



# PATRIOT



## ***Editor's Introduction***

On September 15, 1964, the Southern Nevada Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was chartered. John C. Townley was elected President and Nevada State Supreme Court Justice, Honorable John C. Mowbray, was elected Vice President.

The following was quoted from the *History of the Nevada Society, Sons of the American Revolution, 1954 to 1974* published by Nevada State Society Historian, Walter V. Higby in 1976:

“It was inevitable that prominent Las Vegas citizens would show growing interest in the activities of the Northern Nevada Society. Influenced in part by the sister chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Francisco Garces & Valley of Fire, a request was made to Dr. Olin C. Moulton of the State Society to organize a Southern Nevada Chapter in Clark Co.”.

Forty years later, the members of the Southern Nevada Chapter voted unanimously to rename the chapter the Signers Chapter in honor of the patriots who placed their lives and futures in jeopardy by signing the Declaration of Independence.

We celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the chapter this month. There are a couple of ways we will recognize the anniversary during the September meetings.

Our September 7 breakfast meeting will be at the same location, Egg Works Restaurant in Summerlin. Our featured speaker will be Claire White, Director of Education at The Mob Museum. Claire White is responsible for the creation of educational and interpretive programs featured on-site and across Southern Nevada. She oversees a team of nearly twenty educators who conduct educational programs daily at The Mob Museum. She also contributes to the Museum's exhibits and blog, primarily focused on topics related to Prohibition, Las Vegas history and the New York Mob.

The September 14 Constitution Day Dinner will be jointly hosted by the Nevada Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Silver State Chapter, and the Signers Chapter. The event starts at 5pm at the Las Vegas National Golf Club. The featured speaker at the event will be Dr. Michael Green, esteemed Professor of History at UNLV.

We had a very successful meeting in early August. Our featured speaker, Sue Butler, presented a host of stories about the children of the Mayflower. The 28 meeting attendees learned how these children joined the voyage to the New World and how they fared during the voyage and after the ship anchored at Plymouth Rock. Sue also described methods for tracing an SAR member's ancestry back to the 102 Mayflower passengers.

We hope you will join us at these upcoming events. Everyone is welcome. Happy Anniversary, Signers Chapter!



## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, September 7, 9am,** Breakfast meeting at Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin.

**Saturday, September 14, 5pm,** Constitution Day Dinner at the Las Vegas National Gold Club.

**Saturday, October 5, 9am,** Breakfast meeting at Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin.

**Mid-October** Day of Service at Las Vegas Fisher House *(date to be announced in September)*.

**Saturday, November 2, 9am,** Breakfast meeting at Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin.

**Saturday, December 7, 5pm,** Chapter Christmas Party in Henderson NV.

**Saturday, December 14, 7am,** Wreaths Across American at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, NV.

**Saturday, January 4, 2025, 9am,** Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin.

**Saturday, February 15, 2025, 5pm,** George Washington's Birthday Dinner hosted with the Francisco Garces Chapter, Nevada DAR at the Las Vegas National Golf Club.



The 2024 Fireworks Booth Fundraiser event, which took place in Summerlin in the six days leading up to July 4<sup>th</sup>, was a searing success. The Signers Chapter received \$4,500 for its Scholarship Awards Fund. Six non-profit organizations shared duties this year, working from 7am to 9pm each day. The Las Vegas Metro Canine Unit, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Sons of Union Veterans, ICES – International Cultural Exchange Services organization coordinating foreign exchanges students in Las Vegas, Friends of the Fort and the Signers Chapter provided volunteers to set up, shut down, and handle the stocking and financial activities necessary to meet the needs of customers purchasing fireworks for their families.

The success of the event was due to the organizational and managerial talent of compatriot Don Hotchkiss, Jr. Also playing a major role were Luiz Marzullo of ICES, DAR chapter members Kim Harbaugh and Lauri Oakden-Binder, Ruth Rauma of Friends of the Fort and compatriots Al & Daniel Conant.

Small American flags were handed out to all children who showed up with their families, which was clearly appreciated. The heat of the summer did not deter customers or volunteers from visiting the booth.

And the winds and moisture largely went elsewhere. Thanks to everyone who helped make the event so successful.





The August 3<sup>rd</sup> Breakfast meeting included featured speaker, Sue Butler. Her topic was Children of the Mayflower.

As confirmed by her bio, Sue is a highly qualified subject matter expert on the Mayflower and its passengers and crew.

Sue was born in Southern California with State of Maine family roots. Out of 40+ 1st cousins, Sue was the only one born outside of the State of Maine. A thirty-year retired veteran of the U.S. Postal Service, Sue spends most of her time with her genealogical research, a passion which has documented nine patriots from the War of 1812, twenty-five patriots in the American Revolution, and thirteen passenger lines from the ship Mayflower, three of these lines are to children passengers on the Mayflower. Sue is a Life Member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Charter Member of The Order of the First Families of Maine; member of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812; Life Member of the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge; Life member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She is also a member of the Maine Genealogical Society, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society (American Ancestors) among other genealogical research organizations. Sue has served in many positions with the Mayflower Society including California State Historian and was admitted into California's Orange County Colony in 2002, transferred to Las Vegas Colony in 2020, and became a Life Member in 2019 with the State of Maine Membership Society, General Society Mayflower Descendants.



The Signers Chapter will be meeting again in early September and our guest speaker will be Claire White.



Claire is the Director of Education at The Mob Museum. She is responsible for the creation of educational and interpretive programs featured on-site and across Southern Nevada. She oversees a team of nearly twenty educators who conduct educational programs daily at The Mob Museum. She also contributes to the Museum's exhibits and blog, primarily focused on topics related to Prohibition, Las Vegas history and the New York Mob. White earned an MA in public history from the University of South Carolina and a BA in history and secondary education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has nearly two decades of experience in museums and archives, including the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas and the Nantucket Historical Association & Whaling Museum in Massachusetts. She has guided the creation of standards-based classroom outreach programs and educational resources for both museums and archives, including The Mob Museum's award-winning educational outreach program Investigating history and the Nantucket Historical Association's Museum in My School. White has been interviewed as a subject matter expert for newspapers, periodicals, documentaries, television shows and podcasts, including 20/20, Inside Edition, Vegas PBS, History's Greatest Heists with Pierce Brosnan, and Josh Gates Tonight.

**9am Saturday, September 7, 2024, at Egg Works Restaurant, 2025 Village Center Circle, Las Vegas, NV.**



The Signers Chapter SAR and Silver State Chapter DAR are co-hosting the annual Constitution Day Dinner on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. It will be held at the Las Vegas National Golf Club, 1911 E Desert Inn Road in Las Vegas.



We are honored to have Dr. Michael Green, esteemed Professor of History at UNLV, as our guest speaker. Dr. Green teaches classes for both the history department and the Honors College. His courses range throughout U.S. history, but his teaching and research particularly focus on Las Vegas and Nevada history, the Civil War era and Abraham Lincoln, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

He is the author of *Nevada: A History of the Silver State* and co-author of *Las Vegas: A Centennial History*, among other books and articles about Nevada. He has published three books on the Civil War era, including *Lincoln and the Election of 1860* and *Politics and*

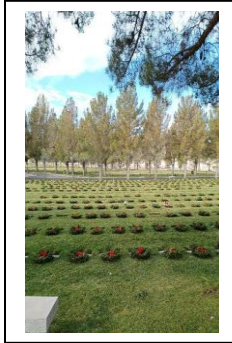
*America in Crisis: The Coming of the Civil War*. He writes "Nevada Yesterdays," read by former U.S. Senator Richard Bryan, for KNPR and Nevada Humanities. A former journalist, he has served as a columnist for *Nevada's Washington Watch* and *Vegas Seven*. He is a member of the board of directors for The Mob Museum, for which he was one of the researchers.

We will be collecting donations, dropped off by attendees at the event, for the Las Vegas Fisher House to support its mission. A flyer and reservation form has been distributed which lists the types of items we are seeking to support the Fisher House's mission.



## Veterans Affairs

The Signers Chapter supports veterans each year in several ways.



The Signers Chapter helps the Las Vegas Fisher House with its mission by collecting donations and by participating in a day of service at the facility, when a group of chapter members and Nevada DAR chapter members cook a meal for the residents. At the September 14 Constitution Day Dinner, we will be collecting donations from attendees. The day of service occurs in mid-October.

The Las Vegas Fisher House was built in 2016. At that time the Signers Chapter initiated its program to support the house, where families of active-duty service personnel and veterans, being treated at the North Las Vegas VA Hospital and the Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center – Nellis Air Force Base, can stay for free to help their family member recover or be with them in their final days. The Las Vegas Fisher House is a pristine and well-managed safe haven with sixteen-bedroom suites. It is right across the street from the North Las Vegas VA Hospital and is the only Fisher House in Nevada. The first was built in Maryland in 1990, and almost 100 have now been built in the United States (plus two in Germany). The Fisher House has a web site which contains an Amazon Wish List to show the kind of items that are needed at a point in time. [Nevada: VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System - Fisher House Foundation.](#)

The chapter also supports the annual Wreaths Across America event, where organizations meet in December at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City to lay wreaths on veterans' graves. This year the event occurs on Saturday morning, December 14 at 7am. Compatriot Al Conant manages the program. He will issue a flyer soon.

## Registrar's Ramblings

Most SAR membership applicants rely on identifying a patriot ancestor in their family tree who participated in different forms of service to our new nation, while living in the eastern area of the country. But in some cases, an applicant will submit a membership application for a patriot ancestor of another country who performed a different form of service in a different area.

I came across one such applicant recently. His patriot ancestor is a Spanish Army soldier serving in California in the 1770s. The Society has begun to accept membership based on the patriot service of such soldiers, because the Spanish were fighting England in many land and sea battles which helped our nation win its independence.

A member of the California SAR South Coast Chapter recently posted a tribute to two authors, Granville W. and Nancy C. Hough, who published Spain's California Patriots in its 1779-1783 War with England during the American Revolution.

This great effort by the Houghes and the Sons of the American Revolution is already promoting an awareness of the Spanish military contributions in the colonization and development of the United States. On March 20, 1998, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, accepted as members, for the first time, two descendants from Spanish soldiers who served in Alta California during the Revolutionary War.

A different Spanish soldier, Josef Vicente Feliz, was a corporal in the Spanish Army that escorted parties that founded Mission San Gabriel and established el Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles on 4 September 1781. The new site was called the "Town of the Queen of Angels". Josef is recognized by the SAR as an SAR Patriot and the applicant is proving his lineal descent in order to become a member of the SAR and the Signers Chapter.



## Patriot Chest Highlights

Our patriot chest, an accumulation of Revolutionary War artifacts, replicas, uniforms, and maps, is intended for use in a youth education program, waiting to be established. The items in the chest offer an opportunity to teach American youth about life in the new nation, 250 years ago.

One such item, a fife, which is a smaller version of a flute, has a rich history going back to the 1400s, when a Swiss infantry unit defeated a supposedly invincible heavy Burgundian cavalry force in 1476 because of the use of a fife and snare drum to signal precise movements to a tight and mobile formation of soldiers. These effective techniques were copied all over Europe within a few years. The reason they were effective was due to the sound the instruments created that could be heard over the din of battle for up to 3 miles.

Use of the fife and drum for military units was brought to the colonies by the British Army and were used in the French and Indian War and later, the Revolutionary War. One of the first deaths of an American militia fifer occurred at the beginning of the Revolutionary War in Lexington, MA in April 1775.

Fifers were often boys aged 10-15, too young to be a soldier, or older men. They were used not only in battle, but to signal the commencement of activities while in camp or on marches. Fife and drum teams wore different clothing to be recognized easily by officers who gave commands through their fife and drum team. They were sometimes targeted in battles due to their importance in directing soldiers during battles.

