution, occurred on 19 August 1782 on a hill beside the Licking River in present day Kentucky. An American militia force under Colonel John Todd, with subordinate officers Lt. Col. Stephen Trigg and Lt. Col. Daniel Boone, was led into an ambush and defeated by a combined force of American Indians and British Rangers. The Americans, numbering approximately 182, suffered heavy losses: about 72 killed and 11 captured.



On Sunday, August 16, 2026, the Lafayette Chapter KY SAR hosted its annual After Blue Licks Patriot Grave Marking Service with two local DAR Chapters. This year's service was held in Winchester, KY, and honored five patriots. Three of the Patriots were ancestors of Lafayette Compatriots Leonard Beverly and Zack Manley. Compatriots from West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Georgia strongly supported



the grave marking service. Central District Vice President General Ted Cox was in attendance.

On Monday, Oct 5, 2026, the Lafayette Chapter co-sponsored a Flag Retirement Ceremony with the



Captain John Waller Chapter, NSDAR. The ceremony was held in a local subdivision, and many residents attended or participated. Over 150 flags were respectfully retired.



The Lafayette Chapter held a Patriot Grave Marking Service on Saturday, Oct 10, 2026, for five Revolutionary War Patriots in Paint Lick, Kentucky. Two of the Patriots were ancestors of Lafayette Chapter Compatriot Jeff Williamson and his mother. Compatriot Allen Herrod of the Alabama SAR, a relative of one of the Patriots, participated in the service. The service drew a good crowd despite the unfavorable weather. Thanks to the shelter of the trees, the rifle detail could still perform the flintlock salute and mourn on arms.





On Saturday, Oct 24, 2026, in Mercer County, Kentucky, the Colonel James Harrod Chapter co-hosted a Patriot Grave Marking Service for Captain John Lillard with three local DAR Chapters. Members of DAR and SAR chapters, along with local descendants from around Central Kentucky, participated in the well-attended service.

Louisiana



Members of the General Philemon Thomas Chapter of the Louisiana SAR Revolution commemorated the 247th anniversary of the American Revolution's Battle of Baton Rouge on September 19, 2026. Color Guard members from six state societies (LA, AL, AZ, GA, MS and TN) led a procession from the Capitol Park Museum's front canopy to the newly installed Charters of Freedom display on its north grounds. Southern District Vice President General Billy LeJeune and Secretary General T. Brooks Lyles, Jr. greeted attendees. Treasurer General Scott Collins, Registrar General Keith A. Weissinger, and Historian General Jeffrey D. Thomas also attended. Immediately after a brief wreath-laying ceremony, Foundation Forward, Inc. founders Vance and Mary Jo Patterson unveiled the new Charters of Freedom setting.



Spain declared war on the British on June 21, 1779. Spanish Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Gálvez assembled 1427 troops and marched from New Orleans to Baton Rouge. His army included Spanish regulars; French, German and Spanish settlers; Native Americans; and freed African Americans. Gálvez and his troops captured Fort Bute at Bayou Manchac on September 7th, then the British Fort at Baton Rouge on September 21st. Upon surrender, Gálvez also convinced Colonel Alexander Dickson to relinquish Fort Panmure at Natchez. These victories spoiled British plans to capture New Orleans and control the lower Mississippi River. Learning of Gálvez's Louisiana victories, General Washington wrote to Spain's informal ambassador in Philadelphia that they "will probably have a beneficial influence on the affairs of the Southern States."



The NSSAR designated the Battle of Baton Rouge as the secondary signature event for 2029. These celebrations are integral to the upcoming 250th anniversary of America's founding. The events appear on the online NSSAR Decade of the American Revolution calendar.



Members of the General Philemon Thomas Chapter Color Guard attended a presentation on the contribution of Canary Islanders to American Independence for Her Majesty, Sofia, Queen Emerita of Spain. Left to Right are Christopher Achee, Derrick Spell, M.D., Jeff Truax, and Paul Bergeron.



Members of the General Philemon Thomas Chapter Color Guard presented for Constitution Week a Tanglewood Elementary School in Central, Louisiana.

Members of the General Philemon Thomas Color Guard present the colors at an Independence Day celebration in City of St. George, Louisiana. Left to right are Stephen Estopinal, Paul Bergeron, Steve Kubicek, Mitch Pratt, and Christopher Achee.





Members of the General Philemon Thomas Color Guard practice drill at an Independence Day celebration in City of St. George, Louisiana.



Paul Bergeron and Louisiana America 250 secretary Russ Godwin greet Her Majesty, Sofia, Queen Emerita of Spain, at Chalmette High School, Chalmette, Louisiana.

Maryland



Another Great Day to be in Wool for the quarterly flag retirement ceremony held at VFW Post 7472 and with the help of cub scouts, scouts, the Jr Civil Air Patrol, active duty marines, civilians and members of VFW Post 7472, American Legion Posts 156 and 300, the Marine Corps League, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Students Supporting Veterans, and family and friends, flags were prepared for retirement. But this year do to the weather conditions the ceremony was held in doors as members David Embrey and Glenn Moss - Present Arms



The Color Guard was honored to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs America 250 ceremony for Revolutionary War veterans on Sunday, August 2, 2026 at Congressional Cemetery. The ceremony included the national anthem, speeches by VA and cemetery staff, and closed with the sounding of taps; individual graves of Revolutionary War veterans were then visited and decorated with individual flags. Our Color Guard presented and posted colors, and performed a musket volley salute.



"Before today's D.C. National Guard, there were Citizen-Soldiers who answered when the nation's capital was under threat. As America celebrates #Freedom250, the District of Columbia National Guard and Congressional Cemetery gathered to honor the D.C. Militia members who stood in defense of Washington during the Battle of Bladensburg. They were ordinary citizens—clerks, craftsmen, businessmen and public servants—who left their families and livelihoods behind to answer an extraordinary call: Defend the capital.

More than two centuries later, their legacy lives on. Standing among the graves of those Citizen-Soldiers, today's D.C. National Guard joined Congressional Cemetery to ensure their names, courage and sacrifice are never forgotten." The Line included David Embrey, Glenn Moss and Andrei Nabakowski

It's always a pleasure to be invited back to be part of the DAR's Annual Alexandria City Constitution Week Proclamation with Mayor Alyia Gaskins, City Council Members, The Alexandria City High School Army JROTC Color Guard, ACPS Superintendent, choirs from four city schools, members of SAR, CAR



(including the Virginia State President), DAR District V Director, and members of several local chapters. Guardsman David Embrey traded in his Blue Regimental for Red as he opened the Program with Yankee Doodle. Fifer Dave gave a talk on the Fife, Drum and the importance of the Field Musick in camp life and the War and was accompanied by Ms. Vicki of the 'Old Line' Color Guard Ladies Auxiliary, who portrayed Mrs. Jolley who owned a Milliner's Shop on Fairfax St. in 1784 Alexandria.



On September 3rd, the MDSSAR Color Guard along with the Tench Tilghman Chapter SAR supported a Liberty Tree Dedication for Talbot County, at the Frederick Douglas Park on the Tuckahoe River. This Tulip Poplar was a scion from the original Liberty Tree in Annapolis. Color Guard members were Ron Howard (District Lead), Andrei Nabakowski and Rick Culotta. Wes Hagood (Past President and current Treasurer of chapter) was also present in support of the event.

It was another successful Pride of Baltimore II Sailbration Festival - The Color Guard will open the Festival with an 'America 250 Musket Demo' & living history from 10 - noon. We had the unit in a variety of dress - Andrei Nabakowski representing Smallwood Militia 1775 Unit, Les Adams Maryland Continental Line, Vicki Embrey Ladies Auxiliary and David Embrey, 1774 Civilian.





David Embrey did a live promo (pic 5-1) for the Color Guard's America 250 participation for the Pride of Baltimore II Sailabration being held on Broadway Pier in historic Fell's Point, Saturday, September 26

Michigan



Posing with the Michigan SAR wreath and state flag, State Commander John Lepisto and Guarsdsman Eddie Howell brave the hot Kentucky weather on August 17 following the commemoration of the Battle of Blue Licks.



From left to right: VC Chris Blunt, VC Mark Nesbitt, VC Bob Hawcroft, Guardsman Aaron Wiles, Guardsman Mark Somerville, Guardsman Eddie Howell, and Drummer Matt Adair. Represent Michigan SAR at a liberty tree dedication in Davison, MI on September 12.



Michigan SAR color guard presented the colors for the Michigan DAR State Banquet on September 12. From left to right: Vice Commander Mark Nesbitt, Commander John Lepisto, State Regent Dawn Brady, National Color Guard Commander Ken Goodson, and Guardsman and past VPG David Van Hoof.

A grave-marking ceremony honored Revolutionary War veteran Jacob Petty on September 26, 2026, at Sashabaw Plains Cemetery in Clarkston, Michigan. Pictured from left: Commander of the Artillery Larry Blackett; Drummer Matt Adair; friend of the SAR Gordon Duda; Vice Commander Bob Hawcroft; Vice Commander David Hill; Commander John Lepisto; Guardsman Arsey Miller; Vice Commander Chris Blunt; Guardsman Val Chapin; Guardsman Brad Selesky; CAR Guardsman Lincoln Malott; and Guardsman Eric Chapin





A grave-marking ceremony and plaque dedication by the SAR and DAR honored Revolutionary War patriot Martin DuBois on October 3, 2026, at Fitchburg Cemetery in Bunker Hill Township, Ingham County, Michigan. Pictured from left: Guardsman/Drummer Tony Gerring; Vice Commander Bob Hawcroft; Vice Commander David Hill; Vice Commander Chris Blunt; State Commander John Lepisto; Guardsman Val Chapin; and Guardsman Eric Chapin.

Minnesota

During the 250th Celebrations in July 2026, Minnesota Color Guard Commander Terry R. Sater and State President Kevin Sullivan presented the uniforms of their Massachusetts ancestors at the Mall of America 250 event on July 5, 2026. (photo on next page)





Minnesota SAR CG member and State President Kevin Sullivan welcomes three generations of SAR and CAR applicants who signed their applications at the Mall of American 250 event on July 4, 2026

Missouri

On September 29, history came alive at the Kansas City airport. 19 members of the Missouri and Kansas Society Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.) Color Guard deployed in full Continental and Militia uniforms to welcome home our local veterans from the 22nd Honor Flight Network of Kansas City trip to Washington, D.C.



After an emotional and exhausting day touring the WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials—and witnessing the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery—our modern heroes were greeted by a striking visual link to America's founding generation.

As the veterans filed into the terminal, Guardsmen stood a formal honor line with the Colors to shake hands and offer our deepest gratitude. A truly special shoutout goes to the oldest hero on the flight: 95-year -old PFC Robert “Gene” Jones, a proud veteran of the Korean War!

A huge thank you to the incredible multi-chapter team that made this powerful welcome possible:

- 14 Missouri S.A.R. Color Guardsmen
- 5 Kansas S.A.R. Color Guardsmen
- 3 Missouri S.A.R. Auxiliary ladies in beautiful period attire



Welcome home, veterans. Thank you for your service and for preserving the liberty birthright passed down since 1776.

The Missouri and Kansas Societies of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard proudly led the 38th Annual Applefest Opening Day Parade in historic Weston, Missouri, on October 3, 2026.



Supported by the S.A.R. Auxiliary in elegant period costume, the color guard featured nine marchers bearing colors, muskets, and a traditional sword. Following the marchers, a beautifully decorated, apple-themed S.A.R. float carried three additional guardsmen through the cheering crowd.

Sponsored by the Weston Chamber of Commerce, Applefest stands as one of Missouri's premier fall celebrations. The beloved, family-friendly festival transformed Main Street with more than 80 vibrant arts and crafts booths, alongside an abundance of seasonal treats ranging from fresh apple pies to warm apple dumplings. Thousands attended the weekend-long festival from across the region.



Nebraska



We started July with the Omaha Rotary Phelps Club where we presented the colors and had Omaha Mayor John Ewing sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence.



On July 2nd we attended the Phelps County America 250 celebration. Mark Byars, State Registrar, read the Declaration of Independence to the assembled crowd. We had a Patriot Chest at the celebration that got a lot of interest.



July 4th started with an America 250 kickoff in downtown Ralston, We presented the colors and had Ralston Mayor Don Groesser sign the Declaration of Independence. We had people sign a copy of the declaration of Independence. Later on July 4 we marched in the Independence Day parade in Ralston. We gave out over 1000 flag pins and over 2000 America 250 themed stickers.



On July 8th we participated in the Omaha and Lincoln Declaration of Independence readings.



On July 11 we presented the colors for the DAR Clark Patriot Real Son Clark Harrington at Fairmont.



September 2nd and 3rd we participated in a Great America 250 Play at the Lincoln Christian School in Lincoln, NE



September 13th we provided the Color Guard for the SAR state meeting.



September 19 we attended the Governors Proclamation honoring the drafting of the Constitution. Nebraska Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly presented it.

New Hampshire



On July 5, 2026, Stark's Company, NHSAR Color Guard was honored to present the colors and provide the starting shot for the 12th Annual Veterans Count Pack & Boots Road Race in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Participation is events such as this reflects out commitment to honoring our veterans while helping raise awareness and support for the important work of Veterans Counts.



Members of Stark's Company, NHSAR Color Guard, proudly joined the New Hampshire Patriot Guard Riders in the Honor of Flags Service on July 7 at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, honoring World War II veteran PFC Edgar Norcross. Just 18 years old when his aircraft was shot down near present-day Micronesia, PFC Norcross was finally laid to rest with full military honors after his remains were identified and returned home. The solemn ceremony paid tribute to his sacrifice and service, ensuring that this American hero received the recognition and honor he so richly deserved.





Members of the NHSAR Color Guard joined the Piscataqua Rangers Fife & Drum Corps in presenting the colors and rendering a three-volley musket salute during the dedication of the 250th Patriot Monument in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. Erected by the Winnipesaukee Chapter, DAR, the monument honors the men and women of the Wolfeboro region who supported and served the cause of American independence during the Revolutionary War, ensuring their contributions are remembered for generations to come.

The New Hampshire Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NHSAR) maintained a popular static display during the American Independence Festival, on July 11, 2026. The display providing

visitors with an engaging look at Revolutionary War history and the mission of the SAR. Color Guardsmen and compatriots interacted with attendees throughout the event, showcasing period uniforms, military equipment, historic flags, and educational exhibits that highlighted the sacrifices and achievements of



the Patriots who secured American independence. The display offered an opportunity to promote patriotism, educate the public about Revolutionary War heritage, and share the ongoing work of the SAR in preserving our nation's founding legacy.



On July 11, 2026 - Compatriots of the New Hampshire Society SAR participated in the Hooksett, NH 250th Commemoration with a Revolutionary War educational display at the local library. Members engaged visitors of all ages, sharing stories of the American Revolution and demonstrating typical militia rations to help bring eighteenth-century history to life. The event also provided an opportunity to highlight the mission of the both the SAR and Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) and the importance of inspiring the next generation to learn about, preserve, and honor the legacy of the Patriots who secured our nation's independence.

On July 18, 2026, the NHSAR, in collaboration with the Kingston 250th Commission and the Exeter, Chapter, NH of the DAR, sponsored a series of events commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



The day began with the NHSAR Color Guard escorting Josiah Bartlett, portrayed by Alex Porter as he delivered a copy of the Declaration of Independence to the town crier, who read it aloud to the assembled public.



Later, at the Plains Cemetery, a commemorative granite marker was unveiled to dedicate a Liberty Flag Pole in honor of all veterans buried in Kingston cemeteries who fought for, and defended, the liberties our nation enjoys today. The ceremony concluded with a roll call recognizing each conflict represented,

followed by a musket salute.

Participants then proceeded to the grave site of Josiah Bartlett, where a granite marker commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was unveiled.

Despite rainy weather, NHSAR members staffed a static display and presented drill and musket-firing demonstrations for the public throughout the day.



Stark's Company, NHSAR Color Guard supported the Londonderry Historical Society open house conducting manual of arms and firing demonstrations throughout the afternoon. In addition to gaining additional training and practice, the event provided an opportunity to interact with the public, educating the public about Revolutionary War heritage, and share the ongoing work of the SAR..

The New Hampshire and Massachusetts Color Guards joined forces to Present the Colors for the annual Cathedral of the Pines Memorial Service sponsored by the New Hampshire Society of DAR.



The Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire, is a national memorial dedicated to the memory and honor of all Americans who serve the nation. NHSODAR has hosted an annual Memorial Service at the majestic outdoor chapel since 1947. The Cathedral of the Pines event offers people from around the state, and across the country, the opportunity to come together for a time of fellowship and inspiration. Each year, a National Society DAR officer or other distinguished guest, brings an inspiring message for guests to contemplate.



On August 15, 2026, members of the New Hampshire Society Sons of the American Revolution (NHSAR) and its Color Guard proudly participated in Londonderry, New Hampshire's Old Home Day celebration. Stark's Company, NHSAR Color Guard members marched in the community parade, while also staffing an educational static display throughout the day. In support of the Londonderry Historical Society, NHSAR members presented a colonial-era gunsmithing display, highlighting the craftsmanship and technology of the Revolutionary period. The Color Guard further engaged visitors with musket drill and firing demonstrations.

On September 12, 2026, the New Hampshire Society Sons of the American Revolution (NHSAR) held its annual Constitution Day Meeting at the Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, New Hampshire, during the site's Revolutionary War Weekend. The Fort at No. 4, New Hampshire's only living history museum, is located near the area where General John Stark mustered New Hampshire militia forces before marching to the pivotal Battle of Bennington. During the meeting, five new compatriots were inducted into the Society,

making the occasion especially meaningful as they joined the SAR at a location deeply connected to the history of the American Revolution.



Following the meeting and induction ceremony, compatriots had the opportunity to explore the military encampments, tour the reconstructed fort, and witness a Revolutionary War battle reenactment.



The New Hampshire Society Sons of the American Revolution (NHSAR) was honored to collaborate with members of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) in a special ceremony in Merrimack, New Hampshire, recognizing the service and sacrifice of Patriot Reuben Cummings. The event brought together members of both organizations to pay tribute to one of the local patriots who answered the call for American independence. Through historical interpretation, wreath presentations, and patriotic observances, participants reflected on the enduring legacy of those who secured the freedoms enjoyed by Americans today. The ceremony also provided an opportunity for younger generations to connect with Revolutionary War history and demonstrate their commitment to preserving our nation's heritage. The program was especially meaningful as it supported the National Society C.A.R.'s Liberty Legacy National Project, which encourages members to honor Revolutionary War patriots and promote a deeper understanding of the ideals upon which our nation was founded. By partnering in this commemorative event, NHSAR and C.A.R. members worked together to ensure that the story of Patriot Reuben Cummings and his contributions to the cause of liberty remain remembered and appreciated. The collaboration highlighted the shared missions of both organizations: preserving the memory of our Patriot ancestors, educating the public about the American Revolution, and inspiring future generations to carry forward the principles of freedom, patriotism, and service.

New Mexico



Gadsden chapter NMSSAR color guard members (L-R), Don Berger, Bill Kinsella, Tanner Guskey, Robert E. Vance, participated in the Department of Veterans Affairs ceremony honoring Revolutionary War soldier PVT Johann Micheal Ehler, at the Fort Bliss National cemetery on 02 AUG 2026. (Photo credit Jeanne Kinsella).

Ohio

This Tomb renovation was a project that took almost 2 years from conception to finish. Ft. Laurens is the only Revolutionary War fort in Ohio and 21 Continental Soldiers were killed there defending the fort. Those that gave the ultimate sacrifice were from the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment and the 13th Virginia Regiment. They defended the fort against elements of



the British 8th Regiment of Foot and warriors from 5 different Native American Nations. 15 sets of remains were identified and are buried in the fort cemetery. 6 sets of remains are unknown and 5 sets are interred in the crypt in the fort museum and one set of unknown remains is interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier. On June 27th 2026 a formal rededication ceremony took place which included Ohio Governor DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine, Assistant Adjutant General Jon Stewart Ohio Army National Guard, Members of the Ohio 250th Celebration Commission and members of the Ohio Legislature among many other guests.



The rededicated Tomb of the Unknown Patriot of the American Revolution at Ft. Laurens in Bolivar Saturday, June 27, 2026.

Kevin Whitlock / Massillon Independent

Pennsylvania



On July 25, members of the Pittsburgh Chapter SAR were honored to join the General Anthony Wayne Chapter for the dedication of a new Revolutionary War Patriots Plaque at the historic Fort McIntosh Park in Beaver, Pennsylvania.

This significant ceremony paid tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of those who fought for our nation's independence. During America250, it is fitting that we continue to preserve and share the stories of the Patriots who established our Republic.

Fort McIntosh was chosen as the best location for this dedication. While the site has stood since 1778, there was a need for a modern marker to honor the early Beaver County patriots who served in the American Revolution. The monument honors the patriotic sacrifice of all Patriots buried in Beaver County. The members are grateful for the community's support in making this dedication possible.

Virginia

The Virginia Society Color Guard provided support to the Commemoration of the 245th Anniversary of the Battle of the Capes (5 September 1781). It was hosted on 5 September 2026 by the Virginia Society's Norfolk Chapter with support from the DAR and the navies of the United States and France. The event honors the French Navy's victory over the Royal Navy on 5 September 1781; an action which doomed Lord Cornwallis's position at Yorktown. Additionally, the 400th Anniversary of the French Navy and the 50th Anniversary of the unveiling of the De Grasse statue were celebrated by participants. The ceremonies took place at the statue of French Admiral De Grasse located on the grounds of Fort Story. The audience was estimated to be 500 individuals, ranging in age from children to octogenarians. New to the ceremony this year were: a US Navy 15-gun salute fired in honor of Vice Admiral De Grasse; a French Naval honor guard from the French Ship DE GRASSE; participation of the US Fleet forces Band, and 25 paving stones with the names of the French ships and their commanding officers that took part in the Battle of the Capes. These pavers were placed near the De Grasse statue in August 2026.



Multiple organizations were represented: 11 Virginia society SAR chapters; the Virginia Society, SAR; The North Carolina Society, SAR; 18 DAR chapters and a representative from the Virginia State NSDAR; four Virginia C.A.R. societies and a representative of the Virginia State C.A.R.; eight lineage societies including Sons of the Veterans of the Civil War, National Society of the United States Daughters of 1812, Virginia of the Founders and Patriots of America, National Society of the Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America, Descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, National society of Colonial Dames XVII Century, and the National Society of the Washington Family Descendents.

There was a large contingent of French military personnel as well as a US Navy and British Royal Navy presence.



VIPs included Commonwealth of Virginia Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi, Admiral Pierre Vandier, French Navy, Admiral Karl Thomas, United States Navy (USN), Vice Admiral Simon Asquith, Royal Navy, Major General Patrice Morand, French defense Attache, Caroline Monvoisin, Consul General of France, Bobby Dyer, Mayor of Virginia Beach, Ms. Kathleen Rugh, State Regent, Virginia DAR, Mr. Christopher Hopkins, President, Virginia C.A.R. Captain Katie Jacobson, USN, commanding Officer of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Alexandra Konikoff, French Honorary Consul. Three General Officers of National Society, SAR present at the ceremony were Secretary General Lyles, Chaplain General Grimes, and Historian General Thomas. The National Safety Officer, Brett Osborn, attended the ceremony.



The Virginia Society Color Guard provided color guard support to the Naval Air Station, Oceana's air show 18-19 September 2026. The commander of the naval air station requested the support to honor the 250th Anniversary of the birth of the United States. The VASSAR color guard presented the colors at the beginning of the show each day and which was live streamed. The VASSAR Event Color Guard Commander, Don Fergusson, commented:

"It was a privilege to have supported the event. We were staged in front of the Blue Angels with skydivers landing behind us …The event was also live streamed and there was great video of us during the National Anthem with the narrator including a robust statement about the SAR when we were introduced."

The participating Virginia guardsmen were VASSAR's Eastern Region Color Guard Commander Don Fergusson, Ed Boniwell, Jerry Lelansky, and Stuart Whitehead.

Washington

The Washington State Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Color Guard and Fife & Drum Corps were proud to participate in the 2026 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, held from July 20–23, 2026, in Bellevue, Washington. This annual conference gathered federal judges, court staff, and members of the legal community for several days of discussions and reflections on the nation's history, Constitution, and future.



The 2026 conference held special significance as the United States celebrated its Semiquincentennial, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Various programs were organized to recognize this historic milestone, featuring speakers who explored America's constitutional and historical development.

As part of the Opening Program on Monday, July 20, the Washington State SAR played a key role by presenting the colors alongside the Fife and Drum Corps in a meaningful and patriotic manner. Their participation underscored the organization's commitment to honoring America's founding, preserving its history, and recognizing the sacrifices and ideals of those who helped establish the nation.

Among the distinguished speakers at the conference were constitutional law scholar Professor Akhil Reed Amar, who discussed the concept of equality at birth and its influence on American constitutional history; Dr. Jane Kamensky, a historian and leader at Thomas

Jefferson's Monticello, who provided insights into America's early history; and Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, who joined Supreme Court advocate Kannon Shanmugam for a discussion on significant constitutional and legal issues facing the country.



SAR, DAR, and CAR members that participated in the posting of colors include:

Chris Grabowski (SE), Jim Carpenter (GW), Matt Bendickson (AH), Bill Bentler (GW), Scott Laing (SE), Michael Moore (AH), Viren Lemmer (AH), Pam Gassman (DAR), Terry Barker (DAR), Stephanie Conway (DAR), Alonda Droege (DAR), Cherie Sckorohod (DAR), Cathy McKay (DAR), Melonie Liening (DAR), Richard Whittemore (CC), Timothy Smith (AH), Neil Vernon (SE), Diane Moore (DAR), Danika Bendickson (C.A.R.), Michael Bendickson (C.A.R. / SAR), Jan Lemmer (AH), Grant Rauzi (SE), Kate Bendickson (DAR).



The annual 4th of July parade was held in the small town of Steilacoom, WA on July 4th. CG members from the Alexander Hamilton, Cascade Centennial and George Rogers Clark Chapter were present for the event. The states CG Commander Eric Olsen was there and commented on how the crowd seemed bigger and more excited than years past when our group went by. It was a fantastic parade with great weather and eager and excited crowds. DAR and SAR Auxiliary member Ramona Olsen pulled the states CG trailer and provided SAR CG support.



On July 8th members of the George Rogers Clark Chapter, Cascade Centennial and local DAR Chapters met up at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia, WA for a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Chapter member Art Dolan worked hard at securing the space and readers for a 3 PM Pacific time zone reading of the Declaration of Independence. This was to coincide with other readings taking place across the country at the same time. All told there were 13 readers with Art Dolan being the emcee of the event. All readers did an excellent job and Art Dolan wowed the crowd with a fantastic opening that kept on bringing in those who were visiting the capital that day.

During the 4th of July weekend George Rogers Clark chapter member and Washington state Color Guard Commander Eric Olsen treated community members where he lived to a display of 120 flags with around 24 of them being the 50-star U.S. flag and the others representing the SAR, America's 250th, the original 13 colonies and a wide variety of flags from the time frame of the American Revolution. Numerous people drove by slowly with phones out taking pictures and videos. Others were seen giving a thumbs up or honking the horn in appreciation. In addition, several people stopped giving him an opportunity to talk about



America's 250th, the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution. The number 1 question that he heard was "Why?". He responded with "Because it's America's 250th!!".



On Aug 1st members of the George Washington CG met posted colors for the annual Vietnam Veterans Picnic on private land about three miles north of Sedro-Woolley. Rain was forecast and it came! There was live music, a classic car show and lots of good food and company.

On Aug 29th members from the Alexander Hamilton, George Rogers Clark and Seattle Chapters travelled north to Monroe, WA to join forces with the George Washington chapter for the 2026 Monroe Fair Days Parade. Also joining them were members of the Washington State Fife and Drum Corp. It rained a bit before the parade but the weather improved and the sun come out. (picture top right)





The city of Kingston, WA celebrated the 250th Anniversary on the 4 the of July with a parade. The parade was led by the John Paul Jones Color Guard flying the colors high and proudly. The John Paul Jones Color Guard was comprised of Perry Tailor, NW Region VPG; Brian Dorr, Chapter President; Mick Hersey, Vice President; Pat Birch, Secretary; and Fred Gilbert Color Guard Captain. The DAR teamed with the JPJ to march in the parade with members Susan Tailor, Regent; Jane Richey and Debra Wick.

Larry Flint, SAR member 188449, joined the SAR in July 2013 as a member of the Washington State Society of Sons of the American Revolution, Mid-Columbia Chapter. His primary ancestor was Silas Freeman of the Massachusetts Militia.

Larry, born July 87, 1942, passed away on May 18,



2026, after a brief illness. He was born into a family of strong character. His early years shaped his independence and ignited a lifelong love of travel, nature, animals, and adventure. His diverse and adventurous career began with three summers in the U.S. Forest Service, which included serving as a smokejumper out of Winthrop, Washington. He served for five years in the U.S. Army; included a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Larry was a dedicated family man who found the love of is life while on a temporary assignment for the Army in Japan. He filled his home with the same love and respect he was raised with, leaving his family with a solid example of what it means to live a good meaningful life.



Larry channeled is energy in later years to genealogical research and civic engagement through SAR. His meticulous research not only built a vast Flint family tree but also brought his ancestors to life through stories he uncovered. Through SAR, he was actively involved in school presentations, new citizenship ceremonies, and events honoring military veterans. He served the Mid-Columbia chapter as the Secretary and Color Guard Captain for several years. His influence and quiet demeanor has been felt throughout the Washington State Society. All who knew him will miss his stories and his adventurous, principled, and steady presence. Larry was a dedicated SAR member and attended his final meeting on May 16, via Zoom from his hospital bed.

Larry is survived by his two daughters, two grandsons, his three siblings, and beloved community of nieces, nephews, friends, and SAR Compatriots. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years and his parents.

A celebration of life was held for Larry on June 27, 2026, in Richland, Washington. SAR Color Guard members Stan Wills and Neil Vernon greeted the attendees in uniform. Other SAR members from the Mid-Columbia chapter were present amongst over 100 attendees. Full Military Honors were provided by the American Legion.

Rest well Larry, we have the watch.



Stan Granberg, Neil Vernon, Richard Seeder of the Seattle Chapter posted colors for the Lynnwood, WA City Council meeting on June 22nd, during their reading of their 250th Anniversary Proclamation reading. The City Council was presided over by the City Mayor, George Hurst. The Color Guard members, in period attire joined City Council member David Parshall for the reading of the Mayor's proclamation. Following the reading, Compatriot Vernon was given the opportunity to share with the assembled body, comments about the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

On July 4, 2026, Color Guard members of Cascade Centennial, along with Neil Vernon of Seattle attended the Plaque Dedication Ceremony hosted by the DAR Cascade Chapter. The ceremony was commemorating the America 250th Anniversary at Mercerdale Park on Mercer Island. The Color guard presented and retired the colors for the event. Jeanne Anacker, DAR Cascade Regent along with DAR Washington State Regent, Lynne Stallcop unveiled the plaque.



Color Guard members in attendance were: Edwin Dierdorff (CC), Ken Graalum (CC), Neil Vernon (SE), Richard Whittemore (CC) and Wesley Edminister (CC)



On August 8th the WASSAR Color Guard and Fife and Drum attended the 46th Annual Woodinville Community Parade. As entry number 4, we led off the parade following the dignitaries. This is an annual event for us in appreciating DAR members from the Susan Woodin Chapter who are members also of our Fife and Drum Corp. 5 SAR chapters and 3 DAR chapters were represented.



On August 8, Chris Grabowski (SE), Neil Vernon (SE), Eric and Ramona Olsen (GRC) attended the 250th Anniversary Celebration for the English-Speaking Union of Seattle. Color Guard members posted the colors for the event. Food service for the guests consisted of menu items from Martha and George Washington. An array of Historical flags added to the atmosphere of the celebration. Several of the guests were also in colonial attire.

West Virginia



On Flag Day June 14th, WV Society Honor Guard provided a Musket Salute for the Initial Raising of a new and very large Flag over Spencer, WV.

On July 25th 2026, there was a reading of the Declaration of Independence in front of the Greenbrier County Courthouse commemorating the 250th anniversary of the original event, 25 July, 1776! WV Society Color Guard presented the flags and gave a firing salute to mark the occasion. This event was

sponsored by the Greenbrier Historical Society, Lewisburg, WV.



As a result of participating in an event hosted by the Greenbrier Historical Society, WV Compatriots posted up on a bill board!!!



WV Society compatriots participated in the General Washington Vigil at Mt. Vernon.

Winsconsin



On July 2, 2026 the WISSAR Color Guard participated in the dedication of a Liberty Tree at the New Berlin Veterans Memorial Plaza. The SAR presented the New Berlin Veterans Memorial Society with a Certificate of Commendation for their patriotism in displaying the United States flag



On July 3, 2026 the Captain Hendrick Aupaumut Chapter of the WISSAR dedicated a Liberty Tree in Downtown Green Bay, WI. MG (Ret) Dan Ammerman was the guest speaker.

L to R: Bob Haglund, MG (Ret) Dan Ammerman, Leamon Duncan



On June 23, 2026, Compatriots Bob Haglund (right) ad Leamon Duncan (left) of the Wisconsin SAR participated in the History Speaks series hosted by the Ephraim Historical Foundation held at the Door County Auditorium. A portion of Ken Burn's new documentary: *The American Revolution* was shown.

Bob and Leamon had a table set up to display items from their Patriot Chest including a Brown Bess musket and answered questions from event attendees. It was a great event for Wisconsin SAR!

On July 4, 2026 the WISSAR and WSDAR held a Dedication Ceremony at Twining Park in Monroe, WI. The Ceremony commemorated the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and a dedication of a plaque for the 5th U.S. President James Monroe (1817-1825), for whom the city is named after



Local students sang the Star Spangled Banner. Among the guest speakers were 50th Wisconsin Assembly District Rep. Jenna Jacobson. She spoke about the qualities that made James Monroe a great president and a man of valor who stood alongside George Washington at Valley Forge.



Also speaking was Monroe Mayor Tom Miller, WISSAR President Don Skarda, and Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Kathy Comeau.

On July 24, 2026 The WISSAR Color Guard participated in the Salute to Veterans Parade at the Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture in Oshkosh, WI



EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026 set an all-time attendance record with approximately 734,000 visitors from July 20 to July 26, 2026, at Wittman Regional Airport in Wisconsin, featuring a special salute to America's 250th birthday. It featured over 2,800 show planes including 360 vintage or retired military aircraft.

The first picture shows the WISSAR Color Guard standing in front of the "Stars and Stripes Eagle". A NASA McDonnel Douglas F-15D Eagle (registered as N885NA, serial number 84-0045) that features a special America 250 patriotic livery with a star-covered fuselage and striped wings.



The 184th Waukesha County Fair featured an America 250th Celebration and Fair Opening Parade on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, The Parade featured the WISSAR Color Guard and Fife & Drum Corps.



On Aug 22, 2026 the WISSAR Color Guard dedicated a Liberty Tree at Gordon Hoffmann Park in Jackson, Wisconsin which is located in Washington County.



On August 16, 2026 the Wisconsin Color Guard marched in the 77th Annual Allenton American Legion Picnic Parade.

You can see them in action if you go to the 6:40 mark of the YouTube Video HERE.

On July 4,2026, WISSAR Compatriots Bob Haglund, Dan Ammerman, Leamon Duncan, and Gary McCully had the honor of participating in Green Bay's America 250 Independence Day Celebration ceremony at Leicht Memorial Park. Bob, Dan, and Leamon were honored to present the colors at the event while Gary manned the booth and took questions from the crowd.



L to R: Leamon Duncan, Bob Haglund, Tahassi Hill (The Oneida Tribal Chairman), Member of the Oneida Nation Smoke Dancers (name unknown), Dan Ammerman.

During the Revolutionary War, the Oneida sided with the American colonists. They famously traveled to Valley Forge in 1777 to bring life-saving corn to General George Washington's starving troops. Many Oneida relocated to the Green Bay area in the 1820's.

HERE is a link to the smoke dancers at the event



On July 12, 2026 the WISSAR attended the New Berlin, WI Historical Society dedication of a Liberty Tree Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States.

L to R: Bob Wylie, Bob Plastine

The WISSAR Color Guard marched in the 4th of July parade in Wauwatosa, WI



L to R: James Meador, Ben Meador, Isaiah Atlee, Mike Meador, Bob Wylie, Matt Sonnenburg, James Atlee, James Mills, Bob Plastine.

This photo contains 3 generations of the Meador Family and 2 generations of the Atlee Family.



On July 4, 2026 the WISSAR Color Guard marched in the New Berlin 4th of July Parade.

On June 26, 2026 the WISSAR Color Guard participated in a 250th Celebration dedicating a plaque to the Marquis de La Fayette and the planting of a Liberty Tree on the lawn of the County Courthouse. This was held in Darlington, WI, the county seat of LaFayette County which was named after the Marquis.



William Hamilton (the son of Alexander Hamilton) had met LaFayette. William Hamilton moved to Southwest Wisconsin in the 1820's during the "Lead Rush" and founded Hamilton's Diggings, now known as Wiota, a small town in LaFayette County. William also participated in the Black Hawk War in 1832. (Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were also involved in the Black Hawk War).

Featured Guests were State Senator Howard Markline, and State Rep. Todd Novak.



This was sponsored by the WISSAR, the Nathaniel Ames Chapter, LaFayette County, and the NSSAR George Washington Endowment Fund

Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) invited the WISSAR to join them in marching in the St. Francis Days Parade on September 5, 2026. St. Francis Days is held over Labor Day Weekend for the last 57 years as a way to raise money for local organizations. Camp #1 and Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary #4, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, have marched in the parade since 2004.



The pictures show members of the WISSAR Color Guard, C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary #4, SUVCW rifle squad and musicians.

The Camp and Auxiliary are named for Colwert K. Pier, who enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin Infantry at the outset of the Civil War and was mustered out a Colonel of the 38th Wisconsin at war's end.



Founded in 1881, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a Congressionally chartered patriotic, public service, and fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history of the heroes who fought to save the Union and end slavery in America. Today, over 6,100 men across 32 state-level Departments enjoy a community built on fraternity, charity, and loyalty, while honoring Union veterans and U.S. veterans of all wars, preserving and perpetuating the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), and promoting patriotic education in schools and local communities. Visit https://www.suvcw-wi.org



Pictures courtesy Kent Peterson, PDC.



Battle of Fort San Carlos Festival and Grave Marking

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2027

Ste. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI

Plan your stay now in beautiful, historic Ste. Genevieve, the first organized European settlement west of the Mississippi River in present-day Missouri.

Event Schedule

11:30 a.m.
Registration at
Guibord-Valle House
Challenge coins & medals available for purchase.

12:30 p.m.
Militia and Color Guard muster at
Guibord-Valle House

1:00 p.m.
Memorial Cemetery Ceremony
Bring your own wreath and receive a commemorative flag streamer.

Rain Location: Orpheus Theatre

SAR members must register online to receive credit.
Scan below to visit the event website:

www.mossar.org/battleof-fort-san-carlos/

Sons of the American Revolution - National Color Guard Event

Participating Color Guard members must contact State Commander Steve Perkins to review safety requirements and eligibility for medal qualification: patriotmarcher@fastmail.com


2027
BLUE LICKS
WEEKEND
AUGUST 20–22, 2027
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
& Lexington Cemetery
Please join the Kentucky SAR, Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter, and Lafayette Chapter for a weekend of patriotic Revolutionary War–themed activities.
FRIDAY • AUGUST 20, 2027
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
Friday night: Dinner, speaker, fun activities, and a Compatriot Jam Session.
SATURDAY • AUGUST 21, 2027
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
Saturday morning: The Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Service.
Saturday afternoon: Lunch at the Lodge and the KY SAR State Meeting.
SUNDAY • AUGUST 22, 2027
Lexington Cemetery • Lexington, Kentucky
Sunday morning: Grave Marking Service honoring five Patriots and one Compatriot.
WE REMEMBER THE PATRIOTS
HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ PRESERVE

Battle of Blue Licks Memorial Ceremony

The Gov. Isaac Shelby Chapter
Kentucky Society
Sons of the American Revolution
invites you to attend the Memorial Service for the
245th Anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks

Saturday, 21 August, 2027 @ 10 a.m. EDT
Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
10299 Maysville Road, Carlisle, KY
(Color Guard muster at 8:45 a.m.)

Join us in this National Color Guard event by presenting a wreath, carrying your state flag or participating in the flintlock gun salute.

Contact Scott Giltner – stgilt@earthlink.net to register.

https://gissar.org/pages/blue_licks.html

National Color Guard Committee

The Committee is the largest committee of the SAR as every Color Guardsman is automatically considered a member of the committee. A listing of committee members is published by the National Society whose Chairman, Vice Chairman, and members are appointed by the National Society SAR President General. Members of the Color Guard who are not appointed to the committee, but who attend a meeting at the National level, are eligible to vote on issues brought before the group during the meeting.

#170717 (GA) **SECRETARY GENERAL – GO LIAISON**
T. Brooks Lyles

#187555 (MI) **CHAIRMAN/COLOR GUARD COMMANDER**
Kenneth Linwood Goodson Jr.

#206026 (KY) **VICE-CHAIRMAN/VICE COMMANDER**
Patrick Joseph Wesolosky

#171318 (GA) FIRST ADJUTANT
Edward Paul Rigel Jr.

#220709 (NM) SECOND ADJUTANT
Robert E. Vance

#195659 (NC) ARTILLERY COMMANDER
Stephen P. McKee

#192623 (WA) DRUM MAJOR
Viren K. Lemmer

#216827 (KY) QUARTERMASTER
Christopher Allen Canine

#223244 (KY) ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER
Patrick McMurchie

#159769 (VA) SAFETY TRAINING OFFICER
Brett Warren Osborn

#206108 (IN) COLOR GUARD MAGAZINE/ASSISTANT SAFETY TRAINING OFFICER
Jacob Aaron Vink

#166888 (VA) PRESIDENT GENERAL
Michael James Elston

#184415 (OH)
John Henry Bredenfoerder

#162857 (AZ)
Abraham Ruddell Byrd III

#153289 (MI)
Paul Robert Callanan

#175076 (GA) - Treasurer General
Kenneth Scott Collins

#173691 (VA) CHANCELLOR GENERAL
Peter Malcolm Davenport

#169761 (GA)
Roger Warren Coursey

#204019 (NC)
Jay A. DeLoach

#147977 (VA)
PG Joseph William Dooley

#214693 (VA)
Gary Howard Dunaway

#213898 (KY)
Stephen Austin Gahafer

#170854 (KY)
Scott George Giltner

#168757 (NC)
Gary Owen Green

#210714 (WI)
Robert M. Haglund

#214823 (TX)
David Hamaker

#148489 (MD)
David Wayne Hoover

#168548 (KS)
Bobbie Arthur Hulse

#208634 (TN)
LTC Cliff Jay Kent

#170717 (NC) SECRETARY GENERAL
T. Brooks Lyles Jr.

#200554 (nj)
Robert Charles Meyer

#183738 (MI)
James Leslie Petres

#150769 (NC)
Samuel Christopher Powell

#222616 (KY)
Richard Lee Quire

#168829 (MD)
C. Louis Raborg Jr.

#169695 (GA)
Edward P. Rigel, Sr.

#177927 (VA)
William Lewis Schwetke

#161749 (MI)
William Edward Sharp III

#177590 (NC)
George Shrunk

#159735 (GA)
PG John Michael Tomme Sr.

#204537 (CA)
Brandon Alexander Villardi

#207598 (NJ)
Roger Sidney Williams