

# The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter

December 2025

Volume 45 Issue 12





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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 SAR Challenge Coins are for sale. These coins are \$5.00 each from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

**On the Cover**  
Compatriot Don Higgerson saluting a soldier's grave after placing a wreath on it at the Missouri National Cemetery on December 13.



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



## The President's Message

By President J. Howard Fisk

Good day Compatriots,

We have all just enjoyed the Christmas period which I hope was joyful, restful and one which renewed your spirit of hope and renewal. As we age we must remember how fortunate we are to enjoy the opportunities which we have and the friends which we can share our interest in regarding supporting the efforts of the Sons of the American Revolution.

2025 was a great year for us as we met many new friends and worked with like minded organizations to bring public recognition to the importance of the American Revolution. 2026 proves to be an outstanding year for the Sons of the American Revolution as we execute an extensive list of plans for special events highlighting the people and places of the Revolution. We have several of these events planned so it will be important for you to follow the monthly Patriot Newsletter, especially the calendar of events

The Missouri SAR State Conference will be hosted by OMC on April 24 and 25, 2026, so we will need to pull together to celebrate all of the events that are planned for the Convention.

I encourage you to join us at meetings so that you can get involved with our busy 2026 calendar of events.

My best to you and your family for the new year,  
Howard

## MOSSAR President Address to the Ozark Mountain Chapter

December 20, 2025

Greetings from The State Society Missouri Sons of the American Revolution,

This time of year, during the holidays, especially Christmas, is meant to be filled with happiness and hope for us all. My message today is filled with this - not just for Ken, Howard, David, or Teddy – but for all of us who are thankful and get to come home celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Happiness and hope seem to go hand in hand with home. At Christmas time, this may mean traveling to be with family and friends, like we are doing this weekend. Generally, most of us think of home as a place where family memories are made and where we remember days past – but also a place of hope for the future.

Home is a place – past, present, and future – with great promise gained through great sacrifice. America, your home is like this, too. Be hopeful for America. During our nation's 250th year celebration, we honor the American patriots holding firm to our Constitution, giving us hope.

God, family, and country - all three should give us hope and happiness at Christmas time. We celebrate together as being part of the lineage stretching forever forward as one nation under God, indivisible, and with liberty and justice for all.

May God bless our families and the United States of America,

Steven E. Biggs, Missouri Society State President





## George Washington Crosses the Delaware



**December 26, 1776**

This key moment of the American Revolution, made iconic in a portrait by Emanuel Leutze, was a major victory for General George Washington during the fight for the colonies' independence. But its artistic depiction, a staple in classrooms across the country, does not tell the whole story about what actually happened that cold day in December.

What would Americans identify as the most memorable moment of the American Revolution? Some might choose the "Shot Heard 'Round the World" at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. Others might pick General Charles Cornwallis choosing to send a proxy to surrender for him at Yorktown, Virginia, signaling victory for the American cause. But for many, it is the image of General George Washington—standing with one knee bent at the front of a ship, leading his troops to a surprise attack after crossing the mighty Delaware River while an American flag waves majestically over them—that would first come to mind. Thanks in part to the popularity of a portrait by Emanuel Leutze, a German-born painter who hoped to inspire liberal reforms in his home country during the 1850s, what could have been remembered as a footnote in history became one of America's most iconic moments. Monumental in size (3.8 by 6.5 meters, or 12.4 by 21.3 feet), stature, and symbolism, this painting has not only inspired extreme patriotism, but has also perpetuated some common misconceptions about Washington's surprise raid of Hessian forces.

Washington attacked the Hessian military base (belonging to hired German soldiers who fought for

the British) in Trenton, New Jersey, on Christmas Day 1776, inspiring new hope for the cause of the Patriot Army. Provisions were low, as was morale, during this period. Washington feared more troubles were ahead for the Continental Army. As losses mounted for the Americans, it became more difficult to recruit and retain soldiers, with many choosing to desert rather than face a cold winter of battle with limited supplies.

Washington understood the importance of a much-needed victory before the year let out, and a concentration of around 1,300–1,500 hired Hessians at Trenton became his target. Washington and his men (around 2,400, including future president James Monroe) were part of a larger plan that included two other crossings, but only his was successful in reaching the Hessians. Still, they arrived in Trenton with plenty of artillery and support from Col. Henry Knox, who would be stationed with men at the top of the town. Sailing on cargo vessels that ranged from 12 to 18 meters (40 to 60 feet) in length across the frigid icy waters of the Delaware, Washington and his soldiers were hit with a harsh rain that turned to a snow-sleet mix by midnight. Traveling with heavy artillery, horses, and more men behind him, Washington had support from experienced seamen under the command of Col. John Glover at the crossing site.

This is quite the contrast from the image portrayed by Leutze's painting. Washington's boat was much larger than is painted; the men in the painting's ship represent a diverse group of 12 soldiers; and the flag in the image was not actually designed until after the event took place. Leutze's work was more of a representation of what the event, and Washington, specifically, symbolized. (Although Leutze tried to be accurate, he also hoped to inspire a greater purpose). Even with these deviations from the facts, his portrait has become intermixed with the history of the moment itself, making it difficult for some to separate reality from folklore.

The Hessians were somewhat aware an attack was coming, thanks to the work of British spies and American deserters. Although they did not fully expect Washington to attack, they were on alert that it was at least possible. Constant false alarms coupled with bad weather conditions gave Washington the surprise opening he and his men needed to launch a successful attack, even if it took more time than anticipated. Once the Continental Army arrived onshore, their execution was excellent. The Hessians surrendered before



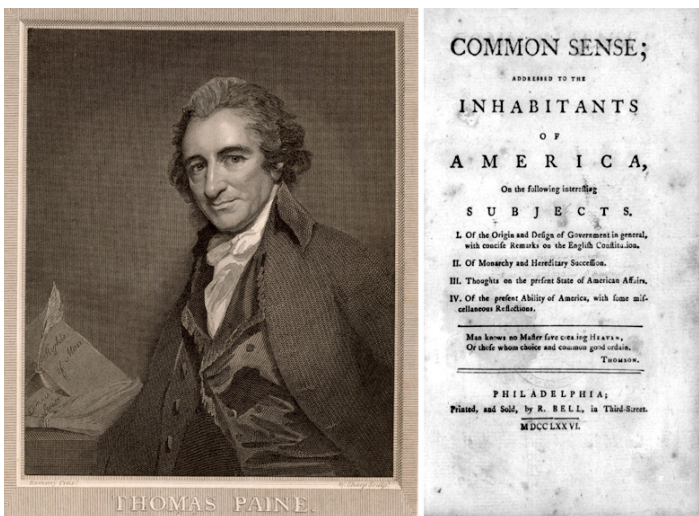
morning and the Americans sustained few casualties. Stories of this bold, overwhelming American victory grew in legend as it reached other colonists who supported rebellion against the British crown.

The morale boost that resulted from Washington's surprise attack has continued to grow in stature and legend in classrooms across the country, in part because of Emanuel Leutze's painting. Depicted larger in size than the other men on the boat, Washington's stature is representative of the importance he played in reigniting the American cause during the war. Painted in the 1850s during a period of unrest and sectionalism in the United States, the painting worked to convey a sense of nationalism and served as a symbol for unity. Many studies have been done to analyze Leutze's use of the Stars and Stripes flag or his placing of an African American in Washington's boat. These subtle symbols reinforced the hopes that Leutze had for his own country of Germany, while also becoming an instant American icon. Today, the portrait hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, continuing to inspire people while reminding them of the incredible challenges Washington and his men faced.

[education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/george-washington-crosses-delaware](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/george-washington-crosses-delaware)

## Thomas Paine, Common Sense and a Plan for America

by Jett Conner



To the extent that historians give Thomas Paine credit for playing a significant role in the American Revolutionary Cause, it was his rousing call for independence in his widely read tract *Common Sense*, published January

9, 1776, that most agree was his chief contribution to America's decision to separate from British rule. Paine turned up the heat of the debate, stirred the pot and brought to a boil the already simmering revolutionary thoughts taking hold in America by shouting out loud "TIS TIME TO PART." Although most Americans did not know who the anonymous author of the pamphlet was at first, Paine yanked the arguments and whispers for independence loitering in the back alleys and flung them out onto the streets for all to read and hear.

"To the extent" because not all historians, or even some of Paine's own contemporaries, acknowledged his pivotal role in spurring Americans toward independence. Pauline Maier in her book *American Scripture*, for example, downplayed Paine's contributions, giving the credit to John Adams for pushing the independence movement forward.[1] And for his part, Adams, an early admirer (and jealous) of Paine's writings and popular appeal, turned sour toward the man and his ideas over time ("a Star of Disaster"). Adams concluded there was nothing original in Paine's pamphlet, that it only repeated "common place arguments for independence" that Paine picked up here and there as a newcomer to Philadelphia.[2]

There is some truth to Adams's latter charge. Paine later admitted that until he arrived in America from England in December 1774 (carrying with him two letters of introduction by Benjamin Franklin whom he had met in London), he "had no thoughts of independence or of arms." [3] That all changed with the breakout of hostilities the following April at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. By then, he had been serving several months as editor of Robert Aitken's *Pennsylvania Magazine* and soon after was thinking of composing a pamphlet on the rising conflict.

To this day, Paine is mostly remembered for his fiery rebellious writings during revolutionary times, here in America and later on during similar periods of political upheaval in England and France. A rebel with a cause.

But to the author, independence was only part of the picture. The real question he posed in *Common Sense* was, he said, what happens next? A fear of the unknown, Paine believed, was tugging against any steps toward independence.

So, *Common Sense* offered what Paine called some "hints" to address that fear. It outlined a plan. And

- Continued on Page 4, Paine -



## People Who Made America Great



**Deborah Sampson**

Deborah Sampson (1760–1827) – A true Revolutionary War hero, Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man in order to enlist in the Continental Army under the name Robert Shurtliff. She fought bravely in several engagements and sustained injuries that she tended to herself to avoid revealing her identity. Her service lasted over a year before her secret was discovered. After receiving an honorable discharge, she went on to advocate for veterans' rights and became one of the first American women to go on a lecture tour, telling her story to packed audiences.

In Boston, Paul Revere himself helped her petition Congress for back pay, writing in 1804 that she was “much more deserving than hundreds to whom Congress have been generous.” Thanks to his support, she received a pension, one of the first ever granted to a woman for military service. Her courage didn't stop at the battlefield—it carried into her fight for recognition in a world that still wasn't ready to see women as warriors. Sampson's bravery remains a powerful testament to American courage.



- From Page 3, Paine -

among the proposals were several that smack of originality. Having spent the first part of *Common Sense* offering a scathing criticism of the British monarchy, nobility and hereditary rule, Paine advanced a different idea, one built entirely around republican principles.

The pamphlet offered the following brief but packed recipe for American governance: “Let the assemblies be annual, with a President only. The representation more equal. Their business wholly domestic, and subject to the authority of a Continental Congress.”[4] Gone was the monarchy, any hint of hereditary privilege and the separation of powers and checks and balances. The latter omission disturbed Adams: Paine's proposals, he said, were far too “democratical.”

Paine recommended that a “Continental Conference” be called for purposes of framing a “Continental Charter, or Charter of the United Colonies . . . fixing the number and manner of choosing members of Congress, members of the Assembly, with their date of sitting, and drawing the line of business and jurisdiction between them. (Always remembering, that our strength is continental.)” This charter should secure

freedom and property to all men and, above all things, the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience ... Yet that we may not appear to be defective even in earthly honors, let a day be solemnly set apart for proclaiming the charter; let it be brought forth placed on the divine law, the word of God; let a crown be placed thereon, by which the world may know, that so far as we approve of monarchy, that in America THE LAW IS KING.[5]

At least one future scholar found in Paine's “hints” some fundamental principles of a nascent American constitutionalism. Political scientist Edward S. Corwin wrote the following about Paine's scheme in *Common Sense*: “In this singular mixture of sense and fantasy, so characteristic of its author, are adumbrated a national constitutional convention, the dual plan of our federal system, a national bill of rights, and ‘worship of the Constitution.’”[6]

There are several notable takeaways from Paine's succinct suggestions. First, he called for a written constitution to replace Britain's unwritten version. Second, he proposed a dual system of government, based on national supremacy. To achieve that,



the constitution would distribute powers to both the national and subordinate governments. That fundamental principle undergirds American federalism. Third, in a republican form of government, the powers of government must rest ultimately on the authority of the people. That is the principle of popular sovereignty. As James Madison put it, “the difference between a system founded on the legislatures only, and one founded on the people, [is] the true difference between a league or treaty, and a Constitution.”[7]

For Paine, the venerable English constitution was no guarantee against absolutism: “though we [Englishmen] have been wise enough to shut and lock a door against absolute Monarchy, we at the same time have been foolish enough to put the crown in possession of the key.”[8] And he ridiculed the British model of separation of powers and checks and balances, by arguing that in practice, the back and forth checks among king, lords and commons on each other were farcical. An example: as the same constitution which gives the Commons a power to check the king by withholding the supplies, gives afterwards the king a power to check the Commons, by empowering him to reject their other bills ... it supposes that the king is wiser than those whom it has already supposed to be wiser than him. A mere absurdity![9]

So, Paine ignored the doctrine of separation of powers in his recommendations for America.

Who then should call for the Continental Charter? Here Paine offered details:

A committee of twenty-six members of Congress, viz. two for each colony. Two Members from each House of Assembly, or Provincial Convention; and five representatives of the people at large, to be chosen in the capital city or town of each province, for and in behalf of the whole province, by as many qualified voters as shall think proper to attend from all parts of the province for that purpose ... In this conference, thus assembled, will be united, the two grand principles of business, knowledge and power. The members of Congress, Assemblies, or Conventions, by having had experience in national concerns, will be able and useful counsellors, and the whole, being impowered by the people, will have a truly legal authority.[10]

These ideas emerged later in the principles of the American Constitution of 1787 after being ignored in America’s first national constitution, the Articles of Confederation. That constitution was designed by

government, the Second Continental Congress soon after Independence was declared. No independent “Continental Charter,” or constitutional convention for the purpose of framing a government, as Paine had recommended, occurred at that time.

At least his idea of a unicameral legislature was right in line with the Articles. It was comprised of a single national Congress (but with limited powers). It too created no independent executive or judiciary. But Paine did not subscribe to what became the fatal flaw of the Articles, the superiority of state powers.

From the beginning, his instincts were nationalist. He argued repeatedly in *Common Sense* and other early writings in early 1776 that the “continental belt was too loosely buckled,” that unless the America acted in unison in such times, not only would it not achieve independence, but it would also be likely to fail even if it did.

Paine’s *Common Sense* was more than mere rabble rousing. Not only did the famous pamphlet help the colonies’ break their dependence on Great Britain, but it also outlined constructive ideas for the creation of a republican government for the nation.

It did not take long for John Adams to respond to Paine’s recommendations for governance. He rushed into print his own *Thoughts on Government* in the spring of 1776 to provide a counterpoint, an antidote to Paine’s prescriptions in *Common Sense*. [11] Advocating for a system of separation of powers and checks and balances, he argued vigorously for measures to ensure limits on popular government. And with that, a long-lasting debate began: Just how democratic should the republic be?

[1] Pauline Maier, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1997, 91-96.

[2] John Adams autobiography, part 1, “John Adams,” through 1776, sheet 23 of 53 (electronic edition). Adams Family Papers: An Electronic Archive, Massachusetts Historical Society. [www.masshist.org/digitaladams/](http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/).

[3] Phillip S. Foner, *The Complete Writings of Thomas Paine*, 2 vols. (The Citadel Press, 1969), 1:143-44.

[4] *Ibid.*, 1:28.

[5] *Ibid.*, 1:29.

**- Continued on Page 10, Paine -**



## Profiles of Valor: MAJ Richard Bong (USA), American Ace of Aces



“MAJ Bong voluntarily engaged in repeated combat missions, including unusually hazardous sorties...”

Mark Alexander

Looking at a list of the top fighter aces of all time, the first 120 slots are all held by German pilots. At the top of that list is World War II Luftwaffe fighter pilot Erich Hartmann, who flew 1,404 combat missions and was involved in 825 aerial combat engagements. He is credited with shooting down a total of 352 aircraft. Of those, 345 were Soviet Union and seven were American.

That’s right — 345 Soviet aircraft. Hartmann, like the other German pilots who occupy all those top ace slots, got there because their skills and fighter aircraft were infinitely superior to those of the sorry Soviet pilots. A military historian friend adds: “Like everything, the Soviet answer was simply throw more manpower and firepower. Volume, that’s what would ultimately win the day for the Soviets over Germany.”

But it came at great cost for their pilots. In effect, aerial combat with Soviet pilots amounted to shooting goldfish in a bowl. But despite the obscenely high Soviet pilot attrition rates, once the U.S. was on the continent, the German days were numbered as Allied forces closed in from the west and the Soviets from the east.

American pilots in Europe faced the best of the German pilots, much as American pilots in the Pacific Theater faced the best of the Japanese pilots, until they thinned the enemy pilot ranks out in both theaters as the wars neared conclusion.

That would be the case with America’s top Ace, Richard Bong, who faced the best of Japanese pilots.

Unlike many of the Pacific Navy and Marine Aces I have profiled, including LCDR Edward “Butch” O’Hare (USN)

and LtCol Gregory “Pappy” Boyington (USMC), Bong was an Army Air Force pilot.

Dick grew up on a farm in Poplar, Wisconsin, the oldest of nine children. His earliest interest in aviation was sparked by aircraft carrying mail to President Calvin Coolidge’s nearby summer White House. At age 18, he enrolled in his college’s Civilian Pilot Training Program. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program. Notably, one of his primary flight instructors was then-CPT Barry Goldwater, who would later become the stellar conservative senator from Arizona and a close friend of Ronald Reagan.

In 1942, Dick earned his wings and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Force Reserves. His first operational assignment was with the 49th Fighter Squadron (FS), 14th Fighter Group at Hamilton Field, California. It was there he learned to fly the formidable twin-engine Lockheed P-38 Lightning. Foreshadowing his maverick skills as a fighter pilot, it was with the 14th FG that he was reprimanded for some of his flying pranks, like a very low pass over a fellow pilot’s house who was just married, looping the Golden Gate Bridge, and flying down Market Street in San Francisco. In his reprimand of Bong, GEN George Kenney declared, “If you didn’t want to fly down Market Street, I wouldn’t have you in my Air Force, but you are not to do it any more and I mean what I say.” He later said, “We needed kids like this lad.”

He shipped out to the Pacific with the 49th FG, 9th FS, “The Flying Knights.” It was in December of 1942 that Bong claimed his first kill, shooting down a Mitsubishi A6M “Zero” and a Nakajima Ki-43 “Oscar.” On July 26 the following year, he chalked up four Japanese fighters in one day, which earned him the Army’s Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in combat, the second-highest award for valor under the Medal of Honor. He continued to accumulate air kills at a remarkable pace.

Dick assessed his gunnery skills to be mediocre, but compensated by getting daringly close to his target, on one occasion even colliding with an enemy aircraft, sending it to the ground in what was an unconfirmed kill.

On leave in late 1943, Dick met his future wife Marjorie, and on returning to the Pacific in early 1944, he named his famed P-38 “Marge” and adorned its nose with her image. It was in April of that year that he shot down his

26th and 27th Japanese aircraft, surpassing the 26-kill record of famed World War I Ace Eddie Rickenbacker. Flying missions in the Philippines campaign, then-CPT Bong increased his record air-to-air victories to 40, becoming America's Ace of Aces.



It is a record that will never be surpassed given that air-to-air combat was mostly displaced by surface-to-surface and surface-to-air munitions as technology made the accuracy of those weapons lethal. That lethality was aptly demonstrated during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bong accumulated those 40 kills in 207 combat missions over his three tours.

In December of 1944, Bong received the Medal of Honor in a field ceremony, presented by GEN Douglas MacArthur, who would later be presented a Medal of Honor for his defense of the Philippines, becoming one of two father/son recipients.

Bong's Medal of Honor citation notes: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty in the southwest Pacific area from 10 October to 15 November 1944. Though assigned to duty as gunnery instructor and neither required nor expected to perform combat duty, Maj. Bong voluntarily and at his own urgent request engaged in repeated combat missions, including unusually hazardous sorties over Balikpapan, Borneo, and in the Leyte area of the Philippines. His aggressiveness and daring resulted in his shooting down eight enemy airplanes during this period."

In addition to his Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross, he also earned two Silver Stars, seven Distinguished Flying Crosses, and 15 Air Medals.

His record 40 kills were just two ahead of another Army Air Force P-38 pilot, MAJ Tommy McGuire, also a Medal of Honor recipient who had 38 aerial victories over the Pacific. Behind them was the third-ranking fighter ace in the Pacific, another P-38 pilot, COL Charles MacDonald.

Clearly, the P-38 proved its lethality, as it also did over Europe.

Dick Bong returned stateside before the end of the war to Burbank, California, and married Marge in February of 1945. He continued flying as a test pilot for Lockheed's P-80 Shooting Star jet fighter.

On August 6, 1945, the same day of the bombing of Hiroshima and the beginning of the end of the war with Japan, Dick was on his 12th test flight in a P-80 when the fuel pump failed on takeoff. He ejected but was too low for his parachute to deploy and perished. The front page of the LA Times the next day featured headlines of both Hiroshima and the death of our Ace of Aces.

MAJ Richard Bong: 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

[https://patriotpost.us/alexander/108825?mailing\\_id=8557&subscription\\_uuid=b6666ccb-7d37-4607-b40f-88d0603e9482&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=pp\\_email.8557&utm\\_campaign=weekend\\_snapshot&utm\\_content=body](https://patriotpost.us/alexander/108825?mailing_id=8557&subscription_uuid=b6666ccb-7d37-4607-b40f-88d0603e9482&utm_medium=email&utm_source=pp_email.8557&utm_campaign=weekend_snapshot&utm_content=body)





## Instructions to Get Started as a Volunteer with the Patriot Research System

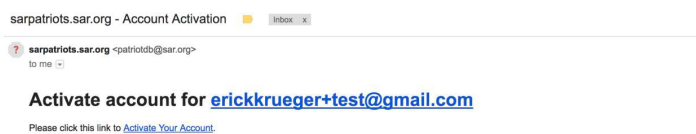
First off, thank you for your willingness to participate in the Patriot Research System (PRS) program!

### Access

As you can see, this site is completely different from the Patriot Index site, and everything regarding how records are added/updated has changed as well. So, we have been putting together some documentation to assist with the migration to the new system.

First off, access to the new site is different from before. Instead of using your name and national#, you will use your email address as the login, and you will set up your own password for the system. The Access Info document that I attached attempts to address this, but in summary, here's what is going to happen:

Volunteer Access to the [sarpatriots.sar.org](http://sarpatriots.sar.org) website



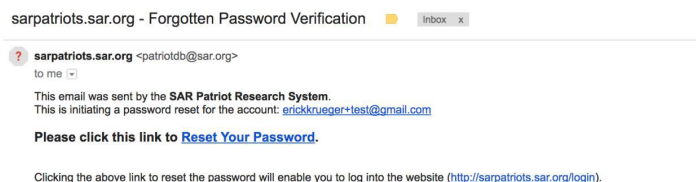
1. Once the account is created, the Volunteer will receive an email like the one below:



The Volunteer needs to click the link to “Activate Your Account”. That activation link takes you to the SAR patriots’ website, and you see a screen like the below:

This first step proves the email address is valid and the Volunteer has access to it.

2. The Volunteer then receives a second email, like the one below:



From now on, the Volunteer can go to <http://sarpatriots.sar.org> and click on the little person icon in the upper right corner to go to the login prompt:

Once you've set up the password, you'll just log in going forward. **If you ever forget the password**, we can send you a new email with a link to click to reset

it again.

### Updating Records

You'll notice when logged into the system, that there are now buttons on the pages allowing for edits and additions, etc.

Now, once into the system you're going to see a 'Volunteer Task' pulldown menu available to you with access to what I've been calling a 'dashboard'. Any time you're working with a record, it is visible within your dashboard. The really short description of how things work is:

1. You click on the edit/add buttons to start working with a record.
2. You make the changes you want to that record. You can save it and come back later if you like.
3. Do note -- only 1 person can edit a given record at a time, so it is possible that you'll click on one of those buttons, and you'll get a message that someone else is already editing something. **Of course, that person could also be YOU and the system saved the item in the “Edit Applications (Updater Dashboard)” under your Volunteer ID number.**

4. Finally, when you have the record ready to go, there is a field in the editor "ReadyForApproval". You just change the 'no' -> 'yes' and save the record. That record is now removed from your dashboard (no further editing), and presented to the people who can publish those records out to the Production view. (Right now, Dennis and Jamie). If there's an issue, they can, of course, kick it back to your dashboard for further work, if necessary.

Everyone still has a volunteer ID #. If you were an early volunteer, you should have the same one as used in the Filemaker system.

The Patriot Research system does keep a tally of all records that get published, and which volunteer had updated the record so that we can keep counts of who is doing x records.

Finally, the Info document is still a draft and being updated, but it's an attempt to provide much more comprehensive information about the system.

### Some other notes

It is important to use the information in the Updater Procedures about editing and adding records. Unlike Filemaker, this system will -not- allow the submission of duplicate entries for Accounting Control Numbers

(ACNs) or Patriot IDs. You can try, but it will fail to update the record, causing you some grief and frustration if you try. (Filemaker allowed for lots of duplicate entries).

There are 3 dashboards -- one for each kind of record: Bios, Patriots, and Applications/Lineages. The pulldown menu will show a # next to each dashboard to indicate how many records you have personally in the dashboard. Right now, you can see all of the records from all volunteers in the dashboard, and while you can filter these yourself to see only yours, it might make sense to just limit it to your own records only. (Looking for feedback here from you guys once you try it).

Also, if you inadvertently clicked on add/update a record or changed your mind about an edit, it will still be in your dashboard. You can safely delete records from your dashboard and not affect the production data on the site. I would encourage doing that since no one else can edit a record if it's on a dashboard somewhere.

Additionally, we also have ACN information for membership where we do not have the record copies available. This is because I'm getting data from National HQ's database on our membership and their member<->patriot relationships. This is why you may see records showing up for a member, but the Patriot is noted as "unindexed". This means we have some application information, but it isn't associated to a Patriot ID at this point. (We may or may not have the record copy to move forward on those.)

**Finally** - There is a LOT more happening in this system vs the old one, and it's all new. If something seems strange or confusing, please ask questions. If there are things we can potentially do better, I'm always open to ideas.

## Important Dates in History

- Dec 4, 1783:** Washington bids farewell to his officers in New York City
- Dec 5-7, 1777:** Americans repulse British at Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania
- Dec 11, 1775:** Virginia and NC patriots rout Loyalist troops and burn Norfolk
- Dec 13, 1636:** U.S. National Guard created
- Dec 14, 1782:** British leave Charleston, SC
- Dec 14, 1799:** George Washington dies at Mt. Vernon, VA
- Dec 15, 1791:** Last State Signed the Bill of Rights
- Dec 16, 1773:** Boston Tea Party
- Dec 19, 1777:** Washington and his army winter in Valley Forge
- Dec 20, 2019:** U.S. Space Force created
- Dec 22, 1775:** Colonel Thomson with rangers and militia capture Loyalists at Great Canebrake, SC
- Dec 22, 1775:** Continental Navy Created
- Dec 23, 1783:** Washington Resigns as Commander in Annapolis, MD
- Dec 26, 1776:** Battle of Trenton
- Dec 29, 1778:** The British occupy Savannah
- Dec 30-31, 1775:** American forces under Benedict Arnold fail to seize Quebec

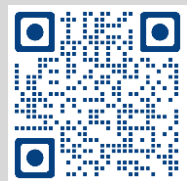
### IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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



### Sharing the Spirit of America

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



**Start time is based on 6 pm (EDT), July 8, 2026 - Please Join Us!**

[www.hawaiiamerica250.org/sharing-the-spirit-of-america](http://www.hawaiiamerica250.org/sharing-the-spirit-of-america)



# Awards and Events



On December 3rd, Compatriot Daniel Piedlow talking to a fifth grade class at New Covenant Academy about our Poster Contest.

## **Wreaths Across America Saturday, December 13, 2025, Springfield, Missouri.**

Ozark Mountain Chapter Color Guard joined an estimated 300 persons who came to the cemetery to honor, remember, and lay wreaths at thousands of graves of veterans, saying their names aloud and expressing thanks for service.

State Color Guard Commander read the President General Michael J Elston's WAA proclamation themed "KEEP MOVING FORWARD".

*- From Page 5, Paine -*

[6] Edward S. Corwin, "The Progress of Constitutional Theory between the Declaration of Independence and the Meeting of the Philadelphia Convention," in Gordon S. Wood, ed., *The Confederation and the Constitution: The Critical Issues* (Brown University Press, 1973), 33.

[7] Foner, *The Complete Writings of Thomas Paine*, 1:52.

[8] *Ibid.*, 1:8.

[9] *Ibid.*, 1:7.

[10] *Ibid.*, 1:28-29.

[11] Jett B. Conner, *John Adams vs Thomas Paine: Rival Plans for the Early Republic* (Westholme, 2018), 29-47.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2025/11/thomas-paine-common-sense-and-a-plan-for-america/>

Color Guard then located the niche for remains of Air Force Col. William E Carr, paid respects, and held a wreath to honor his service and patriotism as a Son of the American Revolution



Participating in uniform were Dan Piedlow, Gary Gift, Joe Walker, Ken Lawrence, Jeff Hicks, Don Higginson, and Steve Perkins. Not in uniform Eli Harris.



Color Guard also displayed a wreath at the WWI Monument, which the chapter helped facilitate its placement there in 2024.



WWI monument.



# Awards and Events



Perkins sharing SAR proclamation



Placing wreaths at veterans graves.



Gerald Hill, OMC Color Guardsman, attended Wreaths Across America on December 13 at the Missouri Veterans' Cemetery, Fort Leonard Wood. He laid a wreath at several graves, including Timothy M. Raker, as shown in the photo.



The host organizations were the American Legion Post 331, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3168, and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1014. Volunteers included various scout troops, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, an area HS girls' basketball team, Pulaski Young Marine Corps League, Waynesville HS JROTC, and Fort Leonard Wood.

## Birthday's

Lee Viorel	12-8
Harrison Philbrick	12-15
John Angst	12-17
Colby Jones	12-19
Gerard Gerhart	12-20
Steven Rinker	12-20
Ronald Hicks	12-21
Ricky Pirch	12-21
Caden Frederick	12-23
Jimmie Burks	12-25
John Allen	12-28
Matthew Brunner	12-28
Fredric McKinney	12-29
Jeremy Burks	12-30



# Awards and Events

**Glenn Gohr**

**Recipient of the Hannah White Arnett Medal  
Daughters of the American Revolution**

The Hannah White Arnett Medal can be awarded to a member in good standing of the Sons of the American Revolution for unselfish devotion, tireless efforts, and assistance to the DAR; and who has dedicated his time, energy, talents, and/or resources to the organization in support and furtherance of the DAR mission of historic preservation, education, and patriotism over a period of time.

Glenn Gohr is a charter member of the Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and past President, Historian, Genealogist, and Treasurer of that chapter, as well as serving in the Color Guard for many years. Glenn has had a passionate interest in locating and researching the Revolutionary War patriots buried in our area. This includes much source material for the DAR patriots buried in our area, which was used for the book, *First Ladies of Springfield: A History of the Rachel Donelson Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and its Charter Members*, written by Sally Lyons McAlear, a Rachel Donelson Chapter member.

Dressed in Revolutionary War attire, Glenn presented the bio on James Barham at the Barham Marker Dedication on October 12, 2025. He was presented with a Hannah White Arnett medal and certificate at the Rachel Donelson meeting on December 16, 2025.



Presentation of the Hannah White Arnett Medal and Certificate L-R: Jill Creson, Rachel Donelson Chapter Regent; Glenn Gohr, recipient; and Anita Philbrick, DAR/SAR Liaison December 16, 2025

**Dec. 17, 2025 Patricia Lee Hobbs, CG**

The Chapter recognizes your exemplary community service by fostering an understanding and appreciation of Ozarks History; enriching genealogical study and research so that others might gain a deeper appreciation of their personal heritage, and their family's contributions that make the Ozarks what they are today.





# Awards and Events

The vault where General Greene was originally buried, and the monument in Johnson Square Park where he was reinterred.



While on a trip to the southeast, Compatriot Dan Philbrick and his wife Anita visited Colonial Park Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia, where several prominent patriots and signers are buried. General Nathanael Greene was buried there for over a century in the Graham vault. His remains were later moved and reinterred under a large obelisk monument dedicated to him in Johnson Square Park in Old Town Savannah.

General Greene is revered all over the southeast for what he did for our fledgling country during the Revolution. Greene County in Missouri is named for him.

Compatriot and MOSSAR Executive Vice President Ken Lawrence presenting MSSCAR President Teddy Moll with a check for his project protecting Missouri's turtles, at the CAR Dinner on December 19.





# Awards and Events



A new junior member James Sanders after being sworn in by MOSSAR President Steven Biggs, at the CAR dinner.



MOSSAR President Steven Biggs being presented with an OMC challenge coin by OMC President J. Howard Fisk.



OMC Color Guard and CAR President Teddy Moll presenting a wreath to Revolutionary War patriot William Freeman at the Springfield National Cemetery.



OMC Color Guard and CAR President Teddy Moll and decendents of William Freeman, Compatriot Ben Edmondson and wife of OMC President Howard Disk, Jan Fisk.



MOSSAR Ladies Auxillary President Vicky Biggs being presented with an OMC challenge coin by OMC President J. Howard Fisk.



# Awards and Events



MOSSAR President Steven Biggs presenting CAR President Teddy Moll with a Battle of Fort San Carlos challenge coin and OMC President J. Howard Fisk presenting Teddy with an OMC lapel pin.

## *This Day in History*

### **December 6, 1865**

The 13th Amendment was ratified, officially abolishing slavery throughout the United States. This marked a historic moment in the nation's struggle with slavery, as it followed the conclusion of the Civil War.

### **December 7, 1941**

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing over 2,400 Americans. The attack led to the United States' entry into World War II the following day, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared it a "date which will live in infamy." The U.S. involvement drastically shifted the balance of power in the war.

### **December 13, 1577**

Sir Francis Drake set sail from Plymouth, England, on an expedition intended to disrupt Spanish interests in the Americas. During the three-year journey, Drake not only attacked Spanish ships and settlements but also became the second person to circumnavigate the globe.

### **December 14, 1799**

George Washington passed away at his Mount Vernon estate at the age of 67. His death marked the end of a remarkable life of service, from leading the Continental Army to becoming the first U.S. president. Washington's legacy as "the father of the country" remains a cornerstone of American history.



MOSSAR President Steven Biggs presenting new Compatriot Gary Waldon with his certificate and lapel pin after being sworn in.

### **December 15, 1791**

The Bill of Rights was officially ratified, guaranteeing essential liberties such as freedom of speech, religion, and the press. The amendments were introduced to address concerns about the lack of individual protections in the original Constitution.

### **December 17, 1903**

The Wright brothers made the first successful powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The brothers achieved the first powered, controlled flight with their aircraft, the Wright Flyer. The flight lasted 12 seconds and covered 120 feet, marking the birth of modern aviation.

### **December 18, 1865**

Slavery was abolished in the United States with the ratification of the 13th Amendment. This amendment represented a major victory for the Union after the Civil War and a step toward racial equality.

### **December 20, 1803**

The Louisiana Purchase was completed, doubling the size of the United States. The U.S. completed acquired approximately 828,000 square miles of territory from France. This monumental land deal, negotiated by President Thomas Jefferson, doubled the size of the U.S. for \$15 million.

### **December 23, 1783**

George Washington resigned his military commission before the Continental Congress in Annapolis,

- Continued on Page 16, History -



**- From Page 15, History -**

Maryland. His decision to step down voluntarily after leading the American Revolution was a significant act of humility and precedent for civilian control of the military.

**December 24, 1814**

American and British representatives signed the Treaty of Ghent, effectively ending the War of 1812. Though the treaty did not address all the issues that had led to the conflict, it restored relations to pre-war conditions. News of the treaty took weeks to reach the United States, and the Battle of New Orleans occurred after it was signed.

**December 25, 336 AD**

The first documented celebration of Christmas took place in Rome. Though Christianity had not yet become the dominant religion, this event marked a significant shift toward its acceptance and spread throughout the Roman Empire. The date of December 25 was eventually adopted worldwide as the day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

**December 28, 1612**

Galileo Galilei became the first person to observe Neptune, though he did not recognize it as a planet at the time. He recorded it as a "fixed star" in his notes, as its slow movement eluded him. Neptune was officially discovered in 1846, more than two centuries after Galileo's initial observations.

**December 30, 1922**

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was officially established following the Russian Revolution of 1917. The USSR brought together several republics under communist rule, led by the Bolshevik Party.

**December 31, 1879**

Thomas Edison displayed his revolutionary invention, the incandescent light bulb, to the public for the first time. This demonstration marked the beginning of widespread electric lighting, transforming daily life and industrial practices. Edison's invention became a symbol of innovation and progress in the 19th century.

## Upcoming Events



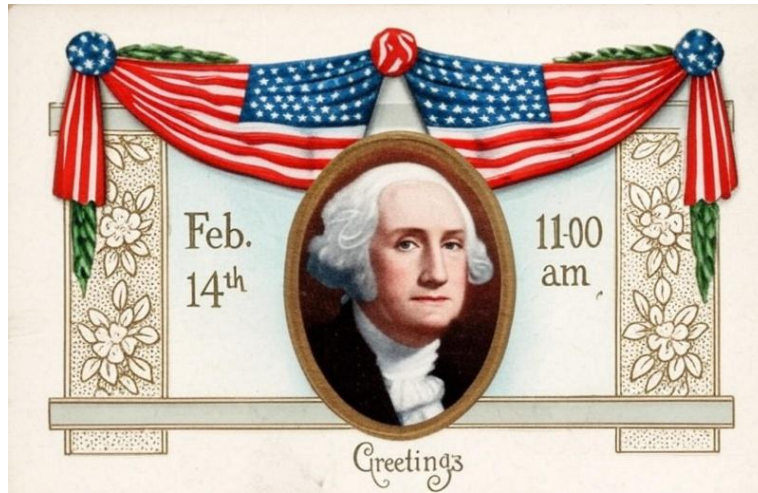
Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 PM, the Chapter Development Committee is meeting at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you need directions, contact Steve.



Saturday, January 17 at 9:30 A.M., the monthly meeting of the Ozark Mountain Chapter will be held at Ozark Technical College in the Atrium, located at 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.



Thursday, February 12 at 6:30 PM, the Chapter Development Committee is meeting at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you need directions, contact Steve.



## ***The Sons of the American Revolution*** ***Kansas City Area Chapters***

*Cordially invite you and your guests to attend special events honoring our country's first President*

*George Washington*

**The George Washington Birthday Celebration**  
 Saturday Luncheon, February 14, 11:00 a.m.  
 Featured Speaker, SAR TG Brooks Lyles; Color Guard; Award  
 Presentations; Fund Raisers including Gift Baskets, Silent Auction,  
 George Washington Books, Tidal Wave Coupons and Wine Pull  
 Cost: \$30 per person  
 Table Reservations for 8 guests on Saturday \$230

**Hilton Garden Inn**

**19677 E. Jackson Dr., Independence, MO 64057**

**Menu Selection, RSVP and Corks online.**

**In addition, if you or your organization wish to recognize your chapter or honor an individual with a donation, we will recognize them in our program. This will help defray costs to our event.**

**Please make check payable to: GWBC**

<b>Mail donations to:</b>  George Washington Birthday Committee Attn: Robert Lofthouse P.O. Box 9017 Kansas City, KS 66112	<b>Suggested Donation Levels →</b>	Platinum \$250 and up  Gold      \$100 - \$249  Silver     \$75 - \$ 99  Bronze    \$50 - \$ 74
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More Information can be found on

[GWBCkansascity.org](http://GWBCkansascity.org)