



PATRIOT



President's Message

As November begins, our thoughts turn to gratitude—gratitude for the blessings of liberty and for the brave men and women who have defended it throughout our nation's history. Veterans Day gives us an opportunity to honor that service and to reflect on the sacrifices that have preserved our freedoms for nearly 250 years.

The Signers Chapter has been invited to participate in the Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade on November 11th, and while we will not be providing a Color Guard this year, we are proud to be represented among our patriotic partners. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Gary Watson for serving as Acting Color Guard Commander while Mel Butler continues his recovery. His leadership and dedication are deeply appreciated.

Earlier this month, we were invited to provide four members in colonial uniform for the **PBS advance screening of Ken Burns' new documentary, *The American Revolution*, on November 4th**. This is a special opportunity to share our mission with the community and to highlight the living legacy of those who fought for independence.

As we approach the holiday season, we also look forward to our annual participation in **Wreaths Across America** at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Saturday morning, December 13th at 9am. In addition, the **Las Vegas Springs Chapter, NSDAR**, has invited us to take part in a **flag replacement and grave marking ceremony in Goodsprings, Nevada the same day at noon**—another meaningful way to honor those who have served our nation.

Let us continue to stand united in remembrance, service, and fellowship. Each of you plays an important role in carrying forward the values of our patriot ancestors and in keeping their spirit alive in the communities we serve.

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

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Saturday, Nov. 8, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Saturday, Dec. 13, 9am, Wreathes Across America events - Boulder City and Goodsprings

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

October 2025 Events

The Signers Chapter met in Summerlin for the Saturday morning, October 4th breakfast meeting. 32 attendees, including five members of several DAR chapters, helped welcome new member, Richard Parr, as he was sworn in by President David Bentley. A US Army veteran, Richard's patriot ancestor is Adam Spach Sr., born in France in 1720, who helped found our nation as a waggoner and a provider of supplies to the Continental Army in North Carolina.

President Bentley then presented Certificates of Appreciation from the Las Vegas Springs Chapter, NSDAR, to Signers Chapter members who presented the colors at their Revolutionary War Experience Traveling Exhibit at the FamilySearch Center in downtown Las Vegas. Jeff Gutting, Tim Hagan and Gary Watson were recognized for performing the presentation of colors in uniform as part of the chapter's Color Guard unit.



Don Hotchkiss, Jr. and his audio-visual expert, Luiz Marzullo, presented a detailed presentation on the 11-month Siege of Boston, which forced the evacuation of the British Army from Boston in March 1776. Don mentioned that Luiz is soon to become a US citizen.

Events Chair and Chapter Treasurer Al Conant reminded the audience of the upcoming chapter Christmas Holiday dinner, at the Las Vegas National Golf Club, at 5pm on Friday evening, December 19th.

Speaking for Robert Reed, Al announced that the Signers Chapter Monument Fund is within \$1,500 of its goal and that the monument is on track to be completed and installed in the spring of 2026 in the Memorial Garden of the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery to honor America's first veterans.

Al also discussed the 2026 NSSAR Nevada State Convention in Reno in April 2026.



November 2025 Events Planned

An advance viewing of a portion of Ken Burn's new documentary, The American Revolution, will happen on Nov. 4th at 5:30pm at the PBS offices on Flamingo and Pecos-McLeod. Four members of the Signers Chapter will attend in colonial uniforms.

Don Hotchkiss Jr. returns to the podium at the Saturday, November 8th breakfast meeting to deliver a presentation on the Battle of Quebec and the leadup to the Canada Campaign. **The members in attendance at the October 4th meeting voted to move the November meeting to the 8th from the 1st to accommodate changes in the availability of key restaurant staff.**

Compatriots Gary Parriott & Jeff Gutting will be attending the Veterans Parade in Las Vegas on Nov. 11th in colonial uniforms, participating with the Valley of Fire Chapter NSDAR chapter.

And on December 13th the annual Wreathes Across America event takes place at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery at 9am. Signers Chapter compatriots are asked to help lay wreathes on the graves of veterans, including those of past members of the Signers Chapter. The Las Vegas Springs Chapter NSDAR has asked our Color Guard to attend their event at Goodsprings Cemetery at noon that day.

America's First Veterans

More than a quarter of a million American men served in the armed forces that won our independence. Between eighty and ninety thousand of them served in the Continental Army, an all-volunteer army of citizens. All of these men risked their lives.

Those who survived the war became America's first veterans—the world's first veterans of an army of free men. The American republic owes its existence to them, but in the first years after the Revolutionary War, Americans found it difficult to acknowledge that debt, much less honor their service. Most American soldiers returned from their service in the Revolutionary War with nothing more than the personal satisfaction of duty faithfully performed.

Congress provided small pensions for men disabled in service. Most men discharged in good health received nothing. The generals who had led them were celebrated as heroes, but ordinary soldiers were rarely honored in the first decades after the war. It took decades, but Americans gradually realized that the common soldiers of our Revolutionary War were heroes, too. Those who lived to be old men were finally recognized as honored veterans of a revolution that had created the first great republic of modern times.

In 1818 Congress decided to award pensions to veterans in financial need, and in 1832 Congress voted to extend pensions to nearly all of the surviving soldiers and sailors of the Revolution. These were the first pensions paid to veterans without regard to rank, financial distress, or physical disability. They reflected the gratitude of a free people for the brave Americans who secured their freedom. Our commitment to the veterans of our time is a legacy of the American Revolution and our commitment, two hundred and fifty years ago, to honor and care for America's first veterans.

Excerpt from The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati.

SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

One of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, representing South Carolina in the Second Continental Congress, was 30-year-old Thomas Heyward, Jr.



Thomas and 55 other members of the Continental Congress who signed the Declaration are honored at the Constitution Gardens on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The memorial is accessible to the public by crossing a wooden bridge onto a small island set in the lake between Constitution Avenue and the Reflecting Pool, not far from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



Thomas Heyward Jr. served as a militia unit commander, a captain of artillery during the Revolutionary War. He was taken prisoner by the British during the siege of Charleston. On August 27, 1780, British troops took him from his Charleston home at 87 Church Street and detained him in the Old Exchange Building. Hours after being arrested, he and 28 other "ringleaders of the rebellion" were relocated to a guard ship in the harbor. On September 4, they were transported to St. Augustine, Florida, and remained there for about 11 months until they were freed in a prisoner exchange. While in prison, Heyward transposed a popular English song, "God Save the King" into "God Save the States".

The **Heyward-Washington House** is a historic house museum at 87 Church Street in Charleston, South Carolina. Built in 1772, it was the home where President George Washington stayed during his weeklong 1791 visit to the city. It is now owned and operated by the Charleston Museum. The house was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1970.





An outbuilding on the right in the backyard of the house was used for meetings of the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of South Carolina, which was formed on August 29, 1783, in Charleston with 117 original members under the leadership of General William Moultrie, its first president and the hero of the Battle of Sullivan's Island.





The Society of the Cincinnati was founded in 1783 by men who, at great personal sacrifice, had secured American independence after a long, bloody war fought against overwhelming odds. They felt strongly that this achievement, and the ideals it articulated of liberty, equality, and civic responsibility, should always be remembered, ideals as important today as they were in 1783. The founders of the Society assigned to their descendants the task of keeping alive the patriotic sacrifices that made American liberty a reality and the ideals upon which it had been won. Hereditary members of the Society are qualified male descendants of commissioned officers who served in the Continental Army or Navy, or of officers of the French royal forces who served in America during the Revolutionary War.