



# PATRIOT



## *President's Message*

Compatriots,

May is a month of great pride and purpose for the Signers Chapter. On May 2nd, we will gather for the dedication of our America250 monument honoring *America's First Veterans* at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. This project represents the very best of our mission, preserving the legacy of those who secured our independence and ensuring their service is remembered by future generations. I encourage all who can attend and take part in this meaningful and historic occasion.

At the same time, we find ourselves in the heart of graduation season and our ROTC and JROTC Awards Program is in full stride. Across our communities, we are recognizing outstanding young men and women who exemplify leadership, character, and patriotism. This program remains one of our most impactful efforts, directly connecting our principles to the next generation of American citizens and leaders.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our chapter and its mission. Your involvement makes all this possible.

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

## **Upcoming 2026 Events**

**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.

**Saturday, August 1, 9am**, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

## April 2026 Events

The latest monthly SAR Signers Chapter **breakfast meeting in Summerlin on Saturday, April 4** attracted so many patriotic attendees that the room was near full capacity. Chapter President David Bentley welcomed chapter compatriots and members of their families as well as local DAR chapter members. Two State officers received awards for their contributions to the Nevada State Society in 2025, outgoing State President Jeff Gutting and State Registrar, Gary Watson. Three new compatriots (a father and his two sons) were inducted and then featured speaker, Gary Watson, presented a view of the American Revolution from London, highlighting a book by Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy with the title, *The Men Who Lost America*. The central topic of the presentation was the leadership of Great Britain's Prime Minister of Parliament, Frederick North, during the war.

Compatriot Al Conant provided an update on the chapter's scholarship program and the planned September 19 Constitution Day Dinner at the Las Vegas National Golf Club. Compatriot David Pavey, Signers Chapter Color Guard Commander, discussed the Color Guard Unit's participation at the late March Annual SAR/DAR/CAR State Convention in Reno and upcoming events involving the unit.

President David Bentley reminded the audience that there will be no breakfast meeting on May 2nd because the chapter will be dedicating its America250 monument celebrating the service of America's First Veterans at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City at 11am. David also discussed the need for additional volunteers to attend ROTC & JROTC award ceremonies in April & May.





Members of the Signers Chapter Color Guard unit joined members of the northern Nevada Battle Born Patriots Chapter Color Guard unit to present the colors at the late **March 2026 Annual SAR/DAR/CAR convention in Reno**. Over the course of the three-day event, SAR State Officers were sworn in, awards were presented to numerous compatriots for their significant contributions to support the Nevada State Society. Separate activities were conducted by the SAR, DAR and CAR State Societies culminating in a combined Saturday night dinner event. The next conference will be held in Las Vegas in the spring of 2027.



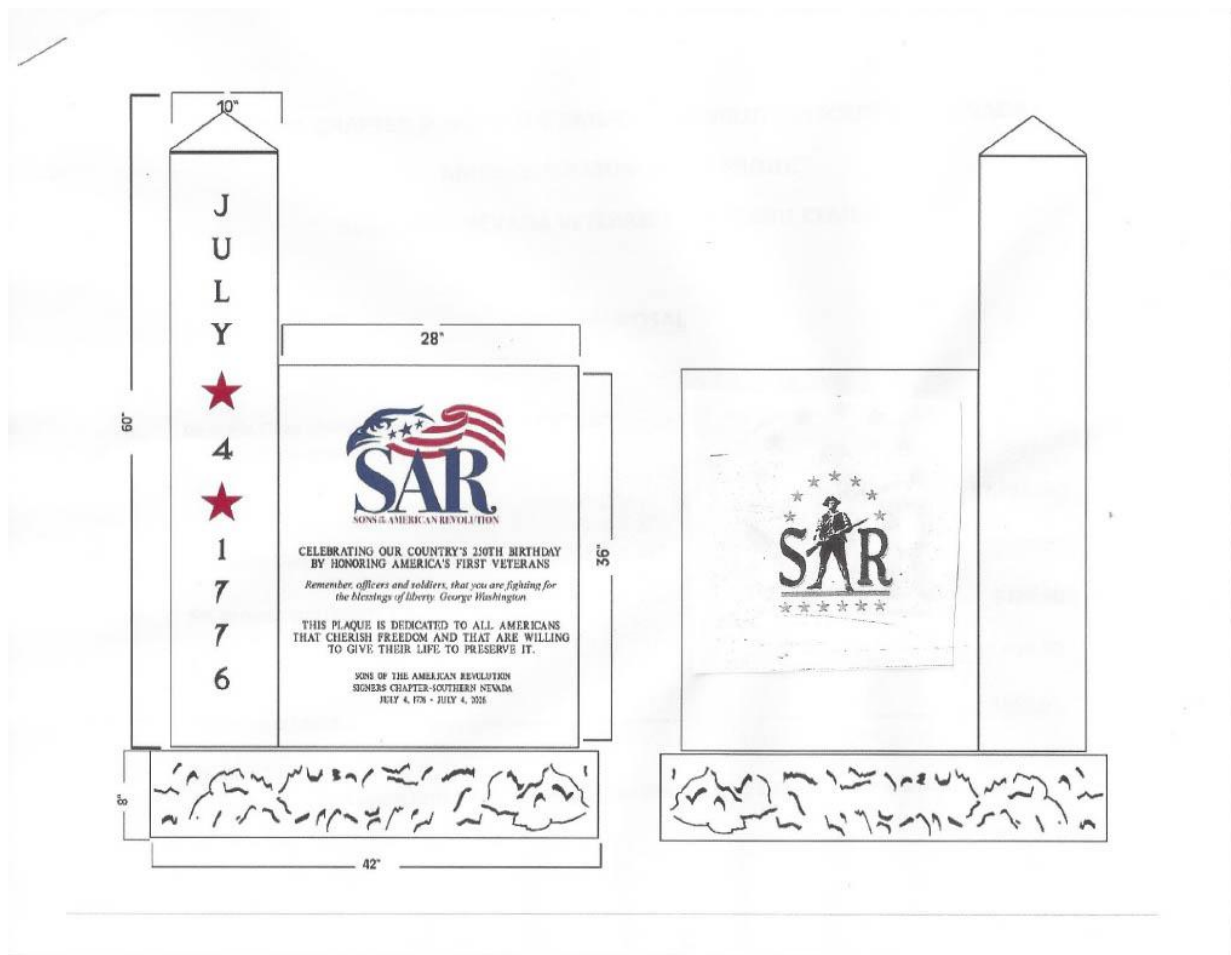


## May 2026 Planned Events

In early May, the Signers Chapter will dedicate an America250 monument recognizing America's first veterans at the Memorial Garden of the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Because May 2<sup>nd</sup> is a Saturday when the chapter would hold its monthly breakfast meeting in Summerlin, there will be no meeting that day so chapter compatriots can attend the event.

The dedication is planned for 11am, and the Signers Chapter Color Guard will present the colors at the event, which will be attended by a number of dignitaries and local press.

Thanks to the excellent planning and coordination by America250 Committee Chairman, Bob Reed, and the engineering expertise of compatriot, Don Hotchkiss, Jr., and the donations by a considerable percentage of chapter's compatriots and others, this America250 monument will be the first memorial at the cemetery's Memorial Garden, honoring the service and sacrifice of America's first veterans.



Later in the month at the cemetery, volunteers can participate in the annual Flag-In-Event on Saturday, May 23 at 7am. Volunteers plant American flags next to the graves of thousands of veterans buried at the cemetery, so that on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, the cemetery will be transformed into a fitting tribute to the veterans. The event happens so quickly, the planting is completed in less than two hours.



Later that same Saturday, in Henderson, there will be an event called America's Celebration, 250 Years of Freedom at Atomic Motors, at 702 W. Sunset. From 10am-4pm, the family-friendly event will host a Memorial Weekend Event with music, food trucks, and the ability to view an amazing array of Art & Classic Cars at their facility.



## ROTC / JROTC Awards Ceremonies – Spring, 2026

UNLV ROTC and High School JROTC programs across the Las Vegas valley celebrate the achievements of their school's cadets each spring. The Signers Chapter asks compatriots to help by attending these ceremonies and presenting certificates and medals to deserving cadets picked by Program Commanders. It is an awe-inspiring experience to observe these students participate in an extra-curricular activity that develops their leadership skills, character development, citizenship and community service awareness, physical fitness, and academic achievement. Each program focuses on a branch of the uniformed services of the United States: Army, Air Force, Space Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.



## Rhode Island – May 4, 1776

The smallest and least populous state of the United States, and the last of the thirteen colonies to adopt the US Constitution, was the first of the thirteen colonies to renounce allegiance to the British Crown, on May 4, 1776.



The State was officially called the “State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations” when it joined the United States as a state in 1790 until November 2020, when Providence Plantations was dropped from the state’s name. Most of the land mass is part of the mainland rather than an island.

The founding of the colony in 1636 by Roger Williams, a radical Puritan who argued for the complete separation of church and state, established what became a refuge for religious dissenters across the colonies. It became the only British Colony in America to be governed by a non-religious secular government.

By 1776, Rhode Island’s economy depended heavily on maritime trade—shipping, rum production, and commerce in the Atlantic world. British policies like the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts disrupted trade and imposed taxes. Many Rhode Islanders were already ignoring or resisting these laws, so formal independence aligned with their economic interests. Local leaders and merchants tended to favor independence sooner than in more divided colonies. By early 1776, public opinion in Rhode Island had largely shifted toward separation, while other colonies were still debating.

After the Revolutionary War began in April 1775 in Lexington and Concord, the Rhode Island Assembly sent a brigade of three regiments and some artillery under the command of 32-year-old Nathaniel Greene to Massachusetts for the Siege of Boston. Greene, who had been expelled from the pacifist Quaker Society of Friends in Rhode Island because he studied military history and war, eventually became George Washington's most valuable general and Greene's leadership was pivotal in winning the War of Independence.

As a young man, Greene had little formal education but was self-motivated. He studied geometry, history, law, and the works of Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke. When his father died in 1770, Greene took over the family's forge and grist mill, but he also began organizing a local militia company in 1774. Greene's study of military tactics was also about preparing himself to command. He read strategy books and sought to master the skills needed to organize, train, and lead troops. His work on a committee to revise Rhode Island's militia laws in 1774 reflected his hands-on approach to improving military readiness.

Nathaniel Greene had asthma, walked with a limp, and belonged to the pacifist Quaker religion. None of that stopped him from becoming a national hero doing some of the toughest jobs of the American Revolution. His brainy tactics against the British in the South helped cement the American victory at the Battle of Yorktown.

Nathaniel Greene once explained the secret to America's success: "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again".

