PATRIOT



President's Message

Compatriots,

November is a time to reflect on service, sacrifice, and gratitude. On Veterans Day, November 11, we honor all who have worn the uniform of the United States. Their courage and devotion have preserved the freedoms first secured by the patriots of the American Revolution.

Our Mohave Madness Bus Tours fundraiser, November 13–15, offers another opportunity for chapter service. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered. Your support is greatly appreciated, but additional help is still encouraged. Whether you can assist for a few hours or throughout the weekend, your participation will help make this important fundraiser a success.

We are also looking ahead to Wreaths Across America on Saturday, December 19, at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Volunteers are needed to help lay wreaths and honor the veterans resting there. I encourage our compatriots and their families to join us for this moving expression of remembrance and gratitude. We will also have an opportunity to visit our America250 Monument, honoring America's first veterans, in the Memorial Garden.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Signers Chapter. Through your volunteerism and fellowship, we honor our nation's past and carry its patriotic legacy forward.

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

Upcoming 2026 Events

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

Friday – Sunday, Nov. 13-15, Mohave Madness Bus Tour Fundraiser Event

Friday, Dec. 18, 5 pm, Annual Signers Chapter Christmas Party at the Las Vegas National Golf Club

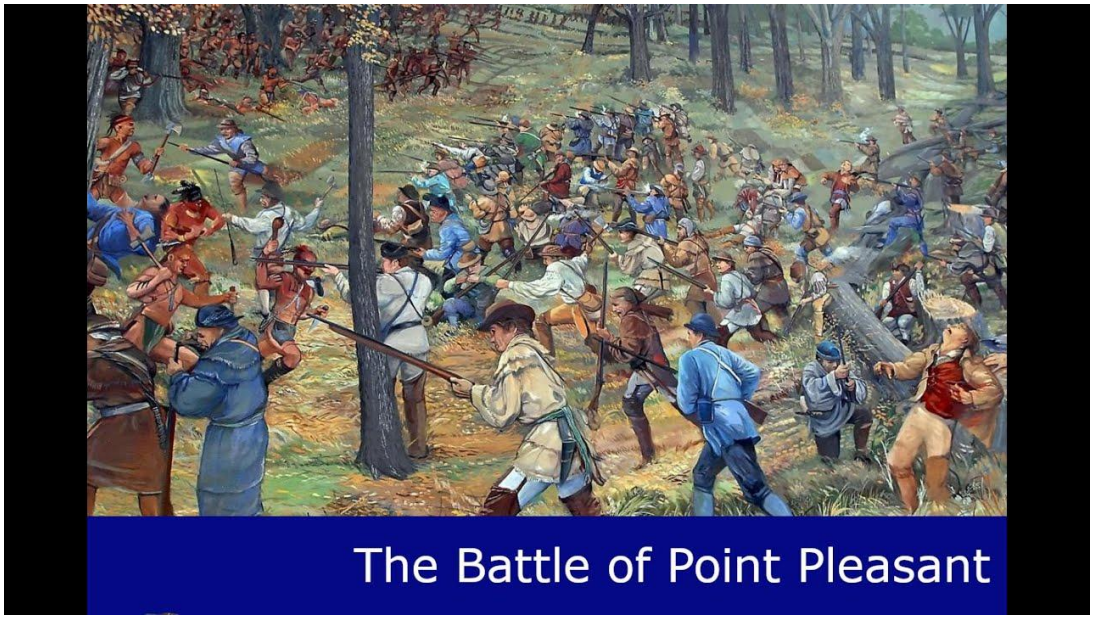
Saturday, Dec. 19, 9am, Wreaths Across America, Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City

October 2026 Events

The Signers Chapter's October 3rd breakfast meeting, which was attended by 30 compatriots and guests, included the induction of six new members.



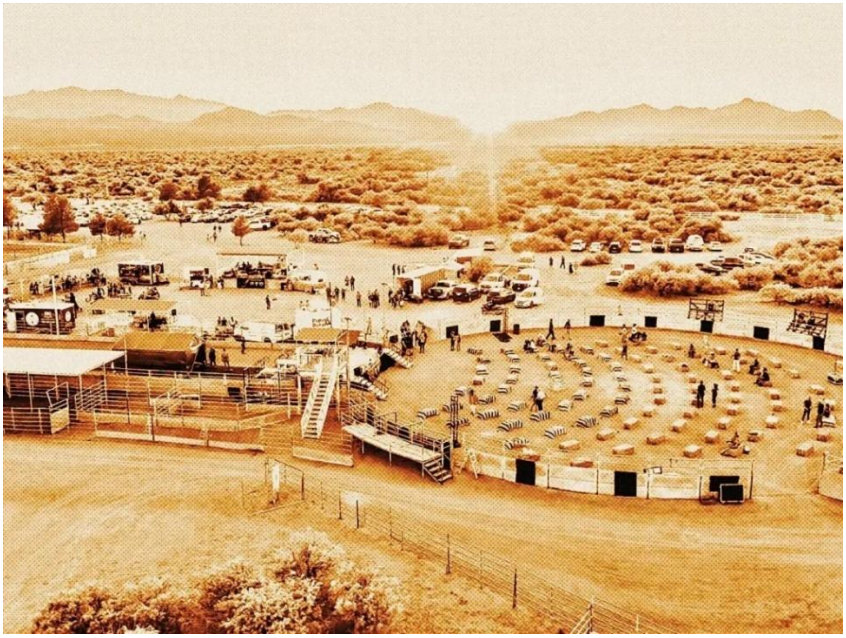
New compatriot Gary Fike and Chapter Registrar Gary Watson delivered a presentation to memorialize the October 10, 1774, Battle of Point Pleasant.



November 2026 Planned Events

David Bentley described the November 13-15, 2026, **Mojave Mayhem / Wasteland Jamboree** at Goodsprings and Sandy Valley Ranch Nevada, a post-apocalyptic fan celebration inspired by Fallout 4. The Chapter is providing rides for attendees on buses that deliver an experience they have planned for all year. Chapter compatriots are asked to volunteer for many key assignments to make this fundraiser successful.





The Signers Chapter will meet again for its monthly breakfast meeting at 9am Saturday, November 7th at the Egg Works Restaurant at 2025 Village Center Circle, Summerlin.

The featured speaker will be compatriot **Mike Roach** and the topic of his presentation will be a description of the standard weapon of the Revolutionary War, the Brown Bess smooth bore musket. The presentation's title is**: "The Brown Bess, A British Weapon in The American Revolution."**



Mike Roach was born in Kansas and raised in Southern California. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1966. He finished his Engineering degree at Arizona State on an Air Force Scholarship, known as "bootstrap," in 1971. He was commissioned as a Second Lt and attended pilot training at Williams Air Force base. Over a 21-year career, he would fly EC-121s (in Southeast Asia), and C-130s, and had assignments with Airlift Control, Civil Engineering and Special Operations. He collects vintage rifles, mostly World War II era, and a few black powder rifles.

Wednesday, November 11, 2026, Veterans Day



Veterans Day is observed annually on November 11, marking the anniversary of the armistice that ended major hostilities in World War I at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

Originally called Armistice Day, the holiday was first commemorated in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson, who called for parades, public meetings, and a brief suspension of business to honor the heroism of those who served.

The holiday was initially intended to honor veterans of World War I**,** but after the United States experienced the mobilization of soldiers in World War II and the Korean War, Congress and veterans' organizations advocated for a broader recognition. In 1954, Armistice Day was officially renamed Veterans Day to honor all American veterans of all wars, not just those who served in World War I. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation into law on June 1, 1954, establishing November 11 as a day to thank and honor living veterans for their service. Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, which specifically honors those who died in military service, and from Armed Forces Day, which celebrates those currently serving in the U.S. military.

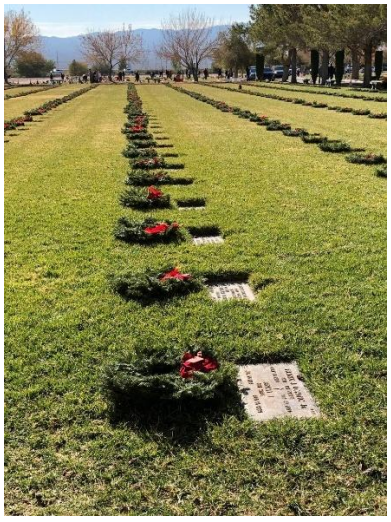
The holiday emphasizes gratitude for the patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice of all veterans, whether in wartime or peacetime. Veterans Day is celebrated to recognize and honor the contributions of all U.S. military veterans, preserving the historical significance of November 11, while expressing national gratitude for their service and dedication to the country.

Veterans Committee Chairman Gary Watson reminded chapter compatriots that the annual **Wreaths Across America** event will take place on **Saturday morning, December 19th at 9am in Boulder City**. The event includes a moving tribute inside the cemetery's Chapel that starts at 9am, and then attendees fan out to lay wreaths on tens of thousands of veteran's graves. Although the wreaths are provided by cemetery staff, compatriots are also able to sponsor wreaths by purchasing them on the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery web site. There is a Signers Chapter page on the web site, **NV0012P – Nevada Sons of the American Revolution, Signers**, which ensures sponsored wreaths are credited to the chapter. Chapter compatriots are able to participate in laying sponsored wreaths on former Signers Chapter compatriot's graves, as well as stopping by the chapter's new America250 Monument in the Memorial Garden, honoring America's first veterans.









Valley Forge in the Winter of 1777-1778

A conventional image of George Washington's Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge told a story of suffering, lack of adequate clothing, disease, starvation, and poor living conditions. George Washington wrote to the Continental Congress four days after marching into the valley stating his belief that unless something drastic happened, the army would either starve, dissolve, or disperse.



But another story describes how George Washington took decisive action immediately to transform the army over the next six months. The army that marched out of Valley Forge was not the army that shuffled into it.

First, companies began constructing standardized log cabins to provide necessary shelter.



A lack of clothing, food for the troops, horses and cattle, and supplies was caused by a supply failure. The Continental Army's quartermaster system ceased to function due to inflation, currency depreciation, contractor failures, and Congressional dysfunction. In February 1778, General Washington picked Major General Nathanael Greene to assume the role of Quartermaster General, the officer responsible for moving materials and supplies to the army. Within months a dramatically improved flow of provisions and equipment started to reach the army. This effort came to be known as the Grand Forage into neighboring states.

Also in February, Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand von Steuben joined the army and explained to General Washington that his army had been fighting a professional European military for two years without the training that made professional European armies effective. They could not march in formation, execute facing movements, load, and fire in coordinated volleys, respond to cavalry threats by forming a square, or conduct a bayonet charge. Von Steuben understood that drill (repetitive, standardized, exhaustively practiced formation maneuver) was not mere ceremony. It was the mechanism by which frightened men could be made to function as a unit under fire.

He personally demonstrated each drill movement to a selected model company of one hundred men, drilling the company in public view with the rest of the army watching. The model company became the template: trained by von Steuben, they trained the rest of the army. Within weeks, the entire camp was drilling.



Valley Forge was not a dramatic victory. What happened in the Pennsylvania valley over six months was consequential because the ragtag army was rebuilt from the inside out by the combination of Washington's moral authority, Greene's administrative genius, von Steuben's professional military knowledge, and the stubborn endurance of the men in the cabins.

The soldiers chose initially to stay at Valley Forge, in conditions that gave them every reason to leave, and they stayed for reasons as varied as the men themselves: patriotism, habit, fear, loyalty to the man next to them, belief in a cause whose ultimate success, in December 1777, looked far from certain.

The Continental Army that marched out of Valley Forge on June 19, 1778, would fight for another three and a half years, until British General Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781, at Yorktown. The winter that made the most famous prayer-in-the-snow story in American memory was not about prayer. It was about logistics, training, political survival, and the cold, systematic work of transforming an army into one that could outlast the British and their mercenaries, the Hessians.



The Founders Online archives at the National Archives preserve Washington's letter to Congress from Valley Forge in full; the dispatches of a man watching his army die and refusing to let it happen.