



PATRIOT



President's Message

Compatriots,

As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, July offers us a special opportunity to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and vision of the patriots who secured American independence. On July 8, we will join fellow Americans across the nation in commemorating the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, honoring the ideals that continue to guide our Republic.

I am proud of the dedication our chapter members have demonstrated through community service, patriotic programs, Color Guard activities, and support for veterans. Your commitment ensures that the legacy of our Revolutionary ancestors remains vibrant and meaningful for future generations.

Thank you for your continued service to the Signers Chapter and the Sons of the American Revolution. I encourage each of you to participate in our upcoming events and help us share the story of America's founding with our families, friends, and communities.

May we always remember that the freedoms we enjoy today were secured by citizens who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the cause of liberty.

Yours in Patriotism,

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

Upcoming 2026 Events

There is no July 4 breakfast meeting.

Wednesday, July 8, 3pm, Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Las Vegas Old Mormon Fort

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

Saturday, Sept. 5, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Saturday, Sept. 19, 5pm, Constitution Day Dinner, Las Vegas National Golf Club

June 2026 Events

The latest monthly breakfast meeting of the Signers Chapter took place on June 6th at 9am in Summerlin. There were forty attendees, and five of them were inducted into the Nevada Society SAR. Two compatriots received awards: Bill Amerman was honored for his military service and Joseph de Beauchamp, PhD was honored with a Law Enforcement Commendation Medal & Certificate.

Compatriot David Gibbs delivered his presentation titled “The Declaration of Independence, From Draft to Final Document”. David explained that the Fifth Virginia Convention instructed delegate Richard Henry Lee to introduce the Lee Resolution (or The Resolution for Independence) to the Second Continental Congress in early June 1776. This resolution provided the Second Continental Congress with a guide for formally declaring independence from Great Britain. The Second Continental Congress formed a Committee of Five to draft an independence document. Picked by members of the Committee, Thomas Jefferson drafted the document, which was then revised by the committee and then further revised through debates and recommendations of Congress’ representatives to ensure it was approved by 12 of the 13 states and adopted on July 4th. The state of New York, number 13, approved the document a week later. David’s presentation provided clarity for the monumental decision made by the delegates, who declared: “For the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor”.

Nevada Society SAR President Emeritus Jeff Gutting gave an emotional tribute for compatriot Colonel Tommy Thompson, a friend to many and a loyal chapter member.

Compatriot Bob Reed, and his spouse, Kelli Reed, who is the Companion Coordinator for Honor Flight Southern Nevada, proposed a chapter contribution to the veteran’s program to fund one companion for a veteran who will be selected for an October 2026 weekend trip to Washington. The proposal was approved.

Bob Reed also discussed the Las Vegas Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Las Vegas Old Mormon Fort on July 8 at 3pm. Several dignitaries will attend the event and the chapter’s Color Guard will present the colors for it.

Compatriot Bob Haywood, Area Coordinator for eastern Clark County and Lincoln County, confirmed that the city of Mesquite will participate in a reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 also. Bob and compatriot Eric Keyes will participate in the reading.

Compatriot Tom Reding delivered the Invocation and Benediction prayers.



On Saturday, June 13, 2026, the NSSAR Signers Chapter's Color Guard unit assisted the NSDAR Francisco Garcés chapter replace the American Flag at Las Vegas' Lorenzi Park Memorial Garden.

Each year, there is a Community Flag Day at the site with the Francisco Garcés Chapter donating a new American Flag.

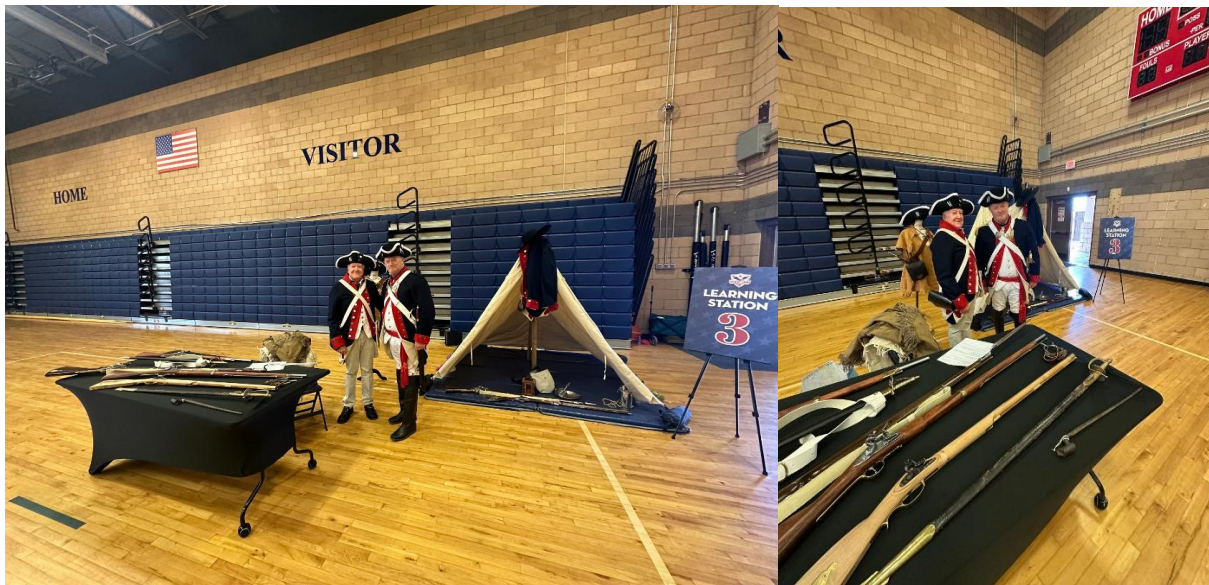
The flagpole is placed next to the DAR chapter's monument dedicated to Padre Francisco Garcés.

The monument was originally dedicated in 1954 by Francisco Garcés' founding members to honor the chapter's namesake, Padre Francisco Garcés, and his historic expedition in 1775-76 through what is now the southern tip of Nevada. The members commissioned the rock monument, limestone plaque, and brick engraved with three names. They also collected and enshrined 48 rocks from the existing 48 states. In June 2022, with permission from the NSDAR Historian General's Office, the present Chapter members added rocks from Alaska and Hawaii to complete the 50 states and re-dedicated the monument with two new DAR markers.

Signers Chapter compatriot and Color Guard Commander, David Pavey, spoke at the event, describing his experience in the United States Air Force with Color Guard Flag Replacement protocols.



On Thursday, June 18, two Signers Chapter compatriots visited the Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas to make presentations to six groups of about 260 students total at the charter school. Their presentations covered historical subjects of the American Revolutionary War period and included demonstrations using clothing and artifacts from the period. David Pavey and Tom Reding wore their 18th century Continental Line uniforms and David demonstrated how a musket was loaded and fired.



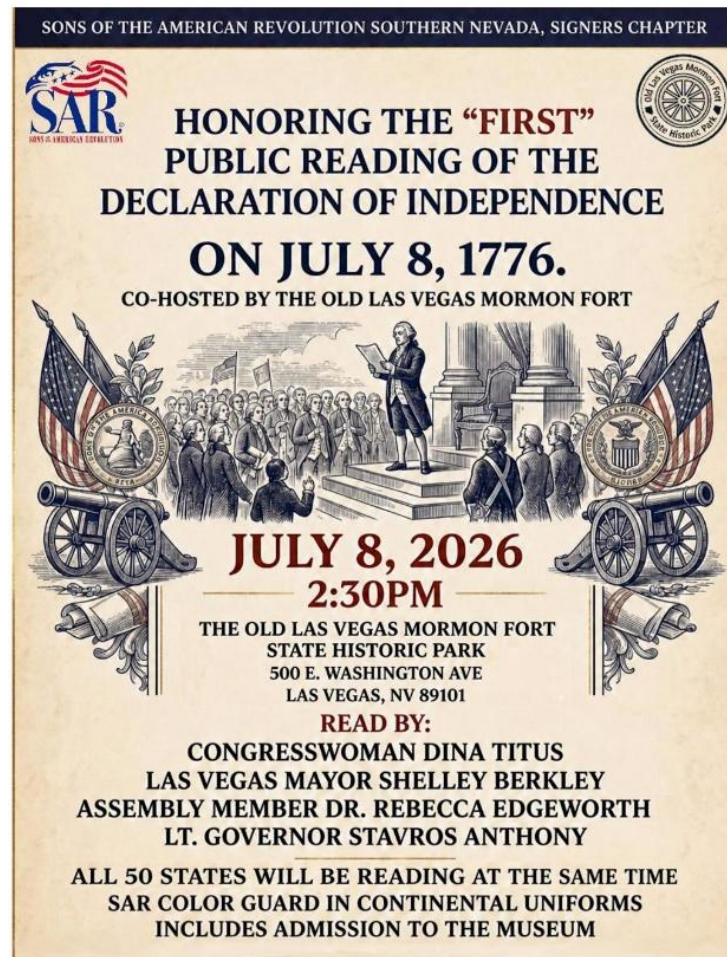
A Reading of the Declaration of Independence

On Thursday, July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence inside the Philadelphia, PA State House (now Independence Hall).

Four days later, on Monday, July 8, 1776, after the Declaration was printed and distributed, the citizens of Philadelphia were summoned to the State House Yard by the bells of the city. Then, Colonel John Nixon stood on a platform and publicly read aloud the Declaration of Independence. The reading was met with cheers, tears, and a sense of historic change, marking the first time the Declaration was heard by the public.

Americans in all 50 States and 16 Territories of the United States will read the Declaration of Independence again “together” on Wednesday July 8, 2026, at what would be equivalent to 6pm EDT at their location. Even though the United States is spread across thousands of miles and nine different time zones, all of us in the United States of America will read the Declaration of Independence aloud “together”, at the “same time”.

The document will be read on **Wednesday, July 8 at 3pm at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park on 500 E. Washington Ave.** Attendance is free and the event is open to everyone. The event is hosted by the Friends of the Fort organization and the NSSAR Nevada Signers Chapter, whose Color Guard will present the colors for the event.



August 2026 Planned Events

While there is no July 4th breakfast meeting, we will meet again **Saturday, August 1st** at the Egg Works Restaurant in Summerlin at 9am, 2025 Village Center Circle.

Besides inducting several new members, our featured speaker will be compatriot Dr. Craig R. Wuest, who joined SAR a year ago. Craig has attended almost all chapter breakfast meetings since. The title of his presentation is: **The Manhattan Project: America's nuclear race to win World War II.** It will be a short history of the Manhattan Project, including its beginnings and significant accomplishments leading to the development and use of the first U.S. atomic weapons.

Craig received his Ph.D. in high energy physics from the University of California, Irvine in 1983. His 50 years of scientific and national security experience includes six years with the University of California, 37 years with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, and three years at the Nevada National Security Site. Craig has served as a physicist and manager in several basic science, applied science, and national security programs. He has conducted research in high energy physics, nuclear weapons and radiation effects, radiation detection, and directed energy weapons, in support of defense, intelligence, fusion energy, and homeland security programs.

Between 2012-2013, Craig was a fellow of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, focusing on strategic deterrence and arms control.

Between 2013-2016, Craig served in the Pentagon as special scientific advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters. He provided expertise on the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile and nuclear deterrence.

Craig retired from the Nevada National Security Site in 2023 after serving as the Senior Director for Mission Support and as Senior Intelligence Executive. He currently is a senior national security advisor and instructor with TechSource, Inc.

Craig is a recipient of the 1989 Bruno Rossi High Energy Astrophysics Prize. He has been awarded the National Nuclear Security Administration Defense Programs Award of Excellence and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. Craig has published over 200 scientific and technical papers and holds five patents in electro-optical and radiation detection technology.



July 1776 - William Franklin travels from New Jersey to Connecticut.

Day before yesterday. Governor Franklin, of New Jersey, passed through Hartford, Connecticut, on his way to Governor Trumbull, at Lebanon. Mr. Franklin is a noted Tory, and ministerial tool, and has been exceedingly busy in perplexing the cause of liberty, and in serving the designs of the British King and his minions. The people of the Jerseys, on account of his principles, connections, abilities, and address, viewed him as a mischievous and dangerous enemy in that province, and consequently thought it expedient to remove him, under a strong guard, to Connecticut. He is safely arrived and will probably have leisure to reconnoiter his past life. He is son to Doctor Benjamin Franklin, the genius of the day, and the great patron of American Liberty. If his excellency escapes the vengeance of the people, due to the enormity of his crimes, his redemption will flow, not from his personal merit, but from the high esteem and veneration which this country entertains for his honored father. — *Constitutional Gazette* (July 13, 1776).

One Patriot's Story

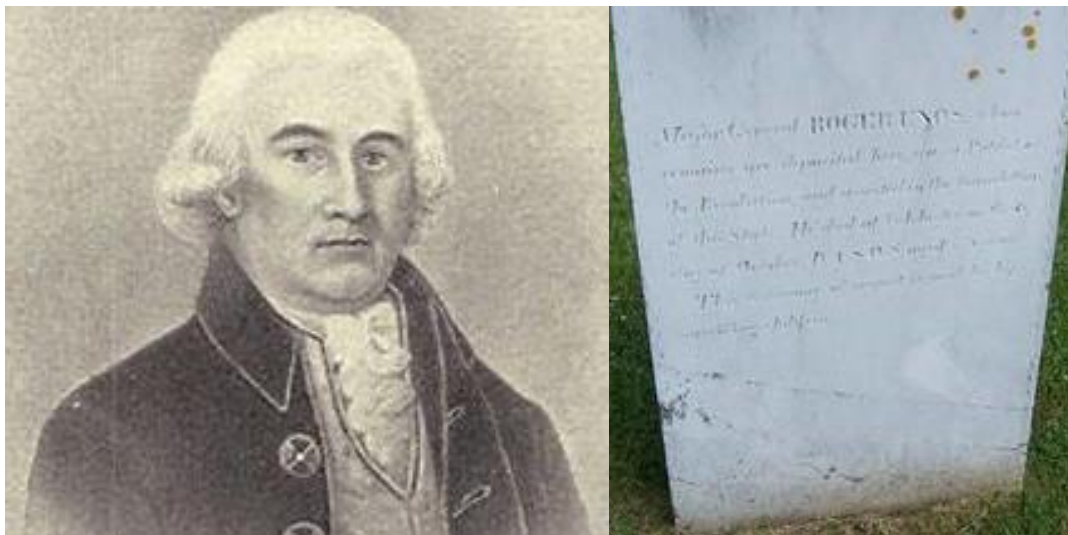
Roger Enos was famous for his leadership in both the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Born in 1729 in Simsbury, Connecticut, Roger was the descendant of French Huguenot refugees who fled to England. The family name changed from the French name, Hennot, to an Anglicized Eno, then to Enos. Roger joined the militia during the French and Indian War, rising to sergeant major, and then was commissioned an ensign before becoming a regimental adjutant.

When the Revolutionary War began in the spring of 1775, Roger was a major in the 2nd Regiment of the Connecticut militia. When he joined the Continental Army, he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel of the 22nd Connecticut Regiment, taking part in the battle of Bunker Hill and the siege of Boston.

After the battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the American invasion of Canada began when Ethan Allen, leader of the Green Mountain Boys, and Benedict Arnold saw the May 1775 capture of Fort Ticonderoga as a prelude to the next logical step, add the Province of Quebec as the 14th American colony. Roger joined Benedict Arnold's expedition, as a commander of the rear guard. In October 1775, he led his unit back to Connecticut through the Maine wilderness due to shortages of food and supplies, and an inability to reach Arnold's unit for a lack of boats and poor weather.

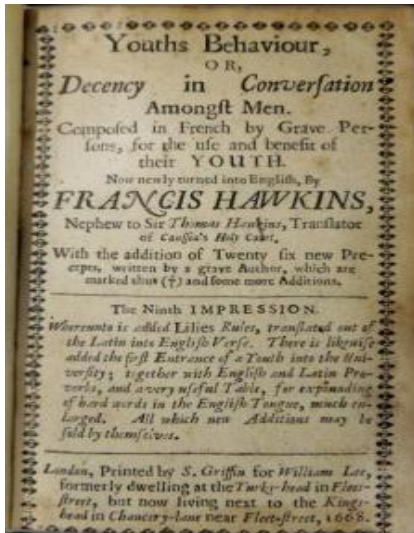
His decision was based on reasoned judgement, but Roger was court martialled for “quitting without leave” because he did not get permission to retreat from Benedict Arnold, his commander. Although he was acquitted of the charge, in 1780 Roger resigned and moved to Vermont, settling on a farm. Roger continued to serve, as he was appointed a brigadier general and commander of the Vermont militia to defend against a potential British invasion of Vermont.

Vermont was not one of the original thirteen colonies. During the colonial period, Vermont was primarily inhabited by Native American tribes, and there was minimal English settlement. The region was considered a wilderness, and the English did not establish significant colonies there. The land that is now Vermont was claimed by both New Hampshire and New York. New Hampshire's Governor Benning Wentworth granted land in the area to settlers, but this land was also claimed by New York. This led to conflicts known as the "New Hampshire Grants," where settlers faced challenges from New York's claims. During the American Revolutionary War, Vermont declared itself an independent republic in 1777, separate from both New York and New Hampshire. However, the Continental Congress did not recognize Vermont's independence due to New York's objections and the ongoing territorial disputes. It wasn't until 1791 that Vermont was admitted to the United States as the 14th state, after resolving its disputes with New York and agreeing to pay a sum to settle claims. Thanks to compatriot Jay Berkley for his contribution of Roger's history. Roger was the uncle of Jay's patriot ancestor, Reuben Enos.



Vermont tombstone inscription: *Major General Roger Enos, whose remains are deposited here, was a Patriot of the Revolution and assisted in the founding of this State. He died at Colchester, on the 6th day of October 1808, aged 73 years. This testimony of respect is paid by his surviving children. (in fact, if born in 1729, he would have been about 79 years old)*

Rules of Civility



George Washington wrote the 110 Rules of Civility in his schoolbook when he was about 14 years old in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The rules were adapted from a French 1595 Jesuit work, later translated into English.

Rule #58:

Let your Conversation be without Malice or Envy, for 'tis a Sign of a Tractable and Commendable Nature: And in all Causes of Passion admit Reason to Govern.

Meaning and Application

- **Without Malice or Envy:** Encourages respectful, constructive dialogue free from personal attacks, resentment, or competition. It promotes a mindset of goodwill and fairness in conversation.
- **Sign of a Tractable and Commendable Nature:** Suggests that avoiding malice or envy reflects self-control, humility, and moral integrity — qualities Washington valued in himself and others.
- **Admit Reason to Govern:** In moments of strong emotion or passion, reason should guide actions and words. This is a call to self-regulate, especially in heated or sensitive situations.

Washington's Rules of Civility were not just social etiquette; they were tools for personal discipline and leadership. They helped him maintain harmony in public life, manage conflicts, and set an example of professionalism and respect. In modern terms, Rule No. 58 can be seen as a reminder to:

- Practice empathy and avoid harmful speech.
- Manage emotions to prevent impulsive or damaging reactions.
- Uphold integrity in all interactions.

Today, this rule remains relevant in personal relationships, workplace communication, and public discourse.