

The Plano Compatriot Gazette

*The Official Newsletter of Plano Chapter #37
Texas Sons of the American Revolution*

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December 2025

Issue #12



Mission Statement

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



President's Message



By Bob Johns, President

The President's End of the Year Report

Compatriots,

As we close out 2025, the year of our founding and our 40th Anniversary, let's take a look back. As a way of evaluating our chapter activities, we can start with the Mission Statement of the Sons of the American Revolution:

"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."

How have we done fulfilling our Mission Statement? First, we continue to grow as a chapter. We accepted 18 new members in 2025 and awarded 11 Supplemental Ancestor Certificates.

Our activities included many accomplishments:

Color Guard: Our color guard added new members and continued being very active and in demand. Several color guardsmen earned the NSSAR America 250 medals for their active participation in patriotic events. The guardsmen participated in 43 events this year, including a highlight—being asked to participate in the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the U S Marine Corps, which was held in downtown Dallas. At the ceremony, our chapter member, Marine veteran Steve Driever, was honored to be chosen to read the Marine Corps Commandant's Proclamation to the audience.

Veterans: We continued to be major supporters of Veterans and of the Bonham V A Health Center. Member cash donations at meetings allowed B.J., our VP for Veterans, to supply a great deal of the needs of the Bonham vets, approximately 225 in treatment there. Honor came to our chapter as the State Society awarded VP B. J. Bjorklund the Partners in Patriotism medal for all the veterans support activities he organized, and in which our chapter members participated.

(Cont'd)





President's Message

By Bob Johns, President



The President's End of the Year Report (Cont'd)

Youth: We participated in 17 Youth awards and participated in numerous contest judging. And for the first time, we were able to make meaningful contacts with Boy Scouts and with the Civil Air Patrol representatives, both of which we hope to support and include in our future activities.

Plano City Public Service: We awarded 9 Citizenship Certificates and medals to Police, Fire and other city staff at the Plano City Council October meeting for their service to the citizens. Included were the first ever Life Saving Awards (2) that we have presented.

Many thanks to our members who supported these activities by the donation of your time and money. Those are the lifeblood of our chapter.

A surprise awaited us in November, the month of our 40th Anniversary celebration, when we learned 5 days before our meeting that the Outback restaurant, our home for 12 years, was permanently closed. Scrambling, we met at the Saltgrass Restaurant and had the largest turnout we have ever had for a meeting.

On that topic, I am appointing every member of our chapter to a Relocation Committee. As we continue to search for the best possible option for a new chapter meeting facility, let's all participate in this committee. As you visit restaurants or think about restaurants you frequent, ask a manager if the restaurant has a private room available for 35-40 guests for dinner and meetings. If the answer is yes, let me or any board member know the restaurant name and location. You will be helping us find a new permanent home.

Thanks again to all our members. We had a very successful 2025 serving our community and living our Mission Statement. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Bob Johns
President
Plano SAR Chapter #37





Volunteer Opportunities



Wreaths Across America!



Wreaths Across America

Compatriots,

It's that time again! The Wreaths Across America Campaign has begun! Please help us remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring wreaths to be laid at their resting places. **Sponsoring is easy.....simply click on the link under photo and you will be taken to the Chapter Sponsorship page. There, you may click on "Sponsor Wreaths" and choose how many you wish to sponsor. Pricing and payment information will be displayed. You may also choose to volunteer at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney on 13 December 2024 at 11:00am to help place the wreaths.** From the same page, you may also invite others to sponsor a wreath or join you in volunteering to place the wreaths. Let us stand together to remember the fallen, to honor those who serve and to teach our children the value of freedom!

If you would like to volunteer to help place wreaths yourself or with your family and friends, please click the "Volunteer" link below:

[Volunteer!](#)





Chapter and State News Items



Chapter Officers for 2026!

Compatriots,

During the **November Chapter Meeting**, you elected your Chapter Officers for the 2026 calendar year. They are:

PRESIDENT	BOB JOHNS
VP MEDALS AND AWARDS	KEVIN ENNIS
VP PROGRAMS	MELVIN RICHARDS
VP VETERANS ACTIVITIES	BJ BJORKLUND
VP YOUTH ACTIVITIES, SCHOOLS, JROTC	ALAN ROACH
VP YEARBOOK	RANDALL BUSH
SECRETARY	RANDALL BUSH
TREASURER	RONALD CAREY
REGISTRAR	DUANE CARTER
CHAPLAIN	ROCKY MILLER
WEBMASTER/HISTORIAN/NEWSLETTER	RANDALL BUSH
EDITOR	MIKE BECKER
SERGEANT AT ARMS	DAVE FAUTHEREE
COLOR GUARD COMMANDER	

These Compatriots will assume their duties on 1 January 2026. We wish them Godspeed as they exercise their responsibilities to the Chapter Membership during the coming year.





Chapter and State News Items



Color Guard Upcoming Events

December 13- Wreaths Across America

We will wear uniforms for this ceremony - details TBD. National Event

Please note the current SAR magazine has Strategic Goals for SAR from the Society President General Michael J. Elston. Among them is this:

Strategic Goal #3: Patriotic Programs

Operational Objectives

A. Grow our Color Guard and the scope of its mission.

1) Train and safety certify every society Color Guard by 2030

a. 100% Youth Protection trained and certified by the end of 2025.

b. State Color Guard commanders will enforce compliance and ensure Youth Protection Training is TRACKED LOCALLY by the end of 2025 and updated annually.

I am asking all Guardsmen who have their primary chapter as Plano to please complete the YPT Training as soon as possible and *send me your completion certificates*. I will start tracking this immediately and will coordinate status with the State Color Guard Commander.

Major Dave Fautheree
Plano Chapter Color Guard Commander
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution





Chapter and State News Items



2026 SAR Dues

Compatriots,

For those of you who have a deliverable mailing address, your 2026 Dues Notices should have arrived in your home mailbox. These were sent by Bulk Mail to your address of record as of September 1st. Additionally, specific letters via USPS have been sent to many compatriots that we do not have good email addresses for. These were sent after many email addresses were “bounced back” after the email notifications were sent, either because of an invalid email address or because “SPAM” filters did not allow our message to be received. Many Compatriots responded with valid email addresses and we thank you for updating.

Note: 2026 dues calculations include a \$3.00 annual assessment to defray expenses which the state will incur in hosting the 2029 National Congress in San Antonio.

Texas SAR has voted that Junior Members will not need to pay dues for 2026. Keep in mind that your dues are considered late on January 1, 2026. If they are still unpaid 30 days later - NSSAR will drop you from the rolls and you will start to show a gap in your service and not get your magazine. So...please pay them online or by mail as soon as you can to help your Chapter and avoid a lapse in your SAR Service! As in previous years, you have 3 options for paying your dues:

Online/Paypal (option 1) - We encourage everyone to use this option and pay your dues by credit card through Paypal. [Click here for the online dues payment page](#) and enter your National SAR # and Name as it appears on your Membership Certificate. Then select your primary chapter and any others you maintain dual membership with and follow the checkout procedures. This is operational on the TexasSAR.org website NOW. PayPal fees have been removed for 2026 Dues payments. As mentioned, this online Paypal form also allows for secondary (dual) chapters to be added for those wishing to pay as a dual member.

(Cont'd)





Chapter and State News Items



2026 SAR Dues (Cont'd)

US Mail (option 2) - You simply take the bottom section of the dues invoice you receive in the mail and send a check for the amount indicated with the pre-addressed envelope, stamp it, and return it to us by US mail. This is to be for your PRIMARY Chapter Dues Statements - it only includes dues for your Primary Chapter, State Dues, and National Dues where applicable.

US Mail (option 3) - Use this option if you want to pay by check, but did NOT get a dues notice in the mail or you want to pay NOW for whatever reason. [Click here for the online dues invoice page on the private site](#) and enter your National SAR # and Name as it appears on your Membership Certificate. Grab your dues notice online, print it out, and mail it back in with a check. This option is available NOW on the TexasSAR.org website. As mentioned, this online Paypal form also allows for secondary (dual) chapters to be added for those wishing to pay as a dual member.

Donations - As many of you are aware, our society has many beneficial funds that you can donate to for great purposes. Each year, when you renew your membership is a great time to donate to one of several great options. All Donation \$ will be allocated as you indicate on the form. Please review the items listed in the donations section of the online dues payment page and support these worthwhile programs. Thank you for your continued support of our programs!

Please do NOT mail to older addresses - those have been closed - USE THE ADDRESS ON THE RETURN ENVELOPE or the ONLINE DUES NOTICE ONLY. If you or your bank mail it somewhere else, there is no guarantee it gets to us or that you will be credited. Getting these in on time is important for your Chapter and you. The sooner your dues are in, the sooner our books are cleared with NSSAR and the funds available to your Chapter in the Spring - and no more reminder calls !!! We appreciate your patience and support !!!

In Patriotism,

Kevin Kanter
Secretary - Texas SAR
sec@texassar.org

Don Hayes
Treasurer - Texas SAR
treas@texassar.org





Chapter and State News Items



SAR Youth Protection Training

Compatriots,

As we approach the time of contests in our SAR Society, ***please be reminded that all who participate in ANY SAR Sponsored event involving children are required to take the SAR Youth Protection Training -***

<https://www.bredenfoerder.com/youth-protection-training.html>

Please take the training provided at the link above, and print and retain the completion certificate for your records.

If you have taken this training even within the last two years, please review the video, as new information has been added.

Please reach out to any State or Chapter Officers if you have any questions.

In the Spirit of '76,

Mel Oller
Texas SAR President
pres@texassar.org





Chapter and State News Items



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS!

By Bob Johns, President

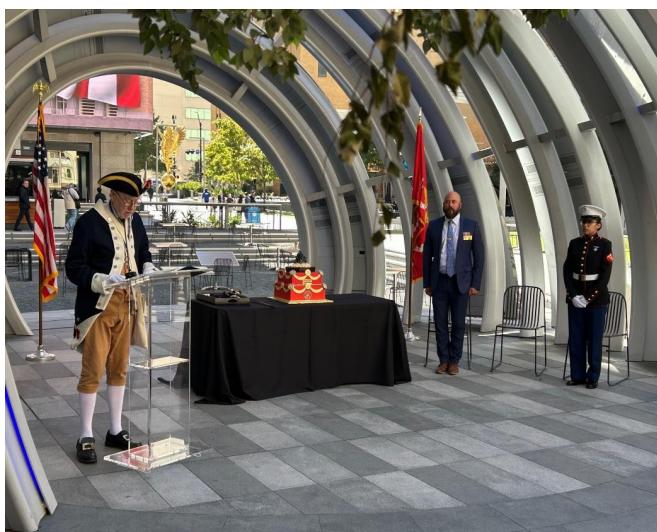
Monday November 10, 2025, was the 250th anniversary of the creation of the United States Marine Corps—USMC.

AT&T and the Marine Corps hosted a celebration Monday 11:00 AM at the AT&T corporate headquarters in downtown Dallas. Our color guard and members of the Dallas color guard were invited to participate.

And not to just be present: Steve Driever, a Marine veteran, was honored as a guest and chosen to read the USMC Command's Proclamation to the crowd of about 200 observers. A USMC cake with a rendition of the Iwo Jima Flag raising atop the cake was ceremonially cut by a Marine with a saber and served to guests with the first piece being served to Steve.

Steve Driever and Bob Johns along with Brent Harshman, J D Martin and John Maloney from the Dallas chapter formed the SAR contingent.

Following the ceremony outdoors at the AT&T courtyard, a buffet lunch was served to participants and Marines at which Steve spoke of the history of the Marine Corps to the diners.





Chapter and State News Items



Plano Flags of Honor Flag Retirement Ceremony

By Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander

Saturday November 15, 2025 at 4:30pm was the Flag Retirement Ceremony hosted by BSA Troops 291 and 844 at the Plano Flags of Honor event.

We had a table of artifacts and a table with SAR information plus copies of the Declaration of Independence people could sign. We presented and described 11 Revolutionary War flags and demonstrated loading and firing a flintlock black powder musket. We also assisted BSA Troops 291 and 844 with their Flag Retirement Program. BSA Troop 844 helped staff the Declaration of Independence table for us.

Plano City Council Member Bob Kehr came up to us and thanked us for participating. Thanks go to Lt Clint Walker, Plano Police Department, for his assistance with the musket safety check and making sure Plano Police/Fire Dispatch knew about the musket firing near Collin College and giving us the go-ahead.



L-R: Brent Harshman (Dallas), Mark Harrison (Dallas), Tom (McKinney), Roger Hardin (Plano), Ronald Carey (Plano), Dave Fautheree (Plano), JD Martin (Dallas).

Mark Harrison was on stage with me and described the basic parts of the musket using his reproduction of a Brown Bess.





Chapter and State News Items



The Plano Chapter #37 Community Service Lapel Pin

By Bob Johns, President

We have created a new Chapter Award. It is a 1" lapel pin with the artwork from our 2" Commemorative Coin, both shown below.

The Summer 2025 issue of SAR Magazine contains NSSAR's "2030 Operational Plan" which contains many goals, including some directed at local Chapters. We will be implementing those goals, one of which is to promote and improve community service by our Chapter Members.

Accordingly, we have created our new Community Service lapel pin. "Serving our Communities and Promoting Patriotism" being front and center in our SAR Mission Statement.

Any Chapter Member can earn the pin by participating in at least 3 events which focus on serving our communities and promoting patriotism. Events that are not sponsored by our or any other SAR Chapter, but by are sponsored by other community organizations, are also eligible..

Let's get involved—more of us—especially at the time of our country's 250th Anniversary!



Chapter Commemorative Coin, Left—Community Service Lapel Pin, Right





Chapter and State News Items



MEMBER APPROVED FLAG PRESENTATIONS

By Bob Johns, President

The Summer Issue of SAR Magazine contains NSSAR Goals to be fully implemented by the National Organization, State Societies and Local Chapters. Among those is increasing the issuance of SAR Flag Recognition Certificates.

To refresh your knowledge of Flag Certificates, *“The SAR Flag Certificate is presented to individuals, companies, and government agencies that fly the United States flag regularly and properly for patriotic purposes.”*

Previously, the Chapter President was required to sign a Flag Certificate prior to issuance. To make Flag Certificates easier to award and to involve the Chapter Membership in general, *the President General has now delegated authority to award Flag Certificates DIRECTLY to every Chapter Member!*

That means any of us who observes neighbors, businesses, etc who fly the flag regularly can award that person or business a Flag Certificate. Simply send VP Kevin Ennis the entity's name to place on the Certificate, sign it when you receive it from him and award it to the deserving party at your convenience.

How about each of us make an effort to award at least one certificate a year starting this year!





Chapter and State News Items



The Texas SAR 250 Monument UPDATE!

Texas SAR Compatriots,

The 250th Anniversary Monument Committee is thrilled to announce the installation of our beautiful monument at the Texas State Cemetery.

We are including photographs here so that you can see the results of our fundraising efforts, the generosity of our membership, and the committee's hard work!





Chapter and State News Items



The Texas SAR 250 Monument (Cont'd)

A Dedication Ceremony is being planned for the weekend of April 17, 2026 in coordination with the Texas SAR State Convention in Austin. The program will include:

- o Official Unveiling and Dedication
- o Participation of the Texas SAR Color Guard
- o Attendance by dignitaries, including elected officials and both State and National SAR officers
- o Recognition of substantial donors
- o Recognition of descendants being honored on the monument
- o Music from local choir

We continue to raise funds for the Monument Dedication Ceremony, which is to take place at **10:00am, Saturday, 18 April 2026** in conjunction with the Texas SAR Annual State Convention. We are a few thousand dollars from having the funds necessary to cover the budgeted costs.

You may donate funds via PayPal when you pay your dues or via the [monument web page](#) on the Texas SAR website.

If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to: **Texas SAR, Attn: Treasurer, 11 Winhall Place, The Woodlands, TX 77354-3313.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Richard Zdunkewicz, Chairman of the Monument Committee.

Richard Lee Zdunkewicz
Staff Secretary, Texas SAR
staffsec@texassar.org
713.302.0237



America 250 and Patriotic Travel Events



America 250
Dallas Symphony Orchestra: Jeff Tyzik
With the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club

Meyerson Symphony Center
2301 Flora St
Dallas TX 75201
10 & 11 April 2026 7:30pm
12 April 2026 2:00pm

America 250 is a monumental celebration taking place in Dallas, TX on April 10, 11 & 12, 2026 at 7:30 PM. This event commemorates 250 years of American history, featuring a variety of performances that encapsulate the artistic and cultural spirit of the nation. Attendees can expect a rich blend of music, art, and historical reflection, making it a unique and engaging experience suitable for all ages.



Tickets and directions can be found [HERE](#).

America 250 and Patriotic Travel Events



The 250th Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge

**The Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum**

**1775 Historic Way
Chesapeake, VA 23322**

Saturday, 6 December 2025 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EST

Compatriots,

The commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge is held annually on the first Saturday in December in partnership with the City of Chesapeake and the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum Foundation. This year we are excited to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the first land battle of the Revolutionary War in Virginia and a decisive victory leading to the end of Colonial Royal rule.

The Battle of Great Bridge took place on December 9, 1775. A task organized Patriot regiment of over 700 men led by Col. William Woodford, consisting of six companies of the 2nd Virginia and five companies of the Culpeper Minute Bn., joined by North Carolina volunteers and small elements of the Princess Anne District Minute Bn., assembled on the south end of the Great Bridge causeway in early December to challenge British control over this key terrain that enabled movement into the Virginia interior and south to North Carolina. Skirmishes took place until the morning of December 9, 1775 when a British assault force led by Capt. Charles Fordyce with 120 men of the 14th Regiment of Foot, with support from Loyalist forces including Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment, attempted to assault the fortified Patriot defenses on the south end of the bridge.

(Cont'd)



America 250 and Patriotic Travel Events



The 250th Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge (Cont'd)

The causeway and bridge were narrow and surrounded by swamps, placing the British regulars in a kill zone facing frontal and flanking fire. Alerted to the attack by Patriot sentries including William "Billy" Flora, a free black man serving in the Princess Anne District Minute Bn., hundreds of Patriots manned the defenses and when the British were within 50 yards, they commenced sustained rifle and musket fire against the tightly packed grenadiers leading the assault. The attack faltered only a few yards from the Patriot defenses with British Capt. Charles Fordyce being killed and over half of their force killed, wounded or captured, including 60 regulars and possibly 30 or 40 Loyalists in the pitched thirty minute battle. Stunned, the British troops evacuated the area that evening and fell back to safety aboard ships of the British fleet assembled in Norfolk Harbor. Col. Woodford's Patriot forces, reinforced by the 2nd North Carolina Regiment under Col. Robert Howe, occupied the City of Norfolk, their original intended destination, on December 14th. The Patriots suffered only a single minor casualty at Great Bridge during the two weeks of contact with the British, while the casualties resulting from the failed assault broke the will of the British and Loyalist forces.

For more information, contact [Ken Hawkins](#).



America 250 and Patriotic Travel Events



Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony

**Captain Molly Corbin Chapter NSDAR
Liberty Gardens of Bicentennial Park
200 Unity Way
Southlake TX 76092
28 February 2026 2:00pm - 3:00pm**

The Captain Molly Corbin Chapter, NSDAR, will host a community event to dedicate a Liberty Tree in honor of America 250! A bronze DAR Commemorative Marker will accompany a newly planted Shumard red oak in the tranquil setting of the Liberty Gardens of Bicentennial Park.





Contribution Opportunities



Bonham VA Summer Needs List

UPDATE: Shampoo, Body Wash and Writing Pads are Desperately Needed!

Dear Compatriots,

The Plano Chapter of SAR continues to support our veterans at the Bonham Veterans Center. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated by our veterans. Attached is a list of current needs. Please inform [BJ Bjorklund](#), chapter VP for Veteran Activities, if you feel called to help with items on this list. Thank you!

Bonham VA Needs Listing

We appreciate your interest in wanting to serve Veterans and below is an updated needs listing for Summer 2025. All items must be new and in original packaging.

Gift Cards:

- Exxon or Shell gas cards (Social Work to assist Veterans to/from appointments)
- Whataburger gift Cards
- Braum's gift Cards

Clothing & Comfort Items:

- Diabetic gripper socks – *Special request as regular gripper socks are too restrictive on legs of the diabetic or patients with larger legs.*
- Men's athletic shorts (various sizes)
- Men's sweat pants - lightweight (various sizes)
- T-shirts or short sleeve pullover
- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Electric Razors (for Veterans on blood thinners)
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Shaving Cream

(Cont'd)





Contribution Opportunities



Bonham VA Summer Needs List (Cont'd)

Refreshments: Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

- Bottled water
- Breakfast pastries/muffins for coffee cart
- Peanut butter/Cheese crackers
- Chips, Cookies (Variety Pack, Individual Bags)
- Small bottles Gatorade
- Ground Coffee (regular only)
- Juices (small boxed)
- Liquid Creamer (individual packs/cups only)
- Coffee supplies (8 oz cups, sugar/Splenda packets)

Miscellaneous:

- **12 oz** Coffee insulated cup/tumbler with lids and handle
- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Leather crafts
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Art supplies - 5x7" canvas, variety of acrylic paint colors
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils
- Paint by stickers
- Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Pens, stationary
- 1,000, 1,500 and 2,000 piece Jigsaw Puzzles
- Crossword puzzles/word search (large print)
- Sudoku books (large print)
- **New** books, **new** magazines

(Cont'd)



Contribution Opportunities



Bonham VA Summer Needs List (Cont'd)

Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:

- Monthly Birthday Socials
- Popcorn & Movie
- Bingo & Prizes
- Cooking Group – monthly or quarterly
- Bowling for Domiciliary Residents
- Bonham State Park Pass
- Sporting & Music Events - Baseball Games [Rangers/Roughriders] and movie tickets for Domiciliary residents.

Monetary and In-Kind Donations by mail, please send to:

**Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center
Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
Atten: Brenda Magness, CDCE Specialist
1201 E.9th Street
Bonham, Texas 75418**

- If you would like to make a monetary donation please make check or money order payable to *Bonham VA Medical Center*.
- You can also donate to the Bonham VA Medical Center using E-Donate online: Donating is just a click away with an online donation option that provides community members the account of their choice. E-Donate provides a quick, safe way for you to pledge your support to Veterans online. E-Donate also allows you to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Select *VA North Texas Health Care System* and choose a designated medical center and program, along with amount that you'd like to donate. Every penny of your donation goes to help Veterans.
- All donations must be coordinated with Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) for acceptance and delivery drop off. Should you have questions regarding donations please call **903-583-6282** or email brenda.magness@va.gov. Items may be mailed to the mailing address listed above.





Contribution Opportunities



A Special Item to Mark the 40th Anniversary of the Plano Chapter of the SAR

The Plano Chapter #37 of the SAR observed its 40th Anniversary in 2025. To celebrate the event, the Chapter Board commissioned a Commemorative Celebration coin intended to both recognize our anniversary and to enhance our budget funds as a fundraiser.

The coin is a full color 2" antique brass coin. The front shows a rendering of the famous Minute Man sculpture by Daniel Chester French, presently standing in Concord in recognition of the Battle of Lexington-Concord. The reverse celebrates our chapter and gives our founding date.

This impressive coin is available to all chapter members for a \$20 donation to the chapter. Donations will enable our chapter to fund even more of the activities and awards we engage in to support veterans, youth awards, public service awards and more.

Please consider making your donation this calendar year. Personally, I have purchased five of the coins to use for recruiting awareness and for recognition.

Make your donation check payable to **Plano SAR Chapter #37** and send it to **Treasurer Scott Knightly at 3121 Satsuma Drive, Dallas TX, 75229**. You will receive one of the coins in return.

Let's make this a successful recognition program and fundraising opportunity.





Contribution Opportunities

The SAR Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

A Message from SAR President General John Dodd

Greetings Compatriots,

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of a momentous development in our ongoing efforts to honor and preserve the legacy of our Patriot Ancestors. The Commonwealth of Kentucky's 2024 budget includes an allocation by the Kentucky General Assembly of \$5 million in the upcoming fiscal year to support the construction of the SAR Education Center and Museum in Louisville!

This monumental decision brings us closer to completion of your state-of-the-art facility that will enlighten and inspire citizens for decades. This important funding will keep construction on track, aiming for an opening date in 2026, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of our great Nation.

As we approach this historic 250th Anniversary, the importance of fostering a deep appreciation of our heritage and the principles upon which our country was founded cannot be overstated. The SAR Education Center and Museum will honor the sacrifices and ideals of our patriot ancestors, inspiring and educating present and future citizens to uphold their values of liberty and self-government.

Even if you have supported the project in the past, as our dream becomes reality, I encourage you to consider an additional contribution. The Liberty Tree Campaign is the easiest way to give. A small, recurring, monthly credit card contribution is the simplest way to make a difference. For those who are able, naming opportunities begin at \$100,000.00. Please contact Phil Bloyd for details. Thank you again for your support and for your important work on behalf of the SAR.

Yours in patriotism,

John L. Dodd
President General, 2023-2024

[Click here to make a
Contribution](#)





Compatriot Anniversaries for December

Happy Anniversary, Compatriots!

Ethan Baker	2024
Mike Becker	2019
BJ Bjorklund	2023
John M Dean	2016
Alexander M Doran	2017
Michael M Doran	2017
Ray A King	2022
Rocky Miller	2018
Chance E Morgan	2018
Charles M Morgan	2018
James A Vornberg	2006
Lou Zettler III	2024
Lou Zettler IV	2024
Robert A Lucich	2019



Compatriot News



Patriot Stories

**Contributed by Chuck Brennaman
Regarding his Patriot Ancestor
Peter Armentrout**

Peter Armentrout (1751–1824) is my fourth great-grandfather. His lineage traces back to Johanns Michael Ermentraudt, who died in 1739, prompting his widow, Anna Elizabeth, to emigrate from Germany with her children. The family arrived in Philadelphia on August 27, 1739, aboard the ship "Samuel." Anna Elizabeth patented 210 acres in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1741, with her sons acquiring adjoining tracts soon after.

The family later moved to Augusta County, Virginia, where Johan Philip Armentrout, Peter's father, purchased land in 1755 and 1756.

Peter and his brother Philip served in the French and Indian Wars, with records indicating their continued service in the militia in 1756.

Peter died on January 9, 1824, and is buried in Bethel Brethren Cemetery, Keezletown, Virginia.

Peter married Catherine Ergebrecht around 1775, who died in 1788 or 1789. He remarried Margaret Wolf in 1789. He fathered 21 children, with 18 surviving him at his death.

Peter donated land for the Ermentrout (Old Dutch) Church, completed in 1806, which is now known as United Brethren Bethel.

The cemetery across the road contains many Armentrout graves.

Eight Armentrouts from Rockingham County served during the Revolutionary War, including Peter and his brothers.

Peter served in Captain Daniel Smith's Company in 1776 and 1777, contributing to the defense of the Virginia frontier.



This Month's Fun Factoid



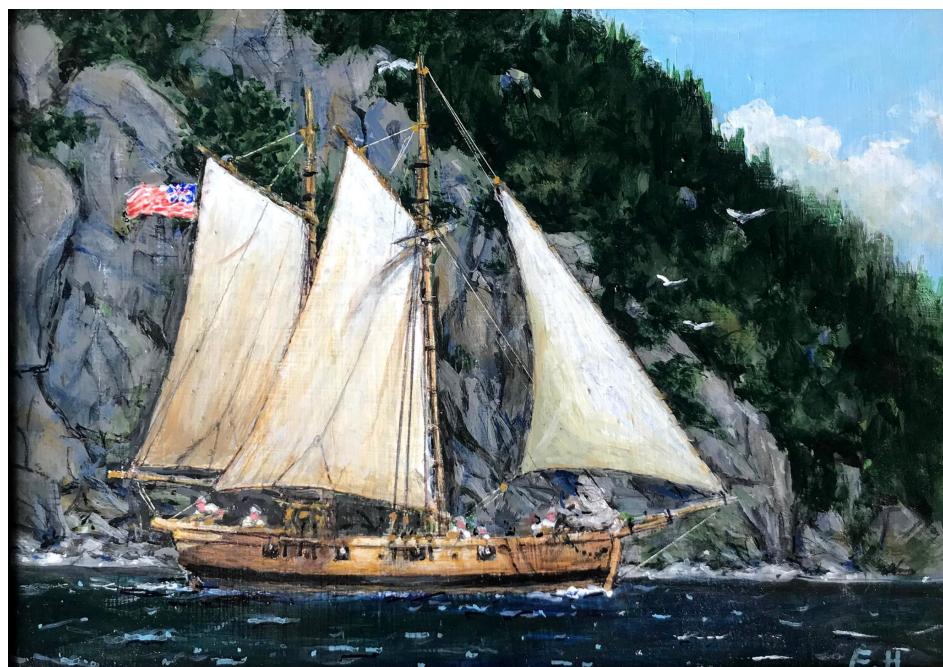
Contributed by Randall Bush, Secretary

The USS Liberty: An Unusual History of America's First Warship

The *USS Liberty* was originally a civilian vessel named *Katherine*, built for British Army Captain Philip Skene on Lake Champlain. It was captured by American forces in a raid on Skenesboro, New York, on May 11, 1775, and renamed *Liberty* to honor the patriot cause.

This schooner and a captured British sloop, renamed *Enterprise*, gave the Americans control of Lake Champlain. The *Liberty* became part of Benedict Arnold's fleet and supported the Canadian campaign. It later participated in the Battle of Valcour Island campaign in October 1776, though it was away on a supply run and thus escaped the destruction of most of Arnold's fleet during the main battle.

The ship was ultimately destroyed by American forces the following summer in 1777 to prevent its capture when the British under General Burgoyne advanced south.





Connect!



Upcoming Meeting Tidbits and Officer Connection Information

- No December Meeting! We'll see you in January 2026!

Connect with our Officers!

President [Bob Johns](#)

Treasurer [Scott Knightly](#)

Color Guard Commander [Dave Fautheree](#)

VP of Medals and Awards [Kevin Ennis](#)

VP of Chapter Programs [Melvin Richards](#)

VP of Veterans Affairs [BJ Bjorklund](#)

VP of Youth Activities [Alan Roach](#)

Registrar [Duane Carter](#)

Sergeant at Arms [Ronald Carey](#)

Chaplain [Rocky Miller](#)

Secretary [Randall Bush](#)

[Plano SAR Chapter #37 Website](#)



“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.”

The Minutes

of the

4 November 2025 Chapter Meeting

Plano Texas
Chapter #37

Sons of the
American
Revolution

Tuesday 4 November 2025 Meeting
Location: Saltgrass Steak House
3000 Dallas Pkwy
Plano TX 75093

Call to Order: The Meeting is called to order by President Bob Johns at 7:00pm.



The Invocation: Offered by Nick Gilliam



Pledge to The American Flag: Offered by Michael Goode

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.



Pledge to The Texas Flag: Offered by Billy Brewer

Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, One State under God, one and indivisible.

Pledge of The Sons of the American Revolution: Offered by Kyle Potts

We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.



The Sons of the American Revolution Mission Statement:

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.



Attendees: 38

James L. Mitchell, Jr., Joshua P. Jenkins, John Martindale, James Wallace IV, James Wallace V, Tom Rees, Zachary Countryman, Chris Fritz, Amy Fritz, Garritt Fritz, Alise Fritz, Melvin Richards, Kyle Potts, Gabriel Potts, Michael Morgan, Jim Smetzer, Bill Evans, BJ Bjorklund, Billy Brewer, Alan Roach, JoEllen and Howard Roach, Dave Fautheree, Bob Johns, Duane and Nget Carter, Steve Driever, John Maloney, Michael Goode, Dylen Manly-Montague, Susan Manly, Kevin Ennis, John Rothermel, Nick Gilliam, Scott Knightly, Ira Archer, Grover Thurman, Ronald Carey, Gary Coleman and 2 additional attendees.



- **Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the October 2025 Chapter Meeting: Presented by President Bob Johns**
The October Meeting Minutes were approved by acclamation.
- **Treasurer's Report: Presented by Scott Knightly, Treasurer**
 - Checking Account: \$14,586.79
 - Investment Account: \$15,256.13

- **Plano Chapter #37 BOM Elections for 2026: Presented by President Bob Johns**
The following Compatriots were elected by the Membership to the indicated roles:

- President: Bob Johns
- VP Medals and Awards: Kevin Ennis
- VP Programs: Melvin Richards
- VP Veterans Activities: BJ Bjorklund
- VP Youth Activities, Schools, ROTC: Alan Roach
- VP Yearbook: Randall Bush
- Secretary: Randall Bush
- Treasurer: Ronald Carey
- Registrar: Duane Carter
- Chaplain: Rocky Miller
- Webmaster/Historian/Newsletter: Randall Bush
- Sergeant at Arms: Mike Becker
- Color Guard Commander: Dave Fautheree

The History Minute

“The Inception of Our Marine Corps 250 Years Ago”

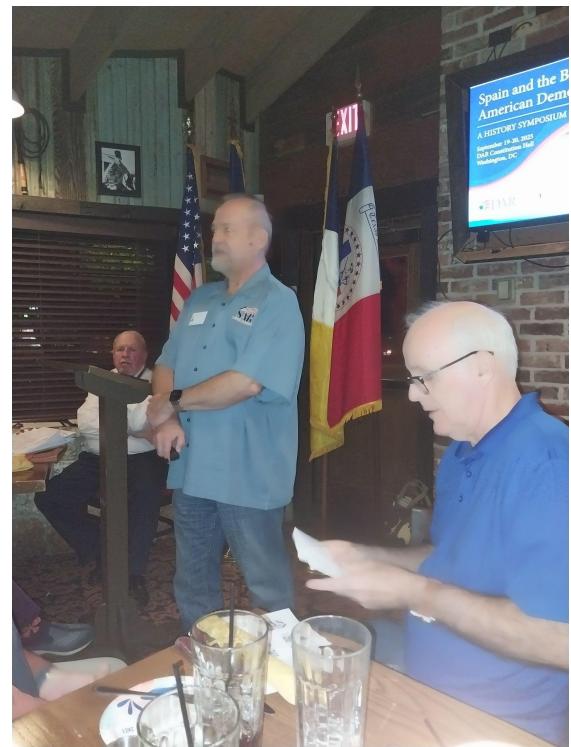
Presented by Dr. Steven Driever



The Featured Speaker Presentation

“The Spain and Birth of American Democracy Symposium”

Presented by Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander

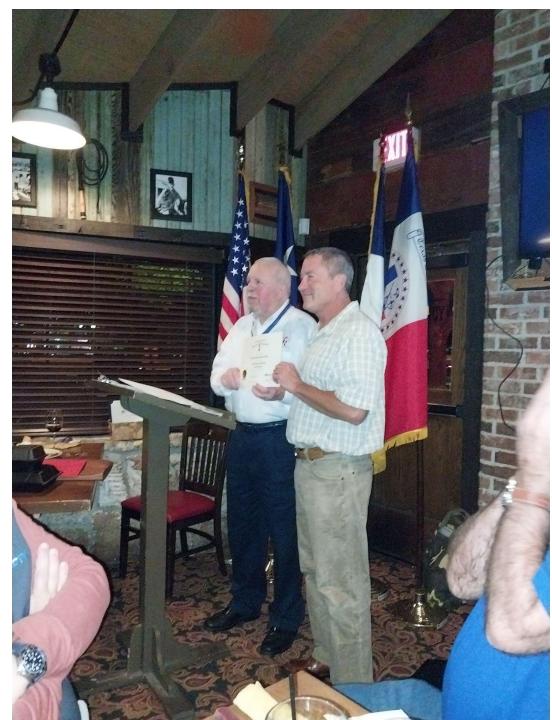


- **Color Guard Report: Presented by Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander**
Compatriot Fautheree discusses the latest and upcoming activities of the Chapter Color Guard.
- **Veterans Report: Presented by BJ Bjorklund, VP Veterans Affairs**
Compatriot Bjorklund discusses the latest work performed on behalf of the Veterans at Bonham and future needs.

New Member Inductions and Supplementals

Presented by Bob Johns, President

Christopher James Fritz



New Member Inductions and Supplementals (Cont'd)

Presented by Bob Johns, President



James Mitchell

**James David Wallace IV
and James David
Wallace V**



Old Business/Announcements/Awards

Presented by Bob Johns, President



Compatriot Duane Carter is awarded a Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for processing 200 member applications

Compatriots Dave Fautheree, Ronald Carey and Duane Carter are awarded the Community Service Lapel Pin



Old Business/Announcements/Awards

Presented by Bob Johns, President



**Companion B.J. Bjorklund
receives the Veterans
Support Certificate**

- **New Business:** Presented by Bob Johns, President

The Benediction: Offered by Nick Gilliam



The Adjournment/Recessional:

The Meeting is adjourned by Bob Johns, President at 8:00pm

"Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.:

Respectfully Submitted,

Randall Bush
Secretary
Plano Chapter #37
Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution

