



Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

Arlington Chapter #7 Bulletin

Arlington #7 Chapter

Established 1938

Re-Chartered 1994



June 2025

Chuck Andrews, Editor

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, **Visitors Welcome**

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Skillet-N-Grill Cafe 1801 W. Division St. Arlington, Texas 76012

Honoring Our Military: Memorial and Veterans Days

Memorial Day and Veterans Day hold immense significance for the United States of America. Both holidays have their roots firmly planted in the country's past, and their **evolution** over the years is a reflection of the changing cultural and societal norms of America.

Despite their historical significance and national importance, Veterans Day and Memorial Day are often overshadowed by other holidays and events. Many Americans are unaware of the differences between these two patriotic holidays, and the significance of the rituals and traditions associated with them.

One of the reasons for this lack of awareness is the proximity of these holidays to each other, with Memorial Day falling in late May and Veterans Day in early November. Additionally, the purpose and observance of these holidays can be confusing to some. Memorial Day is dedicated to honoring those who died while serving in the military, while Veterans Day is a day to pay tribute to all veterans, both living and deceased.

Efforts have been made in recent years to increase public awareness and understanding of these holidays. Organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion have been instrumental in promoting the historical significance of



these holidays, as well as honoring the sacrifices of those who have served in the armed forces.

Additionally, schools and community organizations have played an important role in educating young people about the importance of Veterans Day and Memorial Day. By teaching children about the history and significance of these holidays, we can ensure

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The SAR participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Arlington, Texas teaming up the DAR. Arlington Chapter members pictured: Ron Turner, Doug Schwetke, John Anderson and Van Cunningham.

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that the sacrifices of our veterans and fallen soldiers will never be forgotten.

Both Veterans Day and Memorial Day are significant holidays in the United States, honoring those who have served in the military and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. These holidays provide an opportunity for Americans to express their gratitude and respect for the men and women who have defended their country and its values.

Why Memorial Day?

Memorial Day is a solemn holiday devoted to reflection and remembrance of men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Americans across the country gather to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in service to their country. The holiday is observed in part by the National Moment of Remembrance, which encourages all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. for a moment of silence.

At its core, Memorial Day is about **honoring fallen soldiers** and recognizing their ultimate sacrifice.

Origins of Memorial Day?

The holiday's origins can be traced to the American Civil War, which killed more than 600,000 service members — both Union and Confederate — between 1861 and 1865.

The first national observance of what was then called Decoration Day occurred on May 30, 1868, after an organization of Union veterans called for decorating war graves with flowers, which were in bloom. Then

known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. (See #11 below) This national observance followed many local observances which were inaugurated between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration.

Other cities and people have claimed to be first in observance. In some such cases, the claims relate to documented events, occurring

before or after the Civil War. Others may stem from general traditions of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers, rather than specific events leading to the national proclamation. Soldiers' graves were decorated in the U.S. before and during the American Civil War. Other claims may be less respectable, appearing to some researchers as taking credit without evidence, while erasing better-evidenced events or connections. These include the following:

- 1) On **June 3, 1861, Warrenton, Virginia** was the location of the first Civil War soldier's grave to be decorated, according to an article in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in 1906. This decoration was for the funeral of the first soldier killed during the Civil War, John Quincy Marr, who died on June 1, 1861, during a skirmish at the Battle of Fairfax Courthouse in Virginia.
- 2) On **April 26, 1865, in Jackson, Mississippi**, Sue Landon Vaughan decorated the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers according to her account. The first reference to this event, however, did not appear until many years later. Mention of the observance is inscribed on the southeast panel of the Confederate Monument in Jackson, erected in 1891.
- 3) On **May 1, 1865, in Charleston, South Carolina**, the recently freed Black population held a parade of 10,000 people to honor 257 dead Union soldiers. The soldiers had been buried

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in a mass grave at the Washington Race Course, having died at the Confederate prison camp located there. After the city fell, the freed Black population unearthed and properly buried the soldiers, placing flowers at their graves. The event was reported contemporaneously in the *Charleston Daily Courier* and the *New-York Tribune*. Historian David Blight has called this commemoration the first Memorial Day. However, no direct link has been established between this event and General John Logan's 1868 proclamation for a national holiday.

- 4) The National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and scholars attribute the beginning of a Memorial Day practice in the South to a group of women of **Columbus, Georgia**. The women were the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus. They were represented

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MILESTONES

Anniversaries

January

James A. Stambaugh 01/01/19870 45 years
 J. Damon Fehler 01/13/1988 37 years
 Joseph P. Sogan 01/15/1991 34 years
 Paul L. Stephens 10/21/2013 12 years
 Bruce Cason 01/19/2024 1 years

February

Jack M. Hardwick 02/14/1996 29 years
 Wm. S. Covington, Jr. 02/26/2013 12 years
 Lyndell W. (Wally) Penny 02/17/1017 8 years
 Roger E. Cobb 02/16/2018 7 years

March

(D) James R. McClain 03/17/1983 42 years
 Michael E. Pennington 03/17/2004 21 years
 (J) Brady M. Coope, II 03/10/2017 8 years
 Glen G. Foster 03/10/2017 8 years
 Parker P. McDivit 03/23/2018 7 years
 William L. Oliver 03/05/2021 4 years
 Lee B. Elder 03/17/2023 2 years
 (J) Grayson D. Freeman 03/10/2023 2 years

April

Dr. L. David Hubler 04/18/1974 51 years
 David R. Friels 04/30/1999 26 years
 James M. Gibson 04/27/2010 15 years
 Ray H Wehr 04/17/2013 12 years
 Robert W. Wehr 04/17/2013 12 years
 Robert W. Saunders 04/15/2022 3 years
 Wendell W. Black 04/14/2023 2 years
 (J) Andrew D. Fehler 04/07/2023 2 years
 (J) John C. Fehler 04/07/2023 2 years
 (J) Kyle A. Stephens 04/07/23 2 years
 (J) Marco R. Nichols 04/19/2024 1 year
 Curtis Larry Oliver 04/19/24 1 year

May

John D. Anderson, Jr. 05/10/2020 15 years

June

David L. Allison 06/13/74 51 years
 Kevin S. Jorrey 06/06/1013 12 years
 Frank R. Dawson 06/23/17 8 years
 (D) F. Russ Godwin 06/27/19 6 years

(J)-Junior (D)-Dual Member

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TO MY FELLOW COMPATRIOTS,

AS MEMBERS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WE NOW STAND TOGETHER ON THE PATH TO A DEFINING MILESTONE IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY – THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. JULY 4, 2026, WILL MARK TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES SINCE THE BIRTH OF A NATION FORGED IN COURAGE, SACRIFICE, AND THE ENDURING PURSUIT OF LIBERTY.

OUR JOURNEY BEGINS WHERE THEIRS DID – WITH THE RESOLUTE VOICE OF CAPTAIN JOHN PARKER ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 19, 1775, IN CONCORD:

“STAND YOUR GROUND. DON'T FIRE UNLESS FIRED UPON, BUT IF THEY MEAN TO HAVE A WAR, LET IT BEGIN HERE.”

WITH THESE WORDS, AMERICAN PATRIOTS STOOD FIRM IN DEFENSE OF PRINCIPLE. THEY DID NOT SEEK WAR, BUT THEY WOULD NOT YIELD TO TYRANNY. FROM THAT STAND CAME A REVOLUTION – AND THE FOUNDATION OF A FREE REPUBLIC.

AS COMPATRIOTS, WE ARE THE LIVING STEWARDS OF THAT LEGACY. WE HONOR OUR PATRIOT ANCESTORS NOT ONLY THROUGH CEREMONY AND REMEMBRANCE, BUT THROUGH ACTION – PRESERVING HISTORY, EDUCATING YOUTH, PROMOTING CIVIC VALUES, AND UPHOLDING THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, LEADING TO JULY 4, 2026, LET US REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT AS SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:

- TO *REMEMBER* THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM.
- TO *EDUCATE* FUTURE GENERATIONS ABOUT THEIR SACRIFICE.
- TO *INSPIRE* OTHERS TO CHERISH AND DEFEND THE LIBERTIES WE HAVE INHERITED.

LET THIS BE OUR CHARGE AS WE MARCH TO 250 – AS BROTHERS IN PURPOSE, PATRIOTS IN HEART, AND GUARDIANS OF THE LEGACY ENTRUSTED TO US.

JOE



Dec. 2024– Arlington SAR Chapter Compatriots Bill Goodman and Brent Houser participated in the Wreaths Across America event at Spring Creek Cemetery in Weatherford.



Dec. 2024– The Anderson Family attend Wreaths Across America– Front row– Abby, Grady Coraline Anderson. Back row– Meg (DAR), Patty, Steve, John, III and John Anderson, Jr. All males are SAR members.



Dec. 2024– Members of the Arlington Chapter of the SAR contributed their time and energy to the Wreaths Across America event at the Arlington and Parkdale Cemeteries.



Dec. 2024— Compatriot Dan Hamilton watches ceremonies at the Wreaths Across America event in Arlington.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR QUIZ

1. Which famous historical character is believed to have said this quote? "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes!" at the battle of Bunker Hill?

- A) Dr. James Warren
- B) Israel Putnam
- C) Benedict Arnold
- D) George Washington
- E) The Boston Massacre

2. Prior to which battle of the American Revolution did Washington cross the Delaware River?

- A) Battle of Saratoga
- B) Battle of Long Island
- C) Battle of Trenton
- D) Battle of Yorktown

Answers on Page 8

by **Mary Ann Williams** (Mrs. Charles J. Williams) who as association secretary wrote an open letter to the press on March 11, **1866** asking for assistance in establishing an annual holiday to decorate the graves of soldiers throughout the South. The letter was reprinted in several southern states and the plans were noted in newspapers in the North. The date of **April 26** was chosen, which corresponded with the end date of the war with the surrender agreement between Generals Johnston and Sherman in 1865.

- 5) The holiday was observed in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Columbus and elsewhere in Georgia as well as Montgomery, Alabama; Memphis, Tennessee; Louisville, Kentucky; New Orleans, Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi, and across the South. In some cities, mostly in Virginia, other dates in May and June were observed. General John Logan commented on the observances in a speech to veterans on July 4, 1866, in Salem, Illinois. After General Logan's General Order No. 11 to the Grand Army of the Republic to observe May 30, 1868, the earlier version of the holiday began to be referred to as **Confederate Memorial Day**.
- 6) Following Mary William's call for assistance, four women of Columbus, Mississippi a day early on **April 25, 1866**, gathered together at Friendship Cemetery to decorate the graves of the Confederate soldiers. They also felt moved to honor the Union soldiers buried there, and to note the grief of their families,

by decorating their graves as well. The story of their gesture of humanity and reconciliation is held by some writers as the **inspiration of the original Memorial Day**.

- 7) According to the United States Library of Congress, "Southern women decorated the graves of soldiers even before the Civil War's end. Records show that by **1865**, Mississippi, Virginia, and South Carolina all had precedents for Memorial Day." The earliest Southern Memorial Day celebrations were simple,

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ARLINGTON #7 MERCHANDISE

Keep in mind that Arlington #7 offers logo merchandise:

Challenge Coins- \$10

Lapel Pins- \$5

Coffee Cups- \$15

These can be purchased by contacting:
Sergeant-at-Arms: Richard Martin

fur-
ball2604@gmail.com



BRENT MURRAY PRESENTS



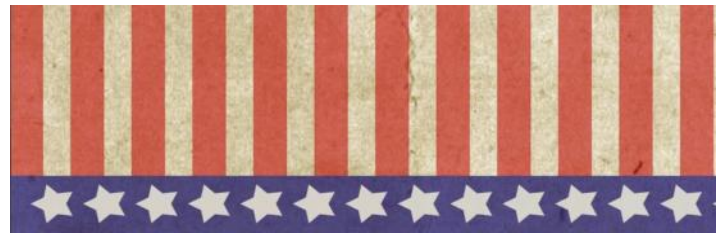
Feb. 8, 2025– Compatriot Brent Murray gave a video presentation on Senior Defensive Driving.

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somber occasions for veterans and their families to honor the dead and tend to local cemeteries. In following years, the Ladies' Memorial Association and other groups increasingly focused rituals on preserving Confederate culture and the Lost Cause of the Confederacy narrative.

- 8) The 1863 cemetery dedication at **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**, included a ceremony of commemoration at the graves of dead soldiers. Some have therefore claimed that President Abraham Lincoln was the founder of Memorial Day. However, Chicago journalist Lloyd Lewis tried to make the case that it was Lincoln's funeral that spurred the soldiers'

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EVENTS

2025

14 Jun **Flag Day**

14 Jun **Audie Murphy Day** Farmsville, TX (S-CG)

14 Jun **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (Chap.)

4 July **Independence Day (N-CG)**

12 July **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

12-18 July **NSSAR National Congress** Uncasville, CT (CG-N)

4 Aug **U. S. Coast Guard Birthday**

7 Aug **National Purple Heart Day**

9 Aug **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

16 Aug **Battle of Medina** Pleasanton, TX (S-CG)

22-23 Aug **South Central Dist. Meeting**– MOKAT Owasso, OK

11 Sept **National Day of Service and Remembrance**

13 Sept **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

17 Sept **Constitution Day**

26 Sept **Texas State Fair Opening Day Parade** (S-CG)

29 Sept **National V.F.W. Day**

(CG) = Color Guard , (C) = Chapter, (S) = State, (N) = National



**NATION'S
250TH BIRTH-
DAY IS COMING—
4 JULY 2026**

The celebration of the founding of America includes the time period from the Stamp Act to the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War. As the Revolution included Political and Civic actions, as well as War activities, events will include all that shaped the development of our Great Nation during the time period.

America 250 Website: www.america250sar.com



January

1st Joseph P. Sogan
 6th Robert W. Wehr
 19th Charles H. Blumenfield
 21st Douglas Scott Steward
 22nd (J) Adrian B. Cole
 22nd J. Damon Fehler
 30th Dennis C. Walton

February

6th Ian A. Yuhasz
 11th William R. Coffey
 11th Bill C. Goodman
 13th James W. Benton
 16th Chuck Andrews
 23rd William F. Deakyne

March

3rd F. Russ Godwin (D)
 9th Nick Nichols
 11th Scott D. Hamilton
 11th Richard L. Martin
 20th David R. Wells
 25th Joseph D. Kohn
 25th Robert W. Saunders

April

11th David D. Friels
 15th Christopher S. Martin
 15th Michael E. Pennington
 19th Alexander S. Hamilton (J)
 30th John D. Anderson, III

ART MUMFORD SWEARS IN NEW OFFICERS



Mar. 8, 2025– SAR District 5 Vice-President Art Mumford attended to swear in new Chapter Officers.

May

6th Robert B. Pope, Jr.
 7th Andrew D. Fehler (J)
 10th Nicolas D. Hamilton
 20th Parker P. McDivit

June

2nd Phillip N. Roe
 13th David Allison
 13th Robert D. Teagarden, Jr.
 14th Donal E. Billings, Jr.
 16th Lyndell W. (Wally) Penny
 17th Marco R. Nichols (J)
 18th Robert H. Wehr
 20th Grayson S. Kennedy (J)
 26th Gary S. Faletti
 30th Grady D. Anderson (J)

(J)- Junior (D)- Dual Member

2025 SLATE OF OFFICERS SWORN IN



Mar. 8, 2025— Officers were sworn in by SAR Dist. 5 V.P. Art Mumford. L to R— Bill Covington Historian, Joe Kohn, President, Bob Pope, V. P., Art Mumford, Bill Goodman, Secretary, Richard Coffey, Treasurer, Roger Wehr, Chaplin. Not pictured: Richard Martin, Sargeant-at-Arms.

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grave decorating that followed.

- 9) On **July 4, 1864**, ladies decorated soldiers' graves according to local historians in **Boalsburg, Pennsylvania**. Boalsburg promotes itself as the birthplace of Memorial Day. However, no published reference to this event has been found earlier than the printing of the History of the 148th Pennsylvania Volunteers in 1904. In a footnote to a story about her brother, Mrs. Sophie (Keller) Hall described how she and Emma Hunter decorated the grave of Emma's father, Reuben Hunter, and then the graves of all soldiers in the cemetery. The original story did not account for Reuben Hunter's death occurring two months later, on September 19, 1864. It also did not mention Mrs. Elizabeth Myers as one of the original participants. A bronze statue of all three women gazing upon Reuben Hunter's grave now stands near the entrance to the Boalsburg Cemetery. Although July 4, 1864, was a Monday, the town now claims that the original decoration was on one of the Sundays in October 1864.

- 10) The practice was already widespread. **Waterloo, New York**, began a formal observance on **May 5, 1866**, and was later proclaimed to be the holiday's birthplace.

- 11) **National Decoration Day- On May 5, 1868,**

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Revolutionary War Quiz Answers from Page 5

1. Which famous historical character is believed to have said this quote? "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes!" at the Battle of Bunker Hill?

B) Israel Putnam

... BUT DID YOU KNOW ?

The British under the command of General William Howe was ordered to lead the attack on the colonists fortified on Bunker Hill.

Israel Putnam knew the British had limited resources as far as ammunition and soldiers were concerned. Putnam therefore issued this famous order in the hopes that the American troops would be able to hold off British advances while shelling from the American cannons on the British ships in the harbor ensued.

In Boston today, the expression has been embellished as "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes...and aim at the officers."

2. Prior to which battle of the American Revolution did Washington cross the Delaware River?

C) Battle of Trenton

... BUT DID YOU KNOW ?

General Washington needed a win to rally his beleaguered troops from Valley Forge. He was afraid that if he didn't provide the Americans with a tangible victory soon, he would lose his army. He realized the Hessians would not be expecting an attack on Christmas Day and knew their stronghold in Trenton might provide much needed supplies for his soldiers.

Bloody footprints in the snow marked the coming and going of his troops due to the awful fact that the majority of his troops no longer had shoes or boots to cover their feet.



Mar. 8, 2025— Member fellowship ahead of the March monthly Chapter meeting.

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neral John A. Logan issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide; he was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of and for Union Civil War veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois. With his proclamation, Logan adopted the Memorial Day practice that had begun in the Southern states two years earlier. The northern states quickly adopted the holiday. In 1868, memorial events were held in 183 cemeteries in 27 states, and 336 in 1869. One author claims that the date was chosen because it was not the anniversary of any specific battle. Logan's wife noted that the date was chosen because it was the optimal date for flowers to be in bloom in the North.

However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate" with flowers.

In April 1865, following Lincoln's assassination, commemorations were extensive. The more than 600,000 soldiers of both sides who fought and died Official recognition as a holiday spread among the



April 19, 2025— Compatriot and Color Guard member Dan Hamilton speaks at the 250th Anniversary event commemorating The Battle of Lexington and Concord.



April 5, 2025— Compatriot John Anderson presented the JROTC Award at Legacy High School Mansfield.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MISSION

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.



in the Civil War meant that burial and memorialization took on new cultural significance. Under the leadership of women during the war, an increasingly formal practice of decorating graves had taken shape. In 1865, the federal government also began creating the United States National Cemetery System for the Union war dead.

The Ladies' Memorial Association played a key role in using Memorial Day rituals to preserve Confederate culture. Various dates ranging from April 25 to mid-June were adopted in different Southern states. Across the South, associations were founded, many by women, to establish and care for permanent cemeteries for the Confederate dead, organize commem-

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ARLINGTON SAR CHAPTER #7



Mar. 8, 2025— Members gathered for the monthly meeting: From L-R Bill Covington, Dan Hamilton, Ron Carter, Speaker Art Mumford, Richard Coffey, John Anderson, David Friels, Bob Pope, Brent Murray, Joe

(Continued from page 9)

orative ceremonies, and sponsor appropriate monuments as a permanent way of remembering the Confederate dead. The most important of these was the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which grew throughout the South. Changes in the ceremony's hymns and speeches reflect an evolution of the ritual into a symbol of cultural renewal and conservatism in the South. By 1913, David Blight argues, the theme of American nationalism shared equal time with the Confederate.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states. In 1873, New York made Decoration Day an official state holiday. By the 1880s, ceremonies were becoming more consistent across geography as the GAR provided handbooks that presented specific procedures, poems, and Bible verses for local post commanders to utilize in planning the local event. Historian Stuart McConnell reports:

"on the day itself, the post assembled and marched to the local cemetery to decorate the graves of the fallen, an enterprise meticulously organized months in advance to assure that none were missed. Finally came a simple and subdued graveyard service involving prayers, short patriotic speeches, and music ... and at the end perhaps a rifle salute."

By 1890, every northern state had followed suit. There was no standard program for the ceremo-

nies, but they were typically sponsored by the Women's Relief Corps, the women's auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which had 100,000 members. By 1870, the remains of nearly 300,000 Union dead had been reinterred in 73 national cemeteries, located near major battlefields and thus mainly in the South. The most famous are Gettysburg National Cemetery in Pennsylvania and Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C.

By the 20th century, various Union memorial traditions, celebrated on different days, merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who fought and died while in the U.S. military service. Indiana from the 1860s to the 1920s saw numerous debates on how to expand the celebration. It was a favorite lobbying activity of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). An 1884 GAR handbook explained that Memorial Day was "the day of all days in the G.A.R. Calendar" in terms of mobilizing public support for pensions. It advised family members to "exercise great care" in keeping the veterans sober.

Memorial Day speeches became an occasion for veterans, politicians, and ministers to commemorate the Civil War and, at first, to rehash the "atrocities" of the enemy. They mixed religion and celebratory nationalism, allowing Americans to make sense of their

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April 5, 2025– SAR Arlington Chapter Dan Hamilton presented the JROTC Award at Grand Prairie High School.



April 5, 2025– Dan Hamilton presents the JROTC Award at Grand Prairie High School.

history in terms of sacrifice for a better nation. People of all religious beliefs joined, including German and Irish soldiers – ethnic minorities who at the time faced discrimination – who had become true Americans in the "baptism of blood" on the battlefield.

In the national capital in 1913 the four-day "Blue-Gray Reunion" featured parades, re-enactments, and speeches from a host of dignitaries, including President Woodrow Wilson, the first Southerner elected to the White House since the War. James Heflin of Alabama gave the main address. Heflin was a noted orator; his choice as Memorial Day speaker was criticized, as he was opposed for his support of segregation; however, his speech was moderate in tone and stressed national unity and good will, winning him praise from newspapers.

The name "Memorial Day", which was first used in 1882, gradually became more common than "Decoration Day" after World War II but was not declared the official name by federal law until 1967. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a three-day weekend. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971.



April 12, 2025 Compatriot Richard Fleming was awarded the 15 Year Membership Certificate by President Joe Kohn.

On May 26, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson designated an "official" birthplace of the holiday by signing the presidential proclamation naming Waterloo, New York, as the holder of the title. This action followed House Concurrent Resolution 587, in which the 89th Congress had officially recognized that the patriotic tradition of observing Memorial Day had begun one hundred years prior in Waterloo, New York. The legitimacy of this claim has been called into question by several scholars.

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COMPATRIOTS PARTICIPATE AT LDS FAMILY HISTORY EVENT



March 2025- Chapter members Bill Goodman, John Anderson, Bill Covington, Dan Hamilton and Jim McClain were available to answers questions at the Family History Seminar .

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The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress changed its observance to the last Monday in May, and in 1971 standardized its name as "Memorial Day."

Traditions

Since 1867, Brooklyn, New York, has held an annual Memorial Day parade which it claims to be the nation's oldest. Grafton, West Virginia, and Ironton, Ohio have also had an ongoing parade since 1868. However, the Memorial Day parade in Rochester, Wisconsin, predates both the Doylestown and the Grafton parades by one year (1867).

Decoration Days in Southern Appalachia and Liberia are a tradition which arose by the 19th century. Decoration practices are localized and unique to individual families, cemeteries, and communities, but common elements that unify the various Decoration Day practices are thought to represent syncretism of predominantly Christian cultures in 19th century Southern Appalachia with pre-Christian influences from Scotland, Ireland, and African cultures. Appalachian and Liberian cemetery decoration traditions are thought to have more in common with one another than with United States Memorial Day traditions which are focused on honoring the military dead. Appalachian and Liberian cemetery decoration traditions pre-date the United States Memorial Day holiday.



April 12 2025- Bill Goodman was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by President Joe Kohn for work as Secretary and with Veterans.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR QUIZ CONT.

BY ROGER WEHR

- 3) Who were the two world leaders who emerged from the Seven Years War?
- 4) "One if by Land, Two if by Sea" was the secret signal of the lights in the Old North Church in Boston. What was the correct signal?
- 5) What are four conflicts related to the Seven Years War (1756-1763)?
- 6) What was the biggest impact today of the War of Jenkins Ear (1739-1748)?

Answers on Page 15

According to scholars Alan and Karen Jabbour, "the geographic spread ... from the Smokies to northeastern Texas and Liberia, offer strong evidence that the southern Decoration Day originated well back in the nineteenth century. The presence of the same cultural tradition throughout the Upland South argues for the age of the tradition, which was carried westward (and eastward to Africa) by nineteenth-century mi-

(Continued on page 13)



April 12, 2025 William Coffey is awarded the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal in recognition and in appreciation of outstanding services rendered to the Chapter.

(Continued from page 12)

gration and has survived in essentially the same form till the present."

While these customs may have inspired in part rituals to honor military dead like Memorial Day, numerous differences exist between Decoration Day customs and Memorial Day, including that the date is set differently by each family or church for each cemetery to coordinate the maintenance, social, and spiritual aspects of decoration.

Today, Memorial Day is an important part of American culture and tradition. It is a day when we come together to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation, and to express our gratitude for their service and sacrifice. It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves, of those military personnel in national cemeteries as well as the practice of wearing red poppies (See Veterans Day section). Another important tradition is the laying of wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers. This is often done by military units, veterans' groups, and other organizations to pay tribute.

In addition to community ceremonies communities also hold picnics, barbecues, and other gatherings on Memorial Day to come together and celebrate the sacrifices of those who died in service to their country. Many families also visit cemeteries on Memorial



April 12, 2025 President Joe Kohn awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Roger Wehr, Brent Houser and John Anderson.

Day to place flowers and flags on the graves of loved ones who died while serving in the military. This is a deeply personal way of honoring these individuals and expressing gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, asking people to stop and remember at 3:00 pm. On Memorial Day, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is

(Continued on page 14)



Arlington Chapter #7

Established 1938

Quote: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – John F. Kennedy

Sources for this edition: Wikipedia, AmericanWomen-Veterans.org and apnews.com



April 12, 2025 William McCoy received the 5 Year Membership Certificate from President Joe Kohn.



April 12, 2025 Compatriot John Anderson was awarded the 15 Year Membership Certificate.

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then raised to full staff for the remainder of the day. In commemoration ceremonies the Taps are played on the bugle. Additionally, the annual National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., which brings together military units, veterans' groups, and other organizations from across the country to honor fallen soldiers and the National Memorial Day Concert, held annually on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., brings together musicians, actors, and other performers to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in service to the country.

Scholars, following the lead of sociologist Robert Bellah, often make the argument that the United States has a secular "civil religion"—one with no association with any religious denomination or viewpoint—that has incorporated Memorial Day as a sacred event. With the Civil War, a new theme of death, sacrifice, and rebirth enters the civil religion. Memorial Day gave ritual expression to these themes, integrating the local community into a sense of nationalism. The American civil religion, in contrast to that of France, was never anticlerical or militantly secular; in contrast to Britain, it was not tied to a specific denomination, such as the Church of England. The Americans borrowed from different religious traditions so that the average American saw no conflict between the two, and deep levels of personal motivation were aligned with attaining national goals.



April 12, 2025 Jessica Saddler, Membership Representative of the National Medal of Honor Museum provided a presentation to the Chapter.

How has Memorial Day changed?

Dennis said Memorial Day's potency diminished somewhat with the addition of Armistice Day, which marked World War I's end on Nov. 11, 1918. Armistice Day became a national holiday in 1938 and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

In 1971, Congress changed Memorial Day from every May 30 to the last Monday in May. Dennis said the creation of the three-day weekend recognized that

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REVOLUTIONARY WAR QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 12

3) Who were the two world leaders who emerged from the Seven Years War?

Answer: Catherine the Great of Russia and George Washington

4) "One if by Land, Two if by Sea" was the secret signal of the lights in the Old North Church in Boston. What was the correct signal?

Answer: One lantern would signal to Charlestown that the British Army would march over Boston Neck and the Great Bridge "by LAND".

Two lanterns would signal that the British troops were taking boats. "by SEA" across the Charles River to land near the Phips farm on Lechmore Point in Cambridge.

The British Army would take the "sea" route. Thus, on April 18, 1775— TWO lanterns were hung!

Even more intriguing is the debate over who hung the lanterns. Everyone agrees that either sexton Robert Newman or vestryman Captain John Pulling, Jr. climbed up the steeple stairs and sent the signal. Over the past 200 years, the Newman and Pulling families have debated who was the ultimate hero, but many historians have chosen to split the difference, writing that they both climbed the stairs and hung the signal lights.

5) What are four conflicts related to the Seven Years War (1756-1763)?

Answer: "French and Indian War" (United States) Britain versus France over N. America.

"The War of the Conquest" (French-speaking Canada) Britain versus France over N. America.

"The Pomeranian War" (in Sweden) Sweden versus Prussia over central Germany

The Third Silesian War— Prussia versus Austria over dominance in the Holy Roman Empire

6) What was the biggest impact today of the War of Jenkins Ear (1739-1748)?

Answer: The English were able to extend the border between Georgia (British colony) and Florida (Spanish colony) southward which increased the size of Georgia. The modern state boundary between Florida and Georgia is linked to this little known war.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD COMMEMORATED



April 19, 2025 SAR Color Guard Members Bob Gresham, Steve Hole, Richard Coffey and Dan Hamilton presided at the ceremony marking the anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord sponsored by the Quannah Parker & Lucretia Council Cochran DAR Chapter.

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Memorial Day had long been transformed into a more generic remembrance of the dead, as well as a day of leisure.

Just a year later, Time Magazine wrote that the holiday had become "a three-day nationwide hootenanny that seems to have lost much of its original purpose."

We might consider the following: In 1913, an Indiana veteran complained that younger people born since the war had a "tendency ... to forget the purpose of Memorial Day and make it a day for games, races, and revelry, instead of a day of memory and tears".

In 1911, the scheduling of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway car race, later named the Indianapolis 500, was vehemently opposed by the increasingly elderly GAR. The state legislature in 1923 rejected holding the race on the holiday. However, the new American Legion and local officials wanted the race to continue, so Governor Warren McCray vetoed the bill and the race went on.

Overall, Memorial Day is a deeply meaningful holiday that brings Americans together to honor the fallen soldiers who gave their lives in defense of our nation. Through the observance of traditions and the honoring of fallen soldiers, we express our gratitude

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May 14, 2025– The Hannah White Arnett DAR Medal of Distinction and Certificate were awarded to Dan Hamilton by Meg Anderson of the Lucretia Council Cochran DAR Chapter.

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and respect for these individuals and their service to our country.

The Purpose of Veterans Day

Veterans Day is an annual holiday celebrated on November 11th in honor of military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The purpose of Veterans Day is to express gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated service of all those who have served in the military, both in times of peace and in times of war. It is a day to honor the bravery and selflessness of the men and women who have dedicated their lives to defending the nation and its values.

The importance of Veterans Day lies in the recognition and appreciation of the sacrifices that veterans have made in service to their country. It is a day to honor their bravery, selflessness, and unwavering dedication in protecting American freedoms and values.



7/13- David Friels receives the SAR Service Award for 25 years of service and membership in the SAR from President Joe Kohn.

Spelling of Veterans Day

While the holiday is commonly printed as *Veteran's Day* or *Veterans' Day* in calendars and advertisements, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website states that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling "because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans."

Origins of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally established to commemorate the end of World War I, which occurred on November 11, 1918. It coincides with holidays in several countries, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day. The day was set aside to honor the heroism of those who died in service, as well as those who survived. It was officially recognized by President Woodrow Wilson. On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued a message to his countrymen on the first Armistice Day, in which he expressed what he felt the day meant to Americans:

"A year ago today our enemies laid down their arms in accordance with an armistice which rendered them impotent to renew hostilities, and gave to the world an assured opportunity to reconstruct its shattered order and to work out in peace a new and more just set of international relations. The soldiers and people of the European Allies had fought and endured for more than four years to uphold the barrier of civiliza-

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WM. "BILL" COVINGTON AWARDED PATRIOT MEDAL



The **Patriot Medal** is awarded by a state society. It is the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level. It represents long, faithful and outstanding service at the state and/or chapter level.

The medal bears the portrait of Compatriot General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. The design for the medal was selected by Compatriot MacArthur. He received the first medal, presented posthumously at his tomb in Norfolk, Virginia, on October 19, 1964, where it is on permanent display.

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tion against the aggressions of armed force. We ourselves had been in the conflict something more than a year and a half.

With splendid forgetfulness of mere personal concerns, we remodeled our industries, concentrated our financial resources, increased our agricultural output, and assembled a great army, so that at the last our power was a decisive factor in the victory. We were able to bring the vast resources, material and moral, of a great and free people to the assistance of our associates in Europe who had suffered and sacrificed without limit in the cause for which we fought.

Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men.

To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations."

The significance of the date itself was not lost on those who celebrated it; November 11, or the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, ed the exact moment when the armistice was signed and the fighting stopped. In addition, it was meant to honor all veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, not just those who served in World War I.

There are varying accounts of who first proposed the idea of Armistice Day, but many credit Illinois Congressman Frank E. Doremus as one of the main proponents. He introduced a resolution calling for the day to be observed on November 11, 1919. The United States Congress adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A Congressional Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made November 11 in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'".

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea of a national holiday that would honor all war veterans, living and dead, to be celebrated on Armistice Day. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day.

US Representative Ed Rees from Emporia, Kansas, presented a bill establishing the holiday through Con-

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MEMORIAL DAY AT MT. GILEAD CEMETERY



May 26, 2025– Representing America's fighting forces throughout history: L-R- James Alderman, Brent Murray, Steve Hole, Kevin Skillman, Dan Hamilton, Paul Porter, Jake Beringer, Joe Wade, Bobby Gresham and Gerry Geiger.

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gress. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, also from Kansas, signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954. The National Veterans Award was also created in 1954. Congressman Rees of Kansas received the first National Veterans Award in Birmingham, Alabama, for his support in offering legislation to make Veterans Day a federal holiday.

At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Congress amended the bill on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since to honor veterans from all wars.

Weeks led the first national celebration in 1947 in Alabama and continued to do so annually until his death in 1985. President Reagan honored Weeks at the White House with the Presidential Citizenship Medal in 1982 as the driving force for the national holiday. Elizabeth Dole, who prepared the briefing for President Reagan, determined Weeks as the "Father of Veterans Day".

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, a U.S. public holiday in May: Veterans Day commemorates the service of all U.S. veterans, while the older Me-

memorial Day, which grew out of Civil War commemorations, specifically honors those who have died while in military service. Another military holiday that also occurs in May, Armed Forces Day, honors those currently serving in the U.S. military. Additionally, Women Veterans Day is recognized by a growing number of U.S. states that specifically honor women who have served in the U.S. military.

Observance

The holiday was initially celebrated with parades and public gatherings, often featuring speeches by veterans and politicians. Over time, the day evolved to include more solemn ceremonies, such as the laying of wreaths at war memorials, flag-raising ceremonies and the tolling of bells to mark the moment of the armistice and honor all American veterans, living or dead, who served in the U.S. military during wartime or peacetime. Legally, two minutes of silence is recommended to be observed at 2:11pm Eastern Standard Time.

Additionally, many businesses and organizations offer special discounts or promotions to veterans and

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May 26, 2025– Memorial Day observance was attended by members of the SAR Color Guard. Pictured: Compatriots Steve Hole, Brent Murray and Dan Hamilton.

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active-duty military personnel as a way of showing gratitude for their service. Today, Veterans Day remains an important day of remembrance for all who have served in the U.S. military, and a symbol of the sacrifices made by those who have fought for their country.

Whether it's honoring a living veteran with a simple "thank you for your service" or placing a wreath on the grave of a fallen soldier, there are many ways for Americans to show their appreciation on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. These holidays remind us of the importance of always remembering and honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country. As such, they continue to inspire a sense of unity and shared purpose among Americans, even as the holidays themselves evolve over time.

While Veterans Day and Memorial Day share some similarities, they also have important differences that underscore the bravery and sacrifice of U.S. military members. By understanding and respecting the significance of these holidays, we can continue to honor and remember those who have served and continue to serve our country.



May 26, 2025– Present for the Memorial Day at Mt. Gilead Cemetery observance was the Frontier Brigade Band.

In addition to the items chronicled within the body of the Newsletter, the following Chapter **Items are of Significance:**

Nov 2024

- Joe Kohn received the Liberty Medal for his performance as Chapter Registrar.
- Compatriot Randy Bush from the Plano SAR Chapter provided a special presentation on the Whiskey Rebellion.

Jan 2025

- Color Guard Commander Dan Hamilton presented Certificates of Appreciation for supporting the Wreaths Across America campaign: Parkdale Cemetery in Arlington to: Richard Coffey, Mike Hutchins, Joe Kohn, Brent Murray, John Anderson, Dan Hamilton, David Martin, Chuck Andrews and Spring Creek Cem. near Weatherford to Brent Houser and Bill Goodman.
- SAR Arlington Chapter #7 celebrated its 31st Anniversary since it was Reorganized Jan. 11, 1994.
- Guest Chery Litke suggested a program for our members would be the Veterans Stories Archive found on the Veterans DFW National Cemetery website. She suggested we could add stories related to veterans in the Parkdale cemetery and our own family members wherever they are buried.

Feb 2025

- San Antonio has been confirmed for the July 2029 SAR Congress. A \$3 assessment has been added to our annual dues until 2029 Congress.

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• Chapter Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate

Daniel "Dan" R. Hamilton Color Guard

Marach 2025

Texas SAR Convention is complete

- New Texas SAR President is Compatriot Mel Oller of the Freedom Chapter in The Woodlands.
- Our chapter was recognized for two Chapter Awards:
 - ♦ Col. Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund Award for total contributions exceeding the previous year
 - ♦ John K. Harrell C.A.R. Activities Award based on C.A.R. activities for participation & activities of the previous yea

May 2025

- Compatriot Bill Covington presented a very informative and exciting recap of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga.
- Compatriot John Anderson gave a detailed presentation on SAR University. John stressed the need for all Chapter Officers to complete the units devoted to their position.

Editors Note

Compatriot and Ft. Worth Major K. M. Van Zant Chapter President, Ron Turner, recently stepped down as Editor of the Texas State SAR newsletter. *The Texas Compatriot*.

I wish to extend by heartfelt thanks to Ron for working with me to produce the *Arlington Chapter #7 Bulletin*. He along with our own John Anderson have made themselves available from the start. Ron assisted in my obtaining a rudimentary grasp of a publishing program and the accompanying quirks that come with any such endeavor.

I wish Ron and his family the best in dealing with life's challenges. Again, many thanks!

C.A.

March 2025– Texas SAR 130th State Convention– Compatriot John Anderson was recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for his contributions as Texas SAR Historian and work as Texas SAR Assistant Web Administration

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- DAR LCCC chapter very much wants to attend the next July 4th parade and are searching for a trailer. Does anyone know of one?
- ♦ Will Deakyne is our Liaison to the Three Forks of Trinity C.A.R. chapter. We should continue donating towards their state project.

April 2025

- The Chapter medals and awards were presented to Chapter Members:

♦ Membership

Michael J. Hutchins, Sr. 10 years

James N. Gibson 15 years

♦ Bronze Roger Sherman Medals and Certificates

Michael B. Hutchins Photographer

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Andrews Newsletter

♦ Bronze Meritorious Service Medals and Certificates

William S. Covington Speaker

Robert H. "Bob" Wehr Chaplain