

The Missouri Compatriot

Volume 33

Issue 1



<https://america250sar.org>

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On the Cover
MOSSAR Colorguard standing at a cannon during the George Washington Birthday Luncheon.



Missouri Bicentennial medal is available for purchase for \$35.00 from Compatriot Drew Kingery. Email him at drewkingery2948@gmail.com

Editor: Daniel Piedlow
Publisher: President Steven Biggs



From The President

By President Steven Biggs

Leading Missouri Compatriots for this past year has meant the world to me. I hope to see you at our 2026 MOSSAR State Conference at the end of April. Vicki and I want to welcome you to Springfield, Missouri – known as the “Queen City of the Ozarks” and birthplace of America’s Mother Road Route 66 stretching east and west from Chicago, Illinois to Los Angeles, California. In addition, Springfield is known for a good mix of entertainment, shopping, and restaurants. Bass Pro sporting goods began here and is a personal favorite of mine; you’ll be amazed by the mothership store if you haven’t yet visited it. We’ll come there this weekend to do the business of the Missouri Society - but please do also treat yourself to the enjoyment that is Springfield! Our host, The Ozark Mountain Chapter spent months putting this Annual State Membership Meeting and Conference together. I know it’ll be an excellent one. The events planned have something for everyone to enjoy. Please join us at all the events.

Friday includes a Naturalization Ceremony, and later a patriot plaque and sign dedication, later followed by a wreath grave marking, and flag certificate ceremony. That evening’s banquet speakers focus on Springfield’s role in mid-1800s time period of Native American’s westward “Trail of Tears.” Did you know that Missouri has more miles of this trail’s story than any other stat? As a personal connection, part of the Trail of Tears passes directly through my own Crawford County family farm to the east before reaching Springfield. Then on Saturday the fun continues with a primary focus on MOSSAR awards and business along with a luncheon and an evening banquet. Our esteemed NSSAR Secretary General Allen Greenly from Delaware and our own favorite native son Librarian General James Osbourn will address us prior to the installation of your new 2026-27 MOSSAR state officers. What a great program of events!

I also want to encourage you each to go forth with renewed enthusiasm for sharing the story of America’s 250th Anniversary. My wife Vicki and I have enjoyed our travels on your behalf. It has been a pleasure serving Missouri this past year. Our citizens play key

roles in American history and many have risen with grit when called upon. Be proud of your patriot ancestors; share these stories with the vigor.

In Patriotism,

Steven E. Biggs

Missouri Society State President 2025 -2026

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

Sharing the Spirit of America

AMERICA 250 Hawaii

Americans across the country - from the Caribbean, across North America, to the western edge of the Pacific - will read the Declaration of Independence, together.

Start time is based on 6 pm (EDT), July 8, 2026 - Please Join Us!
www.hawaiiamerica250.org/sharing-the-spirit-of-america

Editor Request

Please help me. When you submit an article for the newsletter, please make sure it is a Word document. This makes it better to insert the article into the newsletter. Please include the date of the event, where it happened, and the name of the chapter. PDF documents are a lot harder to convert. Also, pictures should be in the original format, not cropped or reduced in size (megabytes). If pictures are included in the Word document, include them as an attachment also. I can convert almost all picture formats, but the best one for me is a .jpeg, .png, or RAW.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Daniel Piedlow MOSSAR Editor

Geographical Chapter Listing

CAPE GIRARDEAU - [Allen Laws Oliver Chapter](#)

COLUMBIA - [M. Graham Clark Chapter](#)

HARRISONVILLE - [Spirit of 76 Chapter](#)

INDEPENDENCE - [Harry S. Truman Chapter](#)

INDEPENDENCE - [Independence Patriots Chapter](#)

JEFFERSON CITY - [Christopher Casey Chapter](#)

JOPLIN - [Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter](#)

KANSAS CITY - [Alexander Majors Chapter](#)

LIBERTY - [William C. Corum Chapter](#)

ROLLA - [Ozark Patriots Chapter](#)

SPRINGFIELD - [Ozark Mountain Chapter](#)

ST. CHARLES - [Fernando de Leyba Chapter](#)

ST. JOSEPH - [James Smith Talbot](#)

ST. LOUIS - [Spirit of St. Louis Chapter](#)

WARRENSBURG - [Martin Warren Chapter](#)

WEST PLAINS - [Josiah Howell Chapter](#)

New Members

Blunt, Brooks
Campbell, Dante
Carney, Kevin
DePietro, David
Dismuke, Bardis
Finch, Gregory
Gerzen, John
Gold, Dwain
Grewe, Jarrod
Grewe, Rodney
Peterson, Austin
Peterson, Justin
Prier, Jason
Prier, Justin
Riley, Charles
Tanner, David
Topliff, Michael
Yost, Casper

Ozark Mountain Chapter
M. Graham Clark Chapter
Fernando de Leyba Chapter
James Smigh Talbot Chapter
Allen Laws Oliver Chapter
William C. Corum Chapter
Ozark Mountain Chapter
Ozark Mountain Chapter
Ozark Mountain Chapter
Ozark Mountain Chapter
Christopher Casey Chapter
Christopher Casey Chapter
Alexander Majors Chapter
Alexander Majors Chapter
M. Graham Clark Chapter
Josiah Howell Chapter
Josiah Howell Chapter
M. Graham Clark Chapter



January Quarterly Board Meeting



MOSSAR President Steven Biggs swearing in Compatriot Mark Parks as President of the Martin Warren Chapter.



MOSSAR Colorguard Commander Steve Perkins presenting Compatriot Ivan Stull with a Bronze Colorguard Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steven Biggs presenting Compatriot Steve Newman with a Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steven Biggs presenting Compatriot Steve Voss with a Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Compatriot Steve Newman with a Trophy for Years of Service to the State Society.

January Quarterly Board Meeting



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting MOSSAR President Steven Biggs with a Trophy for Years of Service to the State Society.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Compatriot Dan Piedlow with a Trophy for Years of Service to the State Society.



MOSSAR President Steven Biggs presenting Vicki Biggs with a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.



Battle of Fort San Carlos medal and challenge coin is available for purchase from Compatriot Drew Kingery. The medal is \$45.00 and the challenge coin is \$15.00. Email Drew at: drewkingery@gmail.com



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI
SHSMO
 OUR HOME – OUR HISTORY
US at 250

Join the State Historical Society of Missouri as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence with programs, lectures, podcasts, webinars, and more! Looking ahead, here are some of our events and projects currently underway this year. All events and resources are free of charge and open to the public. Stay updated by visiting our webpage: shsmo.org/learn/US250

Origins: A Reflection on Missouri at 250 & Beyond



Our Missouri, a podcast produced by SHSMO, features a new 20-episode series to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the United States. From the first people to arrive at the land now called Missouri, to the efforts to bring it into

the Union as the 24th state, host Sean Rost examines major moments in the years prior to statehood as well as Missouri's complex history. Subscribe on Apple Podcasts or Stitcher, or access at SHSMO.org.

Global 250 Lecture Series



SHSMO is partnering with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri for a series of lectures now through May that reflect on America's 250th from a global perspective. The lectures are held at Tiger

Hotel in Columbia, Mo. and livestreamed on the Kinder Institute's Facebook page and YouTube.

Reflections of 250: Celebrating America's Past Through Oral Histories - Free Webinar

Honors Students from the University of Missouri conducted interviews with Missourians to hear their thoughts on America's 250 years. SHSMO historians



and students will discuss the process of doing oral history and other projects they are working on for the semiquincentennial. The interviews will be donated to the oral history program at SHSMO.

Documenting Your American Revolutionary War Ancestor

Videos On Demand



Cape Girardeau Research Center coordinator Bill Eddleman is the host of a popular 19-episode Basic Genealogy series recorded live on Zoom and available

for later viewing. In his recent episode, Eddleman offers advice on how to document your Revolutionary War ancestor. The webinar is available to view anytime.

We want to thank Compatriot Glenn Gohr for sending the information to us for the newsletter.

People Who Made America Great



Francis Scott Key

Francis Scott Key (1779–1843) – A lawyer and amateur poet, Francis Scott Key immortalized the defense of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812 by penning the words that would become the U.S. national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." He witnessed the British bombardment and was moved by the sight of the American flag still flying at dawn. His poem captured a nation's resilience and spirit. Though he continued in law and public service, it is his powerful verses that earned him lasting fame. Key's contribution helped

- Continued on Page 16, Key -

Allen Laws Oliver Chapter



On February 14th 2026, the Allen Laws Oliver Chapter of the Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution held our 17th annual President's Day 5K race. Pictured here, with Allen Laws Oliver Chapter President Matthew Toeniskoetter, in colonial uniform, are our wonderful cast of runners. The weather was just right for the race. Every year, Allen Laws Oliver Chapter puts on a 5K race on the Saturday before President's Day. This year, that day just happened to fall on Valentine's Day as well. So, it was a double fun run. We were also fortunate to have our Missouri Society Eastern Color Guard commander Ben Crouch, and his wife Trisha, with us for the race. They traveled from St. Louis, Missouri to Cape Girardeau, Missouri to participate in the race. We also had one canine participant, not pictured, because she wasn't allowed in the building for the picture. Make plans to join us next year to run, or walk, at our 18th Annual President's Day 5K race. Visit our website <https://mossar.org/capesar/> for sign up information closer to race day. It's a great time for people, and pooches, of all ages. See you at the starting line!

Remember, registration for the April 24-25 MOSSAR Conference is OPEN. Registration fee is \$55.00 until March 31st. Then the cost of registraion goes up to \$75.00. You can register for the conference and the Friday colorguard activities at: <https://ozarkmountainsar.com/2026-mossar-convention>. Don't wait, register now at the lower rate.

Christopher Casey Chapter

Wounded Warrior presentation

First recipient is Warren Scott Coonce, second is James Halbritter Sr, third recipient could not make it. All info is on the flyer; many people turned out in support and enjoyed food and dancing after the event. Warren Coones served in the Army. received his Purple Heart in Vietnam and retired after 11 years. Prior to the Army service, he served in the Air Force for 3 years.

James Halbritter Sr served in the Marine Corps for 5 years; he received 3 Purple Hearts in service in Vietnam. Joshua Randall, who missed the event, but I will take his wounded warrior coin and certificate to him. He served 7 years in the Army, including 1 tour in Afghanistan and 2 tours in Iraq, where he received his Purple Heart.



Christopher Casey Chapter at Camdenton, Missouri, with the DAR Wazhazhe Chapter. Camdenton High School JROTC is presenting the colors and performing taps. Great turnout for the weather and the first event held in Camdenton.



Fernando de Leyba Chapter

Veterans Day Flag Folding Ceremony

The Eastern Division Color Guard of the Missouri Society Sons of the American Revolution (MOSSAR) was invited back to perform a flag-folding ceremony at Prairie View Elementary School in Dardenne Prairie, MO, on November 11, 2025. The Eastern Division Color Guard performed the ceremony last year at their annual Veterans Day Assembly. Prairie View students who are in Scouts presented and retired the colors, accompanied by the MOSSAR drummer. The students seemed to enjoy the addition of the drum as the student color guard marched in and out. I know Jeffrey, the drummer, was excited to be participating with the students. The art teacher and Scout leader, Elizabeth Tewell, read the Boy Scout version of the meaning of the 13 folds of the flag while the SAR Color Guard folded the flag. The folded flag was presented to a veteran in the audience to complete the ceremony. The MOSSAR Color Guardsmen who participated in the ceremony were Barton Tallent, Ben Crouch, and Jeffrey Willey.



Fernando de Leyba Chapter

Members of the Eastern District Color Guard on November 8, 2025, had the privilege of posting and retrieving the colors at the Veterans' Appreciation Luncheon for Jefferson County area Veterans. The event was sponsored by the Louisiana Purchase Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The event was held at the Festus- Crystal City Chapter Conservation Club. The Conservation Club sits in a wooded park-like area with a nice lake. MOSSAR Color Guard members in attendance were Gary LeClaire, SSL; Matthew Toeniskoetter, ALO; Ben Crouch, FDL; Larry Montgomery, FDL/SSL; Doug Anderson, SSL; and Jeffrey Willey, SSL/FDL Chapter. The MOSSAR Color Guard was assisted by Lillith Elliott of the Samuel Kennerly Chapter of C.A.R., posting the DAR flag.



At the chapter meeting on December 8, 2025, Bernadette Hall, the St. Charles DAR Chapter Regent, presented Ben Crouch with their Bronze Medal of Distinction for DAR assistance.

L-R Tricia Crouch, Ben, and Bernadette



Ben Crouch receiving the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for his service as Vice President and Eastern Color Guard Commander. President Jim Jackson authorized Secretary/Treasurer Dan Evans to present this award, which the Chapter President can award once per year.



At the chapter meeting on January 12, 2026, Bart Tallent was recognized as a George Washington Fellow, and he explained the Endowment's purpose and the resulting donation process the organization makes.

L-R Rick Morton, Bart Tallent, and President Jim Jackson



Fernando de Leyba Chapter



On February 7th Bill Grote, our Emeritus Color Guard Commander, was awarded the Hannah White award medal from the Old Town of Fenton Chapter of the DAR. Color guard members from FDL, Spirit of St. Louis Chapter, and Allen Laws Oliver Chapter in Cape Girardeau participated.

L-R Matt Toeniskoetter (ALO), Dan Evans, Ben Crouch, Bill Grote, Bart Tallent (FDL), and Jeff Willey (SSL/FDL)

Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday

Members of the MOSSAR Eastern Division Color Guard supported the Cornelia Greene Chapter of Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (MSSDAR) to commemorate George Washington's Birthday. The event took place at Lafayette Park, 2101 Park Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104. This is an annual event that took place on Presidents' Day, February 16, 2026. The program takes place in the Kern Pavilion that is heated and has restrooms. We had a pretty nice day this year so the heat was not as appreciated as it was last year when it was five degrees. The DAR served refreshments, which are always good. After the posting of the colors by the MOSSAR Color Guard and the opening ceremonies, Mary Compton, Regent, Cornelia Greene Chapter of DAR, welcomed everyone, and then Lisa Parks, State Regent MSSDAR, also greeted everyone. The main program was "George Washington in the Winter of 1776: Lessons from His 44th Birthday for Our 250th" presented by Lorri Glover of Saint Louis University. When the presentation was finished, the MOSSAR Color Guard retrieved the colors and led a procession across the park to the statue of George Washington. Becky Osbourn, State Vice Regent MSSDAR, carried the wreath to the statue where Lisa Parks, State Regent MSSDAR, performed the Wreath Laying. After the Wreath Laying, the MOSSAR Color Guard led the procession back to the three cannons located near the Kern Pavilion. Two of the cannons are "Long Toms," and the other cannon is a "Carronade." These cannons were part of the munitions of the 50-gun British frigate, "Acteon." The ship entered Charleston Harbor in 1776 to bomb Fort Moultrie but ran aground to be immediately attacked by American ships and sank. The cannons were later retrieved and sold. The Missouri Commander of the Loyal Legion purchased the cannons and presented them to Lafayette Park. At the cannons, Sumner Hunnewell, Council-in-Chief, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), gave a short closing presentation. The MOSSAR Color Guard then retired the colors to conclude the event.



Fernando de Leyba Chapter

Thirty Ninth Annual George Washington Birthday Celebration, KC

The Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution celebrated George Washington's Birthday at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO, on 14 Feb 2026. The George Washington Celebration participants are made up of Missouri and Kansas Compatriots as well as Daughters from both states. Twenty-seven Color Guardsmen from MO/KS participated in the event. Seven of Missouri's 16 chapters were represented...from St. Louis all the way to Springfield. The celebration was honored to have T. Brooks Lyles, SAR Treasurer General, as the guest speaker. The new inaugural Bob Grover Patriotism Award was introduced with Bob as the initial recipient. Bob has served on the GWBC committee for 32 years and previously served for 13 years as the Color Guard Commander for the Missouri Society.

James Smith Talbot Chapter

On Dec 13, Compatriot Michael Robertson was at the Peculiar Cemetery participating in the Wreaths Across America ceremony with the Lee's Summit High School Air Force JROTC.



Josiah Howell Chapter



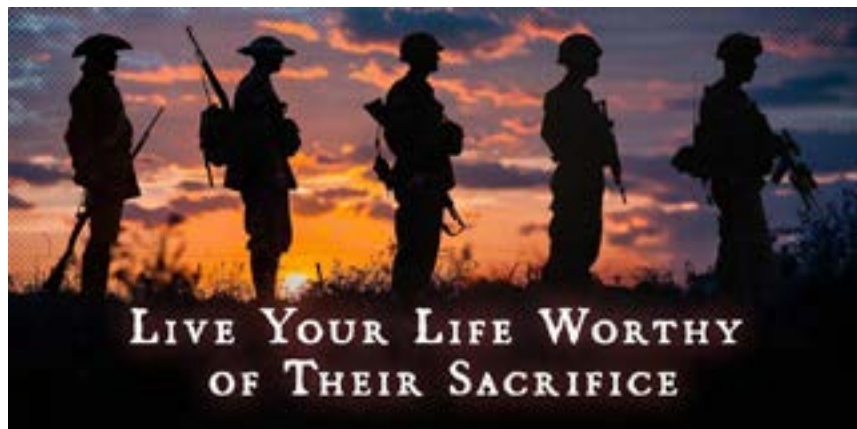
Chapter members at two Veterans Day Parades on November 8.



On November 22nd, we assisted the Ozark Spring Chapter DAR in a grave marking ceremony for Vivian Brake. Not only was she a long-time member of DAR, she was also the wife of Dale Brake and grandmother of Nick Brake, both members of SAR. Fred McKinney sang a song, and Garry Pirch placed flowers on her grave.



Josiah Howell members turned out for a performance of the University and community band for a Christmas concert, which Fred McKinney is a member of, on December 3rd. We were joined by Santa Claus (Mike Topliff -paperwork at national waiting for approval). Mrs. Claus (Pam Topliff) is a DAR member.



Josiah Howell Chapter



December 6th brought our regular meeting and annual luncheon with the Ozark Spring Chapter DAR, with meetings afterward.

The Wreaths Across America event was on Saturday, December 13, with very good representation from the Josiah Howell Chapter SAR. Brett Howell did double duty by driving one of the red, white, and blue trucks delivering the wreaths from the VFW Hall to the cemetery and laying the ceremonial wreath representing the Marines. Paul London placed the ceremonial wreath representing the Gold Star Families. Fred McKinney sang the National Anthem, and Garry Pirch filled in for Dale Brake (our Chaplain) in giving the Invocation. All members present assisted in handing out wreaths or placing a wreath on a Veteran's grave.

The Red, White, and Blue trucks are getting ready to leave with the wreaths to the Cemetery on the left. On the right, Paul London stands behind the Gold Star wreath after placing it on the stand.



Josiah Howell Chapter was invited by the American Legion/VFW to a Christmas meal on December 11th. After the meal, we presented the American Legion Hall with a Flag Certificate for an outstanding display of the American Flag.



Martin Warren Chapter



The Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution celebrated George Washington's Birthday at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO, on 14 Feb 2026. The George Washington Celebration participants are made up of Missouri and Kansas Compatriots as well as Daughters from both states. Twenty-seven Color Guardsmen from MO/KS participated in the event. Seven of Missouri's 16 chapters were represented...from St. Louis all the way to Springfield. The celebration was honored to have T. Brooks Lyles, SAR Treasurer General, as the guest speaker. The new inaugural Bob Grover Patriotism Award was introduced with Bob as the initial recipient. Bob has served on the GWBC committee for 32 years and previously served for 13 years as the Color Guard Commander for the Missouri Society.



Independence Pioneers Chapter, NSDAR, Regent Placing Wreath on First Lady's Grave; escorted by Stephen Sullins (IPC).

Bess Wallace Truman's 141st Birthday Observance The NW District, Missouri Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard was honored to present and retire colors for the 141st Birthday Observance of First Lady Bess Wallace Truman on February 16th, 2026 at the Harry S Truman Presidential Library and Museum. The event was co-sponsored by the Library and the Independence Pioneers Chapter, NSDAR. Megan Gorman, author of All the Presidents' Money, was the guest speaker. A wreath laying on the first lady's grave followed the program.



(L to R): Roy Hutchinson (HST); Jimmy Durigan (WCC); Stephen Sullins (IPC); Gene Henry (MWC); J. Michael Robertson (JST); Ivan Stull (HST); Georgia Stull (NSDAR); John Sutton (IPC); Marilyn Henry (NSDAR); and Mark Parks (MWC).

AM 250th Commemoration Honoring George Washington and our Revolutionary War Ancestors. The NW District, Missouri Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard were honored to Present and Retire Colors for the Kansas City Chapter, NSDAR in their AM 250th Commemoration honoring George Washington and 36 proven Patriot Ancestors of the NSDAR, NSSAR, and NSCAR daughters, sons, and children at the ceremony. The Color Guard was comprised of Missouri and Kansas Compatriots and fired a 3-volley Musket Salute. The event also commemorated the Kansas City Chapter, DAR's 120th anniversary. A nice luncheon was served at Harvey's at Union Station following the event. Pictures on the next page.

Martin Warren Chapter



(L to R): Mark Parks (MWC); Stephen Sullins (IPC); Ivan Stull (HST); Doug Christie (MWC); Jeffrey Winters (KS/MC); John Sutton (IPC); Clay Shropshire (KS/DX); Georgia Stull (NSDAR); Jim Tucker (IPC); Millie Jackson (NSCAR); John MORE (KS/CR); Roy Hutchinson (HST); and Alan Martin (KS/MC).



- From Page 6, Key -

forge a deeper sense of American identity and unity in times of crisis.

On the night of September 13, 1814, Key had boarded a British ship under a flag of truce to negotiate the release of an American prisoner but was detained overnight as the attack unfolded. From the deck of the ship, he watched as rockets and mortars lit up the sky—and wondered if the American flag still flew above the fort. At dawn, he saw the massive 15-star, 15-stripe flag still waving and was so moved by the sight that he scribbled the first lines of what would become “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Originally a poem titled “Defence of Fort M’Henry,” it quickly spread through newspapers and was later set to the tune of a popular British melody. He later wrote, “Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto—‘In God is our trust.’”

Ozark Mountain Chapter



Veterans Day Parade at Branson Landing. (L-R) Dan Piedlow, Gary Gift, Steve Perkins, and Ken Lawrence.
Veteran's Day at OTC

This annual event was well attended by the OMC/SAR. Compatriots Jeff Hicks, Dan McMurray, Joe Walker, Charles McMillan, and Howard Fisk were in uniform and participated.

The Color guardsmen presented the colors, and Howard presented the OTC Veteran of the Year certificate to Jason Kpukowski.



Ozark Mountain Chapter



The guest speaker, Rear Admiral Hank Molinengo, is shown with Jeff, Joe, and Charles before the event started.

He gave a speech that encouraged us to take care of each other, especially our veterans. 22 Veterans kill themselves every day. Don't be afraid to ask someone how they are doing.

Rear Admiral Molinengo was stationed at the Pentagon when it was struck by American Airlines Flight 77 during the Sep 11, 2001, attacks.

This program, held on Nov 11, is the 37th Veterans program put on by Cassville School. They hold it as close to Nov 11th as possible. All local veterans are invited, and each is presented a certificate by the school honoring their service.

The program is presented by the music and speech departments, assisted by the JROTC. The student body is very appreciative and respectful. A veterans' reception is held after the program.

Compatriot Dan Philbrick has been privileged to attend almost all of them. Attached are 3 pix taken by the school, and here is a link to the page where there are a lot more:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1452850026843379&set=d41d8cd9>

KY3 also featured a spot on the Nov 11 evening news.

Annual Veteran's Lunch

On November 16, the chapter held its lunch to honor a veteran. This year we honored two veteran's, one from WWII, and one from the Korean War.



Roy Steinestel, a World War II Veteran, being presented with a Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate.



Al Gauteri, a Korean War Veteran, being presented with a Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate.



Ozark Mountain Chapter



Compatriot Daniel Piedlow is talking to Greenwood Laboratory School's eighth-grade class about the NSSAR's Brochure Contest on November 14th.

Wreaths Across America Saturday, December 13, 2025, Springfield, Missouri.

Ozark Mountain Chapter Color Guard joined an estimated 300 persons who came to the cemetery to honor, remember, and lay wreaths at thousands of graves of veterans, saying their names aloud and expressing thanks for service.

State Color Guard Commander read the President General Michael J Elston's WAA proclamation themed "KEEP MOVING FORWARD".



On December 3rd, Compatriot Daniel Piedlow talking to a fifth grade class at New Covenant Academy about our Poster Contest.



Gerald Hill, OMC Color Guardsman, attended Wreaths Across America on December 13 at the Missouri Veterans' Cemetery, Fort Leonard Wood.



Ozark Mountain Chapter



On Dec. 17, 2025 the presented Chapter Patricia Lee Hobbs with a certificate for your exemplary community service by fostering an understanding and appreciation of Ozarks History; enriching genealogical study and research so that others might gain a deeper appreciation of their personal heritage, and their family's contributions that make the Ozarks what they are today.



Compatriot and MOSSAR Executive Vice President Ken Lawrence presenting MSSCAR President Teddy Moll with a check for his project protecting Missouri's turtles, at the CAR Dinner on December 19.

The Ozarks Mountain Chapter, on February 9, 2026, by invitation from the Quilts of Valor Foundation to participate in the presentation of Quilts of Valor to six military veterans at The Montclair Senior Living Center in Springfield.

The national Quilts of Valor Foundation was represented by Shirley Haskins, Linda Groce, and Mary Ryder. Women across the country volunteer to make patriotic-themed quilts. Each is unique and bears the name of the recipient.

Compatriots Steven Perkins, Charles McMillan and Rodney Grewe assisted in presenting Quilts of Valor to veterans John Grace, Stan Harpool, Rawleigh Harr, Howard Lachance and husband and wife, Barbara and Larry McBride.

A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war.



Ozark Mountain Chapter



Sunday, November 2, Calton Cemetery, rural Verona, Missouri. The Ozark Mountain Chapter MOSSAR joined its member Joe Walker to memorialize a patriot grandson, Thomas Crouch. Thomas's grandfather Joseph Crouch (P-141703), and great-grandfather John Crouch (P-141701) both served in the America Revolution. The chapter placed a medallion on the Civil War gravestone, said medallion identifying a descendant child or grandchild.



OMC Members advancing colors were Steve Perkins, Eli Harris, Joe Walker, Ken Lawrence, Bruce Bacher. Photos by Dan Piedlow.



Veterans with their quilts.



On February 9, the Color Guard members were honored to present colors prior to tip-off of the Missouri State Lady Bears vs. Liberty College. State Commander Steve Perkins, Jeff Hicks, Gary Gift, Ken Lawrence, Don Higginson, and Dan Piedlow (photographer) made their advance for the national anthem then departed where some remained to watch the game. Perkins saw this game on the schedule late last year and regarded it as the perfect opportunity to bring colors for all attendees and participants to hopefully get a patriotic shiver up their spine.

Ozark Mountain Chapter

Ozark Chapter's Past President J Howard Fisk received a Distinguished Citizen Commendation on February 24, awarded by the Ozark Trails Council Scouts of America. OMC Color Guard advanced and posted colors before nearly 100 guests and the honoree at the luncheon fund raiser, Barley House at Moon Town, 3060 N Kentwood, Springfield. Color Guard and chapter members Dan Piedlow, Don Higgerson, Charles McMillan, Joe Walker, Rod Grewe, Ken Lawrence, and Steve Perkins were honored to have attended this event to gain a greater perspective about a true leader.



Color Guard advancing Colors.



Past President General David Appleby.



Scouting America Ozarks Trails Council CEO Travis Rubelee present Compatriot J. Howard Fisk with a sealed 100th Anniversary Limited Edition of Boy Scouts of America History book.



Past OMC President Gary Gift.

Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter



Saturday, December 13, 2025, the Sgt Ariel Nims chapter in Joplin laid wreaths in the Veteran's section at the Mount Hope Cemetery, Webb City, Missouri.

Spirit of St. Louis Chapter

William "Bill" Grote Award Ceremony

Members of the Eastern District of the MOSSAR Color Guard posted and retrieved the colors Saturday February 07, 2026 in the Friendship Village Ballroom at 12563 Village Circle Dr., St. Louis, MO. The event was held during a regular meeting of the Olde Towne Fenton Chapter, Inc. of the MO/NSDAR. Friendship Village is a retirement community where some members of the Old Town chapter reside. The event honored William "Bill" Grote by presenting him with the Hannah White Arnett Award. Karen Underwood the DAR/SAR/S.R. Committee Chairperson explained the award is given to an SAR member for his unselfish devotion, tireless efforts and for dedicating his time, energy and talents to historic preservation, education and patriotism over a period of time. After the award ceremony the DAR chapter took a break and the SAR retired colors.

Compatriot Grote joined SAR September 9, 2009 and is still a member in good standing. As an active member of the Fernando de Leyba Chapter of NSSAR he served as Sergeant-at-arms and Chapter Color Guard Commander from 2011 through 2019 (8 years), Eastern District Color Guard Commander of MOSSAR from 2013 through 2022 (9 years). Bill participated in many SAR and DAR events over the years. He received many awards including the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award a chapter President can award. The Fernando de Leyba Chapter honored Bill with the title of Color Guard Commander Emeritus May 4, 2025.



Uniformed Color Guard Participants (L-R)
Matthew Toeniskoetter ALO, Dan Evens FDL,
Ben Crouch FDL, Bill Grote FDL, Bart Tallent FDL,
Jeffrey Willey FDL/SSL

Spirit of St. Louis Chapter



Above: Bill Grote, Olde Towne Fenton DAR Chapter SAR/DAR Relationship Chair, Karen Underwood, and Olde Towne Fenton DAR Chapter Regent, Debra Rahn. Left: Color Guard marching out after posting the colors.



Compatriot Burt Mayfield, a MOSSAR former state president, celebrated his 99th birthday with SSL President Doug Anderson (L) and current MOSSAR President Steven Biggs. Burt was presented with a Silver Good Citizenship medal along with a signed birthday card from chapter compatriots.



William C. Corum Chapter

Saturday, November 8th, the William C Corum Chapter of the SAR and the Alexander Donilhan Chapter of the DAR held their annual Veterans Day luncheon to honor chapter veterans. The luncheon included a Quilts of Valor program, where a patriotic quilt is given to a veteran. This program is a joint effort of the WCC Women's Auxiliary and the Alexander Doniphon Chapter DAR. This year's recipient is Vietnam veteran Larry Anderson. Attached photo L-R, Jerre Robertson (reading at the podium, Color Guard Michael Robertson, Carol Kingery, Larry Anderson, WCC President Drew Kingery, Ruth Anderson, and Darrel Jones.



The keynote speaker was retired Marine Gunnery Sargent Jacob Seller, who is the Kansas City Coordinator of Irreverent Warriors. Jacob spoke to us about what the group does to help veterans. (Photo of Jacob Sellers and President Drew Kingery.)



WCC compatriot and veteran Jeff Cary and Michael Robertson demonstrating the 13 steps of proper flag folding.



WCC compatriots who are veterans.

At the annual Veterans Day Luncheon that the Alexander Doniphon DAR and the William C. Corum SAR chapters co-host each year, we give a quilt of Valor to a deserving veteran. This year's recipient was Larry Anderson. He is a decorated veteran. He received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Southeast Asia Medal, and U.S.

Defense Medal. He is a very worthy recipient of this quilt.

(L-R) Jerre Robertson, Alexander Doniphon DAR Chapter; Michael Robertson, William C. Corum Chapter; Carol Kingery, William C. Corum Chapter Auxiliary; Larry Anderson (Vietnam War Veteran); Drew Kingery, Past William C. Corum Chapter President; Ruth Anderson, wife of Larry Anderson; Darrell Jones, Current William C. Corum Chapter President.



November 3, 2025

National Guard to Celebrate 389th Birthday on December 13, 2025

COL John D. Hathcock, U.S. Army (Ret.), 417-230-9187, Jhathcock06@gmail.com



The founding of our current day National Guard was established on December 13, 1636, by the Massachusetts General Court in Salem, where all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join the militia and would be called on to fight when needed for the protection of the colonies. The colony's militia was organized into three permanent regiments to defend the colony. Several units of the Massachusetts Militia have maintained continuous service and are the lineal descendants for the current National Guard. They are the 101st Engineer Battalion, the 181st Infantry Regiment and the 182nd Infantry Regiment. These are the oldest units of the U.S. military.

The 101st Engineers carries the lineage of the East Regiment, which was organized in 1636 from militia companies in Salem, Saugus, Ipswich and Newbury.

The 181st and 182nd Infantry Regiments carry the lineage of the North Regiment, which was organized in 1636 from militia companies in Charlestown, Cambridge, Watertown, Medford and Concord.

On April 19, 1775, the "shot heard 'round the world" rang out, initiating hostilities in the war for American independence. Units of the Massachusetts militia were at Lexington Green and Concord Bridge that fateful day. Today, these three units of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, trace their continuous active military service and lineage to those militia units. They are the only three units in the U.S. Army who can display the Lexington battle streamer.

This date, December 13, 1636, in history designates the beginning of the organized militia, and the birth of the National Guard's oldest organized units, symbolic of the founding of all the state, commonwealth, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam militias that collectively make up today's National Guard."

Under state law, the National Guard provides "First Responder" capability and protection of life and property, and preserves peace, order and public safety. The National Guard's federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization and deployment during war and provide assistance during national emergencies.

With its dual state and federal mission, the National Guard is a fully integrated operational force of the U.S. military capabilities. Each soldier and airman hold membership in both the National Guard of his or her state and in the U.S. Army or the U.S. Air Force.

The National Guard is a local community cornerstone, with more than 2,500 Army Guard readiness centers (armories) and facilities along with 433,000 National Guard members living and serving in nearly every zip code.

Always Ready, Always There - Your National Guard

Reference:

[How We Began - About the Guard - The National Guard](#)
[2024 NGEF Commemorative Ornament - NGEF](#)

In Memoriam

Compatriots Lost November to February 2025-2026



Compatriot	Date	Chapter
Raymond Curtis Ballenger	5Nov2025	Spirit of St Louis
Kevin 'Skip' Hay	9Nov2025	Wm C Corum
Columbus Craft	10Nov2025	Ozark Patriots
Mark Stephen Schreiber	17Nov2025	Christopher Casey
Robert Allen Wiley	2Dec2025	Martin Warren
Bobby Austin Pierceall	7Jan2026	Martin Warren
Ronald Dean Hughes	10Feb2026	Independence Patriots
Gary Gene Gorline	11Feb2026	Fernando de Leyba





Battle of Fort San Carlos Festival and Grave Marking

**EXPANDED TWO DAY EVENT:
MAY 30-31, 2026
STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI**

In partnership with the city of Ste. Genevieve, this year there will be added events to commemorate this pivotal battle and enjoy the historic town.

SAR Event Schedule Preview for Sunday, May 31

****rain or shine event****

11 a.m.

**Militia and Color Guard muster at
Guibord-Valle House**

1 p.m.

Memorial Cemetery Ceremony

**Bring your own wreath and receive
a commemorative flag streamer.**

**SAR members must
register to receive credit.
Scan below to visit the
event website:**

**[www.mossar.org/battle-
of-fort-san-carlos/](http://www.mossar.org/battle-of-fort-san-carlos/)**



**Extra weekend events: Market Vendors,
Colonial Reenactors, Encampments, etc!**

National Color Guard Event - Sons of the American Revolution

Participating Color Guard members must contact State Commander Steve Perkins
to review safety requirements and eligibility for medal qualification: patriotmarcher@fastmail.com