



PATRIOT



President's Message

Our **George Washington's Birthday Dinner** was a tremendous success — well attended, enjoyable, and a meaningful tribute to our nation's founding leader. Thank you to everyone who helped plan the evening, participated in the program, and joined us in fellowship. Events like this highlight the strength of our Chapter and the dedication of our members.

As we move into March, our calendar remains active with meetings, programs, and continued planning for our America 250 initiatives. These efforts represent important opportunities to advance our mission of education, patriotism, and historic preservation while strengthening our presence in the community.

I encourage each member to review our upcoming events and consider where you can participate. Whether attending meetings, supporting youth and scholarship programs, assisting with ceremonies, or volunteering behind the scenes, your involvement makes a difference. The continued success of the Signers Chapter depends on the engagement and commitment of our membership.

Thank you for your service, your enthusiasm, and the fellowship you bring to our organization. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

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

Upcoming 2026 Calendar of Event

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**)

Saturday, June 6, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

February 2026 Events

The SAR Signers Chapter held its breakfast meeting in Summerlin Saturday morning, February 7th. Attendance exceeded expectations but everyone had a seat at the tables, fortunately. Early in the meeting three new members were inducted into the chapter and Society. Featured speaker, Kamau Bakari, wowed the audience with his extensive knowledge of the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence. As Kamau quipped, he knows way more information than most people wish to hear, with lots of minutia about the Signers' lives, families, and legacies. Since the chapter is named after the signers of both the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, it was an enjoyable, informative talk.



George Washington's Birthday was celebrated at the Las Vegas National Golf Club by the Signers Chapter, Nevada Society SAR and the Francisco Garces Chapter, Nevada Society DAR on Saturday night, February 21, 2026. Members of five different NSDAR chapters attended the event.

Sixty-two dinner attendees stood at the beginning of the evening's event to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and listen to the singing of the National Anthem while six members of the Signers Chapter Color Guard presented and planted the US flag, Nevada State flag and the SAR flag.

Signers Chapter President David Bentley and Francisco Garces Chapter Regent Jenny Kean welcomed NSDAR State Chaplain Katie Henzel Brown, who read a letter addressed to the audience from the NSDAR State Regent, Mona Crandell Hook.

Awards were presented to seven SAR and DAR members who were recognized for their contributions to Signers Chapter programs in 2025.

Signers Chapter compatriot Stan Vaughan delivered an action-packed description of the Battle of Flamborough Head near the east coast of England that happened in September 1779, during which the Revolutionary War patriot Commodore John Paul Jones commanded the United States ship USS Bonhomme Richard. It was during this battle that Jones made the infamous statement, when asked to surrender, saying, "I have not yet begun to fight".







John Paul Jones (1747 – 1792)

Father of the American Navy

The 1779 battle of Flamborough Head

USS Bonhomme Richard, a 42-gun frigate of the Continental Navy

named for Founding Father Benjamin Franklin

On February 11, Signers Chapter compatriots met at the Las Vegas Sign on Las Vegas Blvd. to help kick off America250 celebrations in town. Clark County Commission Chairman Michael Naft hosted the special ceremony. The sign was lit in red, white, and blue to honor the historic milestone and the enduring principles upon which the nation was founded. The ceremony featured approximately 20 volunteers dressed in authentic 1776 attire, bringing history to life as the community reflects upon the nation's founding. The event recognized the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution for their work preserving the legacy of America's founding through historical preservation and education.



March 2026 Planned Events

The March 7 breakfast meeting will include a presentation by compatriot **Jay Berkley**, an avid philatelist, accomplished angler, a history buff, especially about historical Revolutionary War era sites on the east coast, fan of the Philadelphia Eagles since 1957, and a member of the chapter's revived Color Guard unit. Jay will explain the types of US Postal Service Bicentennial and Semiquincentennial U.S. Commemorative Postage Stamps for 1975-1976 and 2025-2026e, the stories behind them and the Revolutionary War patriots and events they celebrate.



Declaration of Independence

The list of grievances in the *Declaration of Independence* is the section where the American colonists explained why they were breaking away from King George III and Great Britain. It was the longest part of the document and listed 27 specific complaints against the king. These grievances argued that the King violated the colonists' natural rights and abused his power. A summarized list of the grievances follows.

Abuse of Executive Power

- Refusing to approve beneficial laws.
- Dissolving colonial legislatures when they opposed him.
- Refusing to allow new elections.
- Preventing population growth (blocking naturalization laws)

Main issue: He interfered with colonial self-government.

Obstructing Justice

- Refused to establish fair courts.
- Made judges dependent on him for salary and position.
- Denied colonists trial by jury.

Main issue: The legal system was controlled and unfair.

Military Oppression

- Kept standing armies in peacetime without consent.
- Forced colonists to house British soldiers (Quartering Act)
- Made the military independent of civilian government.

Main issue: The military was used to intimidate and control colonists.

Unfair Taxes & Trade Restrictions

- Imposing taxes without colonial consent (“taxation without representation”)
- Cutting off colonial trade with other parts of the world

Main issue: Colonists had no voice in economic decisions that affected them.

Denying Representative Government

- Parliament claimed power to legislate “in all cases whatsoever.”
- Colonial laws were overridden.

Main issue: Colonists were treated as subjects without political rights.

Acts of War Against the Colonies

- Burned towns.
- Destroyed lives and property.
- Sent foreign mercenaries (Hessians)
- Encouraged Native American attacks on frontier settlements.

Main issue: The king had effectively declared war on his own colonies.

By listing concrete examples of abuse, the colonies showed that separation wasn't impulsive — it was a last resort after repeated injustices. Without those grievances, independence might have looked like rebellion instead of a justified revolution.

The colonies had different economies and cultures, but many experienced similar problems under British rule. The grievances created a shared list of injustices that helped unite them against a common cause.

The grievances supported the Declaration's famous claim that governments must protect natural rights — “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

These ideas were influenced by Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke, who argued that people have the right to overthrow governments that violate their rights. The idea that governments can be criticized and held accountable became a powerful global principle. Many later revolutions used similar arguments when demanding freedom.

By clearly explaining their reasons, the colonies hoped to gain international sympathy and support — especially military help.

The list of grievances directly influenced the creation of the **U.S. Constitution (1787)** and especially the **Bill of Rights (1791)**. The colonists carefully designed the new government to prevent the same abuses they blamed on King George III.