



PATRIOT



President's Message

As we stand on the threshold of our nation's 250th anniversary, the work we do together has never felt more meaningful. Our America250 Committee is advancing with purpose and passion, nearing completion on a monument that will stand at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery—an enduring tribute to the first veterans of our republic. These brave patriots laid the foundation for our freedom, and soon, we will mark their sacrifice with the honor and permanence it deserves.

This monument is not just stone and inscription—it is a message to future generations that liberty is hard-won and must be safeguarded. We are the stewards of this legacy, and it is our privilege to carry it forward.

In that same spirit, our annual fireworks booth fundraiser event is fast approaching, and we need your hands and hearts to make it a success. This fundraiser is vital to our chapter's mission, supporting youth programs, community outreach, and historical remembrance. But more than that, it's an opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with your compatriots and show our community the living face of patriotism. Please contact Don Hotchkiss to lend your time and energy at 702-875-1893.

Our chapter's Color Guard is also coming to life—uniforms are being issued and drill practices will soon begin. This is a powerful way to honor our ancestors through public display and ceremony, and I encourage all interested members to join this growing team.

Let us continue to serve with pride, to remember with reverence, and to act with resolve. We are more than keepers of the past—we are builders of the future.

David Bentley, President, Signers Chapter, Nevada State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 7, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Saturday, June 26 – Friday, July 4, Fireworks Booth Fundraiser

Saturday, August 2, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Saturday, Sept. 6, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Eggs Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Saturday, Sept. 13, 5pm, Constitution Day Dinner, Las Vegas National Golf Club

Saturday, Oct. 4, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Eggs Works Restaurant, Summerlin

May 2025 Events

The SAR Signers Chapter met Saturday, May 3rd in Las Vegas for its monthly breakfast meeting at the Egg Works Restaurant in Summerlin. Thirty-three attendees were able to meet with fellow compatriots and members of their families, along with six members of several Las Vegas DAR chapters.

During the 90-minute meeting three new members were inducted into the Society. Tim Trammel, Alan Woods, and David Gibbs received their membership certificates and Rosette pins from Chapter President, David Bentley. Each new member then described his patriot ancestor.

Miguel Sierra, Volunteer Coordinator of the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home, described the 20-year-old facility that is the residence of 175 female and male veterans or their spouses in Boulder City. Compatriot Don Hotchkiss, Jr. then gave a multi-media presentation on the events 250 years ago in Lexington & Concord, Massachusetts, when the eight-year Revolutionary War began in 1775.

America250 Committee Chairman Bob Reed described options for a memorial that the chapter hopes to have placed at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City honoring all Revolutionary War veterans who helped found our nation and blessed all of us with the freedom that came with independence.

Al Conant presented the financial status of the chapter and as Chairman of the Events Committee, described two upcoming May DAR events, the June/July chapter Fireworks Booth fundraiser, as well as the September Constitution Day dinner and December Wreaths Across American event. Fireworks Booth Project leader Don Hotchkiss, Jr. asked members to help fill time slots for operating the fireworks booth this year.

David Bentley thanked all the members who volunteered to attend the thirty different JROTC/ROTC award ceremonies in Las Vegas this Spring at high schools and UNLV, handing out SAR certificates & medals to unit-selected cadets.

Chapter members in attendance voted to confirm the counties in Nevada that are considered the southern Nevada chapter's territory for purposes of recruiting and assigning Chapter memberships. The territory includes Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye counties.

Veterans Committee Co-Chairs Gary Watson and Don Hotchkiss Jr. wish to thank all the members, including DAR chapter members, who brought donations of hygiene products so the Signers Chapter can fulfill its mission to support the Veterans Home this year.



Question: We all know about Paul Revere's ride but who were the other two Patriots that also rode out to rally the Militia?

AMERICA250

The celebration has already started, and it is glorious!

Events and activities will take place during the next year in anticipation of the 250th birthday of our country, the United States of America!

The Signers Chapter will not be left out!

The final design of a monument to be erected in the Memorial Garden of the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City is close to completion. The monument will honor the “first” veterans of our country. The chapter’s America250 team is hoping that the design and costs will be ready to present to our members at the June 7th breakfast meeting.

Once the design is approved by our members, a Cemetery Advisory Committee will review the design and hopefully approve our project. After the approval is received, approximately four months will be needed to construct the monument.

The monument should be completed and installed well before July 4, 2026. We will announce a dedication time and date in the future as progress is made. Keep in mind that we will not be able to have the dedication on July 4th due to the chapter’s fireworks booth activity.

A project like this requires donations. Included in this newsletter is a solicitation letter that you might find helpful when talking to businesses that you frequent.

The team will keep you up to date on our progress via our meetings and through this newsletter.





Bob Reed, Chair SAR America250

Signers Chapter-Southern Nevada

501-c3 nonprofit (EIN: 31-1456157)

As our nation embarks on the exciting journey towards recognizing ***America's 250th Birthday***, the southern Nevada Signers Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), is thrilled to share a unique opportunity for you to contribute to this meaningful project that honors our heritage and celebrates our community's role in preserving American history.

Our organization is spearheading the installation of an America250 SAR Patriots monument at the site of the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. This monument will serve as a tribute to the very first American Veterans; the brave men and women who fought in the American Revolution for the freedoms we cherish today. Additionally, this monument will honor their legacy and educate future generations about their invaluable contributions.

Our chapter realizes that raising the project's full amount can be a challenge, so we are seeking support from generous individuals and local organizations. This collective effort will ensure the success of this important project. The project's total cost is approximately \$8,000 with \$1,400 already secured. We need your help to raise the remaining \$6,600. Every donation, regardless of size, helps ensure our community has a lasting symbol of our nation's history. We will recognize your support on social media and at the dedication ceremony.

The Signers Chapter of SAR is dedicated to preserving our nation's history. Together, we can create a lasting legacy that honors American patriots and inspires future generations.

Thank you for your generosity and support. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to me, Bob Reed at usveterans@cox.net or call 702-340-5716.

Make check payable to: Signers Chapter SAR (America250 in memo)

Mail donation to: Bob Reed, 10170 Pensive Ponder St., Las Vegas, NV 89178

June 2025 Planned Events

The **June 7th Breakfast meeting** will be held at 9am at the Egg Works Restaurant in Summerlin. The **featured speaker will be chapter compatriot Don Hotchkiss, Jr.**, who will describe the Bunker Hill Battle in Massachusetts.

The Battle of Bunker Hill, fought on June 17, 1775, was a significant early battle in the American Revolutionary War, demonstrating the resilience of colonial forces against the British Army despite being a tactical victory for the British. The battle occurred during the Siege of Boston, shortly after the battles of Lexington and Concord. The British aimed to secure control over the surrounding hills to maintain their hold on Boston and its harbor.



After the Battle of Bunker Hill, American militia continued to come to Boston from all over New England and surround the British soldiers within the city from the heights above – the “Siege of Boston” as it came to be called. A stalemate developed between the two sides, as the British could not reliably occupy the city until reinforcements arrived from England, while the Americans remained short of supplies and organization to drive the British out of Boston. As long as the British controlled the city’s harbor, they could resupply themselves. Something had to change this situation.

Henry Knox, a bookshop proprietor, and a voracious reader met General George Washington shortly after Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the newly created Continental Army on June 15, 1775. Most of the Continental Army’s soldiers had little to no military experience, so Knox’s knowledge of military strategy, gained through his vast reading of the topic, stood out to Washington.

Immediately, Knox showed his strategic and daring nature by proposing that the situation in Boston be broken by deploying heavy artillery to the battlefield. The only problem was that the Americans did not have any heavy artillery. They lacked most items needed for an army, including gunpowder, arms, and shelter.

Knox’s solution was to travel over three hundred miles to the western shore of Lake Champlain to retrieve cannons from Fort Ticonderoga, captured from the British by a

Vermont militia group led by Ethan Allen, and with the help of Benedict Arnold, on May 10, 1775. The fort contained French-made heavy cannons and mortars. The issue was how to move cannons, some weighing up to 5,000 pounds, over mountains, across rivers, and up and down difficult terrain to Boston, given the limited constraints of eighteenth-century technology. Some in the Continental Army considered the idea foolhardy, but George Washington sent Knox to Ticonderoga anyway.

As winter approached and the two armies stood dormant to wait out the colder conditions, Knox left for Ticonderoga on November 16, 1775. His first order of business was to obtain what he needed to move massive cannons across rugged terrain. He secured soldiers, other manpower, animals – mostly oxen – 500 fathoms (about half a mile worth) of three-inch rope, and forty-two “exceedingly strong” sleds for the job.

It is not disputed that the 120,000 pounds worth of cannons he delivered to George Washington dramatically shifted the situation in Boston and changed the course of the Revolutionary War.

On March 4, 1776, as the weather warmed, the cannons were placed on the high ground at Dorchester Heights, overlooking Boston Harbor. Upon learning what the Americans had done, British General William Howe exclaimed, “These fellows have done more work in one night than I could make my army do in three months.”

Because the American cannons were outside the range of British ships, Howe ordered the British evacuation of Boston. 120 ships carrying 9,000 British soldiers, as well as 1,200 British Loyalists, departed the city on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 1776. George Erving proclaimed to his fellow Loyalists, “Gentlemen, not one of you will ever see that place again.” The British never retook Boston, the city where the Revolutionary War began.

Henry Knox was made a colonel, and eventually a general.



Answer: William Dawes and Samuel Prescott also participated in the ride though Prescott was the only one of the three that completed the ride to Concord. Why do you ask? A little research will give you the answer!

Supporting the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home

The Signers Chapter initiated a program this year to support the Southern Nevada Veterans Home in Boulder City, and its approximately 175 residents, of which about a third are women veterans or spouses of veterans. The support entails collecting hygiene product donations and delivering them periodically, based on the accumulation of a sufficient volume of items. Hygiene products for residents are a type of donation considered very helpful.

Donation examples (full size): body wash, hair shampoo, foot powder, body powder, Sensodyne toothpaste and toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, hairbrushes and combs, women's scarves, deodorant, lip balm, lip sticks, disposable razors, skin creams, eye drops, Wet Wipes, eye glass lens cleaners and breath mints. Additional types of donations, such as small, knitted blankets and socks are also welcome.

The Veterans Committee will manage donation collections at breakfast meetings and dinner events. Chapter members are welcome to accompany the committee in delivering the donations to the Veterans Home, which will be announced in advance.

Please bring hygiene products, such as examples listed above to our breakfast meeting in June so we can arrange a delivery sometime before July 4th, 2025. The exact delivery date will be announced well in advance.



A Patriot's Story

Dennis Trammell was a Virginia colonist. He served from 1777 to 1783, as both a Lieutenant and a Captain with America's patriot forces during the American Revolution.

Dennis was born in Amelia Co., Virginia, in 1759. When he was a young boy his father moved the family to Orange Co., North Carolina, which is where he was living when he began his military service to the patriot cause, in August 1777, serving primarily in Georgia. After his first tour of service, he returned to Orange Co. and in February 1779 moved to South Carolina and became Captain of a volunteer cavalry unit, without a written commission. Dennis's war experience included participating in the battles of Cowpens and Eutaw Springs in 1781.

50 years after the end of the Revolutionary War, Dennis filed for a pension in December 1833 in Campbell County, Tennessee. Given that he had no formal commission or papers relating to his service (as was typically the case) he depended on fellow soldiers and character witnesses to vouch for him including John Adair, the former governor of Kentucky! Another witness, James Chitwood of Campbell County, said he lived near Dennis's father at the time of his enlistment. The approval process took years and in 1837 Dennis was approved for a pension of \$120 per year, paid retroactively from 1831. His pension application was an impressive document in which Dennis displayed a remarkable memory for events, their locations, and the names of commanding officers on both sides. But despite the facts laid out in the application, it was rejected. The reviewers could not find corroborating records of the cavalry unit. After providing additional proofs his pension application was approved by a special vote of Congress on March 2, 1839.

Dennis died March 29, 1849, at the age of ninety and is buried in Trammell Cemetery in present-day Scott Co., Tennessee. A new tombstone for Dennis was laid in 2009. About seventy-five persons, most of whom were direct line descendants of the Revolutionary War Militia Captain, turned out for a patriotic ceremony on Saturday, June 20, 2009. It was an event dedicated to the memory of a man born more than 250 years ago. A finely crafted monument honoring Trammell's exploits in the war was unveiled and his life revisited. For Stephen P. Trammell it was just another chore he took upon himself to do in a mammoth undertaking stretching over several months, consuming much of his time and money, but one which would culminate in the unveiling of a monument to a man who made many sacrifices for his country.

Participating in the event were a small group of 'patriots' decked out in period clothing of Colonial America, some armed with period and/or replica firearms. Among them was past president of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, along with a local group of 'shooters,' who fired a volley in honor of Capt. Trammell. Cub Scout 182 was in charge of the flag-raising ceremony; and unveiling the monument were either 4th or 5th great-grandsons of Capt. Trammell.

Several fourth great-granddaughters of Capt. Trammell read certificates for the various flags--all of which, it turns out, had flown over their respective state capitols in recent weeks as was the case with the U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. Margaret Terrell of the Clinch Bend Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.), and Rose Mary Hill Green, 5th great-granddaughter of Capt. Trammell, joined in laying a wreath at the monument site. Scott County Mayor Rick Keeton also participated in the program, and read a resolution recently adopted by the Scott County Board of County Commissioners designating June 20, 2009, as 'Capt. Dennis Trammell Day'.

Of course, the man behind it all, Stephen P. Trammell, directed the ceremony, making several personal, emotional and patriotic comments from his opening remarks through his introductions of participants and in his final comments concerning the 'Freedom Soil' he had collected during a tour of all the places that Capt. Dennis Trammell had lived or fought from his birthplace in Amelia County, Virginia to his final resting place in Scott County, Tennessee. The program, although just over an hour in length, was a fitting tribute to a true patriot whose legacy lives on in the form of what must be tens of thousands [of] descendants and a beautiful monument in the hills of East Tennessee.



Capt. Dennis Trammell is the patriot ancestor of new Signers Chapter compatriot, Tim Trammell.

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