



PATRIOT



President's Message

Compatriots,

As we begin June, I would like to sincerely thank everyone whose hard work, donations, and dedication made the installation and dedication of the *America's First Veterans Monument* at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery such a tremendous success.

This project was a true team effort and a meaningful tribute to the patriots whose sacrifice laid the foundation of our nation. I am proud of what the Signers Chapter has accomplished together in support of America250.

As we look ahead, I encourage all compatriots to participate in the many upcoming America250 events and activities. These programs give us a wonderful opportunity to honor our Revolutionary War ancestors, promote patriotism, and engage our communities.

Thank you again for your continued support and service to the chapter and the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Respectfully and fraternally,

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

Upcoming 2026 Events

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

No July breakfast meeting

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

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

May 2026 Events

On Saturday, May 2nd, 2026, the Signers Chapter dedicated its America250 monument honoring America's First Veterans at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. The event was well attended, and included presentations by Nevada Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony, U.S. representative of Nevada's First Congressional District, Dina Titus, and Honorary Consul of France to Las Vegas and Southern Nevada, Sébastien Thévenin. The chapter's Color Guard unit helped by presenting the colors at the event. Chapter compatriot Bob Reed was recognized for his leadership in making the monument and the dedication event a reality. A video of the event is at <https://youtu.be/ogRdBO5rdko?si=GaNrY8HnQXOyh3p4>.





June 2026 Planned Events

On Saturday, June 6, the Signers Chapter will meet again for their 9am breakfast meeting at the Egg Works Restaurant in Summerlin. Besides inducting new members, getting updates on chapter projects from the leadership team, and handing out much deserved awards to several compatriots, the featured speaker will be compatriot **David Gibbs**. The title of David's presentation is: **"The Declaration of Independence: From Rough Draft to Final Document"**.



David graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1979 and served in the Air Force as a pilot flying B-52s, FB-111s, and RQ/MQ-1s. He commanded a B-52 deployment in 1998 supporting Operation Southern Watch (OSW) (Iraq). He transferred to Creech Air Force base in 1999 to command a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) squadron and deployed to Bosnia in 2000 and to the Middle East in 2002 for Operation Southern Watch. In 2003, Dave deployed to the Middle East again for the Second Gulf War. Shortly after returning, he retired from the Air Force after 25 years and made North Las Vegas his permanent home. After his Air Force retirement, Dave worked in different areas of the RPA industry. He deployed three times to the Middle East as a civilian contractor, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait between 2009 and 2011. From 2015 to 2020, he managed and oversaw \$25-35 million annual contracts to provide RPA maintenance operations in the US and overseas. While he retired in 2020, Dave continues to work on various political activities. In 2024, he created the initiative and led the statewide process of getting Voter ID (Question 7) on the ballot. Dave and his wife, Cath, do a lot of traveling and spend time with their four grandchildren.

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, winter 1777-1778

You are camped out in a tent. You are one of the lucky ones, because you have some pretty good footwear. Some of the other guys have to improvise. You are here with about twelve thousand other guys from the thirteen colonies. Actually, they are not thirteen colonies. Back in July of 1776, fifty-six delegates declared that these colonies are really states and this is a new country called the United States of America. That is an act of treason against the King of England...your King.

You heard something like forty percent of the people in the colonies are with you for sure. That was a rough guess about how many actively revolted against the tax on tea. So, you have a lot of support. The other men in your camp are from all of the colonies. A lot came from England, but there are Irish, Welsh, French, some Germans and Africans.

Looking forward to the next meal. It's a hearty mix of flour and water. You might even get paid. There is this new continental currency, which might replace the currency your colony used to issue. You hope that other people accept it as having value. The winter will be rough. About two thousand of the twelve thousand of you will die here in the camp from disease, about a sixteen percent loss.

You got the word that no colonial rebellion has ever succeeded. So, you are going to try this for the first time. The British Empire is the economic and military superpower of the world. They are sending fifty thousand troops against you, a new country of about three million. Backing them up are another thirty thousand mercenaries from Hesse in Germany, also reputed to be fierce fighters. Total opposition to you is eighty thousand.

You are a militia man, and they are trying to turn you into a professional soldier. There is the big guy from Virginia, George Washington. You thought he was a planter, but now he is the Commander-in-Chief of this Army of this thing that maybe is a country. He looks resolute, a true soldier not just a gentleman officer. Some guys thought they heard him praying a few nights ago.

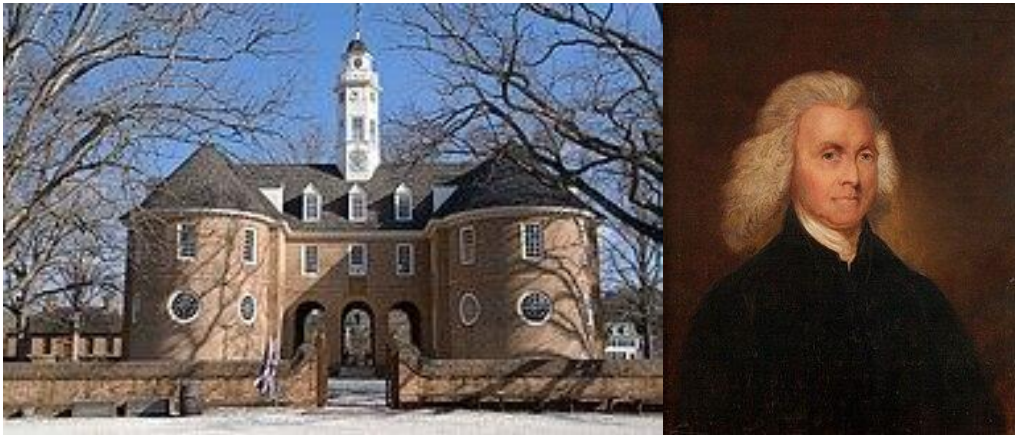
If you lose this war, you may be executed, sent to a rat-infested prison ship, or spend the rest of your life on the run hiding in the wilderness. If you win this war, you will go back to the same home in the same town with the same people and doing the same job. But you will be a free man, no longer a colonial subject. And that's all you can hope for.

Let's do this.....

Contributed by compatriot Tom Hillery

Wednesday May 15, 1776

We remember **July 4, 1776**, the day that the 2nd Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, as the moment that the United States began. But the decision to seek independence was not made that day. It was made many times, in many places, in the months before July 4. One of those places was Williamsburg, Virginia on **May 15, 1776**, when the leaders of the largest and most powerful colony rejected the authority of Britain. The independence resolution made in Williamsburg set Americans on their journey toward independence.



Edmund Pendleton, Presiding Officer

Fifth Virginia Convention



PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTION OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION, MAY 15, 1776, INSTRUCTING THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO " PROPOSE TO THAT RESPECTABLE BODY TO DECLARE THE UNITED COLONIES FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES" (excerpt)

Forasmuch as all the endeavors of the United Colonies, by the most decent representations and petitions to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, to restore peace and security to America under the British Government, and a reunion with that people upon just and liberal terms, instead of a redress of grievances, have produced, from an imperious and vindictive Administration, increased insult, oppression, and a vigorous attempt to affect our total destruction:-By a late act all these Colonies are declared to be in rebellion, and out of the protection of the British Crown, our properties subjected to confiscation, our people, when captivated, compelled to join in the murder and plunder of their relations and countermen, and all former rapine and oppression of Americans declared legal and just; fleets and armies are raised, and the aid of foreign troops engaged to assist these destructive purposes; the King's representative in this Colony hath not only withheld all the powers of Government from operating for our safety, but, having retired on board an armed ship, is carrying on a piratical and savage war against us, tempting our slaves by every artifice to resort to him, and training and employing them against their masters. In this state of extreme danger, we have no alternative left but an abject submission to the will of those overbearing tyrants, or a total separation from the Crown and Government of Great Britain, uniting and exerting the strength of all America for defence, and forming alliances with foreign Powers for commerce and aid in war:-Wherefore, appealing to the Searcher of hearts for the sincerity of former declarations expressing our desire to preserve the connection with that nation, and that we are driven from that inclination by their wicked councils, and the eternal law of self-preservation:

Resolved, unanimously, That the Delegates appointed to represent this Colony in General Congress be instructed to propose to that respectable body to declare the United Colonies free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to, or dependence upon, the Crown or Parliament of Great Britain; and that they give the assent of this Colony to such declaration, and to whatever measures may be thought proper and necessary by the Congress for forming foreign alliances, and a Confederation of the Colonies, at such time and in the manner as to them shall seem best: Provided, That the power of forming Government for, and the regulations of the internal concerns of each Colony, be left to the respective Colonial Legislatures.

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”.

In Las Vegas, the Declaration of Independence will be read at 3pm on Wednesday, July 8 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 southern Nevada Signers Chapter, Nevada Society Sons of the American Revolution. The Signers Chapter's Color Guard will present the colors for the event.

