



# PATRIOT



## *President's Message*

Hello Compatriots,

As this leap year comes to an end, so does my term as our Chapter President. It has been my honor to serve our Compatriots. After 26 years as a SAR member, I finally made it past my 3rd Vice President term in the same Chapter so that I could move to the President spot. This task was made far easier and effective due to the outstanding service by some of our outstanding Compatriots! Those heroes include, Al and Dan Conant, Don Hotchkiss, Gary Watson, David Bently, and Tim Hagan. These gentlemen have worked above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that we move forward into the future with our great and growing membership, outstanding meetings, and growing generation of funds for Scholarships, Charities, and Cadet recognition. In addition, our participation in "Wreathes Across America" and our recent volunteer work for the Fisher House are just two more instances of our patriotic commitments.

I am very proud to have established our new monthly meeting venue at the Egg Works in Summerlin. This restaurant has proven to be a great asset regarding room size, extensive menu choices, outstanding service, and quiet from the rest of the restaurant. I understand that this is a cross-the-Valley trip for our Henderson members, but we haven't been able to find anywhere more central that offers these benefits. This location has been getting us much better monthly attendance, and that is a very exciting change as well.

One more feature that I am thrilled about is the return of our Colonial Color Guard. Several of those Compatriots already mentioned were key players in making this happen. I've already had a great experience with my new Colonial Uniform. I joined members Gary Parriott and Tommy Thompson on the November 11 Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Las Vegas. We participated in uniform with his daughter Jenny's DAR Chapter. I can already see that getting back into that part of the SAR tradition will be a great thing.

Again, it has been my honor to serve our Chapter, and I'm looking forward to helping our next President, David Bently, take us to the next level!

**President Jeff Gutting**

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

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

**Saturday, December 14, 8am,** Wreaths Across American event at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, NV. Meet at 8am; event starts at 9am.

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

**Saturday, February 1, 9am,** Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin.

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

**Saturday, March 1, 9am,** Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin.

**Saturday, March 22,** Nevada Society SAR, Annual Meeting, Reno.

## November Event

Compatriots Jeff Gutting, Gary Parriott and Tommy Thompson joined the Las Vegas DAR Francisco Garces Chapter participating in the November 2024 Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade.

## December Planned Event

On December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8am, volunteers meet to participate in the annual Wreaths Across America event at the Boulder City Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Attendees lay wreaths on graves of veterans to honor their sacrifices for our country. Last year over 12,500 wreaths were laid by hundreds of attendees. It was the largest group ever to participate and it only took two hours for the wreaths to be laid. Eight chapter members volunteered, of which six are pictured below.



The annual SAR Chapter Christmas Party happens again in Henderson on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. A flyer was distributed which identifies the location and confirms the need to call Don Hotchkiss Jr. to RSVP and declare the food item to be brought to the event. A list of attendees must be available at the security gate so be sure to call Don as soon as possible.

A festive holiday-themed flyer for a Christmas party. The background is a grid of red and green squares with various holiday icons like snowflakes, stars, circles, garlands, balloons, and hearts. The text is centered in a white box with a pink border.

You're invited - SAR Signers Chapter

# Holiday Party

*Dec. 7, 5:00-9:00 pm*

40 Quail Run Road  
Henderson, NV

Please bring Hors d'Oeuvres or a dessert item.  
Business casual attire.

Confirm your attendance and planned  
food item by contacting Don at

*donhotchkisslv@yahoo.com*  
or 702-875-1893

December 15 is **Bill of Rights Day**. We celebrate the first 10 amendments to the US Constitution, which were ratified in 1791. These amendments protect our most fundamental rights – freedom of speech, protest, and conscience, and guarantees our equal protection under the law.

During the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations in 1941, Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the President, “to issue a proclamation designating December 15, 1941, as Bill of Rights Day, inviting the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and prayer”.

After the Constitution was ratified in 1788, James Madison, who had already helped draft much of the original Constitution, took up the task of drafting a bill of rights. Madison largely drew from the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which was primarily written by George Mason in 1776 (two months before the Declaration of Independence); he also drew from amendments suggested by the states’ ratifying conventions.

Madison drafted 19 amendments, which he proposed to Congress on June 8, 1789. The House of Representatives narrowed those down to 17; then the Senate, with the approval of the House, narrowed them down to 12. These 12 were approved on September 25, 1789, and sent to the states for ratification.

The first two amendments in the 12 that Congress proposed to the states were rejected: The first dealt with apportioning representation in the House of Representatives; the second prevented members of Congress from voting to change their pay until the next session of Congress.

For more than two centuries—as we have exercised, restricted, expanded, tested, and debated those freedoms—the Bill of Rights has shaped and been shaped by what it means to be American.

## Meet your 2025 Signers Chapter Leadership Team

President – David Bentley

President Emeritus – Jeff Gutting

Vice President – Patrick Wright

Secretary – Sam Strahan

Treasurer – Al Conant

Registrar – Gary Watson

Genealogist – Tim Hagan

Chaplain – David Lee

Sergeant-at-Arms – Daniel Conant

Awards Committee Chairman – Patrick Wright

Veterans Committee Chairman – Gary Watson

ROTC / JROTC Committee Chairman – David Bentley

Social Media Committee Chairman – TBD

Color Guard Commander – Mel Butler

Patriot Chest Youth Education Committee – Gary Watson

Speakers Program Chairman – Don Hotchkiss Jr.

Fireworks Booth Fundraiser Program Chairman – Don Hotchkiss Jr.

Several positions on the chapter leadership team remain open and compatriots are encouraged to contact Al Conant at [aeconant@aol.com](mailto:aeconant@aol.com) to join the 2025 team.

## Welcome New Signers Chapter Compatriots and Applicants

### Approved earlier in 2024:

Dave Collins

John Collins

### Inducted at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Breakfast meeting:

Darryl McGinnis

William (Bill) Amerman

### Approved in November 2024 (to be inducted):

Tim Friden (and his father, Jan Sargent)

Eric Swanson

Robert Reed

### Submitted awaiting approval:

Chuck Arnold

David Lee

Anthony Connolly

Stan Vaughan

Eli Magaña

Steven Fields

The year 2024 was eventful for the Signers Chapter. It was the chapter's 60 anniversary year. The number of inductees in the chapter's Hall of Fame increased by four at the September Constitution Day dinner to recognize the contributions of Don Hotchkiss Jr., Al Conant, Tommy Thompson, and Gary Parriott. A list of 2024 accomplishments is worth mentioning because it highlights just how much progress was made by the chapter's leadership team.

President Jeff Gutting started the year seeking to increase member attendance at chapter events. Besides personally calling as many compatriots as possible monthly, he found a better venue for breakfast meetings, which at first were every other month. Not only did attendance increase, and meetings occurred monthly, but the new venue's meeting room was superior. The two annual dinner events, at the Las Vegas National Golf Club in February and September, were rousing successes.

Efforts by Don Hotchkiss Jr. to improve the quality of featured speakers, with the help of Lauri Oakden-Binder, were remarkable. Don also helped in the effort to improve the chapter's social media platform, working with Gary Watson to re-establish the chapter's Facebook page, which now has over 40 followers. A new marketing platform, Constant Contact, was implemented due to Don's support, which improved how information is distributed to chapter members and others. A new monthly newsletter was started in September to further increase awareness of chapter activities and deliver educational content about founding fathers and events that fostered the founding of the United States. And Secretary Tim Hagan successfully launched a new and improved State and Chapter web page.

The ROTC/JROTC Awards Program, the Scholarships Program, the July Fireworks Booth Fundraiser Program, and ongoing support of the Las Vegas Fisher House were successfully managed to meet the goal of supporting the community, youth, and veterans. Don also championed a resurrection of the chapter Color Guard Unit by acquiring uniforms and associated gear for up to 10 compatriots.

It was a successful year, and the entire leadership team deserves credit.

2024 Event Pictures

