



PATRIOT



President's Message

This past month, our Constitution Day Dinner was a rousing success, thanks to the dedication of so many of you who stepped forward to make it possible. From the outstanding turnout to the stirring presentation of the colors by our newly re-formed Color Guard, it was a proud moment for our Chapter and a fitting tribute to the Constitution we hold dear. I extend my deepest thanks to all who contributed their time, energy, and presence to make the evening so memorable.

Looking ahead, I encourage each of you to support our next major fundraiser—the bus tour we are hosting during the Goodsprings Fallout Days event in November. This unique celebration blends popular culture with local history, drawing visitors from near and far. Our fundraiser not only raises vital funds for our programs but also provides us with an opportunity to connect a wider audience.

I also want to express my gratitude to our America250 Committee for their continued success in bringing the America's First Veterans Memorial Monument closer to reality. With the design approved and monument soon ready, we are making history together. This project will stand as a lasting testament to the courage and sacrifice of the patriots who secured our independence.

Finally, I encourage members to take part in the July 2026 Reading of the Declaration of Independence event. This is a wonderful chance to honor the wisdom of our Founders and to reflect, word by word, of their declaration of rights and the right to independence from Britain.

I invite you to join us for our next membership meeting on Saturday, October 4th at 9:00 a.m. at the Egg Works Restaurant in Summerlin. Your presence and participation are what give strength to our Chapter.

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

Upcoming Calendar of Events

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

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

Friday, Dec. 19, 5pm, Signers Chapter Christmas dinner, Las Vegas National Gold Club

September 2025 Events

The Signers Chapter met for its monthly breakfast meeting on Saturday, September 6. President David Bentley welcomed Camden Zeiler, President of the Nevada Society, Children of the American Revolution (CAR), and his mother Ida so Camden could describe his Society's community service project this year, supporting the North Las Vegas Fisher House.

Then David inducted six new members to the National Society SAR and the Signers Chapter. From left to right: Craig Wuest, James Walker, David Maffey, Joseph Cosner III, Anthony Jay Berkley and Major Russell Kingsbery received their membership certificates and SAR Rosette pins.

Compatriot Ben Allen was awarded his 30-year membership pin and was honored for his long and faithful service to the chapter and the state. His 104-page book, *A History of the Sons of the American Revolution in Nevada*, which had been available on Amazon until supplies ran out, will hopefully be reprinted in the near future. An effort is ongoing at the State level to upgrade the book for next year's America250 celebrations, since the book covered events from 1910 to 2015.

The meeting's 31 attendees were treated to a history of the United States Electoral College by chapter compatriot, David Gibbs. Using PowerPoint slides, David revealed the contentious process involved in establishing what we have today and used maps of the states for all of the four-year Federal Elections when our President and Vice President were selected, showing how each state impacted the outcomes.



The annual **September Constitution Day Dinner**, co-hosted by the Nevada Society DAR Silver State Chapter and the Nevada Society SAR Signers Chapter, was held at the Las Vegas National Golf Club on Saturday, September 13th. More than 50 DAR and SAR chapter members and members of their families witnessed a presentation of the colors by the chapter's Color Guard unit.

Then attendees saw the induction of two new compatriots to the Signers Chapter Hall of Fame. Lt. Col. Frank Gagliardi and Charles Smith V were recognized for their significant contributions to the SAR Signers Chapter and to the State & National Society. They became the twelfth and thirteenth compatriots honored on the Hall of Fame plaque since it was created in 2004.

Jeff Gutting, State President, Nevada Society SAR, received the Hannah White Arnett Silver Medal of Distinction from the DAR/SAR/S.R. Relations Committee of the National Society DAR.

Special guest and featured speaker, Mark Hall-Patton, described the six U.S. Constitution Amendments that were not ratified by at least 38 states.



October 2025 Events Planned

Don Hotchkiss Jr. returns to the podium at the Saturday, October 4th breakfast meeting to deliver a presentation on the siege of Boston, which took place between April 19, 1775, and March 17, 1776. Four thousand British troops had been sent to occupy Boston. The siege forced the British to eventually abandon the city.

Question: How much did the Revolutionary War cost Great Britain in today's dollars?

Special Event in Las Vegas



The Nevada Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and The American Battlefield Trust are excited to feature the American Revolution Experience. The innovative pop-up exhibition includes display panels and interactive digital kiosks that use storytelling illustrations, technology, and unique artifacts and primary accounts to connect modern audiences with the people and places that shaped the birth of our nation. We invite you to join us.

FREE EXHIBIT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

***September 29–October 3, 2025**, at Las Vegas FamilySearch Center, 501 South 9th Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Answer: The war with colonies cost the British today's equivalent of 39 billion dollars.

Bob Reed, Chair SAR America250 Committee
Signers Chapter-Southern Nevada

501(c)(3) nonprofit (EIN: 31-1456157)

As you can see from the thermometer, we are getting ever closer to our goal of raising \$10,000 for our America250 monument project!

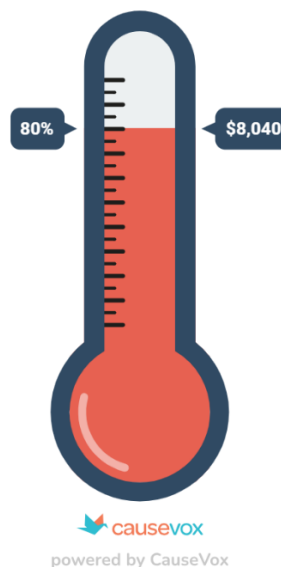
Thank you to all who have made donations!

There is still time to contribute! This can be done in several ways including donating stock. We have an account set up through Charles Schwab so that it is an easy transaction. Remember, we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization so your donation may provide you with a tax deduction benefit!

Just a quick update on our progress:

- The Veteran's Cemetery has approved our monument design and the placement location within the Memorial Garden.
- The monument has been ordered with a delivery date from the quarry of November or December.
- The inscriptions are scheduled for completion in January or February.
- The slab for the monument will need to be installed in March.
- Placement of the monument in the cemetery is expected in April or early May.
- Dedication of the monument is projected to take place in late May.

GOAL: \$10,000



The American Revolution in the West

Most historical accounts that describe events during the Revolutionary War focus on the lands east of the Alleghany Mountains, containing most of the population of the thirteen colonies along the Atlantic seaboard. However, a few historical accounts describe events that occurred west of the Alleghany Mountain range. This vast area, covering what is now the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia was claimed by the British from the end of the French & Indian War in 1763, until the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

While General George Washington commanded the Continental Army during the war, another George, the older brother of William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition, commanded a much smaller but effective army that fought in the Northwest Territory, present-day Illinois, Indiana, and parts of Ohio.

George Rogers Clark was an American militia officer from Virginia. He became the highest-ranking patriot military officer on the northwestern frontier during the Revolutionary War. Clark led his army to capture key forts in what was called the Illinois campaign, also known as Clark's Northwestern campaign, in 1778-1779. Success in the captures of Fort Kaskaskia and Fort Vincennes significantly ended British control of the Northwest Territory, which was eventually handed over to the Americans by England in the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War.

Some historians have credited Clark's leadership with nearly doubling the size of the original Thirteen Colonies. For this reason, Clark was acclaimed "Conqueror of the Northwest", and his Illinois campaign—particularly his surprise march on Vincennes—was greatly celebrated and romanticized.

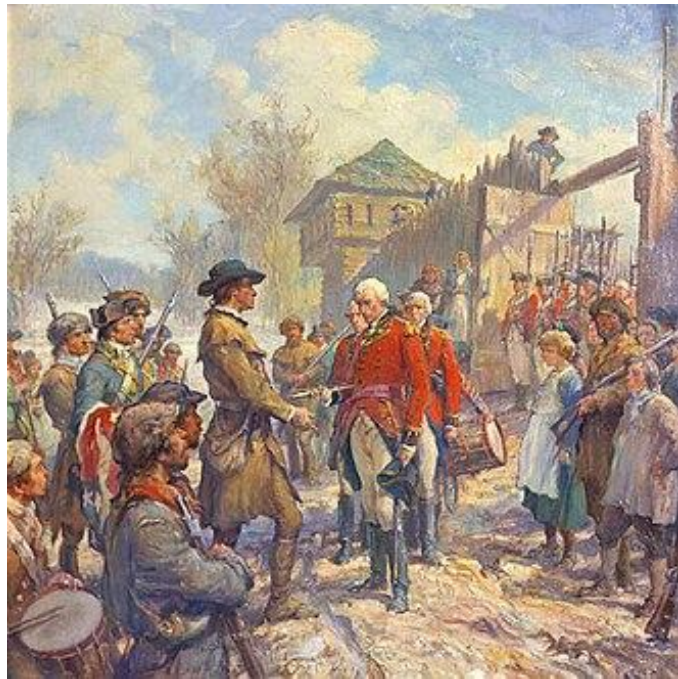
Clark's army had taken Fort Sackville, previously called Fort Vincennes, along the Wabash River in what is now southwestern Indiana, in the summer of 1778. But British and Indian forces led by British Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton, marched south from Fort Detroit to recapture it later that year. Clark learned of Hamilton's plans to attack other settlements in the spring of 1779, so he gathered a force to retake the fort. The surprise winter attack was to occur in early 1779. Clark explained his reasons for the march in a letter to Virginia Governor Patrick Henry:

"I know the case is desperate; but, sir, we must either quit the country or attack Mr. Hamilton. No time is to be lost. Were I sure of a reinforcement, I should not attempt it. Who knows what fortune will do for us? Great things have been affected by a few men well conducted. Perhaps we may be fortunate. We have this consolation that our cause is just, and that our country will be grateful and not condemn our conduct, in case we fall through; if so, this country as well as Kentucky, I believe, is lost".

In February 1779, in one of the most daring feats of the war, Clark led about 170 men on a grueling winter march of over 150 miles through flooded plains to retake Fort Sackville, capturing Governor Hamilton, who had decided to winter there.



Clark's march to Vincennes, by Frederick Coffay Yohn.



Fall of Fort Sackville by Frederick Coffay Yohn.