



PATRIOT



President's Message

As we move into February, I am pleased to share several important updates and invitations that reflect the continued growth and vitality of our Signers Chapter.

First, please join me in welcoming **David Pavey** as our new **Color Guard Commander**. We are grateful for his willingness to step into this leadership role, and we look forward to his guidance as we continue to represent the Sons of the American Revolution with dignity and pride at public events and ceremonies. I encourage all members to offer David your full support as he takes on this important responsibility.

I am also happy to announce the appointment of two new committee chairs as part of our effort to strengthen outreach and coordination within our recently defined chapter boundaries. **Bob Haywood** has accepted the position of **Clark/Lincoln Counties Chair**, and **Alan Woods** will serve as **Nye/Esmeralda Counties Chair**. These positions were created to improve communication, engagement, and activity coordination in our outlying areas. Please welcome Bob and Alan warmly and support them as they work to expand our chapter's presence and effectiveness throughout Southern Nevada.

February also brings one of the highlights of our SAR calendar. I strongly encourage all members to register for and attend the **George Washington's Birthday Dinner**. We have an excellent event planned, and it promises to be both meaningful and enjoyable. Your participation helps make this celebration a success and reinforces the fellowship that defines our chapter.

Finally, please begin making plans to attend the **Nevada Society Annual Meeting in Reno** this year. This will be an especially significant gathering, as our **President General** is planning to attend. I hope to see strong representation from the Signers Chapter as we support the Society and take part in this important statewide event.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Sons of the American Revolution and to the Signers Chapter. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events.

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

Upcoming 2026 Calendar of Event

Saturday, Feb. 7, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Saturday, Feb. 21, 5pm, George Washington's Birthday Dinner, Las Vegas National Golf Club

Saturday, Mar. 7, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Friday-Sunday, Mar. 27-29, NSSAR Annual Conference, Reno

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

Saturday, May. 2, 11am, Dedication of the Signers Chapter America250 Monument, Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City. (**No Breakfast Meeting**)

January 2026 Events

The SAR Signers Chapter held its first 2026 breakfast meeting in Summerlin Saturday morning, January 3rd. Early in the meeting eight new members were inducted into the chapter and Society.

Compatriot Don Hotchkiss Jr. presented an overview of the events, both political and military, of 1776 and described a volunteer opportunity for SAR members to help transcribe original pension applications of Revolutionary War veterans into digital media.

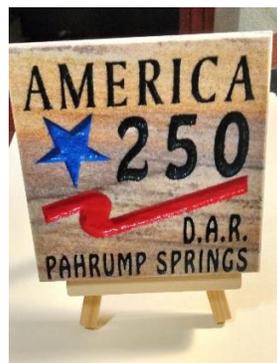
Chapter President David Bentley reminded members that ten volunteers are needed for this year's JROTC/ROTC Program award ceremonies at more than 30 high schools and UNLV, which commence in April.

Compatriot Bob Reed updated members on both the chapter's America250 Monument Dedication in early May and the reading of the Declaration of Independence in early July in downtown Las Vegas.

Compatriot Al Conant discussed the late March Nevada SAR Convention in Reno and the February 21 George Washington's Birthday dinner with featured speaker, Compatriot Stan Vaughan, who will highlight the exploits of Continental Naval Officer, John Paul Jones.



Nevada State President Jeff Gutting and Registrar Gary Watson visited Pahrump, Nevada to attend the DAR Pahrump Springs Chapter's monthly meeting. Chapter compatriot Alan Woods and his spouse, DAR member Cindy Woods also attended. DAR chapter Regent Robin Olson presented Jeff and Gary with a commemorative section of the chapter's Memorial Stone, which is placed outside the Pahrump Springs Museum, where the chapter meets.





February 2026 Planned Events

The Signers Chapter will meet Feb. 7 in Summerlin for its monthly breakfast meeting. Besides inducting new members, and getting updates about chapter leadership team projects, **Kamau Bakari** will discuss trivia and backstories about the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Kamau has lived in Nevada continuously since birth and has amassed a wealth of knowledge about the signers. He has been the owner of an electrical contractor business for 28 years. Kamau is the original owner of a 1976 Chevy pickup which he still drives. His hobbies are reading non-fiction and political topics.



The annual **George Washington's Birthday Dinner** will take place February 21st at 5pm at the Las Vegas National Gold Club at 1911 E. Desert Inn Road.

The dinner is co-hosted by the NSDAR Francisco Garces Chapter and will include a silent auction and raffle. Event attire is Jacket & Tie/Cocktail, Colonial, or Military.

If you did not receive an event flyer in your email inbox, please contact Bob Reed at usveterans@cox.net, or text / call 702-340-5716 before February 7th.



The featured speaker is Signers Chapter compatriot **Stan Vaughan**. He will highlight the exploits & achievements of Continental Naval Officer John Paul Jones.

Stan has written several books primarily about history and chess and is currently President of the Admiral John Paul Jones Russian American Friendship Society. Stan has continued to have a passion for history ever since he was the Woodmen of the World's 1971 Most Outstanding History student in the USA. Stan is featured on a Burundi 2011 postage stamp commemorating his being a Mensa High IQ Society member and WCCF World Correspondence Chess Champion. Stan was also the 1980 gold medalist in chess representing the USA in the International Student Games. A noted Cryptanalyst, he is noted for having solved the Shugborough Hall Monument Cipher, the Westminster Abby Shakespeare Monument cipher, and the infamous Zodiac 340 cipher.

The **Second Continental Congress** was a governing body of representatives from the American colonies that met during the early years of the **American Revolutionary War**.

Key facts:

- Met: May 10, 1775 – March 1, 1781
- Location: Philadelphia (with brief relocations due to the war)
- Members: Delegates from all 13 colonies
- It acted as the **national government** of the colonies during the Revolution.
- It coordinated the war effort against Britain.

Major actions:

- Created the **Continental Army** (1775)
- Appointed **George Washington** as commander-in-chief.
- Issued the **Declaration of Independence** (July 4, 1776), which was read aloud on election day, July 8th, on the footsteps of Philadelphia's Independence Hall.
- Managed foreign diplomacy, including alliances (notably with France).
- Printed money and supplied the army.
- Drafted the **Articles of Confederation**, America's first constitution.

End of the Congress:

- In 1781, after the Articles of Confederation were ratified, it was replaced by the **Congress of the Confederation**.

The Second Continental Congress did not have a fixed number of delegates, because attendance changed over time. In total, **about 56 delegates** from the **13 American colonies** participated at various points between 1775 and 1781. Individual colonies could send multiple delegates, and some delegates arrived late, left early, or were replaced, which is why the exact number present varied from session to session.

56 delegates of the Second Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence. They represented **13 colonies** and signed at different times (most on August 2, 1776). Not every delegate present signed, and a few signers were not present on July 4, but the official total remains **56 signatories**.

Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Richard Stockton's life reads like a dramatic arc of promise, patriotism, and profound sacrifice. His story stands out among the Declaration's signers because he suffered more directly for his commitment than almost any of his peers.



Born on October 1, 1730, near Princeton, New Jersey, into a wealthy and influential family, he received an elite education at West Nottingham Academy and later graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). He trained in law under a leading attorney and quickly became one of the most respected lawyers in the colonies. His family's prominence ran deep: his ancestors traced back to English gentry.

By 1776, Stockton was serving in the Continental Congress as a delegate from New Jersey. Known for his eloquence and legal acumen, he became the first person from New Jersey to sign the Declaration of Independence. Signing the document was not merely symbolic—it was an act of treason against the British Crown. Stockton understood the risks, pledging his “life, fortune, and sacred honor” alongside the other signers.

Stockton's fate took a tragic turn only months after signing. In late 1776, while traveling through New Jersey, he was captured by Loyalists and turned over to the British. He became the only signer of the Declaration to be imprisoned in irons. During his captivity, he was starved, held in brutal, freezing conditions, but after several weeks, he was released likely due to pressure from Congress and public outrage—but he never fully recovered.

While Stockton was imprisoned, British forces raided and plundered his estate, Morven. His law practice collapsed, and his once-considerable fortune was destroyed. He attempted to resume public life but remained in poor health. Stockton died on February 28, 1781, at just 50 years old—widely believed to be a consequence of the abuse he suffered during imprisonment.

His story is a stark reminder that the Founders' signatures were not ceremonial—they were acts of courage that carried life-altering consequences.