

Regent Zink, KSDAR Officers, KDSAR Chapter Regents, Daughters, and Guests,

My name is Doug Collins, and it is an honor to stand before this distinguished gathering. I want to thank Regent Zink for having me this morning. I bring Greetings from the 18 Chapters and 900 + members of the Kentucky Society, SAR to the **85** Chapters and **4,546** Daughters of the Kentucky Society, DAR. We wish you great success for your 118th State Conference.

Not only am I President of the Kentucky Society, Sons of the American Revolution, I am also a HODAR. My wife is a 4th generation member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her great-grandmother Emma Davis Stites Member #186362, joined the Daughters of the American Revolution over 92 years ago – January 29, 1923. I have a long connection with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The SAR and the DAR are two organizations separated by a single chromosome, **and** an unfortunate decision made 125 years ago. You might find it interesting to learn that member #2 of the Kentucky Society, SAR was Delia (Deal-ya) Buckner, wife of Governor Simon Bolivar Buckner and First Lady of Kentucky. Additionally, 19 of the first 44 members were female.

Although, today, we are separate groups, we strive for the same ultimate purpose:

Historic, preservation, education and patriotism

This is the DNA that we share

Unfortunately, we are but 1 or 2 generations away from losing our history. Without the work of both of our organizations, future generations will not know about the heroes of the American Revolution who fought for the freedom we hold so dear. It is up to us to continue to preserve our past and educate the generations that follow us, about our never-ending quest.

All of my official SAR communications contain the following phrase: ***Making a difference for tomorrow, by celebrating our yesterdays.*** It may be a little corny, but it reminds me, each time I send out a message, of our mission; what we stand for; and my responsibility to help preserve the past.

In approximately 10 days, the KYSSAR will be celebrating our 125 Anniversary. I invite you to join us in Frankfort for this celebration.

I look forward to working with Regent Zink and the Kentucky Daughters over the next year of my term in office to further our joint interests.