



PATRIOT



President's Message

Compatriots,

August was another active and rewarding month for the Signers Chapter. We welcomed two new members, honored the late Compatriot Donald Hotchkiss Jr. for his years of dedicated service, and enjoyed Dr. Craig Wuest's informative presentation on the Manhattan Project. I also thank our Color Guard and everyone who continues to support our America250 and youth-education programs.

As we observe Constitution Month, I encourage everyone to attend our annual Constitution Week Dinner on Saturday, September 19, at 5:00 p.m. at the Las Vegas National Golf Club. This year's dinner is co-hosted by the Silver State Chapter, NSSDAR, and will feature Lauri Oakden-Binder as our guest speaker.

This is one of our chapter's most important annual gatherings. Please make your reservations early and invite your family and friends to join us as we celebrate the US Constitution and honor the enduring principles established by our nation's founders.

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Signers Chapter.

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

Upcoming 2026 Events

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

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

Saturday, Oct. 3, 9am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 am, Breakfast meeting, Egg Works Restaurant, Summerlin

August 2026 Events

The Signers Chapter met for a breakfast meeting Saturday morning, August 1 at the Egg Works restaurant in Summerlin. Thirty-five attendees helped make the event memorable as Chapter President David Bentley inducted two new members, then honored former compatriot Donald Hotchkiss Jr. by handing to Don's wife, Carol, the Silver 250th Anniversary certificate and medal for Don's many years of leadership and positive impact on the SAR Nevada State Society and the Signers Chapter.

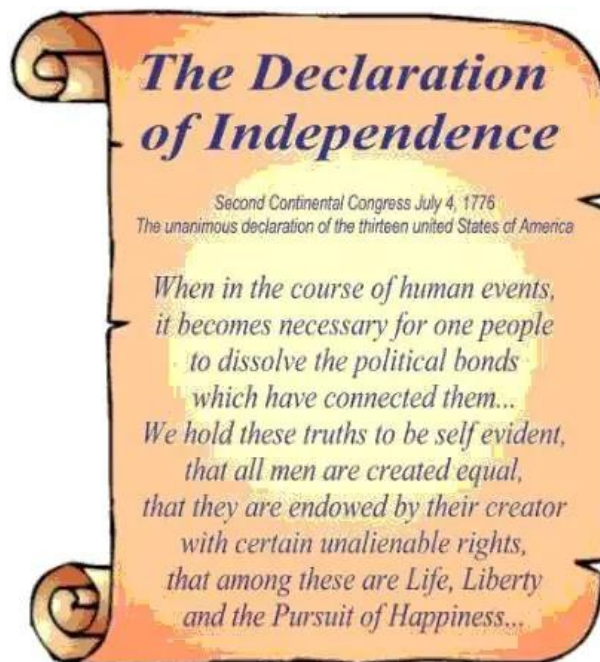
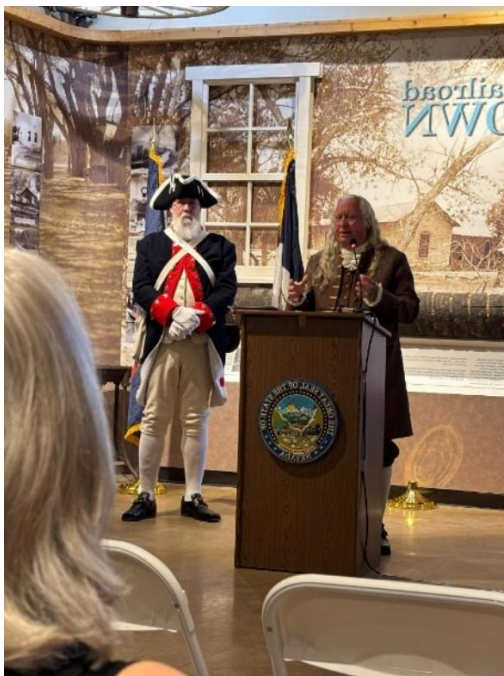
Compatriot Dr. Craig Wuest then gave a very informative summary of the United States Manhattan Project, which amazingly achieved its objective of creating an atomic bomb in a mere three years, achieving many engineering accomplishments converting an idea about splitting an atom in order to release huge amounts of energy, into a weapon that ended World War II in August 1945. The two bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th and on Nagasaki on August 9th, eighty-one years ago, created the atomic age on earth, establishing a nuclear deterrent against future world wars.

Compatriot Bob Reed thanked members who participated in a successful public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 at the Las Vegas Old Mormon Fort and described efforts to add an additional inscription onto the chapter's America250 monument at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Compatriot Bob Haywood, Area Representative for eastern Clark County (Mesquite) and Lincoln County, described the Signers Chapter's participation in a public reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Mesquite City Hall on July 8, organized and hosted by the NSSDAR Virgin Valley chapter and its Regent, Leigh Roessner.

Tom Reding described the chapter's new Patriot Chest Youth Education program.





Honoring America's history at Old Spanish Trail Park in Las Vegas

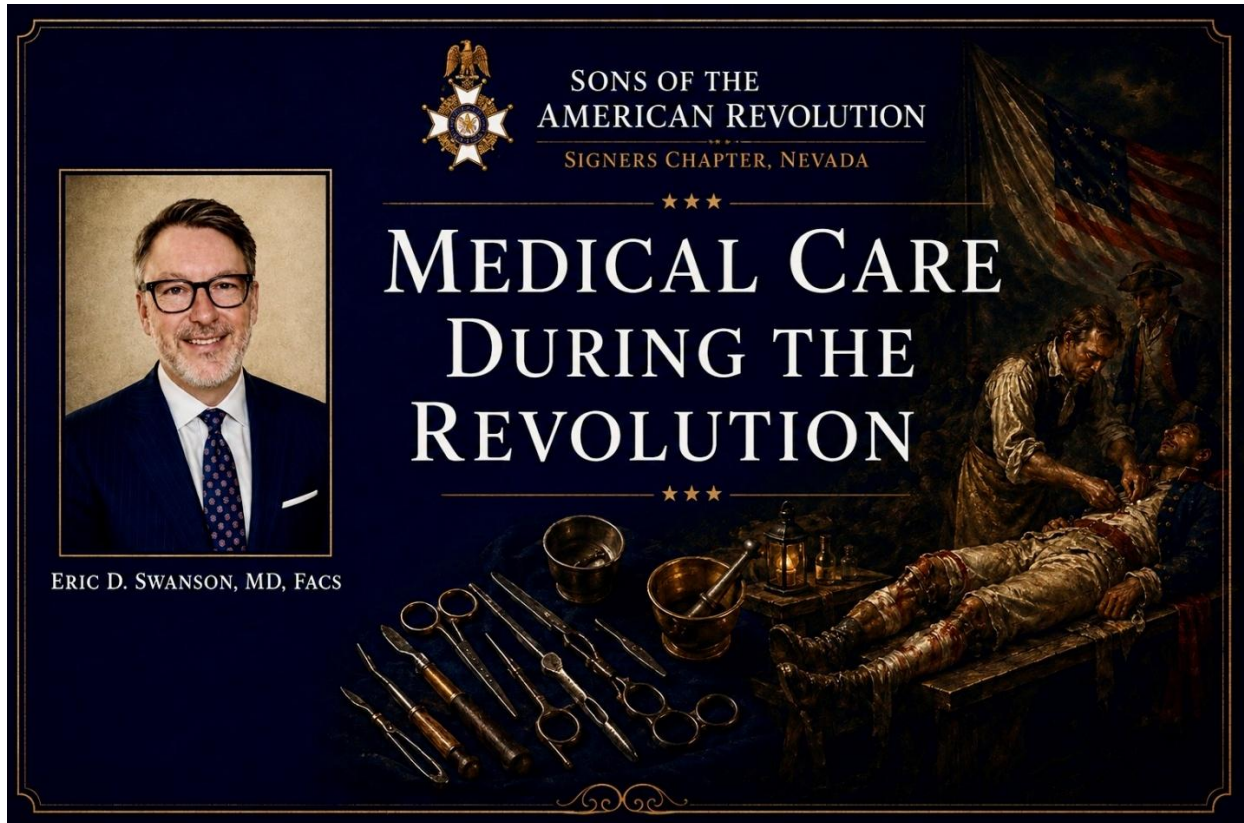
The Old Spanish Trail Park in Las Vegas is a historic site preserving the ruts of the Old Spanish Trail, a major 19th-century trade route that connected Santa Fe, New Mexico to Los Angeles, California. The trail was established in **1829** by Mexican trader **Antonio Armijo**, who led a caravan of 60 men and 100 mules to create a direct overland route between New Mexico and California.

On August 10, 2026, Justin Jones, County Commission District F, joined the Daughters of the American Revolution National Headquarters for the unveiling of a new Revolutionary War Patriots historic marker commemorating the brave men and women who fought for and supported American independence. The ceremony also featured a special Presentation of Colors by members of the NSSAR Signers Chapter Color Guard unit.



September 2026 Planned Events

The breakfast meeting on September 5 will include a presentation by compatriot Eric Swanson, MD, FACS about the practices and challenges of providing medical care to our patriots during the American Revolution.



Eric earned his DMD (Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry) in 1991 at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, then earned his MD (Doctor of Medicine) in 1994 at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons and then Eric obtained a peer-honored distinction as an FACS in 2007, which means he is a Fellow Of The American College Of Surgeons.

During the American Revolutionary War, medical care for soldiers was rudimentary by modern standards but vital to the war effort. The Continental Army began with limited resources, and the first formal hospital department was established by Congress on 27 July 1775 in Boston to address the growing need for organized medical support. Of the approximately 1,400 medical practitioners who served, only around 10% had formal medical degrees.

Annually, Americans celebrate the adoption of the **Constitution of the United States** on **September 17**. It was the day in 1787 when 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia. Constitution Week continues through September 23.



The Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America. It superseded the Articles of Confederation and defines the foundational structure of the federal government. Because the Articles of Confederation, the nation's first constitution, was considered inadequate in its current form, the Confederation Congress called a convention of state delegates in Philadelphia on February 21, 1787, to propose revisions to the Articles. Unlike earlier attempts, the convention was not meant for new laws or piecemeal alterations, but for the "sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation". The convention was not limited to commerce but intended to "render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union."

The need for a new constitution was intensely debated in essays published in newspapers under such pseudonyms as Publius (pro) and Brutus (anti). Federalists explained why a new form of government was needed, and Anti-Federalists explained why this was a bad idea. One leading Anti-Federalist was **Mercy Otis Warren** of Massachusetts, who passionately championed Jeffersonian Republicanism. As the young United States, and Massachusetts in particular, began to move in a Federalist direction following the war, Warren remained steadfastly Republican. As part of the older generation of revolutionaries that had emerged from provincial governments, they were more loyal to their state than the federal government.

The NSSAR Signers Chapter meets annually to celebrate the adoption of the United States Constitution by joining with local NSSDAR chapter members for a dinner at the Las Vegas National Golf Club. ***The event is open to everyone.*** This year the event features speaker **Lauri Oakden-Binder**, Vice Regent of the NSSDAR Francisco Garces Chapter.



Lauri M. Oakden-Binder, RWCS, CRIS, TRIP, CLP, CIIP



Mercy Otis Warren

A longtime resident of Las Vegas, “Home Means Nevada” truly resonates with Lauri. Both her parents were military, her father being career Air Force, leading to being stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in the early 60’s after assignments around the world and across the country.

Lauri has enjoyed a diverse career in risk management, clinical and administrative health care, as well as the legal community. She currently serves as Vice Regent of the Francisco Garces Chapter, NSSDAR, and the Nevada State History Chair, NSSDAR. She participates in various insurance industry professional organizations, including the International Association of Insurance Professionals, of which she is past International President/President Emeritus, the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents [NIIA], and the Risk Insurance Management Society [RIMS]. Lauri currently serves on the Board of Directors of Kids’ Chance of Nevada and has served multiple terms on the Boards of Directors of the NAIW Legacy Foundation, Professional Insurance Agents Western Region [PIA West] and The CLM, Nevada Chapter [Claims and Litigation Management Society]. Lauri also volunteers with various community, veterans, and youth programs in both Southern and Northern Nevada, which include The Mob Museum, Friends of the Fort Las Vegas [Old Mormon Fort], the Veterans’ Home in Boulder City, Fisher House [Las Vegas], Make-A-Wish Foundation [Reno], Habitat for Humanity, Three Square, Opportunity Village, and the Veterans Guest House [Reno].

An advocate of professional and personal development, continuing education and mentoring, Lauri enjoys sharing her avid interests in Nevada and American history, as well as the risk management industry through developing, facilitating, and conducting workshops, continuing education classes, mentoring activities and speaking engagements to industry groups, associations, and civic organizations. Her interests include community service, antiques, calligraphy, interior design, travel, and exploring ghost towns and back roads. As the words “road trip” are barely uttered, she is already in the car, ready to go.



*You're
Invited!*



Celebrate Constitution Week

Hosted by:

Signers Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and
Silver State Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution



Date: Saturday, September 19, 2026



Time: Cocktails at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm



Location: Las Vegas National Golf Club,
1911 E Desert Inn Rd, Las Vegas, NV



Featured Speaker: Lauri Oakden-Binder



Topic: Spirit of "76" – Observations on the New Constitution
from the perspective of "A Columbia Patriot" – Mercy Otis Warren



Dress Code: Jacket & Tie/Cocktail, Colonial, or Military



Tickets: \$60 per person **Registration deadline:** September 5.

MAIL CHECKS TO:

Mr. Albert Conant
1770 Green Apple Way
Las Vegas, NV 89142

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Signers Chapter SAR

PAY BY ZELLE AT

signerssar@gmail.com
(Note your name and attendees)

RSVP (IF PAYING AT THE DOOR):

Email aconant@aol.com or
call 702-286-7540 by September 5
so we can get an accurate
headcount for dinner.

RSVP FORM:

Number of Tickets (\$60 each) _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____
Name _____ Affiliation _____
Email _____ Phone _____
Names of Additional Guests and Affiliations: _____



EVENING PROGRAM

- ★ 5:00 pm Cocktails (Cash Bar)
- ★ 6:00 pm Opening Ceremony
- ★ 6:30 pm Dinner
- ★ 7:00 pm Featured Speaker
- ★ 7:45 pm Silent Auction and Closing

MENU

New York Strip Carved with
Au Jus and Horse Radish
—★—
Chicken Angelo (Chicken Breast topped
with diced tomatoes artichoke hearts
in a light butter sauce)
—★—
Pasta, Vegetables, Rolls
and a Dessert Bar



The Battle of Long Island, August 27-29, 1776 (America's Dunkirk)

Less than a month after the delegates to the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence, the British Army and Navy commenced an invasion of New York resulting in Great Britain taking control of the City of New York for the duration of the Revolutionary War. Not until November 22, 1783, did the last British troops leave what had been their command center during the war.

The battle was called the Battle of Long Island, the Battle of Brooklyn, and the Battle of Brooklyn Heights. It ended when General George Washington ordered a retreat across the East River from Brooklyn Heights to Manhattan, which was completed during the night of August 29-30 in a fog. The retreat was a monumental feat by the Continental Army and a stunning error by the British Army for not keep it from happening. More than 9,000 men were saved to fight another day. The site of the evacuation is commemorated by a historical marker in Brooklyn's Dumbo neighborhood.

