



PATRIOT



President's Message

Compatriots,

As we move into the spring season, I am proud to report that the Signers Chapter continues to grow in both strength and purpose. It is encouraging to see continued enthusiasm as we approach the America 250 commemoration.

We now turn our attention to several important upcoming events. Most notably, on May 2nd, we will dedicate our America 250 Monument at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. This project represents a lasting tribute to America's first veterans and stands as a defining achievement for our chapter. I strongly encourage your participation in this historic event.

Looking ahead, preparations continue for the nationwide public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8th, where we will join compatriots across the country in honoring the moment our nation first proclaimed its independence to its citizens.

As always, I thank each of you for your continued dedication to our mission—promoting patriotism, preserving our history, and serving our community. Your involvement is what makes this chapter successful. 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, 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

Wednesday, July 8, 3pm, Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort, 500 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada

March 2026 Events

The Signers Chapter's monthly breakfast meeting on March 7, 2026, included the induction of two new members, updates on numerous chapter projects and a presentation by compatriot Jay Berkley. Chapter President David Bentley welcomed 39 attendees at the Egg Works Restaurant in Summerlin, which included chapter members, applicants, DAR chapter members and family members.

The chapter's region includes Clark, Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln counties. Chapter membership increased this month to 126. Interest in being part of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution continues to build this year, which includes the Semiquincentennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America250 projects are happening across the United States, and in southern Nevada the Signers Chapter will be active in them.

Compatriot Bob Reed described an upcoming national event when a public reading of the Declaration of Independence will occur on Tuesday, July 8 at the same time in all 50 states. For southern Nevada, that time will be 3pm, at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort at 500 E. Washington Ave. This timing coincides with the very first public reading of the new document in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, which was read at noon to a crowd in the Philadelphia State House Yard by Colonel John Nixon.

Another America250 project of the Signers Chapter is the dedication a new monument at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City on Saturday, May 2nd at 11am. The chapter's monument celebrates America's first veterans, who fought for our freedom and rights during the American Revolutionary War. The monument was designed, sourced, and fabricated by the chapter so that it could be installed at the cemetery's memorial garden. Compatriot Bob Reed has been coordinating with numerous dignitaries and media representatives who will attend, and the chapter's Color Guard will be present at the event.

Compatriot Jay Berkley highlighted numerous United States postage stamps celebrating the Revolutionary War, and the people, places and events made famous by the founding of our nation. Jay gave a detailed history behind these stamps, especially the Bicentennial and Semiquincentennial U.S. Commemorative Postage Stamps of 1975-1976 and 2025-2026e.

Compatriot Don Hotchkiss Jr. delivered the Invocation and Benediction for the meeting.

President David Bentley presented the Henry Knox Achievement medal and certificate to compatriot Bill Amerman, for his contributions and support for the chapter and its programs. And an award and medal were presented separately to Ruth Rauma for her many contributions to the Signers Chapter's programs in 2025.

Compatriot Gary Parriott stated that America250 Challenge Coins and other items are being sold by American Legion Post 76 for an America 250 monument. Contact Gary at 702-269-7823 for more information.

And membership at the meeting approved a motion to produce an America250 Color Guard Challenge coin for the Signers Chapter.

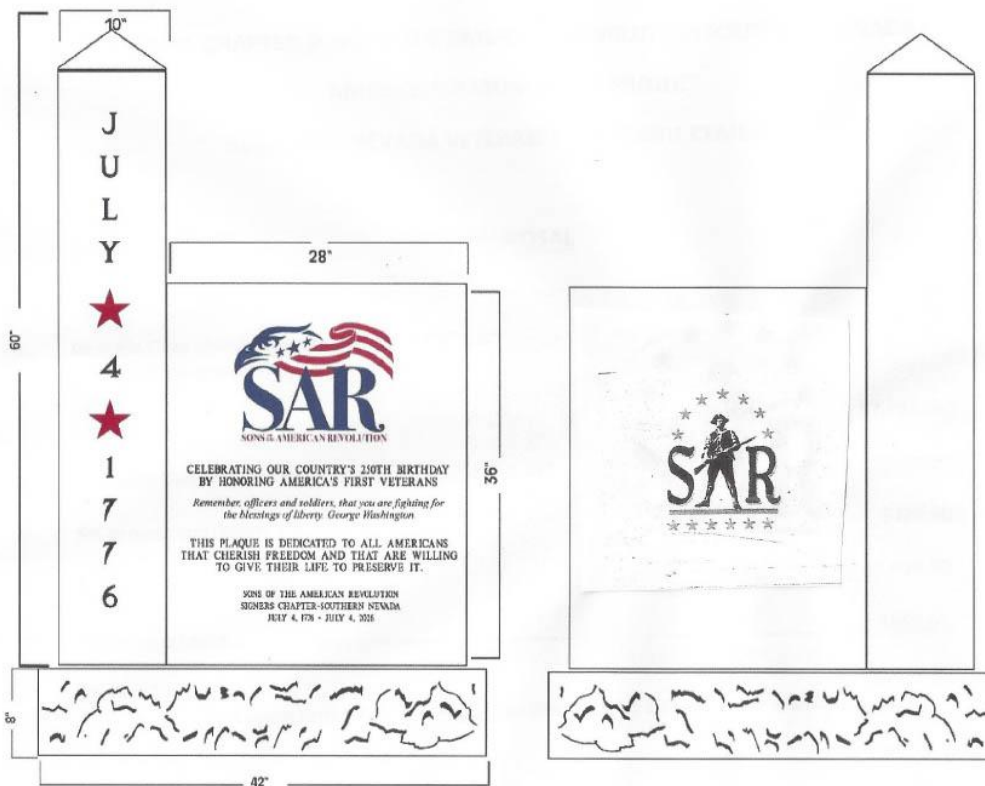
The Egg Works restaurant at 2025 Village Center Circle in Summerlin continues to be an effective meeting location for the chapter's monthly breakfast meetings based on its location and excellent servers. The meeting room has been able to handle the increasing number of attendees and our speakers have the media equipment to help them present their topics.



April & May 2026 Planned Events

The April 4th breakfast meeting will include a presentation by compatriot Gary Watson, highlighting the life and administration of the Prime Minister of Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War, who became known as the “Man Who Lost the American Colonies” for Great Britain, Frederick “Lord” North. Gary joined the Signers Chapter three years ago, in April 2023. A 35-year resident of Henderson, and a retired Accountant/Auditor, US Army veteran and currently Nevada State Registrar, learning more about the founding of our great nation is a passion.

In early May, the Signers Chapter will dedicate an America250 monument to America’s first veterans at the Memorial Garden of the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial



Cemetery in Boulder City. Because May 2nd is a Saturday when the chapter has its monthly breakfast meeting in Summerlin, there will be no meeting that day. Instead at 11am, a ceremony will be held at the cemetery’s Memorial Garden.

A Press Release will be issued by compatriot Bob Reed, inviting the public to the event.

Declaration of Independence

“Time makes more converts than Reason.”

This was part of the introduction in Thomas Paine’s 47-page pamphlet, *Common Sense*, published in Philadelphia in January 1776, advocating independence from Great Britain to inhabitants of the Thirteen Colonies.

Paine believed that the power of time was greater than the force of argument or persuasion, as it could reshape belief and compel even the most stubborn hearts to acknowledge what they once rejected.

Even after the American Revolutionary War began in April 1775, prominent colonists were reluctant to consider declaring independence from Great Britain. Instead, they considered themselves loyal subjects even as they resisted what they saw as the British Parliament’s tyrannical laws and unfair taxation.

Key points of *Common Sense* were:

- Independence from Britain was necessary.
- Monarchy and hereditary rule are unjust.
- The colonies had outgrown British rule.
- British rule was harmful to the colonies.
- A republic is the best form of government.
- Independence would bring economic and political benefits.
- It was the right moment to act.

These arguments were written in manner that was clear, bold and intended for ordinary colonists.

As Thomas Jefferson biographer Joseph J. Ellis wrote, *Common Sense* "swept through the colonies like a firestorm, destroying any final vestige of loyalty to the British crown." Within a few months of its publication, the Continental Congress instructed each colony to draft new state constitutions, an act that set the colonies clearly on the path to declaring independence. Thomas Jefferson, who had received an early copy of *Common Sense* in February 1776, began writing a formal document in June that would announce to the world that the new nation had been created.

Evacuation Day, March 17, 1776, Boston

"The more I think of our Enemies quitting Boston, the more amaz'd I am, that they should leave such a harbour, such fortifications, such intrenchments, and that we should be in peaceable possession of a Town which we expected would cost us a river of Blood without one Drop shed. Shurely it is the Lords doings and it is Marvelous in our Eyes."

Abigail Adams wrote to her husband expressing her surprise at the sight of the British forces evacuating the city during the third week of March 1776, in as many as 170 ships, leaving behind provisions, stores, vessels, wagons, cannon, clothing, horses and property of the Loyalists who left with them.

The Selectmen of Boston expressed their gratitude to George Washington. "The Selectmen of Boston, in behalf of themselves, & Fellow-Citizens, with all gratefull Respect, congratulate Your Excellency on the Success of your military Operations, in the Recovery of this Town...You have not only saved a large, elegant, & once populous City, from total Destruction, but relieved the few wretched Inhabitants from all the Horrors of a besieged Town, from the Insults & Abuses of a disgraced & chagrined Army, and restored many Inhabitants to their quiet Habitations who had fled, for Safety, to the Bosom of their Country..."

The ten-month siege was over. Generals George Washington and William Howe reached an unofficial agreement: the British troops would not ransack or damage the city as they left as long as Washington and his troops allowed them to leave peacefully. On March 17, 1776, 11,000 British soldiers and Loyalists sailed from Boston to Nova Scotia and the Continental Army retook the city. Evacuation Day is an official holiday observed on March 17th in Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

