



The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter



June 2026

Volume 46 Issue 6



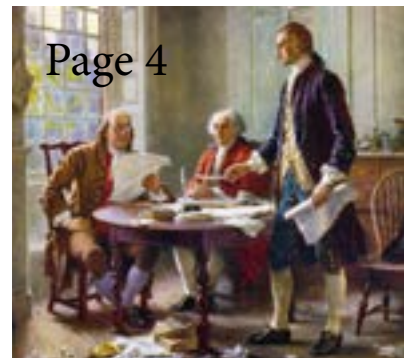
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MEMBERS

Please notify chapter registrar Steve Perkins Patriotmarcher @ fastmail .com of any recent or anticipated change to contact information: address, phone, e-mail



The Ozark Mountain Chapter Challenge Coin is available for purchase from Ben Edmondson for \$10.00

On the Cover
Compatriot's Joe Walker and Rod Grewe at the 250th Dogwood tree dedication in Monett.



Photographs provided by: Daniel Piedlow, Margaret Swales
Editor: Daniel Piedlow



The President's Message

By President Steven Perkins

What a glorious light to stand in...250 years since so many declared as a human right from God, pursuing life – liberty – and the pursuit of happiness. As the document declares, paraphrasing a bit, the only way to pursue such rights, we [the people] get to institute a government to achieve those ends. A glance around this nation, and particular states, there is a large part of our population that seemingly prefers the government should lead the people and tell the people what they can and cannot do.

Those who were at the June 20 chapter meeting heard Lilly Stevens, the 2026 chapter and state Eagle Scout winner of the SAR scout award, read her essay which touched on the minds of the colonists. The Imprimis June/July 2026 issue from Hillsdale College was penned by Christopher Flannery, a Claremont Institute Fellow. The title “How to Think About the American Revolution” provoked some deeper thought on the question.

We of this organization have been well-schooled in the events: resistance to taxes, the “massacre”, the dumping of tea, Lexington & Concord, Bunker Hill, Crossing the Delaware, Valley Forge, and Yorktown.

But some, including John Adams, saw something much bigger to the “heroic deeds” of the American Revolution. Adams, in 1818, wrote the American Revolution took place “in the Minds and Hearts of the People”—a “radical Change in the Principles, Opinions Sentiments and Affection of the People...”. John Adams said “the real American Revolution” culminated in the Declaration of Independence, an expression that Thomas Jefferson called “the American Mind”. We therefore have a duty and obligation to live up to the ideals...the mindset...of the American Revolution.

For those who could not or did not attend any of the public readings of the Declaration July 8, I encourage all to read the listed grievances, and ponder how the United States today embraces the beauty and mindset of the Declaration of Independence. The document describes the “injuries and usurpations’ of the King of Great Britain against the states (colonies).

The article included a quote from Henry P. Jaffa: “[n]othing threatens the future of human freedom more than the failure to keep alive the understanding of, and attachment to, its principles.”

Another clip from the Imprimis article: *To experience the real American Revolution, and not just the record of it, is to experience the idea of political freedom becoming active in our hearts, minds, and lives. It is to experience being free—not as an unhinged Supreme Court Justice explained freedom in 1992, writing that freedom means being able to “define [our] own concept of existence,” but in the active exercise of the capacities required for self-government. It is an experience that requires, as the Virginia Declaration of Rights proclaimed in 1776, “a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and [a] frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.”*

Minutes of the Ozark Mountain Chapter Sons of the American Revolution June 20, 2026

9:30 A.M. to 10:23 A.M.

Concourse Information Commons West Ozarks Technical Community College

Minutes Recorded by Don King, Secretary Meeting Chair Steve Perkins, President

There were 27 members and 15 Visitors Present The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by President Perkins

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Compatriot Robert Hetrick

The Pledge to the SAR led by Compatriot Gary McMillan of the Alexander Measure Chapter

The Invocation was Given by Chaplain Philbrick The following Guests were introduced:

Gary “Mac” MacMillan

Stephen Hyatt

Lilly Stevens

James Watson

Anita Philbrick

Pat Haas

Jeffrey White

Jeanette Alston

Margaret Swales

Alexander Scranton

Jeffrey Scranton

Jim Watson

Angela Watson

Haylea Stanley

Dennis McMillon

Compatriot Gift recognized the Eagle Scout contest winner, Lilly Stevens, and awarded her a Certificate, a Medal, and \$250.00. She made the presentation she gave that won this honor, an essay on the Boston Massacre and its significance in the American Revolution. It should be noted that she also won the State competition.

President Perkins introduced Guest Mel McNeil, who discussed the War of 1812 and eligibility criteria for membership in the 1812 Society

1812, President Stephen Hyatt introduced a new marketing tool for the 1812 Society, created using AI.

Rod Grewe introduced a video outlining the contributions of Richard Henry Lee

Compatriot Joe Walker gave the Color Guard Report
May 25: Memorial Day Program

June 12: Participated in the Flag Day Ceremony at the historic courthouse

June 13: Attended a marker dedication at Monett State Park in conjunction with the Alexander McNair DAR Chapter

June 14: participated in a bench dedication at Nathaniel Greene Park in Springfield

June 18: Color Guard members visited a camp for foster children near Crane, Missouri.

See the Newsletter for upcoming events.

Secretary Report

Secretary Don King advised that the Minutes of the prior meeting were posted in the newsletter

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Compatriot Hathcock. The motion was seconded and carried.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Edmonson presented the chapter's financial status

Total Checking account balance as of today, June 20, is \$11,776.25

Of that, \$3,830.07 is our share of income from the State Conference

The CFO balance is \$10,826.25 bringing our total to \$18,772.53

The State Conference Total Receipts were \$21,455.32 with Disbursements of \$17,625.25

There was no Vice President's report

Genealogy Report

President and Registrar Perkins gave the Genealogy Report

Total Application Prospects: 15

Current Membership: 130

Please be sure to attend the July 18 meeting, as we will be recognizing 4 Minutemen, conducting a memorial for 2 members who have passed, and inducting new members

Compatriots will also note that the Ladies Auxiliary will be providing refreshments and treats at this meeting

There will be no meeting on August 15, as is the Chapter custom, we are attempting to organize a field trip to the MSU Archives at 9:30 to 10:00 start time, concrete time and place will be announced at the next meeting.

Chaplain Philbrick gave the Benediction.

Vice President Jones led the Recessional. , June 20, 2026 Chapter,

Meeting Adjourned at 10:23 A.M.

Birthdays

Keith Jones	6-3
Dale Moore	6-4
David Carmichael	6-8
George Swales	6-8
Steven Perkins	6-10
Harold Finch	6-18
Richard Phillips	6-20
Alexander Primm	6-21
James Gift	6-23
Ronald Brown	6-24
Jackie Robinson	6-24
John Wade	6-24
John Gerzen	6-27
Kenneth Lawrence	6-30



Committee's presentation of the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress.

The Evolution of the American Declaration of Independence



by Jane Sinden Spiegel

The American Declaration of Independence boldly proclaims “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” These words encouraged Americans to fight for freedom and have inspired disadvantaged groups though out the world. Historian Joseph Ellis called the phrase “the most potent and consequential words in American history, perhaps in modern history.”[1] This essay examines the origin, meaning and impact of these remarkable words.

John Adams, the Continental Congress’s leading proponent for independence, introduced a resolution on May 15, 1776 that each colony adopt their own government and constitution. Adam’s resolution stated that “authority under the said Crown should be totally suppressed, and all the powers of government exerted under the authority of the people . . . for the defense of their lives, liberties and properties.”[2] After its approval, Adams wrote that “Congress has passed the most important Resolution, that ever was taken in America.” It was a “compleat Separation from her [Britain], a total absolute Independence.”[3] Years later Adams believed the May 15 Resolution was the real declaration of independence and other documents were “Dress and ornament rather than Body, Soul and Substance.” He told Benjamin Rush that the Declaration of Independence was a “Theatrical Show [and] Jefferson ran away with . . . all the Glory

of it”[4]

Although Continental Congress had been waging war for a year, delegates wanted unanimous support to formally declare independence. On April 12, 1776, North Carolina became the first legislature to authorize representatives to “concur with other delegates . . . in Declaring Independency.”[5] One month later, the Fifth Virginia Convention authorized their delegates to propose independence. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee proposed that “these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States.”[6] Congress postponed the vote for three weeks to assure unanimous approval. On June 11, Congress appointed a “Committee of Five” to draft a declaration of independence. Committee members included Thomas Jefferson (Virginia), John Adams (Massachusetts), Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), Roger Sherman (Connecticut) and Robert Livingston (New York).[7]

The Committee of Five asked thirty-three-year-old Jefferson to write the first draft. Jefferson had established a reputation as a skillful writer in 1774 by enumerating grievances against King George III in A Summary View of the Rights of British America. He had recently written additional grievances which he sent to Williamsburg for inclusion in the Virginia Constitution. In fact, Jefferson was imploring the Virginia legislature to recall him from Philadelphia to Williamsburg to help write the Virginia Constitution, but Virginia recalled Richard Henry Lee instead.[8]

Jefferson remained in Philadelphia and rented the second floor of a three-story home at present day 700 Market Street where he wrote the first draft of the American Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was on three other committees and wrote two committee reports during the seventeen-days, from June 11 to June 28, he had to write the Declaration. Jefferson probably did not miss Congressional sessions because two of six Virginia delegation members were absent. Furthermore, Congress usually met six days a week. Given these time constraints, Jefferson likely wrote the declaration over a few days. John Adams supposedly claimed that Jefferson wrote the declaration in a day or two.[9]

One month earlier in Virginia, George Mason wrote the Virginia Constitution and Declaration of Rights. Declaration of Rights proclaimed

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That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent natural Rights . . . among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety.[10]

Thomas Ludwell Lee, Richard Henry Lee's brother, wrote some of the Virginia document which also included Jefferson's charges against the King. The Virginia Convention first heard Mason's draft on May 27 and ordered copies printed for review. On June 1, the Virginia Gazette published the draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. On June 12, one day after the Committee of Five was appointed, Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Gazette published the draft of the Virginia Declaration. Two other Philadelphia newspapers printed the document within two weeks. Jefferson and other committee members most likely saw a copy of the draft. Pauline Maier and other historians agree that Jefferson likely had "in hand two texts" when he drafted the Declaration of Independence: George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights, and grievances against the King which Jefferson wrote for the Virginia Constitution.[11]

Although the draft of the Virginia Declaration had been widely published, the Virginia Convention made changes and did not approve it until June 12. Most delegates were enslavers and had difficulty with "all men are born equally free." One delegate, Robert Nicholas, predicted the statement could be "the forerunner of . . . civil convulsion." Edmund Pendleton proposed qualifying the phrase with "when they enter a state of society." Enslaved people were not "constituent members of society" and therefore would not have the proposed rights. The Virginia Convention approved the Declaration of Rights with changes shown in parenthesis

That all men are (by nature) equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, (when they enter into a state of society,) . . . the enjoyment of . . .[12]

Despite these changes, newspapers throughout the colonies continued publishing Mason's first draft, rather than the approved version.

Jefferson began the Declaration of Independence by stating "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with

another." His first draft continued,

that all men are created equal and independent; that from that equal Creation they derive Rights inherent and unalienable; among which are the preservation of Life, and Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.[13]

Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights draft stated,

That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent natural Rights . . . among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety.[14]

Both documents stated that governmental power is derived from the people and if government is inadequate or destructive, people should "alter or abolish it." These remarkable similarities suggest that Jefferson referred to the Virginia Declaration when writing the American Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson listed twenty-one abuses against the king including imposing standing armies "in times of peace," taxing without consent and suspending colonial legislatures. He stated that the king had "destroyed the lives of our people . . . [and was] transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation & tyranny." John Adams and Benjamin Franklin made a few changes to his initial draft.[15]

On Friday June 28, the Declaration "was read" to Congress and the draft ordered "To lie on the table." Congress reconvened on Monday July 1, as 130 British war ships arrived in New York Harbor and 53 ships appeared near the coast of Charlestown, South Carolina.[16] Congress voted on Lee's resolution for independence and only nine colonies voted affirmatively. South Carolina and Pennsylvania were opposed; two Delaware delegates disagreed and New York's Provincial Congress had not authorized delegates to vote.

Congress met again on July 2 while British troops disembarked on Staten Island. South Carolina's delegates voted affirmatively. John Dickinson and Robert Morris from Pennsylvania opposed independence and did not attend the session. James Wilson changed his vote and joined Benjamin Franklin and John Morton in voting for independence. Caesar Rodney broke Delaware's tie by riding seventy miles during a midnight thunderstorm and voting for independence. Twelve colonies voted for independence; New York continued to abstain.[17] After the affirmative July 2

vote, and for most of July 3 and 4, Congress formed a “committee of the whole” and carefully edited Jefferson’s draft. Delegates improved the wording of many sentences and eliminated twenty-five percent of the document.[18] They removed a section blaming the king for importing slavery which Jefferson called “a cruel war against human nature itself.” Congress also eliminated sentences disavowing a bond with “British brethren,” claiming the injustices were “the last stab to agonizing affection; and manly spirit bids us to renounce forever these unfeeling brethren.” Delegates retained Jefferson’s pledge to hold the British people “as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.”

In the final paragraph, Congress added an appeal “to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions” and inserted “a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.” Delegates eliminated Jefferson’s statement to “renounce all allegiance and subjection to the kings of Great Britain, & all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them.” They inserted Richard Henry Lee’s resolution for independence, “That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown.” Congress retained Jefferson’s last sentence, “we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”[19]

Jefferson resented these changes and admitted “writhing a little under the acrimonious criticism.”[20] He later made Declaration copies which he sent to a few friends with deleted sections restored and Congress’s changes placed in the margins. Richard Henry Lee thanked him, stating that “the Manuscript had not been mangled . . . pitiful, that the rage of change should be so unhappily applied.” Edmund Pendleton, president of the Virginia Convention, also responded with consolation and reassurance.[21]

On July 4, 1776, “After some time,” delegates approved the Declaration which was again read aloud and called “The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America.” [22] The Declaration probably was not signed on July 4, although records are conflicting. Twenty-nine-year-old John Dunlap, a nearby printer, worked throughout the night of July 4 and made perhaps 200 copies printed on one side of a single sheet of paper, now known as Dunlap broadsides. Since New York delegates had not approved the Declaration, “unanimous” was removed from the title, and the

names of John Hancock and Charles Thompson, president and secretary of Congress respectively, were printed as signing and attesting to the Declaration.

Congress ordered the Declaration sent to various groups. It was soon reprinted in newspapers and read aloud throughout the colonies often igniting celebrations. One copy was sent to England and on July 9 the Continental Army in New York, facing British warships in the harbor, gathered to hear the Declaration.[23]

On July 9, the New York legislature gave their delegates permission to vote for independence and on July 19, a majority of New York delegates approved the Declaration. The Continental Congress then ordered “That the Declaration passed on the 4th, be fairly engrossed on parchment, with the title and style of ‘The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America.’” Timothy Matlack, clerk to the secretary of Congress, created a handwritten parchment copy of the Declaration. On August 2, “The declaration of independence being engrossed and compared at the table was signed.”[24]

In 1811, Benjamin Rush recalled the mood of August 2, “a pensive and awful silence which pervaded the house when we were called up, one after another to the table . . . to subscribe what was believed by many . . . to be our own death warrant.” Rush continues “The Silence & gloom of the morning were interrupted . . . only for a minute by [rotund] Col: Harrison of Virginia who said to [slender] Mr Gerry at the table, ‘I shall have a great advantage over you . . . when we are all hung for what we are now doing. From the size and weight of my body I shall die in a few minutes, but from the lightness of your body you will dance in the air an hour or two before you are dead.’ This Speech procured a transient smile.”[25] On August 2, forty-nine delegates signed the Declaration and most not present on that day signed over the next four months.[26] In all, fifty-six patriots from thirteen states courageously signed “The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United



Signatories of the American Declaration of Independence. (National Archives)
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States of America.”

In 1774 and 1775, Continental Congress delegates signed Articles of Association, a Petition to the King, and an “Olive Branch” Petition. New Hampshire delegates signed the documents first underneath the text on the upper left. Other delegates from Northern to Southern colonies signed in columns progressing from left to right. However, in signing the Declaration of Independence, New Hampshire delegate Josiah Bartlett curiously signed on the upper right and delegates from Northern to Southern states signed in columns progressing from right to left. (Figure 1) This unusual progression for English and other modern languages created an asymmetrical distribution of signatures with open spaces on the left and only three Georgia signatures in the far-left column. Northern signatures on the right are crowded and overlapping. The Declaration displays an unusual distribution of remarkable signatures of John Hancock, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Wilson, Robert Morris and Roger Sherman. Delegates signed two other documents in 1778 and 1789, Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution. Oddly, these documents were also signed from right to left.

Jefferson and Continental Congress delegates created a masterful document justifying separation from Great Britain and declaring the rights of man and the role of government. Many of these concepts originated from British Enlightenment writers who educated colonists knew well. John Locke wrote in 1689 that men are “by nature, all free, equal, and independent” and the rights of men include “his property, that is, his life, liberty and estate.”[27] John Adams wrote that “the lowest of the people are . . . entitled to . . . light to see, food to eat . . . All men are born equal.”[28] George Mason envisioned rights of man as life, liberty, property, happiness and safety. Jefferson included life, liberty and happiness and curiously excluded property. In 1764, James Otis wrote that government should provide “Happy enjoyment of life, liberty and property.”[29] James Wilson believed that “happiness of the society is the first law of every government.” John Adams agreed “happiness of society is the end [that is, the goal] of government.”[30]

After the Declaration of Independence was approved and publicized, it was largely forgotten. George Washington became president in 1789 and was

followed by John Adams. Both promoted a strong federal government. Jefferson defeated Adams after one term and became president in 1801, advocating decentralized government, strong states’ rights and individual rights of man. The Declaration of Independence regained recognition during Jefferson’s presidency and as anti-British sentiments increased during the War of 1812.

In 1819, the North Carolina Raleigh Register published a Declaration of Independence supposedly written in May 1775 in the rural county of Mecklenburg, North Carolina but never publicized. With no definitive evidence of its existence before 1819, the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration remains controversial to this day.[31] Nonetheless, when John Adams read a Massachusetts newspaper article about it, he sent a copy and an inquiry to Jefferson. Jefferson noted similar phrases in both Declarations and compared the Mecklenburg Declaration to a “volcano . . . having broken out in North Carolina . . . I believe it spurious.”[32] Adams wrote that Jefferson had “copied . . . the expressions of it verbatim into his Declaration.” He later concluded that “Either these resolutions are a plagiarism from Mr. Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence, or Mr. Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence is a plagiarism from those resolutions.”[33]

Later in his life, Jefferson responded to other accusations of plagiarism. In 1823, he wrote that Richard Henry Lee claimed the Declaration was “copied from Locke’s treatise” and that John Adams said it was “contained in Otis’ pamphlet.”[34] Jefferson explained that in writing the Declaration he was “harmonizing sentiments of the day, whether expressed in conversations, in letters, printed essays or in the elementary books of public right.” He was “neither aiming at originality of principle or sentiment, nor yet copied from any particular and previous writing.”[35] “Whether I had gathered my ideas from reading or reflection I do not know. I know only that I turned to neither book nor pamphlet while writing it.”[36] Most likely Jefferson turned to Mason’s Virginia Declaration of Rights and he may have referred to a copy of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

In 1819, Congress debated whether Missouri, a slave state, should be admitted to the union. For Jefferson, allowing government to control slavery represented a failure of individual rights of man and American Revolutionary ideals. Jefferson wrote that legislating slavery, “a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled

me with terror . . . the [death] knell of the Union.” He admitted “I regret that I am now to die in the belief that the useless sacrifice of themselves, by the generation of ’76 . . . is to be thrown away . . . my only consolation is to be that I live not to weep over it.[37]

Jefferson supported individual rights and proposed that “each generation [has] a right to choose for itself the form of government . . . most promotive of its own happiness.” Jefferson’s generation did not resolve the evils of slavery. He proposed gradual emancipation and deportation but admitted that “justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other.” In his Autobiography he wrote “Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people [slaves] are to be free.” [38]

Three months before his death, Jefferson requested that his tombstone state he was “Author of the Declaration of Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia.”[39] Although he was probably more draftsman than author, he found solace in his contribution to the Declaration of Independence. Within six months of his death, Jefferson’s heirs in order to pay debts sold Monticello and auctioned one hundred and thirty slaves, men, women and children. In his will, Jefferson freed five of Sally Heming’s male children; two were his sons.[40] A eulogist in Maine claimed that the Declaration was a testament to “the native equality of the human race . . . this great truth was proclaimed to the world.”[41]

As Western territories continued to joined the Union, debates over slavery and the true meaning of the Declaration intensified. South Carolinian John C. Calhoun, debating Oregon’s admission, claimed in 1848 that “all men are created equal” is a “hypothetical truism,” which has “fixed itself deeply in the public mind” and was inserted in the Declaration “without any necessity.” Calhoun predicted that the controversy would “ingulf . . . our political institutions, and involve the country in countless woes.”[42] In 1854, Congressman John Pettit, referring to “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,” stated “I hold it to be a self-evident lie . . . tell me that the imbecile . . . is my equal physically, mentally . . . and you tell me a lie.”[43]

Abraham Lincoln opposed expansion of the “monstrous injustice of slavery” and ran for the Senate against Stephen Douglas in 1858. During their debates, Douglas noted that many Declaration signers were slave holders and claimed that if “every man who

signed the Declaration of Independence declared the negro his equal . . . you charge the signers of it with hypocrisy.”[44] Douglas won the election.

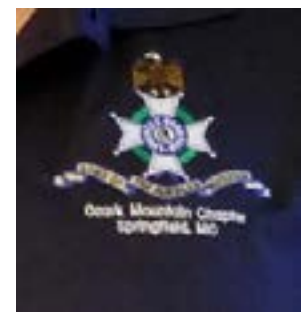
The Declaration’s proclamation remained controversial, to the point that controversy ignited civil war. The document nonetheless declares a fundamental principle upon, one upon which American independence was based: “All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

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Editor Request:

When submitting an article for the newsletter, please ensure it is in Word document format. This makes it easier to insert them into the newsletter. Please include the date of the event and the location where it took place. Additionally, pictures should be in their original format, not cropped or resized (in megabytes). If pictures are included in the Word document, include them as an attachment. I can convert almost all picture formats, but the best ones are .jpeg, .png, or RAW.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Daniel Piedlow OMCSAR Editor



Remember, you can order your Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR shirts from Missouri Embroidery. Their phone number is: (417) 889-2221 and their address is: 1307 S. Glenstone Ave.



Profiles of Valor: COL Gabby Gabreski (USA/USAF)

He displayed “unusual valor and new combat tactics in becoming a leading ace in two wars, and by devotion to duty in peace.”

Mark Alexander

Having profiled our nation’s top Ace of Aces, World War II Pacific Theater Army pilot MAJ Richard Bong, it is time to meet the top American fighter ace in Europe, who would then become a jet fighter ace in the Korean War.

Francis “Gabby” Gabreski’s official Air Force biography notes: “Gabreski’s parents had emigrated from Frampol, Poland to Oil City, Pennsylvania, in the early 1900s. His father, Stanisław ‘Stanley’ Gabryszewski, owned and operated a market, putting in 12-hour days. As in many other immigrant-owned businesses in those days, the whole family worked at the market. But Gabreski’s parents had dreams for him, including attending the University of Notre Dame. He did so in 1938, but, unprepared for real academic work, almost failed during his freshman year.”

It was in his freshman year that Gabby developed an interest in flying, taking a few lessons and accumulating only six hours. His instructor noted he “did not have the touch to be a pilot.”

After his first year at Notre Dame, he and other friends enlisted as aviation cadets in the Army Air Corps and trained in the venerable Stearman PT-17, many of which are still flying today. Despite still being considered mediocre, then-LT Gabreski moved up to advanced training in the North American AT-6 Texan at Maxwell Field, Alabama. In March of 1941, he received his wings and left for his first duty assignment in Hawaii with the 45th Pursuit Squadron of the 15th Pursuit Group, Wheeler Army Airfield. He trained primarily in the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk, made famous by the First American Volunteer Group “Flying

Tigers.”

While in Hawaii, he met Kay Cochran, and they were engaged shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. During that attack, Gabby got airborne but was not able to locate and intercept Japanese attack squadrons, the enemy planes having quickly withdrawn from the area.

As he recalled in his 1998 autobiography, *Gabby: A Fighter Pilot’s Life*: “This was it. War was on, and I was going up to do my part. I took it for granted that we probably would be getting into combat. Maybe I would shoot down an enemy plane. Maybe I would get shot down myself. I didn’t expect to be killed, but I’ll have to admit the thought crossed my mind. It didn’t matter. The main thing was to attack the enemy.”

After the beginning of the Pacific war, he closely followed the success of the No. 303 Polish Fighter Squadron in Europe. Being of Polish descent and fluent in the language, he proposed becoming the liaison officer to the Polish squadrons. He recalled, “I was a fighter pilot, and I could speak Polish. Why not see if I could get myself assigned to Europe so I could learn from the Poles and pass the information along to my own people.”

In October of 1942, then-CAPT Gabreski left for the Eighth Air Force’s VIII Fighter Command in England. He was assigned to the 56th Fighter Group, 61st Fighter Squadron, flying the rugged Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, taking command of the 61st shortly thereafter.

One of his early wingmen, LT Les Smith, recalled that Gabby was not immediately embraced by the other pilots. According to Smith: “That was unfortunate, but I think not unexpected, since he had not trained with us in the States, had not shipped with us, and had no personal relationships within the group. There was another unfortunate factor over which he had no control — his rank as captain. This put him in direct competition with the old captains already assigned and in indirect competition with our older first lieutenants who hoped to become captains. We new second lieutenants were not really involved in this rivalry, but we held the older pilots in great esteem, and if they didn’t like the new stranger, we weren’t going to be too friendly either.”

He concluded, “We eventually recognized Gabby’s superior ability as a pilot and his very aggressive

fighting spirit, and we respected him for them.”

On August 24, 1943, he recorded his first kill, an Fw 190 over France. He recalled of his early engagement with the Germans: “One moment I had looked back into an empty sky above me, and the next moment it had been full of [Focke Wulf] 190s that seemed to come out of nowhere. I was lucky to have survived the lesson; a lot of inexperienced pilots didn’t.”

He said in reflection: “That evening before I went to sleep I thought about the implications of what I had done that day. I had killed a man, I was sure of it. Yet I felt no remorse. It wasn’t that I particularly wanted to kill people, Germans or otherwise. But this was war, and for three years I had been preparing myself mentally and physically for the day when I would begin shooting down enemy aircraft. Yes, there was a man inside of the Fw-190 I’d destroyed today, but I never saw him, never heard him, never knew his name or what he looked like.”

On November 26, he scored his fourth and fifth kills while flying cover for B-17s, becoming an ace. In the four months that followed, he accumulated 18 victory credits. On May 22, 1944, Gabreski shot down three Fw 190s, bringing his total even with the current leading European ace, MAJ Robert Johnson. Two months later, he had a total of 28 confirmed kills, at the time tying the Pacific ace record of Richard Bong.

In July of ‘44, having reached the combat flight hour limit of 300 hours for Eighth Air Force fighter pilots, he was awaiting order to return home where his marriage to Kay was planned. However, he managed to get in one more combat mission as a bomber escort, but this time, while attempting to strafe some Heinkel He 111s at a German airfield near Niedermendig, he flew so low that he damaged his

prop, crash-landing his P-47.

He evaded capture by running into the woods but after five days was taken prisoner and sent to Stalag Luft I. The German officer who interrogated him, Hanns Scharff, spoke English well and greeted him by saying, “Hello, Gabby. We have been waiting for you for a long time.” He was released nine months later at the end of the war.

In all, during WWII, Gabreski flew 166 combat sorties and retained his total of 28 aircraft destroyed in air combat and three on the ground. He returned home and finally married Kay in June of 1945.

In 1947, he continued his service in what would become the Air Force and completed his undergraduate degree. Then-LTC Gabreski was assigned to command the 55th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. Of that he said: “It was great to get back in the cockpit again, and it was great to be a squadron commander in peacetime conditions. The P-51 was a beautiful airplane with a lot of range. It was a joy to fly.”

But peacetime would not last long.

He transitioned to jets, flying the early F-80 Shooting Stars and then the North American F-86 Sabres. In June of 1951, he went to South Korea with the 56th FIW to deliver F-86Es for the 62nd Fighter-Interceptor Squadron. Once there, he was assigned to the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Group and recalls on his first mission, “I searched the deep blue sky for signs of enemy fighters and began to wonder if I still had what it took to fly combat.” On July 8, in his fifth combat mission, he shot down his first MiG-15 and scored 5.5 more MiG kills in the following months. He became a Jet Ace, chalking up another 123 combat missions in Korea in his F-86 nicknamed “Gabby.”

After returning home, he transitioned to the new supersonic F-100s, which he described as “a dramatic experience” because the Super Sabre was a very difficult plane to fly. He said, “I would rather attack a squadron of Fw-190s alone in a P-47 than face one of those drogues again in an F-100. That was nightmare fodder.”

The Polish pilot whose early instructor indicated he “did not have the touch to be a pilot” became one of only seven combat pilots in history to become an ace in two wars.

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Gabreski retired from the Air Force in 1967 as a full Colonel with more than 5,000 flying hours, 4,000 in jets. He was credited with 34.5 kills in 289 career combat missions. He is the recipient of the second-highest award for valor below the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross. He is also the recipient of the Army Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, 13 Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, and seven Air Medals. His service is memorialized in the National Aviation Hall of Fame “for outstanding contributions to aviation by his displaying unusual valor and new combat tactics in becoming a leading ace in two wars, and by devotion to duty in peace.”

Gabby and Kay are survived by three sons and six daughters.

COL Gabby Gabreski: Your example of valor — a humble American Patriot defending Liberty for all above and beyond the call of duty, and in disregard for the peril to your own life — is eternal.

“Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Live your life worthy of his sacrifice.

Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis

Pro Deo et Libertate — 1776

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Top 10 Battle of Bunker Hill Quotes

by Katie Turner Getty

View of the Attack on Bunker's Hill, with the Burning of Charlestown, June 17, 1775. (Library of Congress)

On the blazing afternoon of June 17, 1775, two forces met on the Charlestown peninsula just outside Boston, Massachusetts.

An unstoppable force of red-clad British troops swept ashore and broke upon the immovable walls of the provincial fortifications atop Breed’s Hill, crashing across the Charlestown peninsula like a blood-red wave. Flood waters of British soldiery climbed higher and higher up the slopes of the hill, rising until repulsed by heavy fire from the provincial muskets that bristled from the walls of the earthen fort, only to surge again.

Provincial soldiers defended the redoubt atop Breed’s Hill, their simple homemade clothing streaked with dirt from digging the walls of the earthen fort that surrounded and sheltered them. New England soil shoveled and shaped overnight for the protection of New England men.

Blood met earth, hundreds of times that afternoon, as men in blood-red coats and men in dirt-dusted homespun, fell to the ground, bone shattered by musket ball, and flesh torn by bayonet.

The smoke from burning Charlestown has long since dissipated. The crack and blaze of musket fire has long since faded. The walls of the redoubt have long since returned to the earth—as have the soldiers who scaled and defended them.

All that remains of the Battle of Bunker Hill are the words of the men who were there.



Charlestown Promontory, the ruins of the town after the Battle of Bunker Hill and General Howe's encampment, Richard Williams, 1775. (Norman B. Leventhal Map & Educational Center at the Boston Public Library)

Cpl. Peter Brown

We worked there undiscovered till about five in the morning, then we saw our danger, being against ships of the line, and all Boston fortified against us.[1]

Twenty-two-year-old Peter Brown numbered among the approximately 1,200 provincial soldiers ordered to march from Cambridge and entrench on a hill in Charlestown on the night of June 16, 1775. The troops dug through the darkness, throwing up a fortification on Breed's Hill that would shock British senses when daylight broke on June 17.

Isaac Glynney

We did as before—reserved our fire until they came within about six or seven rods, then we showed them yankee play and drove them back again. But soon they renewed the attack and came again. But we, being destitute of ammunition, made use of ammunition called cobble stones.[2]

Isaac Glynney was not yet fourteen years old when he served with the provincial forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill in the stead of his sick father.[3] The British twice attempted to breach the walls of the redoubt but were driven back each time by heavy provincial fire. Finally, as provincial ammunition ran low and fire slackened, the British succeeded in breaching the redoubt in a final surge. Provincial troops wielded their muskets as clubs while others hurled stones as their only defense against British bayonets.

Maj. Gen. John Burgoyne

And now ensued one of the greatest scenes of war that can be conceived: if we look to the height, Howe's corps ascending the hill in the face of entrenchments . . . a large and a noble town in one great blaze . . . the roar of cannon, mortars, and musketry . . . to fill the ear; the storm of the redoubts . . . to fill the eye; and the reflection that perhaps a defeat was a final loss to

the British empire in America, to fill the mind.[4]

British General John Burgoyne watched the battle from his position at the Copp's Hill battery in the north end of Boston, just across the Charles River from the Charlestown peninsula. With dramatic flair, he captured the overwhelming sensory experience of the battle.

Lt. Francis, Lord Rawdon

They rose up and poured in so heavy a fire upon us that the oldest officers say they never saw a sharper action. They kept up the fire till we were within ten yards of them; nay, they even knocked down my captain, close by side me, after we got into the ditch of the entrenchment.[5]

Francis, Lord Rawdon participated in the battle as a lieutenant under Capt. George Harris in the 5th Regiment of Foot grenadier company. Both Lord Rawdon and Captain Harris ascended Breed's Hill in the face of heavy provincial fire in the attempt to storm the redoubt.

Captain Harris was shot in the head and fell to the ground. Lord Rawdon, believing Captain Harris to be dead, attempted to move him to prevent his body from being trampled by surging troops. But upon moving the captain, Rawdon realized that Harris was still alive and ordered four soldiers to carry Harris off the field.

Capt. George Harris

They still every day peep at my brain, which, all things considered, is not an unlucky circumstance, as it may convince you and the rest of the world that I have such a thing.[6]

Captain Harris was ferried back to Boston where he underwent emergency cranial surgery. Surgeons trepanned his skull to relieve the pressure of the blood that was building inside his head due to his wound. Trephination involved boring a hole in the skull to relieve the pressure, and in Captain Harris's case, removing bits of "matter" from inside his head which were causing excruciating pain.

During the procedure, physicians held a mirror up to the back of Captain Harris's head which granted him the dubious opportunity to view his own brain.

Defying all odds, Captain Harris recovered quickly from both the wound and the trephination. A mere five weeks later, in a letter to his cousin, he demonstrated

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that not only had his body and brain survived the Battle of Bunker Hill intact, but so did his sense of humor.

Lt. John Waller, British Marines

I cannot pretend to describe the Horror of the Scene within the Redoubt, when we enter'd it, 'twas streaming with Blood & strew'd with dead & dying Men, the Soldiers stabbing some and dashing out the Brains of others was a sight too dreadful for me to dwell any longer on.[7]

Lt. John Waller of the Marines was among the British troops who stormed the provincial redoubt, dropping over the earthen walls of the fort, and "driving bayonets into all whom opposed them." [8] A final desperate struggle ensued between the defending provincial stalwarts and the furious British troops.

Cpl. Amos Farnsworth

I did not leave the entrenchment until the enemy got in. I then retreated ten or fifteen rods. Then I received a wound in my right arm, the ball going through a little below my elbow, breaking the little shell bone. Another ball struck my back, taking a piece of skin about as big as a Penny. But I got to Cambridge that night.[9]

As hand-to-hand combat broke out inside the dirt walls of the redoubt, Col. William Prescott, ordered a retreat. Provincial troops like Cpl. Amos Farnsworth of Groton, Massachusetts, fought their way out of the redoubt and retreated toward Bunker Hill and Charlestown Neck, under the cover of other provincial troops who had been positioned elsewhere on the Charlestown peninsula, at the rail fence.

Lt. Samuel Blachley Webb

But alas how Dismal was the Sight to see the Beautiful & Valuable town of Charlestown all in Flames—and now behold it a heap of Ruins—with nothing Standing but a heap of Chimneys,—which by the by remains an Everlasting Monument of British Cruelty and Barbarity. [10]

Lieutenant Webb served in the company of Capt. John Chester of Connecticut which was ordered to march to Charlestown that afternoon. At the outset of the battle, provincial marksmen had been positioned in the buildings of Charlestown village to harass the British left as it staged its attack on the redoubt. In retaliation, the British reduced the village to a heap of ashes—lobbing exploding shells into the town from the Copp's Hill Battery. Nothing remained of Charlestown village

except old stone foundations and the skeletal outlines of chimneys.

General Sir William Howe

The General's returns will give you the particulars of what I call this unhappy day—I freely confess to you, when I look to the consequences of it, in the loss of so many brave Officers, I do it with horror—The success is too dearly bought.[11]

General Sir William Howe served as the commanding British officer on the ground in Charlestown during the

Important Dates in History

June 1 1774: Intolerable Acts

June 2, 1774: Quartering Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

June 6, 1781: Americans retake Augusta, GA

June 7, 1776: Lee Resolution

June 8, 1776: Revolutionaries fail to take Three Rivers, Quebec

June 9, 1772: The Gaspee Affair

June 12, 1776: The Virginia Declaration of Rights

June 14, 1775: U.S. Army created

June 14, 1777: Flag Resolution

June 15, 1775: George Washington named Commander-in-Chief

June 17, 1775: Battle of Bunker Hill

June 18, 1778: British abandon Philadelphia, Continental Army marches out of Valley Forge

June 19, 1778: Washington's army leaves Valley Forge

June 20, 1780: Patriots rout Tories at Ramseur's Mill, NC

June 20, 1779: Stono River, SC, Major General Lincoln inflicts extensive British casualties in indecisive battle

June 21, 1779: Spain declares war on Great Britain

June 21, 1788: U.S. Constitution adopted, when New Hampshire ratifies it

June 22, 1774: Quebec Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

June 28, 1778: The Battle of Monmouth Court House ends in a draw

June 28, 1776: Sullivan's Island, SC, failed British naval attack

June 28, 1776: American forces decisively defeat the British Navy at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina

June 29, 1767: Townshend Revenue Act

June 29, 1776: The First Virginia Constitution

Battle of Bunker Hill. The battle raged not just on Breed's Hill but across the entire Charlestown peninsula—from Charlestown village on the southwestern tip, to the shore of the Mystic River, over and across both Breed's and Bunker Hills, to Charlestown Neck, that narrow strip of land that connected Charlestown to the mainland. The British drove the Americans across that neck and out of Charlestown within a couple short hours. However, the provincials extracted a heavy price for British possession of the peninsula. Comprising a combined force of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire men, the provincials inflicted over twice as many casualties as the British. Over 1,000 British soldiers were killed, wounded or captured, compared to about 450 provincial troops.

The British encamped in Charlestown on the night of June 17 and fortified Bunker Hill. But they launched no incursions into the Massachusetts countryside for the remainder of the Siege of Boston.

The British evacuated Boston exactly nine months later, on March 17, 1776.

[1]Peter Brown to Sarah Brown, June 25, 1775, in Massachusetts Historical Society Collections Online, www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item_id=725&pid=2. Note that in some instances, the author has modernized the eighteenth century capitalization, punctuation and spelling to render the quote more easily understandable, without changing the overall meaning. The original quotation by Peter Brown is, "we work'd there undiscoverd till about five in the Morning, then we saw our danger, being against Ships of the Line, and all Boston fortified against Us."

[2]Isaac Glynney, "Diary of Isaac Glynney", digital reproduction of original manuscript, Harlan Crow Library, Dallas, TX. The original quote by Isaac Glynney is, "We Did as before Reservd our fire till they Came within About six or seven Rods then we Shoed. them yankey Play & Drove them Back again But soon they Renud. the attact & Came agin But we Being Destetute of aminition we made use aminition calld. cabel stones."

[3]Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War(Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Company, 1899), 499. Isaac Glynney's father was John Glenne/Glynney, who enlisted in Captain Bancroft's company, Colonel Bridge's regiment.

[4]John Burgoyne to Lord Stanley, June 25, 1775,

American Archives, ed. Peter Force (Washington, D.C., 1843), Ser. 4, 2:1095, digital.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/niu-amarch%3A87089.

[5]Francis, Lord Rawdon to Francis, tenth Earl of Huntingdon, June 20, 1775 in *The Spirit of 'Seventy-Six: The Story of the American Revolution as Told by Participants*, eds. Henry Steele Commager and Richard B. Morris (New York: Harper & Row, 1975), 130-131.

[6]George Harris to cousin, in S.R. Lushington, *The Life and Services of General Lord Harris During His Campaigns in America the West Indies and India*(London: John W. Parker, 1840), 57.

[7]John Waller to unidentified recipient, June 21, 1775 in Massachusetts Historical Society Collections Online, www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item_id=726.

[8]John Waller to his brother, June 22, 1775, in Samuel Adams Drake, *Bunker Hill: The Story Told in Letters from the Battle Field by British Officers Engaged*(Boston: Nichols and Hall, 1875), 28.

[9]Amos Farnsworth, *Diary*, June 17, 1775, in *Three Military Diaries Kept by Groton Soldiers in Different Wars*, ed. Samuel A. Green (Cambridge: John Wilson and Son, 1901), 90. Amos Farnsworth's original diary entry is, "I Did not leave the Intrenchment until the Enemy got in I then Retreated ten or Fifteen rods, then I received a wound in my right arm the bawl gowing through a little below my elbox breaking the little shel bone Another bawl struck my back taking a piece of Skin about as big as a Penny but I got to Cambridge that night."

[10]Samuel Blachley Webb to Joseph Webb, June 19, 1775, in *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blachley Webb, Volume 1* (Lancaster: Wickersham Press, 1893), 65-66.

[11]William Howe to unidentified recipient, June 22 and 24, 1775, in *The Correspondence of King George the Third from 1760 to December 1783*, ed. Hon. Sir John Fortescue, Volume 3 (London: MacMillian & Co., 1928), 223.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2024/01/top-10-battle-of-bunker-hill-quotes/>

This Day in History

June 3, 1965

Astronaut Ed White became the first American to conduct a spacewalk during the Gemini 4 mission. His 23-minute spacewalk marked a significant milestone in U.S. space exploration, furthering competition with the Soviet Union.

June 4, 1942

The Battle of Midway began, a pivotal naval battle in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The U.S. Navy's victory shifted the balance in the Pacific, marking a turning point in the fight against Japan.

June 6, 1944

D-Day occurred as Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, marking the largest amphibious invasion in history. This operation, led by American, British, and Canadian forces, was a decisive step toward the liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe.

June 7, 1776

Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposed a resolution for American independence to the Continental Congress. His resolution became the basis for the Declaration of Independence, ultimately adopted on July 4.

June 8, 1967

The USS Liberty, a U.S. Navy research ship, was attacked by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War, resulting in 34 American deaths. The attack, later declared an accident, strained U.S.-Israeli relations and prompted a congressional inquiry.

June 9, 1898

The U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Paris, formally ending the Spanish-American War. This treaty ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States, marking the nation's emergence as a global power.

June 10, 1752

Benjamin Franklin conducted his famous kite experiment to prove that lightning is a form of electricity. This discovery laid the groundwork for advances in electricity and earned Franklin international acclaim as a scientist.

June 11, 1963

Alabama Governor George Wallace attempted to block two Black students, Vivian Malone and James Hood, from enrolling at the University of Alabama. President Kennedy intervened, asserting federal

authority to protect civil rights.

June 12, 1987

President Ronald Reagan delivered one of the most iconic speeches of the Cold War at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin. With the Berlin Wall looming behind him, Reagan boldly challenged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev with the now-famous words: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" The speech was a powerful call for freedom and a clear signal that the United States stood firmly against the division of Europe.

June 13, 1966

The U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Miranda v. Arizona*, establishing the "Miranda rights" for detained suspects. This ruling reinforced Fifth Amendment protections against self-incrimination.

June 14, 1777

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed a resolution establishing the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. The resolution stated that the flag should have thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, and thirteen white stars on a blue field, representing a new constellation. This design symbolized the unity of the original thirteen colonies in their fight for independence.

Though the exact designer is still debated, many credit seamstress Betsy Ross with sewing the first version of the flag. June 14 later became recognized as Flag Day, celebrating the birth of the American flag and the ideals it represents—freedom, unity, and perseverance in the face of tyranny.

June 16, 1858

Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" speech in Springfield, Illinois, upon receiving the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for U.S. Senate. Lincoln's speech forecasted the coming conflicts over slavery that would lead to the Civil War.

June 18, 1812

The United States declared war on Great Britain, marking the beginning of the War of 1812. This war addressed unresolved tensions from the American Revolutionary War, including trade restrictions and territorial disputes.

June 19, 1865

Union General Gordon Granger announced the freedom of enslaved people in Texas, a date now celebrated as Juneteenth. This event marked the effective end of slavery in the United States.

June 20, 1963

In the tense aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. and Soviet Union installed a direct communication known as the “Red Phone,” though it was actually a teletype system. The hotline aimed to prevent future nuclear misunderstandings by allowing the leaders of the two superpowers to communicate instantly during crises.

This diplomatic innovation marked a shift in Cold War strategy—from brinkmanship to cautious dialogue. While hostilities between the U.S. and USSR continued for decades, the hotline symbolized a mutual recognition of the need to avoid catastrophic miscalculations. It played a vital role in future Cold War negotiations and crisis management.

June 21, 1788

New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution, giving it the necessary support to become the law of the land. The Constitution replaced the weaker Articles of Confederation, creating a stronger federal government with three branches and a system of checks and balances. This ratification was not just a legal milestone—it was the birth of the American republic as we know it. It reflected the Founders’ effort to balance liberty and order, state and federal power, and individual rights. The document’s endurance and adaptability have made it the cornerstone of American democracy for over two centuries.

June 22, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the G.I. Bill, providing benefits for World War II veterans. This legislation helped millions of veterans afford education, housing, and employment opportunities.

June 24, 1948

The Berlin Blockade began, with the Soviet Union cutting off all land access to West Berlin. In response, the U.S. and allies launched the Berlin Airlift to supply the city with food and fuel.

June 25, 1876

The Battle of Little Bighorn took place, where General Custer and his troops were defeated by a coalition of Native American tribes. This event, also called “Custer’s Last Stand,” was a significant conflict in the American Indian Wars.

June 27, 1950

President Harry S. Truman ordered U.S. forces into South Korea after North Korean troops invaded across

the 38th parallel. Acting under the banner of the United Nations, the U.S. aimed to halt the spread of communism in East Asia—a key objective in the Cold War.

The Korean War became a bloody and prolonged conflict, ending in a stalemate in 1953. Although the fighting stopped, the Korean Peninsula remains divided to this day. Truman’s decision set a precedent for future U.S. interventions under the doctrine of containing communism.

June 28, 1919

The Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Palace of Versailles, officially ending World War I. The treaty imposed heavy reparations and territorial losses on Germany, along with strict limitations on its military. Germany was also forced to accept sole responsibility for the war.

While the treaty ended the fighting, its harsh terms sowed the seeds of future conflict. Many historians argue that the economic and political instability it caused in Germany contributed directly to the rise of Adolf Hitler and World War II. The treaty remains one of history’s most controversial peace agreements.

June 29, 1956

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act, initiating the creation of the interstate highway system. This infrastructure project transformed American transportation and contributed to economic growth.



Signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress.

- From Page 7, Evolution -

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[2] "Friday, May 10, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789*, ed. Worthington Chauncey Ford (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904), 4:342; "Wednesday, May 15, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 4:358.

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[4] John Adams to Thomas Jefferson, November 12, 1813, in *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, ed. Lester J. Cappon (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1959), 2:392-393; John Adams to Benjamin Rush, June 21, 1811," *Founders Online, National Archives*, founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/99-02-02-5649.

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[6] "Friday, June 7, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 5:425.

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[8] John Ferling, *Setting the World Ablaze: Washington, Adams, Jefferson and the American Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 131-132.

[9] Pauline Maier, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 102-104.

[10] George Mason, "First Draft of The Virginia Declaration of Rights," in *The Papers of George Mason*, ed. Robert A. Rutland (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970), 1:276-278.

[11] Maier, *American Scripture*, 125-129, 268; Nobel E. Cunningham, *In Pursuit of Reason: The Life of Thomas Jefferson* (New York: Ballantine, 1987), 47-50.

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[14] Mason, "First Draft Declaration," 1:276-278.

[15] "Friday, June 28, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 5:491-502; Jefferson, "Reported Draft, A Declaration," *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, 2:141-144.

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[17] David McCullough, *1776* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005), 134-135; Francis D. Cogliano, *Revolutionary America, 1763-1815: A Political History* (London: Routledge, 2000), 67-68.

[18] "Tuesday, July 2, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 5:506-507.

[19] "Thursday, July 4, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 5:510-515; Jefferson, "Reported Draft," *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, 2:141-144; Jefferson, "Engrossed Copy," *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, 2:145-147.

[20] Jefferson to James Madison, August 30, 1823, *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, 12:308.

[21] Richard Henry Lee to Jefferson, July 21, 1776, in *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, 1760-1776*, ed. Julian P. Boyd (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950), 1: 47; E. Pendleton to Jefferson July 22, 1776, August 10, 1776, *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, 1:245.

[22] "Thursday, July 4, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 5:509-515.

[23] Maier, *American Scripture*, 155-160; McCullough, *1776*, 137.

[24] Maier, *American Scripture*, 150-151; "Friday, July 19, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 5:590-591; "Friday, August 2, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 5:626.

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[28] John Adams, "The Earl of Clarendon to William Pym. No. III," in *The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States*, ed. Charles Francis Adams (Boston: Little Brown and Co., 1865), 3:356.

[29] Patrick J. Charles, "Restoring 'Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness' in Our Constitutional Jurisprudence," *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal* 20, no. 2 (2011-2012): 457; James Otis, "Rights of the British Colonies," in *Collected Political Writings of James Otis*, ed. Richard Samuelson (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 2015), 125.

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[35] "Thomas Jefferson to Richard Henry Lee, Monticello, May 8, 1825," *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, 12:408-409.

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[39] Jefferson's Will, March 1826, *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, 12:483.

[40] "After Monticello," *Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello*, Smithsonian NMAAHC/Monticello, [web.archive.org/web/20120411071606/http://www.slaveryatmonticello.org/slavery-at-monticello/after-monticello](http://www.slaveryatmonticello.org/slavery-at-monticello/after-monticello).

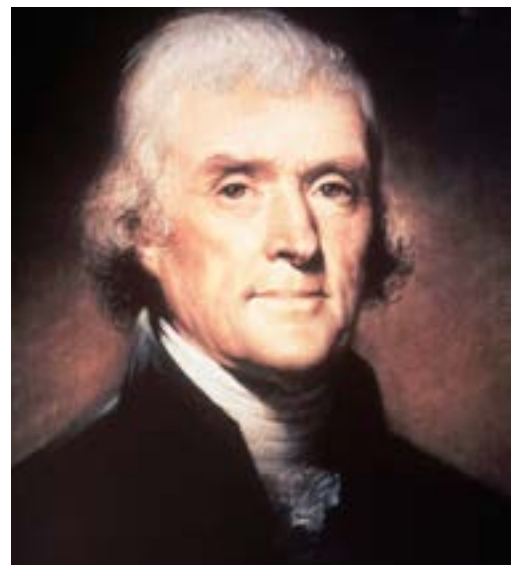
[41] "Eulogy Pronounced at Boston, Massachusetts, August 2, 1826, by Daniel Webster," "Eulogy Pronounced at Hallowell, Maine, July 1826, by Peleg Sprague," in *A Selection of Eulogies, Pronounced in the Several States, in Honor of Those Illustrious Patriots and Statesmen, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson* (Hartford: D. H. Robinson & Co. and Norton & Russell, 1826), 195, 145.

[42] John C. Calhoun, "Speech on the Oregon Bill, June 27, 1848," *Union and Liberty: The Political Philosophy of John C. Calhoun*, ed. Ross M. Lence (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1992), 354-356.

[43] John Pettit, February 20, 1854, 33d Congress, First Session, Appendix to the Congressional Globe, 214, www.congress.gov/congressional-globe/appendix-page-headings/33rd-congress/1st-session/14828.

[44] Abraham Lincoln, "First Debate at Ottawa, Illinois," 7; Stephen A. Douglas, "Fifth Debate at Ottawa, Illinois, October 7, 1858," 5, archive.org/details/LincolnDouglasDebateTranscripts/Transcript%20Lincoln%20-%20Douglas%20Debate%205/.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2025/12/the-evolution-of-the-american-declaration-of-independence/>



Awards and Events



On June 13, 2026, Rod Grewe and Joe Walker participated in a 250th Dogwood tree dedication at the Monett, MO City Park. The Monett VFW also did a Flag retirement.



OMC's Don Higginson and Steve Perkins supported the DAR Rachel Donnelson Chapter with its 250th Bench dedication on Flag Day, Sunday June 14, 2026. The bench was placed at the Nathaniel Greene Park in southwest Springfield along the walkway through the gardens. Greene County Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon shared some historical thoughts about the affairs leading to the formation of an independent nation. The event ceremony included a very well received Parkview High School "Lassies and Kilties" who performed a drum-off and a sword dance. Nearly 200 people were in attendance for the dedication and flag day ceremony.

DAR Rachel Donelson members, Chapter Regent Jill Creason and State Regent Lisa Parks.

MOSSAR'S Ozark Mountain Chapter members gathered at the historic Greene County Courthouse, where they were hosted by the Greene County Commissioners to provide some historical information about flags that today we associate with the American Revolution. Commissioner Bob Dixon presented some thought-provoking words about the country's history, their flags, and the many and varied blessings we enjoy. He emphasized the importance of setting aside ideological differences, but rather always cherish what this nation offers. The Greene County Chorale

Awards and Events

has become an important element to this annual ceremony, singing patriotic songs and songs of the armed services branches. KY3 TV was present and aired a news story.

SAR members in class A and B uniforms include Norm Knowlton and George Swales, Dan McMurray and Gerald McCoy, and those with tri-corn included Commanders Steven Perkins and Joe Walker, Rod Grewe, Jim Blanton, Don Higgerson, and a chapter charter member, Glenn Gohr. Local KY3 television captured the ceremony and reported later that day that Perkins drew emphasis on the sacrifices some patriots made that lasted through the end of the war and the remainder of their lives...all given for our liberties and freedom. Photos by Margaret Swales.



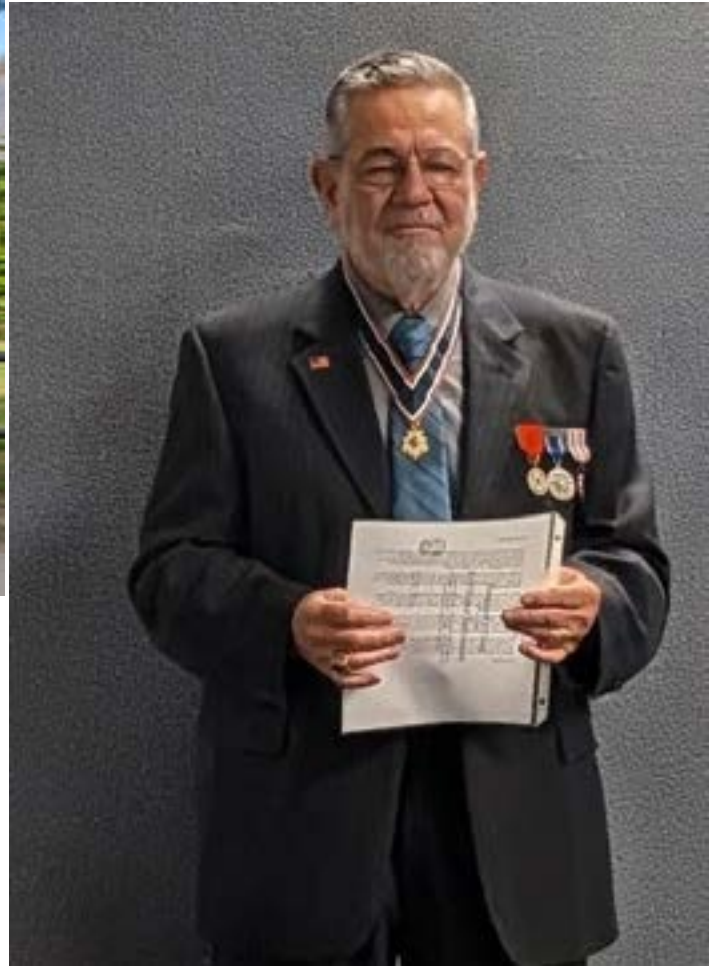
Organizational Meeting of Ozarks Gateway Chapter was held Saturday June 6, 2026. New officers were sworn in by State President and OMC member Ken Lawrence. Color Guard from OMC participating in this ceremony were Don Higgerson and Steve Perkins, who helped post and retire colors. (no photos)



Awards and Events



In attendance at the Flag Day Ceremony are (L-R): OMC President Steve Perkins, George Swales, Jim Blanton, Rod Grewe, Don Higginson, Joe Walkert, and Norm Knowlton.



Glen Gohr gave a speech on the Society of the War of 1812 at the monthly meeting on June 20.



Eagle Scout Lilly Stevens being presented with her Eagle Scout Certificate by OMC President Steve Perkins (L), and Eagle Scout Chairman Gary Gift (R).

There is an interesting article in the latest [Chronicles of the County](#) that is issued by Greene County, that talks about the plaque that was installed in the Old Courthouse. You can access the newsletter here: <https://greenecountymo.gov/files/PDF/file.pdf?id=46421>

Upcoming Events



Friday, July 3 at 7:00 P.M., the Ozark Mountain Color Guard will be presenting Colors at the Branson Landing Independence Celebration. If there are color guard who will like to participate and haven't replied to President Perkins, please contact him.



Saturday, July 4 at 10:00 A.M., the Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR will be marching in the parade on Meadowmere Street. Color Guard muster at 9:45 A.M. Everyone is invited to attend the parade.



Wednesday, July 8 at 2:00 P.M., the Ozark Mountain Color Guard will present Colors for the County reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Historic Greene County Courthouse, located at 940 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.



Wednesday, July 8 at 5:00 P.M., the Ozark Mountain Chapter will be reading the Declaration of Independence at the Springfield National Cemetery, located at 1702 E. Seminole St., Springfield. Everyone is invited to attend. Color Guard muster at 4:00 P.M.



Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 P.M., the OMC Chapter Development Committee will be meeting at Steve Perkins home. All members are welcome to attend.



Saturday, July 18 at 9:30 A.M., the Ozark Mountain Chapter monthly meeting will be held at the Ozarks Technical College, located at 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. Everyone is invited to attend.



Saturday, July 25 at 10:00 A.M., the quarterly meeting of the Missouri Society SAR will be held at the Jefferson Bank, located at 700 Southwest Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109. All members are welcome to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
250TH
SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
1776-2026

SPECIAL REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE

FOR NEW & JR. MEMBER
APPLICATIONS DURING **JULY 2026**

NATIONAL APPLICATION FEE:
\$76 IN HONOR OF **1776**

— POSTMARKED —
JULY 1 — JULY 31, 2026

To qualify for the reduced fee, New Applications must be postmarked between July 1 and July 31, 2026.

Join the SAR to mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding and honor the patriot ancestors who secured American independence.

ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

- New Member Applications
- Jr. Member (New Lineage) Applications

EXCLUSIONS:

- Family Plan Applications ❌
- Memorial Applications ❌
- Supplemental Applications ❌



Respectfully,

Keith A Weissinger

Keith A Weissinger, MD
Registrar General

National Society Sons of the American Revolution