

The Plano Compatriot Gazette

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

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February 2026

Issue #2



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 “Melting Pot” That Built Our Nation

Compatriots,

When we think of the Patriots of the American Revolution, it's usually an image of the Minute Man or the Continental soldier. The real Patriots were much richer and more diverse. Patriots came from every walk of life—Native American, African American, French Canadian, Spanish, German, and women who stepped forward to provide shelter, supplies and critical aid. Let's remember to stress this diversity when we discuss Revolutionary War topics with others. Examples abound. Let's start with the better-known names:

Marquis de Lafayette: Almost everyone knows of the contribution of Frenchman Marquis de Lafayette, the French military officer and politician who volunteered to join the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War. Lafayette commanded Continental Army troops in the decisive siege of Yorktown in 1781, the Revolutionary War's final major battle, which secured American independence. After returning to France, Lafayette became a key figure in the French Revolution of 1789 and the July Revolution of 1830 and continues to be celebrated as a hero in both France and the United States. His tomb in France includes an American flag permanently displayed on a flagpole guarded on his birthday by French SAR Color Guard members.

Kazimierz Michał Władysław Wiktor Pułaski: anglicized as **Casimir Pulaski**, a Polish nobleman, soldier and military commander who has been called "The Father of American Cavalry". Born in Warsaw and following in his father's footsteps, he became interested in politics at an early age. He soon became involved in the military and in revolutionary affairs. Following a recommendation by Benjamin Franklin, Pulaski traveled to North America to help in the American Revolutionary War. He distinguished himself throughout the revolution, most notably when he saved the life of George Washington. Pulaski became a general in the Continental Army. Pulaski is remembered as a hero who fought for independence and freedom in Poland and the United States. Numerous places and events are named in his honor, and he is commemorated by many works of art.

Pulaski is one of only eight people to be awarded honorary United States citizenship including Lafayette, Bernardo de Galvez, and later Winston Churchill and Mother Teresa. To this day Pulaski Day is celebrated in Chicago, and is a legal holiday in some states.

Baron Von Steuben: The Baron was a former Prussian military officer who had once served on the staff of Frederick the Great. Though prone to exaggeration—he wore flashy uniforms and styled himself a lieutenant general even though he had never risen above the rank of captain—he possessed a keen military mind. Upon arriving at George Washington’s winter encampment at Valley Forge, he introduced new sanitation measures and gave the troops a crash course in 18th-century military tactics that included bayonet combat and more effective techniques for firing and reloading muskets.

The Baron’s successes saw him appointed Inspector General of the Continental Army in May 1778. Over the next two years, his drill methods helped transform the Patriot forces into an accomplished fighting force. He also penned the first military manual for the American army, “Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States.” This “Blue Book,” as it was known, remained the bible of the American armed forces until the War of 1812. The Von Steuben Medal is the highest medal awarded by NSSAR for color guard activities.

Crispus Attucks: Many historians’ credit Attucks as the first man to die for the rebellion and became a symbol of Black American patriotism and sacrifice. In 1770, as tension mounted between British and colonial sailors in Massachusetts ports, distrust and competition among them grew. These pressures came to a head on March 5th, when an angry confrontation turned into a slaughter known as the Boston Massacre .. Witnesses say that Attucks, a middle-aged runaway enslaved man of African and native American descent, who worked as a sailor and a rope maker, played an active role in the initial scuffle. Of the five colonists killed, he was said to be the first to fall—making him the first martyr to the American cause.

Salem Poor: Poor began life as a Massachusetts slave and ended it as an American hero. Born into bondage in the late 1740s, he purchased his own freedom two decades later for £27, the equivalent of a few thousand dollars today. Soon after, Poor joined the fight for independence.

Enlisting multiple times, he is believed to have fought in the battles of Saratoga and Monmouth. He’s most famous, however, for his heroism at the Battle of Bunker Hill —where his contributions so impressed fellow soldiers, that after the war ended, fourteen of them formally recognized his excellent battle skills with a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts. In it, they called him out as a “brave and gallant soldier,” saying he “behaved like an experienced officer.” Poor is credited in that battle with killing British Lieutenant Colonel James Abercrombie, along with several other enemy soldiers.

The First Rhode Island Regiment, the first Continental Army unit largely comprised of Black New Englanders, showcased African Americans' skill as soldiers and commitment to their brethren on the battlefield. Though relatively small—only about 130 men—the First Rhode Island Regiment had an outsized impact. Commanding General John Sullivan praised its soldiers for their success against attacks in the Battle of Newport, saying they displayed "desperate valor in repelling three furious Hessian (German) infantry assaults."

Deborah Sampson born into poverty and bound into indentured servitude during her teen years, 21-year-old Deborah Sampson enlisted in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment in 1782 by disguising herself as a man and using the name Robert Shurtliff (also sometimes recorded as Shurtleff). Her true identity remained secret for 17 months as she skirmished with Loyalist raiders and matched her fellow soldiers in strength and endurance. Rather than risk discovery after being shot in combat, she extracted a bullet from her left thigh with a penknife and sewing needle. Another bullet was too deep to remove. A doctor who treated Sampson after she lost consciousness with a high fever in the summer of 1783 discovered her secret. After receiving an honorable discharge, Sampson successfully petitioned for a military pension. Following her 1827 death, a congressional committee awarded her husband a widower's pension, stating that they encountered "no other similar example of female heroism, fidelity and courage."

Sarah Bradlee Fulton Born in 1740, joined the daughters of Liberty and participated in boycotts of British goods when protests over the Stamp Act and other taxes erupted in Boston. Following passage of the Tea Act, she helped plan the Boston Tea Party. Fulton earned the title "Mother of the Boston Tea Party" for reportedly disguising the Sons of Liberty as Native Americans and later removing their face paint and concealing their costumes. During the Battle of Bunker Hill, she helped establish a makeshift hospital and nursed wounded soldiers. In 1776, she crossed enemy lines to deliver an urgent message to General George Washington, who is said to have personally thanked her for her patriotism.

The list goes on. Our country was blessed with many who were willing to give their lives for freedom and independence. Give thought to the great diversity of Patriots who fought for this Nation as we observe the 250th anniversary of The United States of America this year.

Chapter and State News Items and Upcoming Events

[Color Guard Upcoming Events - Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander](#)

Plano Symphony Orchestra School Concerts

Present and post the colors during the National Anthem.

Tuesday, February 17 - 10AM & 11:30AM

Wednesday, February 18 - 10AM & 11:30AM

Thursday, February 19 - 10AM & 11:30AM

Friday, February 20

Robinson Fine Arts Center (Plano ISD)

1800 Alma Dr, Plano, TX 75075

Muster for 10AM Concert at 9:30 AM

Muster for 11:30 AM Concert at 11:00 AM

Food will be provided between the concerts.

No weapons allowed. I will bring extra flags. **These are Chapter Events.**

Program: Legends in Sound

Star Spangled Banner.....J. Smith

Symphony No.9, Movement 4.....L.V. Beethoven

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Movement 1.....J.S. Bach

Piano Concerto No. 1, Movement 3.....F. Mendelssohn

Soloist- Jenna Tran

Excerpt from The Peasant Prince.....Katy Abbott

Accompanied with narrator and dance

Finale from the Firebird Suite.....I. Stravinsky

–Instrument Demos–

How to Train Your Dragon.....John Powell

Arr. Sean O’Loughlin

Please let me know which concerts you will participate in. I will provide the PSO with a list of names for registration. Please pick up your badge at the door as you enter. It will identify you as a program participant and allow you to have food with the orchestra and other participants between the concerts.

Dan Hamilton set up an online signup for the PSO School Concerts. Please use the link, then create a sign-up before registering. This will help keep track of who is participating for each concert.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAAA923A5F9C61-61379652-plano>

There will be over 17,000 3rd-5th grade students attending this year from over 145 schools across over 10 school districts.

George Washington Birthday Parade

February 21st in Laredo, TX

If you are planning on participating in the parade, **you will need to fill out the participant release form!** Please contact the [Color Guard Commander](#) to access this form.

Accommodations:

Below are some hotels you can contact. We do not have any arranged rates. Please keep in mind that this is a major event in Laredo, Texas making hotel rooms more difficult to find the closer to the date we get. **Book now!**

Closest to the parade route:

The Courtyard Marriott
2410 Santa Ursula Avenue
Laredo, TX 78040
+19567255555
<https://www.marriott.com>

Best Western Plus Laredo Inn & Suites
3110 Santa Ursula Avenue
Laredo, TX 78040
+19566082491
<https://www.bestwestern.com>

Econo Lodge Inn & Suites
2620 Santa Ursula Avenue
Laredo, TX 78040
+19567226321
<https://www.choicehotels.com>

If you have any questions, contact David Hamaker at 936-522-6018 or Rick Ramirez at 956-206-7855 for information on the George Washington Birthday Parade.

This is a **National** Event.

George Washington Birthday Luncheon - Austin, TX

Feb 21

Place: Chateau Bellevue

708 Nueces St

Austin, TX 78701

Contact: Shiidon Hawley

Shiidon@gmail.com or 512-919-6188

Notes: If you are able to help set up flags, please come at 9:30

This is a **National** Event.

DAR State Conference - Dallas, TX

Mar 12 - 15 - more details to come

"Medal of Honor Pilgrimage" - San Antonio, TX

Mar 21 - details in the attachment

CAR State Conference

Mar 27-28 - more details to come

SAR Annual State Conference - Austin, TX

Apr 17-19 - more details to come

Medal of Honor Parade - Gainesville TX

April 18, 10:00am event; 8:00am show time

Contact: Bill Sekel

firstsgtusmcret@yahoo.com or 830-992-5619

Muskets allowed but must pass safety inspection.

Additional information such as muster point will be put out as soon as it is available.

This is a **National** Event.

NOTE: If you are not attending the Annual Convention in Austin, your participation in the Medal of Honor Parade is needed. Dust off your continental attire or gear up and participate in this salute to America's finest. **One time participation in this parade qualifies all for the Texas SAR Bronze Bernardo de Gálvez Medal.** The City of Gainesville has planned a multi-day celebration surrounding the event. Additional details can be found at:

[Medal of Honor Host City](#)

If you are able to walk in the parade, please contact [Bill Sekel](#).

Plano Chapter Sons of the American Revolution - Plano, TX

July 4th Gala - Arlington, TX

June 7, 1:30-4:00pm event; 12:45am show time

Place: Texas Rangers Golf Club

701 Brown Blvd

Arlington, TX 76011

Contact: Dan Hamilton

maverick73@swbell.net or 817-703-1356

This is a National Event.

Audie Murphy Parade - Farmersville, TX

June 20, 9:30am event; 8:30am show time

Contact: Bill Sekel

firstsgtusmcret@yahoo.com or 830-992-5619

Notes: Muskets allowed but must pass safety inspection. More information like muster point will be passed when available.

This is a State Event.

Liberty & Lace Ball - Dallas, TX

June 27, 6 PM - 9 PM

J Erik Jonsson Central Library

1515 Young St

Dallas, TX 75201

Revolutionary style ball where we'll have live music, dancing, food, games, and crafts so folks can experience how our founding patriots might have celebrated their newly won independence.

Need: Any number of interested volunteers to help out by: providing information on colonial genealogical research and the SAR itself, assisting in teaching folks about "quilling", hosting gaming tables where attendees can learn colonial era games such as table-bowling and "cup and bowl", interacting with attendees through games of Pictionary using colonial terms, or even just being in period attire and posing for photos with folks.

This is a National Event.

Family Fun Days - Dallas Public Library Branches

June 13th, June 27th, July 11th, July 25th, and August 8th (Saturdays)

Details on location and time TBD.

Need: Any number of volunteers. Activities will vary, but June 13 will be Flag Day themed (and may conflict with our Flag Retirement Ceremony). We may be able to come in the role of your ancestor and talk about their experiences or do some re-enacting, but either way we will be able to set up a table to talk about joining the SAR and getting folks interested in their ancestors.

UPCOMING EVENT
Plano Symphony Orchestra
School Concerts
The Robinson Fine Arts Center
1800 Alma Road, Plano TX 75075

“Legends in Sound”

January/February Schedule

February 17-20 10:00am and 11:30am

REPERTOIRE

The Star Spangled Banner.....John Smith
Symphony No.9, Movement 4.....L.V. Beethoven
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Movement 1.....J.S. Bach
Piano Concerto No. 1, Movement 3.....F. Mendelssohn
(Soloist- Jenna Tran)
Excerpt from The Peasant Prince.....Katy Abbott
(Accompanied with narrator and dance)
Finale from the Firebird Suite.....I. Stravinsky
–Instrument Demos–
How to Train Your Dragon.....John Powell
Arr. Sean O’Loughlin

Tickets to these Concerts are purchased online [HERE](#). Hurry, as they will sell out quickly. You will not only see a great performance, but also experience our Color Guard presenting the Colors!



**PLANO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**
HECTOR GUZMAN MUSIC DIRECTOR

UPCOMING EVENT
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.



UPCOMING EVENT

The Texas SAR 2026 State Convention



Dear Texas Compatriots,

On behalf of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution, we invite you all to the Texas 2026 State Convention to be held in **Austin, Texas, on April 15-19, 2026** at the **Austin Southpark Hotel**. Event registration will soon be live on the [Texas SAR](#) website. Go to “Events” to access.

Make your room reservations NOW at the **Austin Southpark Hotel** by calling the hotel directly at **512-448-2222**. When calling, it is important that you identify yourself as a part of the **Texas SAR group**, to receive the group rate and ensure that the group is credited for the room nights. You may also book online [here](#). NOTE: The default date range on the booking link is April 12th – 21st. You *must* change the dates to your desired booking dates and **CLICK “UPDATE”** for the system to accept your desired date!! Hotel Rate \$149.00 USD/Night plus tax. Rates are offered 3 days pre/post event. *Cutoff date* for booking the blocked rooms is **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**. Cancellation must be done 24 hours before date of arrival to avoid charges. If you have any issues booking a room, contact [Dennis Brunson](#) @ 979-324-8552. If you need additional information or assistance, please feel free to contact the following:

Mark Ellison marmellison1@gmail.com

Shiidon Hawley shiidon@gmail.com

Joseph Burton joseph.Burton@jll.com

Austin SouthPark Hotel
4140 Governors Row, Austin Texas 78744
P: 512-448-2222

UPCOMING EVENT
The Texas SAR 250 Monument



Compatriots,

A Dedication Ceremony at the Texas State Cemetery 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

MEMBER APPROVED FLAG PRESENTATIONS

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 Alan Roach](#) 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!

Bob Johns, President



[The Plano Chapter #37](#) [Community Service Lapel Pin](#)

The Plano SAR Chapter Community Service Pin is a 1" lapel pin with artwork based on our 2" Commemorative Coin.

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!



[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

The Texas Patriot Winter Edition Now Available!

Compatriots,

Please visit the Texas SAR website for the latest edition of [The Texas Compatriot!](#) The Fall/Winter 2025 Edition has been prepared for your reading pleasure! This latest issue includes numerous tidbits of information, useful to all members. Please note:

- Upcoming Texas SAR State Meeting
- Veterans Survey
- Texas Society State Flag
- Chapter Events
- A new Comics section
- Don't forget to check out an important message from the Editor!

This latest edition should impress, please, or otherwise delight your senses and fill you with informative and fun activities from across our great state! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact the Editor at Compatriot@TexasSAR.org.

Thanks,

Matt Hoffman

979-415-5302

Compatriot@TexasSAR.org

Contribution Opportunities

[Bonham VA Winter Needs List](#)

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.

Clothing & Comfort Items:

- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Electric Razors (for Veterans on blood thinners)
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Shaving Cream
- Nail Clippers
- Brushes and Combs
- Chapstick

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

- Bottled water
- Coffee and Coffee supplies (8 oz cups, sugar/Splenda packets)
- Juices (small boxed)
- Individually wrapped snacks (no homemade)
- Danishes, donuts
- Chips
- Cookies (Variety Pack, Individual Bags)
- Candy

Miscellaneous:

- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Leather crafts
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils
- Paint by stickers
- Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Pens, stationary

Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:

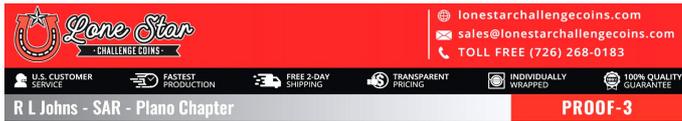
- Monthly Birthday Socials
- Bingo & Prizes
- Cooking Group – monthly or quarterly
- Bowling for Domiciliary Residents
- Bonham State Park Pass
- Sporting & Music Events - Baseball Games [Rangers/Roughriders] and movie tickets for Domiciliary residents.

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.

[The Plano SAR Chapter #37](#) [40th Anniversary Commemorative Coin](#)



SIDE A



SIDE B



*PLEASE REVIEW ALL DETAILS OF THE PROOF TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF SPELLING, GRAPHICS AND PRODUCT SPECS BEFORE APPROVING AS CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE ONCE PRODUCTION BEGINS

**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 Ronald Carey at 5504 Overland Drive, The Colony TX, 75056**. You will receive one of the coins in return.

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

The SAR Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

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

Upcoming America 250 Patriotic and Travel Events

[CSPAN America 250 Lectures](#)

Compatriots,

CSPAN has some America 250 lectures available for streaming from their website. They are usually about an hour long and are either university faculty giving a lecture in their classroom or notable historians giving a presentation at various institutions (e.g., the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Museum of the American Revolution).

As the year progresses, CSPAN will have more available.

Here are links to a some of them:

[Creation of the Continental Army in 1775 | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[British Army During Revolutionary Era | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Boston's Freedom Trail | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Walking Tour of Revolutionary Philadelphia | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Benedict Arnold | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[George Washington's Character | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Colonial School for Black Children | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Paul Revere's 1775 "Midnight Ride" | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[\[The Revolutionary - Samuel Adams\] | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Religion in Colonial America | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[British Recruitment of Slaves During American Revolution | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Washington's Lieutenants in Revolutionary War | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[1783 Treaty of Paris | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

Enjoy!

Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander

UPCOMING EVENT

America 250

Dallas Symphony Orchestra: Jeff Tuzik
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.



Click [HERE](#) for tickets!!

Compatriot Anniversaries for February

Happy Anniversary, Compatriots!

Marvin Fergus	2020
Ashton Higgins	2019
Michael Milner	1997
Howard Roach	2007
David Sparks	1988
B. Brent Truitt	1983
Luke L Truitt	2001
Garold Base	2018

Patriot Stories

**Contributed by Ken Dabbs
Regarding his Patriot Ancestor
Jacob Kipps**

Jacob Kipps (aka Keps, Kepps, Kips, Gibs) b. November 11, 1760 d. April 20, 1849

Jacob Kipps was born to immigrant George Michael Kipps who arrived in the port of Philadelphia in 1740 on the ship Maria. It was there George married Elizabeth Heiser and moved to New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia and had 3 sons: Jacob, Michael, and George.

Jacob married Elizabeth Zirkle and went on to have 11 children. There is not much written about their day-to-day life, but what is apparent is that Jacob was an invested member of his community. In June of 1771, the first timbers for a Lutheran church were cut from the lands of Lewis Zirkle. The church was built by both English and German speaking townspeople. In the spring of 1772, the timbers were used to build the first New Market church, a log house, and was called the Davisburg Church. The first laymen of the church and the builders were Jacob Kipps, George Adam Zirkle (6th GGF, father of Jacob's wife), Lewis Zirkle, John Rausch, Michael Radar, Abraham Peter, Jacob Olinger, John Bar (Bare), Andrew Bord (Bird), and David O'Rourke. The first church service was held in 1792. The sermon was given in both English and German.

In the 10th day of September 1832, Jacob appeared before the Blacksburg, VA Court to testify about his military service in the Revolutionary War. He was applying for a Revolutionary War Pension for his family. Jacob was asked during that hearing, "Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?" Jacob answered, "My age is recorded in my family Bible, but my brother has my Bible with him in Montgomery County, Virginia." His 1st tour of duty was 3 months and he marched with Capt. Robert Cravens and participated in expeditions against the "Indians in Tigers Valley with General Green." His 2nd tour of 3 months was spent with Capt. Robert Cravens and they marched to Hillsborough, NC. He was discharged after that tour. He was then drafted a 3rd time for 6 months under Capt. Tabbs artillery company where he was at the siege of York during the Surrender of Cornwallis to General George Washington. After Yorktown Jacob Kipps was attached to Capt. Ewels of the Dumfries, VA Company and marched to Portsmouth. It was here that he volunteered with about 60 other men, under the command of Major Dick, to cross the river and search for Tories from Portsmouth to Richmond. Both of Jacob's brothers, John Michael, and George, served in the Revolutionary War. Jacob Kipps is also listed in the US War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812-1815.

Jacob Kipps died in Timberville, Rockingham County, Virginia, April 20, 1849. He was buried in New Market, Virginia in the Zirkle Cemetery. His wife Elizabeth was laid to rest beside him when she died June 21, 1857.

This Month's Fun Factoid

Interesting White House Interior Decorating Facts

The Residence Act of 1790 empowered George Washington to choose the site and the style of the executive mansion. President John Adams moved into the mansion 225 years ago in November, 1800. The next day, in a letter to first lady Abigail Adams, he wrote "I pray Heaven bestow the Best of Blessings on this house. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof". Those words were carved into the mantle of the State Dining Room in 1945.

That launched a tradition of presidents leaving their mark on their home. Each president has shaped it with distinctive design choices and their personal touches.

That continues today with stirred up controversy, so let's look at history.

President Madison's household saved Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington from the British destruction of the White House in the War of 1812. President James Monroe in 1817 had a clean slate and rebuilt the White House with ornate gilded French Empire furnishings and accessories which remain in use today.

Over the next decades the interior was constantly changed and modern updates like electricity and plumbing were added.

Then in 1904 Theodore Roosevelt initiated a classical exterior restoration designed to keep the exterior from changing fashion.

In the 1920s first lady Grace Coolidge obtained a congressional resolution authorizing acceptance and retention of significant objects as gifts to create a permanent collection.

In 1948 first daughter Margaret Truman's piano broke through the floor and the ceiling of the room beneath it. The Truman reconstruction preserved the historic façade of the White House but demolished the unsafe interior. The interior of the executive mansion was rebuilt from the ground up over three years.

In 1961 first lady Jacqueline Kennedy founded the White House Historical Association and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House which has managed and financed acquisitions, refurbishments and preservation initiatives establishing the White House as a living Museum.

Connect!

[Upcoming Meeting Tidbits and Officer Connection Information](#)

3 February 2026 Meeting Highlights

- The History Minute, entitled “Common Sense”, will be presented by Duane Carter, Registrar.
- The Featured Speaker is Randall Bush, Secretary, who will present “The Guns of Ticonderoga - A Masterclass in American Ingenuity”.

Connect with our Officers!

President [Bob Johns](#)

Treasurer [Ronald Carey](#)

Color Guard Commander [Dave Fautheree](#)

VP of Medals and Awards [Alan Roach](#)

VP of Chapter Programs [Melvin Richards](#)

VP of Veterans Affairs [BJ Bjorklund](#)

VP of Youth Activities [Alan Roach](#)

Registrar [Duane Carter](#)

Sergeant at Arms [Michael Becker](#)

Chaplain [Rocky Miller](#)

Secretary [Randall Bush](#)

[Plano SAR Chapter #37 Website](#)

The Minutes

of the

6 January 2026

Chapter
Meeting

Plano Texas
Chapter #37

Sons of the
American
Revolution

- President Bob Johns called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Chaplain Rocky Miller led the Invocation.
- Compatriot Mike Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.
- Compatriot Mike Becker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- Compatriot Dan Ray led the SAR Pledge.
- President Bob Johns read the SAR Mission Statement.
- President Johns introduced honored guest Texas SAR President Mel Oller.
- Self Introductions. There were 32 Compatriots and Guests in attendance.
- The minutes of the November 2025 meeting were approved; the committee reports were accepted.

- The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Scott Knightly.
 - Checking: \$11,737.86
 - Investment: \$14,863.95



- The Color Guard Report was presented by Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander.
 - Major Fautheree presents the Silver 250 Award to Compatriot Mike Becker.



- The Veteran's Report was presented by VP of Veterans Affairs BJ Bjorklund.
 - Compatriot Bjorklund was awarded the Service to Veterans Award by President Bob Johns.



- The Youth Activity Report was presented by VP of Youth Activities Alan Roach.



- Induction of New Members, Supplementals and Memorials was presented by President Bob Johns.

New Member:
Compatriot Bobby Edwin
Coberly, Jr.



New Member: Compatriot
Theodore Edward Martin



New Member: Compatriot
Roger Hardin

Supplemental:
Compatriot Michael Garner





Memorial: Billy Murriel Carey accepted by Compatriot Ronald Carey

- Old Business/Announcements was presented by Bon Johns, President.
- New Business was presented by Bob Johns, President.
- Mel Oller, President Texas SAR inducted the 2026 Board of Managers.

PRESIDENT
 VP MEDALS AND AWARDS
 VP PROGRAMS
 VP VETERANS ACTIVITIES
 VP YOUTH ACTIVITIES, SCHOOLS, JROTC
 VP YEARBOOK
 SECRETARY
 TREASURER
 REGISTRAR
 CHAPLAIN
 WEBMASTER/HISTORIAN/NEWSLETTER
 EDITOR
 SERGEANT AT ARMS
 COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

BOB JOHNS
 ALAN ROACH
 MELVIN RICHARDS
 BJ BJORKLUND
 ALAN ROACH
 RANDALL BUSH
 RANDALL BUSH
 RONALD CAREY
 DUANE CARTER
 ROCKY MILLER

 RANDALL BUSH
 MIKE BECKER
 DAVE FAUTHEREE



Texas SAR President Mel Oller administers the oath of office to the 2026 Plano SAR Chapter Board of Managers.

The 2025 Plano SAR Chapter Board of Managers are recognized for their service.





Texas SAR President Mel Oller presents the Featured Presentation “Freemasons in Early America and General Washington’s Army”

Texas SAR President Oller Receives the coveted American Eagle from Plano Chapter President Bob Johns.



- Chaplain Rocky Miller led the Benediction.
- The Adjournment/Recessional was led by Bob Johns, President.