

The Missouri Compatriot

Volume 33

Issue 2



<https://america250sar.org>

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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a solemn and sacred obligation is imposed that they shall declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence forbids

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

AMERICA 250
Hawai'i



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

On the Cover
Compatriot's at the Springfield National Cemetery honoring Patriot William Freeman at the beginning of the state conference.



Editor: Daniel Piedlow
Publisher: President Ken Lawrence



From The President

By President Ken Lawrence

Later this summer, on July 4th, our country will gather to celebrate a momentous occasion – the 250th anniversary of our great nation, the United States of America. We are not just celebrating a number, we are honoring a legacy of freedom, courage and progress that has shaped the world for two and a half centuries.

Let us travel back to 1776. Picture the sweltering heat of a Philadelphia summer, as a group of brave men gathered to put their names to a document that would change the course of history.

The Declaration of Independence was more than just words on a piece of paper; it was a bold statement of principles that still guide us today. Their courage and determination laid the foundation for what would become the greatest experiment in democracy the world has ever seen.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” These words sparked a revolution not just in America, but in the hearts and minds of people around the world.

The United States was not born perfect. Far from it. But what set us apart was our unwavering commitment to the ideals of freedom, justice and equality. These principles which are enshrined in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, --have guided us through both triumphs and tribulations.

For 250 years, America has stood as a beacon of hope for people throughout the world. We’ve welcomed immigrants seeking a better life, defended freedom on distant shores, and pushed the boundaries of human achievement.

From the Wright Brothers’ first flight to the landing on the moon, from the invention of the telephone to the creation of the internet, American ingenuity has changed the world in countless ways.

As we celebrate this milestone, we must also look to the future. The challenges we face today – may seem daunting. But remember, every generation of Americans has faced its own set of challenges, and each time, we’ve risen to meet them.

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.” Let us take these words to heart as we move forward into our next quarter-millennium.

To the members of the Sons of the American Revolution, I say this: Our work is not done. The torch of Liberty that our ancestors lit 250 years ago now passes to us. It’s our duty to keep that flame burning bright for future generations.

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we have an obligation to our forefathers as stated in our oath.

We are truly grateful for those patriots who came before us, but the work they achieved did not end with them in establishing the United States, or providing us a Constitution, the Bill of Rights, or an Independent Supreme Court. We, us, --must fulfill an obligation ourselves, as American citizens, we must ensure their work in creating our nation was not in vain. But that the principles described in those documents are sustainable for future generations.

My Fellow Compatriots, we must solemnly pledge ourselves to defend the principles of Liberty and our Constitutional Republic against all foes so that future generations are guaranteed the same opportunities we have richly enjoyed.

Let us recommit ourselves to the ideals that have guided our nation for two and a half centuries. Let us work tirelessly to ensure that the promise of America ---Life, Liberty, and pursuit of happiness---is available to all who call this great land home.

This brings me to the heart of my message today: the importance of being an active member.

I challenge every compatriot here today — whether you or a new inductee or a seasoned SAR member— to ask yourself how you can contribute. Perhaps it is through color guard participation, youth programs, grave markings, flag presentations, historical education, or community outreach. Perhaps it is through leadership — serving as an officer, mentoring new members, or representing your chapter at state events. No contribution is too small, and every effort strengthens the whole.

Let me be clear: your chapter and your state society need you as an active, participating member!

- Continued on Page 4, President -

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](#)

POPLAR BLUFF - Ozarks Gateway 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](#)

March-April New Compatriots

Floyd Bowles
Donald Ham
Elijah Elchinger
Craig Jones
Ryan Parks
Francis Slack
Paul Standlford
Marshall Gaddy
Duell Lauderdale
James McCauley
Ninion Riley
William Cox
David Foster
Dillon Low
Clark Mershon
David Read
Larry Dietzel

Allen Laws Oliver Chapter
Allen Laws Oliver Chapter
Spirit of St. Louis Chapter
M. Graham Clark Chapter
Martin Warren Chapter
Ozark Patriots Chapter
Fernando de Leyba Chapter
Christopher Casey Chapter
Christopher Casey Chapter
Independence Patriots Chapter
Christopher Casey Chapter
Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter
Christopher Casey Chapter
Ozark Mountain Chapter
M. Graham Clark Chapter
Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter
M. Graham Clark Chapter



- From Page 1, President -

Membership in SAR is not a passive honor; it is a living commitment. Wearing the rosette, the medal, or the lapel pin carries meaning only when matched by participation. Chapters thrive when members attend meetings, volunteer for committees, support programs, and step forward when help is needed. State societies grow stronger when chapters are engaged, represented, and involved in statewide initiatives.

Each of us have our own special gifts or talents, we just need the courage to use them.

So, reach out to your chapter president or one of our state society officers and get involved.

The SAR gives each of us the opportunity to push ourselves out of our comfort zones and utilize our talents in ways that not only provide fulfillment of the

SAR mission--but individual fulfillment in accomplishing an objective or mission that has elevated not only your life---but the lives of others.

So, in closing, as we blow out the candles on America's 250th birthday cake, let us remember the words of President Ronald Reagan: "America is a shining city on a hill whose beacon light guides freedom-loving people everywhere."

For 250 years, that light has burned bright. With you, your chapter, and our state and national SAR societies help, and the spirit of all Americans, it will continue to shine for centuries to come.

Happy birthday, America.

Here's to the next 250 years!

2026 MOSSAR State Conference

Friday Afternoon Activities - First Stop



Color Guard before entering the Greene County Courthouse for the Plaque Dedication.



Past MOSSAR President J. Howard Fisk giving the details of the plaque.



The plaque being displayed for the first time honoring the 31 Patriots who are buried in Greene County.



State Color Guard Commander Steve Perkins presenting Connie Yen from the Greene County Archivist with a Certificate of Appreciation for her work in finding all the Patriots.

Friday Afternoon Activities - Second Stop



At Phelps Grove Park, Compatriots retired an unfit flag. Compatriot Mark Parks with a stripe before he places it in the fire.



Compatriot Joe Walker placing the stripe into the fire.

Friday Afternoon Activities - Third Stop



Color Guard honoring Patriot William Freeman at the Spring National Cemetery.



Color Guard firing one of three volleys on the bridge at Phelps Grove Park.

Editor Request:

Please help me. When submitting an article for the newsletter, please ensure it is in Word document format. This makes it better to insert the article into the newsletter. **Please include the date of the event, the location where it took place, the name of the chapter, and the names of the attendees.** Also, pictures should be in the original format, not cropped or reduced in size (megabytes). If pictures are included in the Word document, also include them as an attachment. I can convert almost all picture formats, but the best ones are either **.jpeg**, **.png**, or **RAW**.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Daniel Piedlow, MOSSAR Editor



Color Guard behind the headstone after the wreath has been placed.



SAR Librarian General James Osbourn presenting the manager of the University Plaza Hotel with a Flag Certificate for properly flying the flag.

Friday Evening Dinner



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Jerre Robertson with a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster Medal of Appreciation.



Compatriots Steve Perkins (L), and Gene Henry (R) singing the National Anthem.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Jerre Robertson with a Gold Oak Leaf Cluster Martha Washington Medal.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Lisa Parks, DAR State Regent with a Silver Henry Knox Achievement Medal.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry and Jerre Robertson with her medals.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Lisa Parks, DAR State Regent with her medals and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for the Martha Washington Medal.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Anne Sizemore with a Gold Oak Leaf Cluster for her Martha Washington Medal. Jerre Robertson accepting on her behalf.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Marilyn Henry with her medals and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters for her Martha Washington Medal.



Guest Speaker Dr. William Ambrose talking about the Trail of Tears, which goes through Springfield.



MOSSAR Past-President Gene Henry presenting Joan Koechig her Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for her Martha Washington Medal.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Dr. Ambrose with the Missouri State Society SAR Bronze Medal and Certificate.

Saturday Morning Board Meeting



MOSSAR State Chaplain Dan Philbrick and Chaplain nominee Michael Hahn during a time of remembrance of Compatriots lost.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Compatriot Darrell Jones with his George Washington Fellow Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Josiah Howell Chapter their First Place Certificate for small chapters for the Yohee Yearbook. Norm Knowlton (C) is the Chairman.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Harry S. Truman Chapter their First Place Certificate for medium Chapters for the Yohee Yearbook. Norm Knowlton (C) is the Chairman.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Fernando de Leyba Chapter their First Place Certificate for large chapters for the Yohee Yearbook. Norm Knowlton (C) is the Chairman.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter a Certificate for 50 years in the Missouri Society.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Josiah Howell Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Independence Patriots Chapter a Certificate and Plaque for First Place in the Small Chapter in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the James Smith Talbot Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Allen Laws Oliver Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Harry S. Truman Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.

Saturday Morning Board Meeting Continued



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Martin Warren Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Christopher Casey Chapter a Certificate and Plaque for First Place in the Mid-Sized Chapter in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the M. Graham Clark Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the William C. Corum Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Spirit of St. Louis Chapter a Certificate of Participation in the Josiah Fogg Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter a Certificate for First Place for the Americanism Competition for small chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Alexander Majors Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Christopher Casey Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Ozark Patriots Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Harry S. Truman Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Allen Laws Oliver Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Josiah Howell Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.

Saturday Morning Board Meeting Continued



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the James Smith Talbot Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Martin Warren Chapter a Certificate for First Place for the Americanism Competition for medium chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the M. Graham Clark Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for large chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the William C. Corum Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for large chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Spirit of St. Louis Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for large chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Fernando de Leyba Chapter an Honorable Mention Certificate for the Americanism Competition for large chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Ozark Mountain Chapter a Certificate for First Place for the Americanism Competition for large chapters.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Martin Warren Chapter a Certificate of Appreciation.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Fernando de Leyba Chapter a Second Place Certificate in the MOSSAR Flag Presentation Program.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Ozark Mountain Chapter a Certificate a First Place Certificate in the MOSSAR Flag Presentation Program.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting James Closson with a Liberty Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting James Closson with a Patriot Medal and Certificate.

Saturday Luncheon Awards Banquet



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Detective Brian Smith of the Springfield Police Department with the Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Tristan Hall from Troop 226 from Branson with the Life Saving Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Jesiah Richardson from Troop 149 from Fort Leonard Wood with the Life Saving Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Division Chief Eric Latimer from the Springfield Fire Department with the Fire Safety Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Paramedic Dylan Popken of the Special Response Group from Cox Medical with the Emergency Medical Services Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Deputy Derek Perkins from the Lawrence County Sheriffs Department with the Heroism Award Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Compatriot Marvin Koechig, Chairman, presenting JROTC Cadet Blake Marsh from Camdenton High School with the JROTC Enhanced Outstanding Cadet Scholarship.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Compatriot Marvin Koechig, Chairman, presenting Lt. Colonel Brendan McKiernan, Senior Instructor from Camdenton High School with the Col. David Appleby Leadership JROTC Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Dan Piedlow, Chairman, presenting the check for the Brochure Contest winner Ella Englert.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Dan Piedlow, Chairman, presenting the check for the Poster Contest winner Kendall Schroeder.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Ed Choate, Chairman, presenting the check and Certificate for the Knight Essay Contest winner Hayden Woods from Truman High School.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Gary Gift, Chairman, presenting a check Certificate and Medal to Lilly Stevens for the King Eagle Scout Contest.

Saturday Luncheon Awards Banquet Continued



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Michael Robertson, Chairman, presenting the check and trophy to Greg Finch from Lee Summit Academy for the Lawrence Teacher of the Year Contest for High Schools.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Michael Robertson, Chairman, presenting the check and Certificate to Natalie Donio from St. John Paul II Preparatory School for the Yourh Video Contest for High Schools.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs and Michael Robertson, Chairman, presenting the check and trophy to Katie Moreland from Lucy Wortham James Elementary School for the Lawrence Teacher of the Year Contest for Elementary Schools.



MOSSAR Scout Chairman Gary Gift (R) with the recipients of the Scouts Awards, (L-R) Tristan Hall, Jesiah Richardson, and Lilly Stevens.

Saturday Evening Dinner



Ladies Auxillary Jerre Robertson and MOSSAR Past-President David Shaul present Librarian General James Osbourn with a quilt the Auxillary made for him. If you look at the quilt closely, you will be able to see it's a bookcase with books.



Dr. Jeffery Bibbee a keynote speaker talking about the Trail of Tears as it pertained to the Cherokee Nation.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Dr. Bibbee with the Missouri State Society Bronze Medal and Certificate.



Secretary General William Greenly a keynote speaker talking about the Society.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting Secretary General Greenly with the Missouri State Society Gold Medal and Certificate.



Librarian General James Osbourn presenting a Certificate for Compatriot Jeff Carey for being an Endowment Member of the Friends of the Library.



MOSSAR Ladies Auxillary talking about the funds they were able to raise. L-R, Jerre Robertson, Anita Philbrick, Vicki Biggs, and Peggy Anderson.

Saturday Evening Dinner Continued



MOSSAR Ladies Auxillary Jerre Robertson presenting a check to Secretary General Greenly for the NSSAR Museum fund.



MOSSAR Ladies Auxillary Jerre Robertson presenting a check to MOSSAR President Steve Biggs for the State Society.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate for Millie Neff. Becky Osbourn accepting on Millie's behalf.



Compatriot Drew Kingery presenting Vicki Biggs with the Yohe Woman of the Year Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Compatriot Tim Westcott.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs presenting a Certificate of Distinguished Service to (L-R) Wayne Merrill, Russ DeVenney, Dan McMurray, J. Howard Fisk, Doug Fitts, and Dale Schmidt.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (L) and Color Guard Commander Steve Perkins (R), presenting a Silver Color Guard Medal and Certificate to Ivan Stull, and a Bronze Color Guard Medal and Certificate to Matthew Toeniskoetter. Accepting for Matthew is David Surrell.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (L) and Color Guard Commander Steve Perkins (R), presenting Brad Frazier with the Color Guardsman of the Year Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs holding the State Color Guard Commander Medal and Certificate for Compatriot Robert Grover.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting (L-R) Jay Niemeyer, Jerre Robertson, and Steve Perkins with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (C) presenting (L-R) Michael Robertson, Dan Philbrick, Becky Osbourn, and Steve Newman with the Silver Henry Knox Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (C) presenting Matthew Toeniskoetter (L), and Gary Pirch (R) the Silver Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate. Accepting for Matthew is David Surrell.

Saturday Evening Dinner Continued



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (C) presenting Steve Sullens (L) and Doug Neff (R) with the Silver Meritorious Service Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (L) presenting (L-R) Charles McMillan, John Bedell, Gary Gift, and Drew Kingery with the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and Certificate for Meritorious Service.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting (L-R) Jay Niemeyer, Jerre Robertson, and Steve Perkins with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting (L-R) Jay Niemeyer, Jerre Robertson, and Steve Perkins with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (C) presenting David Shaul (L), and Gene Henry (R) with the Missouri State Society Gold Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (L) presenting J. Howard Fisk with the Missouri Lifetime Achievement Award.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting Dave Desmarais the Patriot Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting Dave Desmarais the Silver Henry Knox Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting (L-R) Dan Evens, Ron Hack, Ken Lawrence, and Norm Knowlton with a trophy in recognition of years of faithful service to the society.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting George Swales with the Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR Officers for 2026 being sworn in by Secretary General William Greenly. The Officers for 2026 are: Ken Lawrence-President, Doug Anderson-Executive Vice-President, Matthew Toeniskoetter-1st Vice-President, Gary Pirch-2nd Vice-President, Daniel R. Evans-Secretary, John L. Bedell-Treasurer, Ronald L. Hack-Chancellor, Douglas E. Neff-Genealogist, Kirk T. Walker-Registrar, Tim Westcott-Historian, Michael Hahn-Chaplain, Norman P. Knowlton III-Surgeon, Daniel F. Piedlow-Sergeant-at-Arms, Steve Biggs-National Trustee.

Saturday Evening Dinner Continued



MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence being sworn in by Secretary General William Greenly.



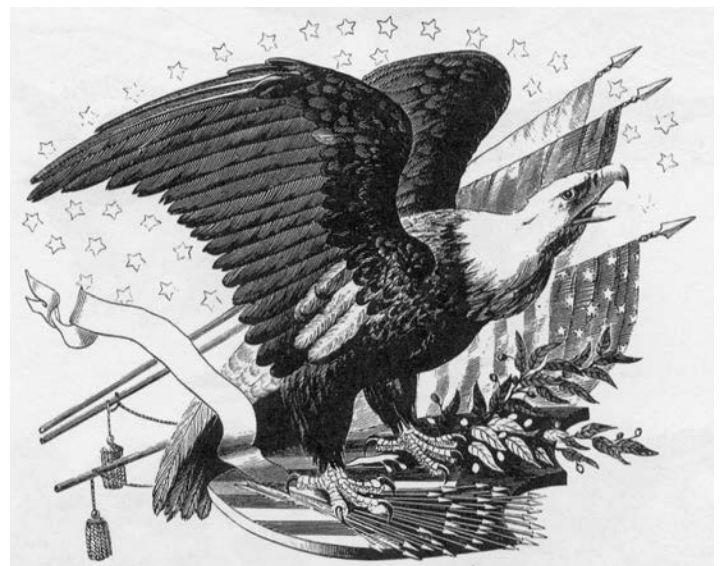
MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence and wife Patti (L) after the transfer of the State Presidents Sash from Past-President Steve Biggs and wife Vicki (R).



MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence talking after the swearing in ceremony and transfer of sash.



MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence (L) and Past-President Steve Biggs (R) with his MOSSAR President Certificate and Past-President pin.



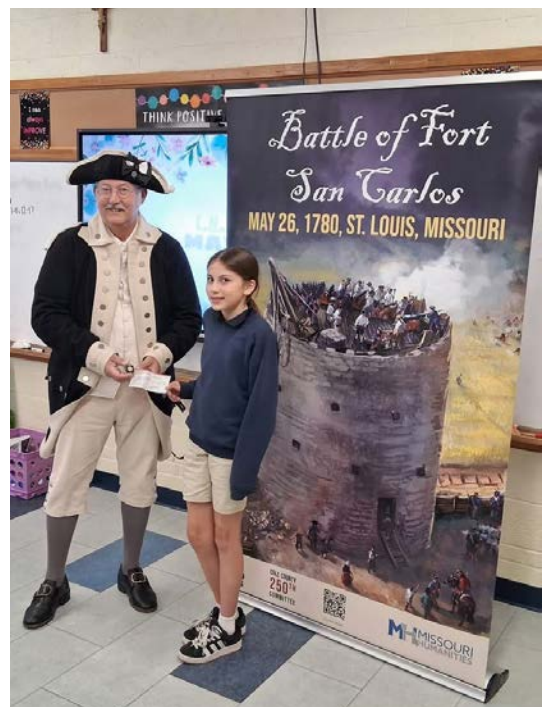
Allen Laws Oliver Chapter



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!

Christopher Casey Chapter

Jim Baker and Clifford Olsen, for MOSSAR, presented Kendall Schroeder with an Outstanding Citizenship pin and a check for \$150 for having the first prize Americanism Poster for Missouri. Jim and Cliff then presented the class with a story of the American Revolution in the West, presenting the students with a booklet to go with the program.



Christopher Casey Chapter

White Oak to Stand as Missouri Leaves of Liberty Tree
Joe Gamm

joe@newstribune.com

"In Missouri the oak is the cornerstone of our timber industry and our forest habitats," Aaron Jeffries said Thursday afternoon.

Jeffries, deputy director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, addressed about 100 people attending a Leaves of Liberty tree dedication in the Missouri Capitol rotunda. The tree had been planted earlier in the south lawn of the Capitol.

Oaks support more than 500 species of insects and numerous wildlife species, he said. Acorns are critically important for wild turkeys, elk and black bears, he said.

White oak timber is valuable for lumber, veneer and wine and whiskey barrel making, he added. The products are shipped throughout the world, he said. "There is no better living representative of the American spirit, resilience, strength and longevity," Jeffries said. "The white oak is built to last. Its wood is so dense, they built the hull of the U.S.S. Old Ironsides. By planting this tree today, we invest in the future."

Renee Pace, chair of the America 250 Missouri Commission, said the oak represents our solemn responsibility to patriots to ensure the United States of America endures forever as a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Liberty Trees were planted in the town squares of communities during the American Revolution. British soldiers made it a point to cut them down. They thought that by destroying the trees, they could destroy the resolve of the people opposing them, Pace said.

"While you can, indeed, fell a tree, you cannot in fact kill an idea," she said. "In the planting of the tree out front, remember the past, and honor the men and women who gave their lives to preserve our freedom, and secure our future."

She begged that we never forget Revolutionary War patriots, whose devotion to country < and sacrifices advanced independence.





Aaron Jeffries, deputy director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, talks Thursday about how oaks are the cornerstone of Missouri's timber industry and forest habitats.



From left, Jim Baker, Cynthia Schnieders and John Sickmeier wait outside the Missouri Capitol for a ceremony dedicating a white oak as a Leaves of Liberty memorial.

Fernando de Leyba Chapter



Chaplain Jim Keithly presented the awards to the Brochure Contest Winners. Third Place was Sophi Gogel who received the Certificate and a \$50. Second Place was Madilyn Moran \$75, and the first place winner Naomi Morris received \$100. President Jim Jackson looks on.



Compatriot Steve Stegen was awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Award for his years of military and volunteer work. His background was highlighted, including multi-generational Missouri roots, early American lineage, Boy Scouts involvement, and extensive military service with the Air Force and Army.



For the first time in the Chapter, we inducted Compatriot Elvard Davis remotely via Zoom. His patriot ancestor was identified as Jacob Moses.

Fernando de Leyba Chapter

Vice President Keith Jasin introduced Captain Jeff Lange of the O'Fallon Police Department as the evening's speaker.

Captain Lange presented on the St. Charles County Regional Interdiction Task Force, covering:
Origins of the task force in response to increased vehicle thefts

- Multi-agency coordination, aerial support (helicopters, planes, drones), and safety-focused pursuit policies
- Measurable reductions in auto theft and theft from vehicles since implementation
- Emphasis on regional cooperation, technology, and public safety benefits

The presentation was received as informative and impactful, illustrating modern efforts to protect the community.



Josiah Howell Chapter



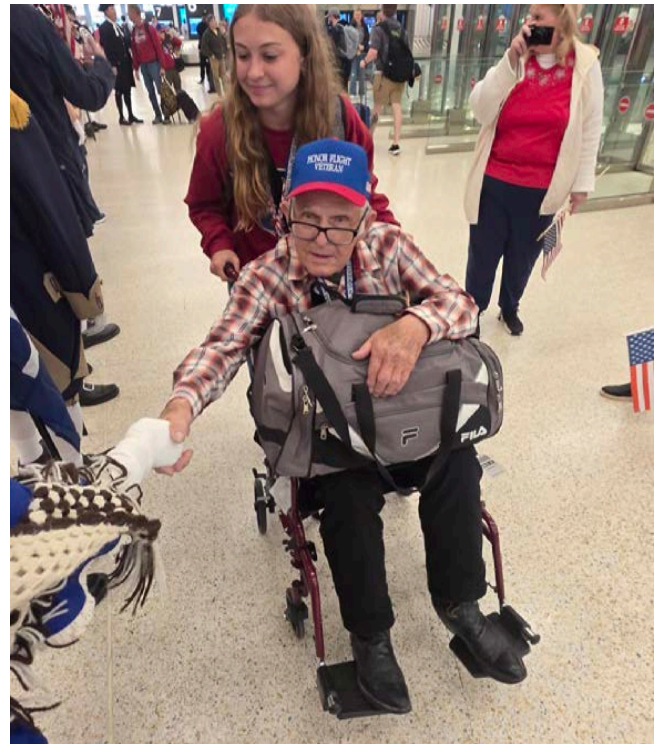
During our March meeting, David Tanner was sworn in to our chapter AND sworn in as our Registrar after we split the Genealogist/Registrar position. Justin Mutrux will remain as Genealogist. Member John Hass swore in David Tanner as our new Registrar at our March meeting.



We were at His Place Christian Academy on Monday, March 9, to present a Revolutionary War program to their 6-8th graders and present the school with a Flag Certificate.

Left to right: representing His Place is Jessica Worley-Joliff, SAR members Garry Pirch, Dale Brake, Les Becker, Paul London, and Jerry Roberts.

Martin Warren Chapter



The Martin Warren Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recently participated in a heartfelt Welcome Home ceremony for the Southern Coffey County High School Honor Flight on March 27, 2026, at Kansas City International (KCI) Airport.

The mission, identified as the school's 26th Honor Flight, provided a unique opportunity for 22 veterans from the Kansas and Missouri area to visit national monuments and Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.. Each veteran was accompanied by a student guardian from the high school for the two-day excursion.

The homecoming celebration featured a robust assembly of organizations and volunteers, including:

- Color Guard: Sixteen members from the Missouri and Kansas SAR/DAR Color Guards participated in the ceremony.
- Missouri Patriot Guard Riders: These riders were present to provide a respectful escort and welcome.
- Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR): Members of the DAR also joined in honoring the returning veterans.

Ozark Mountain Chapter



Missouri Daughters of the American Revolution opened a new chapter at Marshfield Missouri. On March 7, Ozark Mountain SAR Color Guard were honored to present colors at the organizational meeting for the First Ladies Chapter and their new members and guests. Jeanette Alcorn is the Organizing Chapter Regent. The ceremony was conducted by the DAR State Regent Lisa Parks. Attending Color Guard were Don Higgeson, Dan Piedlow, Jeff Hicks, and Commander Steve Perkins.

MODAR Rachel Donelson Chapter, Springfield Missouri, held an opening ceremony for the

American Revolution Experience, at the historic Greene County Courthouse rotunda. This display is one of six going around the country this year. The creation of these exhibits was jointly funded and created by American Battlefield Trust and Daughters of the American Revolution. The display consists of pop-up panels,

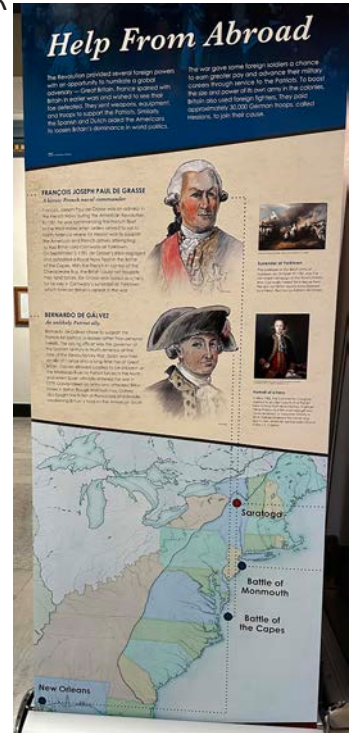


each telling key stories of figures and events of the American Revolution. There are also several digital kiosks that elaborate on aspects of the American Revolution. This is a fitting experience as the country commemorates the 250th anniversary of the year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Local dignitaries included city councilman Abe McGill, County Commissioner Bob Dixon, County Archivist Connie Yen, and the NSDAR Chair of "America 250!"

Renee Pace spoke to over 200 guests. OMC Color Guard Don Higgeson, Joe Walker, Dan Piedlow, Keith Chester, and Commander Steven Perkins, and Donelson Chapter member Janet Sing Perry advanced, posted, and later retired colors for the occasion. The Greene County Courthouse Corale sang the Star Spangled Banner anthem. Musicians from Republic provided patriotic brass band music to lift up the patriotic fervor of those gathering for the ceremony.

Several organizations set up tables to display relevant information. The Ozark Mountain Color Guard filled their table with muskets, powder horns, and other accoutrements and period objects for the many who visited to view.



On April 2nd, Dan Piedlow went to New Covenant Academy to present Graham Corson with a check for \$100.00 for second place in the chapter 5th grade Poster Contest.



Compatriots Oliver Sappington (L) and Len Slovensky (R), presenting Cadet Gabriel Muller with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal on April 22 at the School of the Ozarks.



Mel McNeal presenting the ROTC Silver Certificate and medal to Jansen Hainline on April 30th.



Compatriot Rodney Grewe presenting Cadet Alexander Chandler, an eighth grader from Monett Middle School a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal on April 23rd.



Mel McNeal presenting the War of 1812 ROTC Award of Merit Certificate and Medal to Cadet Avery Massman on April 30th.

Ozark Patriots Chapter

OPC Color Guard taught an American Revolution class with over 40 period item examples from Dr. Frazier's collection to the combined 4th-grade classes at the Saint James Elementary School. From left to right. David Wathen, OPC President, Dr. Brad Frazier, Mrs. Katie Moreland, who will be presented with the MOSSAR History Teacher of the Year Award at our Convention, Colonel Mike Presnell, and Don Turner. Mr. Wathen and Colonel Presnell are new chapter and OPC Color Guard members. This was their first event. I was in much better shape today and am improving.



Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter



Sgt Booe, Newton County, MO Sheriff's Department, receives the Life Saving award from Sgt. Ariel Nims SAR President, Kavan Stull.

See the video about Sgt. Booe's action from On Patrol Live <https://www.facebook.com/ReelzChannel/videos/1485462359431895>

On May 15, 2025, in Joplin, MO, while on routine patrol, Sgt Booe observed a driver traveling at an unusually slow speed in the opposite lane. Anticipating a medical emergency, he requested EMT support and turned in behind the vehicle. He exited his patrol vehicle and approached the SUV on foot as the driver, in medical distress, was unconscious and unable to fully stop.

Sgt Booe was able to stop the vehicle's motion and place the vehicle in park. Attempting to wake the driver with no success, he then pulled the driver from his vehicle and administered CPR until the arrival of other emergency medical services.

A few days later, it was reported to the Newton County Sheriff Department that the distressed driver had a heart attack and was recovering from a medical emergency. SGT Booe's quick and professional response to the emergency and the initial beginning of administration of CPR is credited with saving the driver's life.

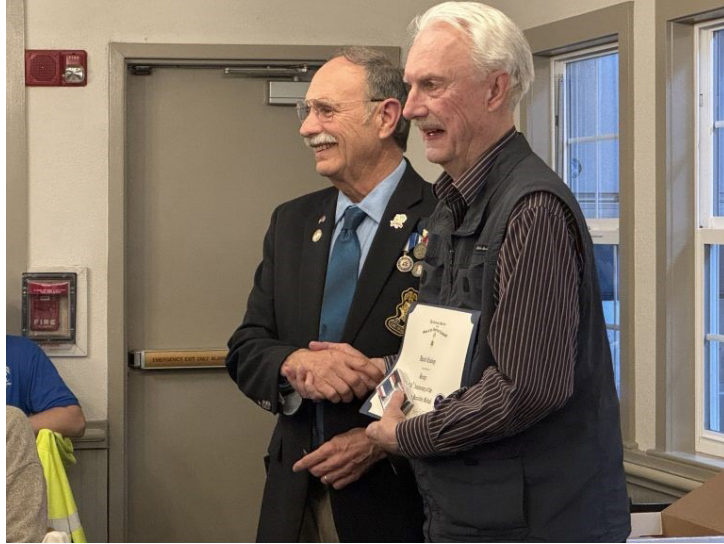


Janette R Murphy, Volunteer Fire Fighter with the Granby Fire Department, receives the Fire Safety Commendation Award from Sgt. Ariel Nims SAR President, Kavan Stull.

Like many small communities, the Granby, Missouri Fire Department is made up of volunteers. The city and the surrounding community depend greatly on the willingness of people like Janette Murphy to learn responsible skills and train to a high standard for the safety of the public. She is an invaluable asset to the Granby Fire Department. Voted Fire Fighter of the Year, Janette has repeatedly excelled in her chosen profession. In addition to serving in the role of Engineer and serving on the Emergency Response Team, she performs many extra administrative duties, such as fundraising, fire prevention programs, and working with the Senior Citizen Center. Fire Fighter Murphy has completed and excelled in the following required training:

Emergency Response Medical Training, Federal - Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Response Courses 100, 200, and 700. Traffic Incident Management, CPR Certification, and Railway and Pipeline Emergency Response

Sgt. Ariel Pims Chapter



David Lindsey received the America 250 Bronze Award from Kavan Stull, SAN president.



In Memoriam

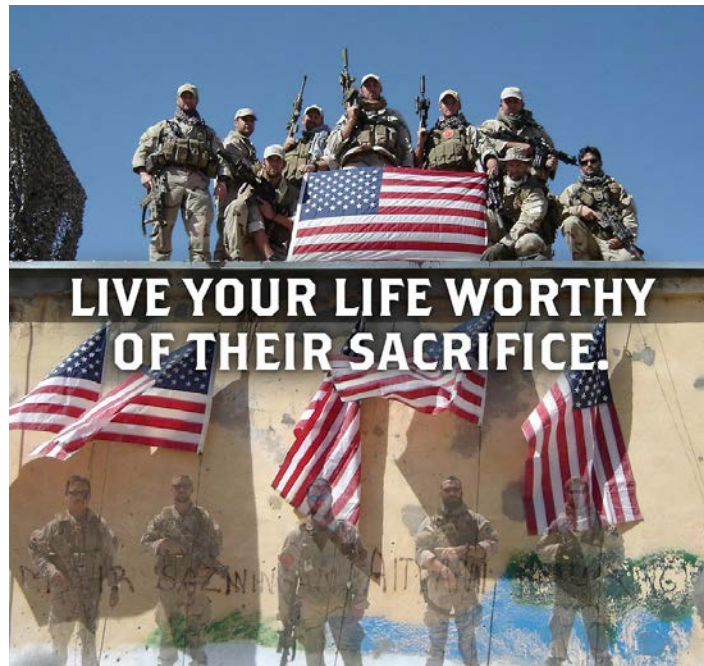
Compatriots Lost March to April

2026



Jimmie Ray Dace

Allen Laws Oliver Chapter





America's first foreign foray

This article was first published in The Economist March 7th 2026

Storming the Beach

POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA

A new monument marks an oft-forgotten bit of history AMERICAN FORCES are nowadays capable of plucking a president out of Caracas and amassing an armada to strike Iran. The modest beginnings of such military reach go back to the war of independence. On March 3rd 1776, at a time when the Continental Army was short of gunpowder, a force of about 270 marines and sailors under Captain Samuel Nicholas made the first amphibious landing in American history on New Providence island in the Bahamas. Transferred from several ships of Commodore Esek Hopkins's squadron, the force seized Fort Montagu and Fort Nassau from the British and raised the Grand Union flag. They captured a haul of supplies, including 88 cannon, 15 mortars and 24 barrels of gunpowder.

Now, 250 years on, a monument to America's "first amphibious assault" is about to be inaugurated at the entrance to the fishing pier in Pompano Beach, Florida. It is an initiative of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR), a historical association. The new monument, a 20-foot obelisk flanked by (for now) Grand Union flags, stands between two restaurants, Oceanic and Lucky Fish, against a backdrop of palm trees and the Atlantic.

Why Pompano Beach? It is relatively close to New Providence island (a plaque points out that the assault took place 190 miles south-east of the monument). The popularity of the pier, which gets about 230,000 visitors a year, means the obelisk will be noticed. And the city, says Sandra King, Pompano's coordinator for the project, was keen to have an extra attraction for its tourist area. She believes some people connected

to the armed services will come specially to see what the organizers claim is the southernmost monument to any revolutionary event in the continental United States.

The Marine Corps History Division, in an anniversary book published last year, lists the capture of Fort Nassau as the second item in its chronology of events in the 250-year life of the service. "It's honestly a very little-known event in the American revolution, but a fairly significant one in the history of the us Marine Corps," says Chris Washler, FLSSAR's president. It raised the morale of George Washington's forces, he says, as well as bulking up their munitions but above all, it was America's first landing on foreign soil.

"It's good to remember how we got our freedom," says Victoria Thomson, a local resident, observing the almost finished monument. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for March 14th. Henceforth, as they eat their blackened mahi-mahi sandwiches, the open-air diners at Lucky Fish can look across at the obelisk and reflect on a small but evocative chapter of the American story.



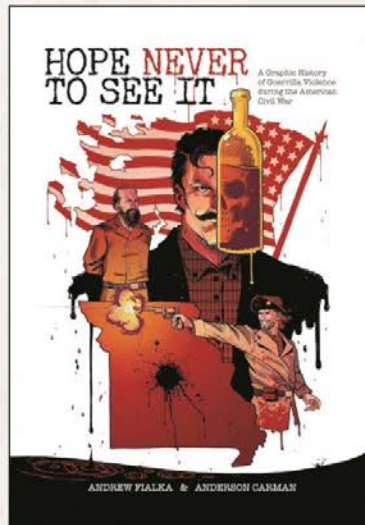
The Missouri contingent at the Spring Leadership meeting in Lexington KY.

PRESERVING THE OZARKS

Bloody Bill & the History of Civil War Guerrilla Violence

**THURSDAY, MAY 28, 7 P.M.
LIBRARY CENTER
HATCH AUDITORIUM**

Author Andrew Fialka will explore Civil War violence in Missouri and how storytelling reveals its lasting impact. Books will be available for purchase and signing.



This event is in Springfield, at the Library Center located at 4653 S. Campbell Ave.





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/)**

SCAN ME



**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



CHARTERING CEREMONY OZARK GATEWAY CHAPTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Saturday, June 6th at 1:00 PM
Historic Rodgers Theatre
Poplar Bluff, MO

**Founder members to be sworn in,
including State Representative Hardy Billington.**
Refreshments provided.

SAR Color Guard Musket Salute
(Conditions permitting for weather and safety).

