



The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter



April 2026

Volume 46 Issue 4



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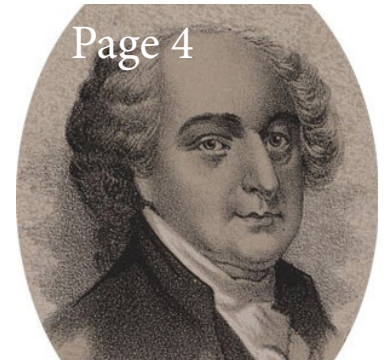
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MEMBERS
Please notify chapter registrar Steve Perkins Patriotmarcher @ fastmail .com of any recent or anticipated change to contact information: address, phone, e-mail



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



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On the Cover
Newly sworn in
MOSSAR President
Ken Lawrence.

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



The President's Message

By President Steven Perkins

Greetings OMC Compatriots

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence may cause one to consider what it might have been like for the colonists. New orders and acts of Parliament. Taxes, prohibitions, and restraints. Before the official start of the war 251 years ago, such acts of Parliament increased with punitive objectives. Colonies rebelled. Some individually declared their "resolves". Eventually, all unified to declare their independence from Great Britain.

In recent years, OMC public presentations discussed the war before the war. The "first revolution" occurred in the outlying rural towns of Massachusetts in response to not just taxation, but to their right of independent governance. Ninety percent of Bay Colony residents lived outside of Boston. In response to the Massachusetts Government Act, towns shut down their courts rather than being judged by those installed by the king and Parliament. If they could not govern themselves, they would not be governed by anyone.

What was the trigger point... the flash point that ignited the glorious struggle as some authors have labeled it? About six months before April 19, 1775, General Gage was under orders to seize arms. Remove the means, and the methods would be ineffectual. Quash the rebellion. Several small powder stores were seized by Gage's forces. Knowledge of such actions quickly spread. Towns hid powder, shot, cannon, and weapons. Colonists realized that, lacking self-defense capabilities, they would be trampled by Britain and become serfs.

Weapons and powder seizures were attempted in several colonies through the late winter of 1775 with no success. By this time, the colonists were well prepared to forcibly secure their self-defense capabilities. The Salem standoff on February 26, 1775, was an example.

With full knowledge that great force might be necessary, Gage's forces set out from Boston the night of April 18, 1775, toward Concord. Tory spies provided general

information upon which seizure action of weapons and powder was the prime objective. **Gun control** was the immediate and clear threshold to which colonists would not relent.

That situation is precisely why the Constitution includes the 2nd Amendment. One can find ample comments from the founders who opined of the necessity of having the right to bear arms.

As we approach the celebration of the Declaration, perhaps you will read a commentary about the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the debates that raged during the time. It may just reveal how things, in some respects, have remained the same.

Suggested read: "Arsonist – The Most Dangerous Man In America"; Allen, Nathan A.

Editor Request:

Please help me. 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 for me 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: The Four Chaplains

“Chaplains have been a strong, steady, and courageous presence in every major conflict beginning with the Revolutionary War, and today we continue building spiritual readiness so that our soldiers can endure in any future fight.”

by Mark Alexander

This week, we observe the faithful devotion, sacrifice, and fate of four Chaplains who were aboard the USAT *Dorchester*, a 5,649-ton civilian luxury liner that, during World War II, was converted for military service as a troop transport.

In January 1943, *Dorchester* left the port of New York with 902 souls on board — 597 service members, 171 civilian workers, 130 merchant seamen, and four Chaplains: LT George Fox (a Methodist minister from Pennsylvania), LT Alexander Goode (a Reform rabbi from New York), LT Clark Poling (a Reformed Church in America minister from Ohio), and LT John Washington (a Roman Catholic priest from New Jersey). The Chaplains met at Harvard’s Army Chaplains School, where they were trained for assignments in the European theater, for which they were en route.

The *Dorchester* was part of the SG-19 convoy being escorted by the Coast Guard Cutters *Tampa*, *Escañaba*, and *Comanche* through “Torpedo Junction.”

Late in the evening of 2 February, the ship’s Merchant Marine Captain, Hans Danielsen, was alerted by the Coast Guard that they had sonar detection of a submarine. The convoy was 150 miles from their Army base destination in Greenland, and as the day grew dark, he issued this order: “Now hear this: This concerns every soldier. Now hear this: Every soldier is ordered to sleep in his clothes and life jacket. Repeat, this is an order! We have a submarine following us. ... If we make it through the night, in the morning, we

will have air protection from Blue West One, which is the code name for the air base in Greenland, and of course, we will have protection until we reach port.”

At 00:50 on 3 February, a periscope broke the frigid waters of the North Atlantic as the German sub U-223 approached the convoy off the coast of Newfoundland. The commander of U-223 ordered torpedoes fired, and at 00:55, one hit the *Dorchester* starboard dead center. In less than 20 minutes, she would sink.

Danielsen ordered a rapid evacuation as the Chaplains helped with the wounded. As the remaining lifejackets were distributed, the supply ran out, and in the minutes that followed, the Chaplains removed their own jackets and gave them to others.

PFC Walter Miller recalled the terror-filled voice of a soldier screaming, “I can’t find my life jacket.” As he turned toward that voice, he heard Chaplain Fox say, “Here’s one, soldier,” as the Chaplain removed his vest and put it on the soldier.

Petty Officer John Mahoney attempted to return to his quarters to get gloves as protection. He was confronted by Chaplain Goode, who told Mahoney, “Don’t bother, I have another pair. You can have these.” But Goode did not have two pairs, and Mahoney says that at that moment he realized Goode was not leaving the *Dorchester*.

The Chaplains continued helping with the evacuation, getting men into a few lifeboats until they were filled, some of which capsized due to overcapacity. Almost 700 others dove into the freezing water with faint hope of being rescued by the Coast Guard vessels. The Chaplains prayed and sang hymns as the ship sank below the seas.

Survivor Grady Clark recalls as he swam away from the sinking ship: “I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high, and she slid under. The last thing I saw the four chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their lifejackets.”

PFC William Bednar, floating in the heavy oiled surface water and surrounded by the dead and dying, said: “I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.”

John Ladd, who witnessed the Chaplains’ actions, said,

“It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven.”

From the dark night waters, the CGC Comanche was able to rescue 97 survivors, and the CGC Escanaba rescued an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued escorting the remaining two ships in the convoy to safety.

By daybreak, only 230 of the 902 men had been rescued — 668 of those remaining succumbed to hypothermia in the 36-degree water and Arctic air, and four Chaplains perished on deck.

For their actions, Chaplains Fox, Goode, Poling, and Washington were posthumously awarded Distinguished Service Crosses, the Army’s second-highest military decoration below the Medal of Honor. They were also awarded Purple Hearts. Additionally, in 1960, Congress authorized the “Four Chaplains’ Medal,” which was awarded to the families of each of the Chaplains. Those medals were awarded once and, according to the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation, then retired.

Since 1943, military and civilian groups have held ceremonies honoring the Chaplains, and in 1998, by Senate Resolution, 3 February was officially recognized as Four Chaplains Day.

At the Army’s recent FCD observance, MG Bill Green Jr., the Chief of Chaplains, noted: “Despite their differences, the four chaplains were united in their desire to provide comfort, care, and calm to their shipmates as everyone abandoned the ship. They made the ultimate sacrifice. ... Chaplains have been a strong, steady, and courageous presence in every major conflict beginning with the Revolutionary War, and today we continue building spiritual readiness so that our soldiers can endure in any future fight.”

The Four Chaplains’ example of valor — humble American Patriots placing the lives of others above their own — is eternal.

Footnote: U-233 escaped after firing the fatal torpedo that sank the USAT Dorchester. But the following year, it was sunk by a British destroyer, with the loss of almost its entire crew. In 2000, the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation brought two U-233 survivors, Kurt Rosser and

first officer Gerhard Buske, to Washington, where they attended memorial ceremonies, toured the Holocaust Museum, and met with Dorchester family members. Buske observed, “We ought to love when others hate. ... We can bring faith where doubt threatens; we can awaken hope where despair exists; we can light up a light where darkness reigns; we can bring joy where sorrow dominates.”

(There are nine Chaplains who are recipients of the Medal of Honor. I invite you to read about one of them, CPT Father Emil Kapaun (USA).)

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

Live your life worthy of their sacrifice.

Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis

Pro Deo et Libertate — 1776

<https://patriotpost.us/alexander/124899-profiles-of-valor-the-four-chaplains-2026-02-06>



Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775

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



Signers of the Declaration of Independence: John Adams

October 30, 1735- July 4, 1826

Birthplace: Braintree, Mass.

Representing the colony of Massachusetts at the Continental Congress

Education: Graduate of Harvard. (Lawyer)

Adams began his education in a common school in Braintree. He secured a scholarship to Harvard and graduated at the age of 20.

He apprenticed to a Mr. Putnam of Worcester, who provided access to the library of the Attorney General of Massachusetts and was admitted to the Bar in 1761. He participated in an outcry against Writs of Assistance. Adams became a prominent public figure in his activities against the Stamp Act, in response to which he wrote and published a popular article, "Essay on the Canon and Feudal Law." He was married on Oct. 25, 1764, and moved to Boston, assuming a prominent position in the patriot movement. He was elected to the Massachusetts Assembly in 1770 and was chosen one of five to represent the colony at the First Continental Congress in 1774.

Again in the Continental Congress, in 1775, he nominated Washington to be commander-in-chief on the colonial armies. Adams was a very active member of congress; he was engaged by as many as ninety committees and chaired twenty-five during the second Continental Congress. In May of 1776, he offered a resolution that amounted to a declaration of independence from Great Britain. He was shortly thereafter a fierce advocate for the Declaration drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Congress then appointed him to replace Silas Dean as a diplomat at the French court. He returned from those duties in 1779 and participated in the framing of a state constitution for Massachusetts, where he was further appointed Minister plenipotentiary to negotiate a peace, and form a commercial treaty, with Great Britain. In 1781 he participated with Franklin, Jay and Laurens, in



development of the Treaty of Paris and was a signer of that treaty, which ended the Revolutionary War, in 1783.

He was elected Vice President of the United States under George Washington in 1789 and was elected President in 1796. Adams was a Federalist, and this made him an arch-rival of Thomas Jefferson and his Republican party. The discord between Adams and Jefferson surfaced many times during Adams' (and, later, Jefferson's) presidency. This was not a mere party contest. The struggle was over the nature of the office and on the limits of Federal power over the state governments and individual citizens. Adams retired from office at the end of his term in 1801. He was elected President of a convention to reform the constitution of Massachusetts in 1824 but declined the honor due to failing health.

He died on July 4, 1826 (incidentally, within hours of the death of Thomas Jefferson.) His final toast to the Fourth of July was "Independence Forever!" Late in the afternoon of the Fourth of July, just hours after Jefferson died at Monticello, Adams, unaware of that fact, is reported to have said, "Thomas Jefferson survives."

Important Dates in History

Apr 1, 1783: Marines Disbanded

Apr 5, 1764: Sugar Act

Apr 13, 1743: Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

Apr 18, 1775: Paul Revere and William Dawes Ride

Apr 19, 1775: Battles of Lexington and Concord

Apr 19, 1783: Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty

Apr 25, 1781: Greene defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, SC

Apr 27, 1777: Benedict Arnold's troops force a British retreat at Ridgefield, Connecticut

Apr 30, 1789: George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States

Minutes of the Ozark Mountain Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

April 18, 2028

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

Concourse, Information Commons West

Ozark Technical Community College

Minutes Recorded by Don King, Secretary

Meeting Chair Steve Perkins, President

There were 22 members and 5 guests present

The meeting was called to order at 9:28 by President Perkins

Invocation given by Compatriot Dan Philbrick

Pledge of Allegiance led by Compatriot Ken Lawrence

Pledge to the SAR led by Compatriot John Hathcock

Guest speaker Les Mironuck was introduced for a presentation regarding slavery and the founding

Speaker Mironuck was presented with a challenge coin by President Perkins

Minutes were approved by acclamation

Treasurers report

Beginning Balance	\$16,381.85
Expenses	\$4466.21
Ending Balance	\$11,915.64
CFO Balance	\$10,826.35
Total Funds	\$22,741.99

2026 MOSSAR Conference

Revenue	\$19,791.02
Expenses'	\$15,243.56
Conference Fund Balance	\$4,547.46

Registrar Report

Applications at National	4
Approved at National	1
Current Membership	127

Recessional led by President Perkins

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M. Minutes



COMMODORE HOPKINS.

Congress and the Commodore: Esek Hopkins and the Raid on Nassau

by Eric Sterner

On April 7, 1776 American ships began dropping anchors off New London, Connecticut. Esek Hopkins, commander in chief of the new Continental navy, was returning from a successful raid on the town of New Providence on Nassau island in the Bahamas. While there, the Americans had seized eighty-eight desperately needed cannon and fifteen mortars, thousands of roundshot, other artillery implements and some gunpowder, though much of the last item had been spirited away by the island's inhabitants. [1] It should have been the highlight of Hopkins' Revolutionary War career. Instead, the raid proved controversial and marked the beginning of his downfall. At issue was the nature of the orders Congress had given Hopkins before the raid, his execution of them, and his interpretation of his own authority.

On January 5, 1776 the Naval Committee of the Continental Congress ordered Hopkins to take the Continental navy to the Chesapeake Bay, where Virginia's governor had gathered a motley collection of small craft and Royal Navy vessels. Unless outmatched by the enemy there, Hopkins, who had the title commodore as the senior captain, was to enter the bay and sweep it of hostile vessels. Next, he was to perform the same mission on the Carolina coasts. After that, the American flotilla was to proceed to Rhode Island and "attack, take and destroy all the Enemies Naval force

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that you may find there.”[2] The committee’s orders were direct. The tasks were not a menu of options or recommendations, but a sequence of operations he was to undertake. The committee had a clear strategic purpose in mind: to clear the east coast of enemy naval forces, beginning in Virginia. It was an ambitious, and perhaps unrealistic, set of orders.

As if to emphasize its commitment to clearing the coasts, the committee and its members took additional steps and committed resources to coordinating with Hopkins on his coastal sweep. The committee informed the Virginia Convention the same day that it was aware of “the peculiar distress that the Colony of Virginia is liable to from a Marine enemy” and that Congress had assembled and fitted out an expedition to the Chesapeake Bay to “seize and destroy as many of the Enemies ships and Vessels as they can.” Moreover, it requested the convention to collect information about British naval dispositions and two hundred riflemen to rendezvous with a ship of the American fleet at Cape Henry, pass the information on to Hopkins, and possibly augment American seamen for operations in the bay. [3] Similarly, it ordered Cap. William Stone of the sloop Hornet to take his ship and the schooner Wasp from Baltimore and down the Chesapeake Bay, annoy the enemy there, and then rendezvous with Hopkins after joining them.[4] (Both ships eventually joined Hopkins in the Delaware Bay.)

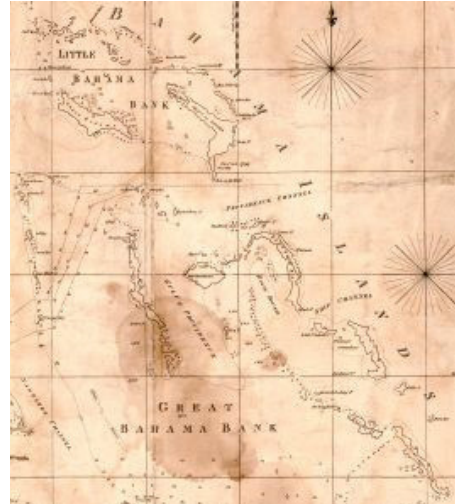
Later in January, Christopher Gadsden, a committee member from South Carolina, wrote to Hopkins, “sooner or later I flatter myself we shall have your Assistance at Carolina where you may depend on an easy Conquest, to at least be able to know without Loss of Time when off the Bar the Strength of the Enemy.”[5] Just over a week later, on January 18, the committee was even more optimistic. It updated Hopkins with the news that the few British ships on the Carolina coasts had departed, likely for Savannah, with two Royal governors. Recognizing that the British vessels were inferior to the American flotilla, the committee suggested that Hopkins might be able to capture the ships and governors by proceeding to Georgia.[6]

The committee’s orders also provided Hopkins with an escape clause of sorts. This last, brief portion of Hopkins’ orders would prove his undoing:

Notwithstanding these particular Orders, which ‘tis hoped you will be able to execute, if bad Winds, or

Stormy Weather, or any other unforeseen accident or disaster disable you so to do You are then to follow such Courses as your best Judgment shall Suggest to you as most useful to the American Cause and to distress the Enemy by all means in your power[7]

Whereas the committee’s orders to clear the coast were explicit, Hopkins’ latitude to act freely was conditional. He did not have to proceed with the Virginia mission if intelligence indicated the British were there in significantly superior force and he could pursue another course of action if weather or some unforeseen accident or disaster made clearing



Detail from an early nineteenth-century map of the Bahama Islands. Abacco (“Abaco”) Island is at top; Eleuthera is at center with Providence Island and Nassau to its immediate left. (Library of Congress)

the coast impossible. Four members of the seven-man committee signed the orders: Hopkins’ brother, Stephen of Rhode Island, Silas Deane of Connecticut, Christopher Gadsden, and Joseph Hewes of North Carolina.

The navy flotilla spent the better part of the next six weeks stuck in the Delaware River and Bay, trapped by ice, unfavorable winds, and a shortage of men. As the senior captain—and because the navy had no rank higher than captain—Hopkins became the operational commodore in addition to his position as commander-in-chief. There is evidence that he already had the Bahamas in mind. On February 14, as he prepared to depart, Hopkins ordered Capt. Nicholas Biddle of the Andrew Doria to keep company with him and, if separated, “use all Possible Means to join the Fleet as soon as possible.” But more importantly, if Biddle was separated and unable to rejoin shortly, he was to “make the best of your way to the Southern part of Abacco

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America's first foreign foray

This article was first published in The Economist March 7th 2026

Storming the beach

POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA

A new monument marks an oft-forgotten bit of history AMERICAN FORCES are nowadays capable of plucking a president out of Caracas and amassing an armada to strike Iran. The modest beginnings of such military reach go back to the war of independence. On March 3rd 1776, at a time when the Continental Army was short of gunpowder, a force of about 270 marines and sailors under Captain Samuel Nicholas made the first amphibious landing in American history on New Providence island in the Bahamas. Transferred from several ships of Commodore Esek Hopkins's squadron, the force seized Fort Montagu and Fort Nassau from the British and raised the Grand Union flag. They captured a haul of supplies, including 88 cannon, 15 mortars and 24 barrels of gunpowder.

Now, 250 years on, a monument to America's "first amphibious assault" is about to be inaugurated at the entrance to the fishing pier in Pompano Beach, Florida. It is an initiative of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR), a historical association. The new monument, a 20-foot obelisk flanked by (for now) Grand Union flags, stands between two restaurants, Oceanic and Lucky Fish, against a backdrop of palm trees and the Atlantic.

Why Pompano Beach? It is relatively close to New Providence island (a plaque points out that the assault took place 190 miles south-east of the monument). The popularity of the pier, which gets about 230,000 visitors a year, means the obelisk will be noticed. And the city, says Sandra King, Pompano's co-ordinator for the project, was keen to have an extra attraction for its tourist area. She believes some people connected

to the armed services will come specially to see what the organisers claim is the southernmost monument to any revolutionary event in the continental United States.

The Marine Corps History Division, in an anniversary book published last year, lists the capture of Fort Nassau as the second item in its chronology of events in the 250-year life of the service. "It's honestly a very little-known event in the American revolution, but a fairly significant one in the history of the us Marine Corps," says Chris Washler, FLSSAR's president. It raised the morale of George Washington's forces, he says, as well as bulking up their munitions but above all, it was America's first landing on foreign soil.

"It's good to remember how we got our freedom," says Victoria Thomson, a local resident, observing the almost finished monument. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for March 14th. Henceforth, as they eat their blackened mahi-mahi sandwiches, the open-air diners at Lucky Fish can look across at the obelisk and reflect on a small but evocative chapter of the American story.

Birthday's

Bryan Hood	4-1
Donnie Williams	4-5
Mark Walker	4-9
Edwin Frederickson	4-11
James Mason	4-13
Samuel Leavitt	4-15
Steven Lawson	4-17
Randy Painter	4-17
David Appleby	4-18
James Harris	4-19
Charles Clark	4-20
Eric Sampson	4-20
Jesse Haggard	4-24
Donald Pruitt	4-25
Steven Montague	4-28
Frank Snelson	4-29

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one of the Bahama Islands, and there wait for the Fleet fourteen days.”[8] Indeed, Abaco island proved to be the fleet’s next destination. Once in the Bahamas the navy seized two local vessels whose captains informed Hopkins of a large store of gunpowder in Nassau on New Providence island. Consequently, the fleet made that its target, rather than the Virginia capes or the Carolina coast.[9] The Americans captured New Providence in a coup de main on March 3 and occupied the town for two weeks before departing on March 17. The fleet returned to American waters and fought an inconclusive battle with the Royal Navy frigate Glasgow before settling in at the New London anchorage.

Despite Hopkins’ capture of artillery, which largely remained in New England, Congress questioned his execution of his orders. Dissatisfaction in the south was particularly acute. During May, Congress shifted responsibility among a number of committees “to enquire how far Commodore Hopkins has complied with the said instructions, and if, upon enquiry, they shall find he has departed therefrom, to examine in to the occasion thereof,” which included calling witnesses and examining papers.[10] The issue eventually landed with the Marine Committee in July. It filed a report on August 2, which was set aside to be taken up by the whole Congress at a later date.[11] Hopkins requested a hearing and sat before the Marine Committee on Monday, August 12. He responded to the committee’s initial findings and requested that two witnesses appear on his behalf. After some discussion, the committee dismissed Hopkins and the whole body started its debate.[12]

The committee did not keep a transcript of its interviews, but Hopkins’ defense of his command can be reconstructed from his report to Congress and in a memo Thomas Jefferson drafted after the August 12 hearing. In his report, Hopkins noted that many of his crewmen were ill, some with smallpox, and he did not think the fleet could remain in colder waters. That was the reason he selected the rendezvous in the Bahamas. He also lost contact with the small ships Hornet and Fly after leaving the Delaware Bay, which may have made him less confident in his intelligence gathering capabilities, although he did not mention it in the report.[13] According to Jefferson, the commodore elaborated that had not gone to Virginia because he believed British naval forces there outmatched him, especially with so many American seamen down due

to illness. He did not visit the Carolina coasts because he believed enemy forces in both places had gone to Georgia, where they also were superior to his own flotilla. Hopkins chose Abaco as a rendezvous site because it was closer to Georgia than the Carolinas. While at Abaco, he learned that powder was stored in New Providence, so he proceeded there with the intention of seizing it. He returned to New England because he still believed British forces in Savannah outmatched him and that Rhode Island needed his seized cannon more than the Carolinas. Moreover, he was more confident in safely reaching New England. Curiously, Hopkins then decided not to depart Rhode Island for the Carolinas because his orders directed him to Rhode Island. Importantly, Hopkins viewed the “escape clause” in his orders less conditionally; his judgment about the public good was sufficient to depart from his directed coastal sweeps of Virginia and the Carolinas. According to Jefferson, Hopkins summed up the challenge of balancing a centralized strategy against a commander’s discretion, or at least his reading of it: “Instructions are never given positively and it is right they should not be, because of change of circumstances.”[14] Whether Congress and its committees saw things in the same light was another question.

Jefferson rejected Hopkins’ arguments, concluding that the commodore’s decision to forego his southern missions and proceed directly to the Bahamas was premeditated. As evidence, he pointed to the facts that Hopkins had not actively sought intelligence in the Chesapeake or Carolinas, but was instead satisfied to accept hearsay. In particular, he questioned Hopkins’ decision to pass South Carolina by. After all, Gadsden had made some arrangements for the commodore to get a pilot and receive intelligence. For Jefferson, Hopkins’ decision to forego the Carolina portions of his mission was inexcusable, “that being not only the main object of his expedition, but in truth the object of equipping the navy.” Jefferson went on to dissect every point Hopkins made regarding his technical difficulties, but more importantly offered his own view on the limits of Hopkins’ discretion regarding his orders: “True all instructions have [a] discretionary clause. This proves they have some positive intention, otherwise there was never a positive instruction and never a disobedience of orders, which is not true.” In other words, if a commander’s freedom to act always

- Continued on Page 10, Hopkins -

This Day in History

April 2, 1917

President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany, signaling America's entry into World War I. Congress approved the declaration on April 6, marking a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy.

April 3, 1860

The first Pony Express mail service began, connecting St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. This fast mail delivery system used horseback riders and became iconic in American frontier history.

April 6, 1917

The United States officially declared war on Germany, joining the Allied forces in World War I. This decision came after repeated German attacks on American ships.

April 7, 1788

The first permanent American settlement in the Northwest Territory was established at Marietta, Ohio. This marked the beginning of organized westward expansion in the U.S.

April 9, 1865

General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the Civil War. This surrender marked the beginning of Reconstruction in the United States.

April 12, 1861

The Civil War began when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The conflict would become the bloodiest war in American history.

April 13, 1743

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence, was born. Jefferson would go on to shape American ideals of liberty and democracy.

April 14, 1865

President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Lincoln's death deeply affected the nation as it struggled to heal post-Civil War.

April 15, 1912

The RMS Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg, resulting in the loss of over 1,500 lives. The tragedy led to major

reforms in maritime safety.

April 18, 1906

The Great San Francisco Earthquake struck, causing massive fires and destruction. The quake led to the rebuilding of San Francisco and improved urban disaster preparedness.

April 21, 1836

The Battle of San Jacinto led to the independence of Texas from Mexico. General Sam Houston's victory over Santa Anna marked the end of the Texas Revolution.

April 24, 1800

President John Adams signed legislation to establish the Library of Congress. This institution would grow to become one of the largest and most important libraries in the world.

April 25, 1898

The United States declared war on Spain, beginning the Spanish-American War. This conflict marked the U.S. emergence as a global power.

April 27, 1865

The SS Sultana, a steamship carrying Union prisoners of war, exploded on the Mississippi River. It resulted in the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history, with about 1,800 casualties.

April 28, 1789

The Mutiny on the HMS Bounty occurred; though involving the British, it impacted U.S. maritime law and adventure literature. The event inspired numerous books and films.

April 30, 1789

George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States in New York City. This historic event set the precedent for American presidential inaugurations.



The Missouri 200th Anniversary SAR Medals are for sale. They are \$30.00 if you get them from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk and \$35.00 if he has to mail it to you.

- From Page 8, Hopkins -

trumped the purposes for which he had been given command, then positive orders were meaningless. Jefferson concluded that Hopkins never intended to obey his.

John Adams did not see things the same way. He was satisfied with much of Hopkins' defense and found it, in the main, sufficient to excuse the commodore's actions. Instead, he detected a distinct note of regionalism and an "anti New England Spirit." [15] Jefferson's indictment, and Adams' defense, of Hopkins have the air of lawyerly arguments, more suited to a courtroom than the deck of a ship. Unfortunately, neither they nor Hopkins—as explained by Jefferson—made a strategic argument for either following or disregarding his orders. At a minimum, Hopkins and Adams failed to appreciate the depth of southern concerns about Britain's naval activities on the coasts there.

On August 15, Congress resumed debate over the committee's report on Commodore Hopkins and his adherence to orders. It resolved that "Commodore Hopkins, during his cruise to the southward, did not pay due regard to the tenor of instructions, whereby he was expressly directed to annoy the enemy's ships upon the coasts of the southern states; and, that his reasons for not going from Providence immediately to the Carolinas, are by no means satisfactory." [16] Adams recorded the vote as six colonies in favor of the resolution, three opposed, and three divided. [17] The Congress did not necessarily fault Hopkins for going to the Bahamas, but for not proceeding from there to the Carolina coast. Clearly, the coastal sweeps ordered on January 5 remained foremost in mind.

The censure was not enough to remove Hopkins from command, but it marked the beginning of his downfall. Southern dissatisfaction with the New Providence raid was only exacerbated by the dispensation of the artillery Hopkins seized, which did not make its way south. Disagreements between himself and George Washington over troops the general had loaned the commodore were elevated to Congress. Similarly, Hopkins and his captains regularly argued amongst themselves and the complaints of seamen made their way to Congress. To compound the problem, personnel shortfalls, equipment inadequacies, and the growing strength of the Royal Navy in American waters made major American fleet operations next to impossible for the rest of the year, something the Continental Congress did not always appreciate. In his profile of the

commodore, historian William Fowler, Jr. described him "as an ordinary man who had the misfortune to live in extraordinary times." [18] Hopkins was finally dismissed from the service at the beginning of 1778.

[1] Nathan Miller, *Sea of Glory: A Naval History of the American Revolution* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press), 1974, 111; "Commodore Esek Hopkins to Governor Jonathan Trumbull, April 8th 1776," William Bell Clark, ed. *Naval Documents of The American Revolution* (Washington, DC: The U.S. Navy Department, 1962 –), 711-712 (NDAR).

[2] "Naval Committee to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 5, 1776," NDAR, 3:637-638.

[3] "Naval Committee to the Virginia Convention, January 5, 1776," NDAR, 3:640.

[4] "Naval Committee to Captain William Stone, January 5, 1776," NDAR, 3:640. Both ships were later ordered to convoy American vessels out of the Chesapeake and then rendezvous with Hopkins at the Delaware capes. "Journal of the Continental Congress, January 9, 1776," NDAR, 3:692; "Naval Committee to Captain William Stone, 10th January 1776," NDAR, 3:719).

[5] "Christopher Gadsden to Commodore Esek Hopkins, 10th Janry 1776," NDAR, 3:720.

[6] "Continental Naval Committee to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 18, 1776," NDAR, 3:847.

[7] "Naval Committee to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 5, 1776," NDAR, 3:638.

[8] "Commodore Esek Hopkins to Captain Nicholas Biddle, Febry 14th, 1776," NDAR, 3:1291.

[9] "Journal Prepared for the King of France by John Paul Jones," NDAR, 4:133.

[10] "May 22, 1776," *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1904-1937), 4:375 (JCC). *Naval Documents of the American Revolution* generally refers to the committee as the "Naval Committee" and *Journals of the Continental Congress* as the "Marine Committee." Both names are used here to be true to the source material.

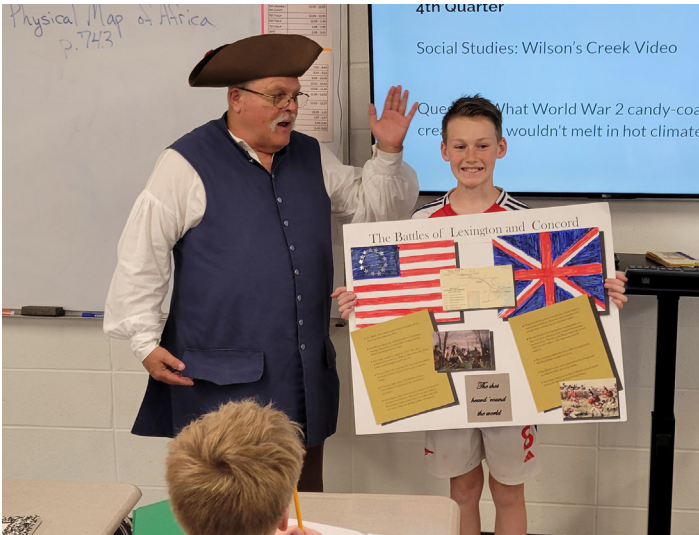
[11] "August 2, 1776," JCC, 5:628.

[12] "August 2, 1776," JCC, 5:648.

[13] "To the honble. John Hancock Esqr, April 8th 1776," Alverda S. Beck, ed., *The Letter Book of Esek Hopkins* (Providence, RI: Rhode Island Historical Society, 1932),

- Continued on Page 17 -

Awards and Events



On April 2nd, Compatriot Dan Piedlow presented Graham Corson with a check for \$100.00 for second place in the chapter 5th grade Poster Contest. Graham is a student at New Covenant Academy in Springfield.



Compatriots Brian Willet (SAN), Joe Walker (OMC), Kavan Stull (SAN), and Rodney Grewe (OMC, photographer) at the meeting for the Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter on April 22nd. Joe talked about the color guard events that OMC had for the first quarter and future events this year.



OMC President Steve Perkins presenting our guest speaker Leslie Mironuck with a chapter challenge coin at our monthly meeting on April 18th.



These are three books that Mr. Mironuck has published. He has plans for a fourth one.



Compatriot Dan Piedlow presenting Cadet Aaden Allison the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal at Nixa High School on April 23rd.

Awards and Events



Compatriots Oliver Sappington (L) and Len Slovensky (R), presenting Cadet Gabriel Muller with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal on April 22 at the School of the Ozarks.



Compatriot Rodney Grewe presenting Cadet Alexander Chandler, an eighth grader from Monett Middle School a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal on April 23rd.



The Color Guard outside the Greene County Courthouse on April 24th, getting ready to unveil the plaque of the Patriots buried in SW Missouri.



The plaque unveiled inside the courthouse.



Inside the courthouse during the presentation of the plaque.



OMC President Steve Perkins presenting Connie Yen from the Greene County Historical Society with a Certificate of Appreciation for all her work helping us with the plaque.

Awards and Events



OMC Compatriot Gary Gift talking about the significance of Retiring a Flag at Phelps Grove Park on April 24th. This was the second stop for the Color Guard.



Compatriots at the Springfield National Cemetery honoring Patriot William Freeman. This was the third stop for the Color Guard.



OMC Compatriot Joe Walker presenting a red strip of the flag being retired.



Compatriots behind Patriot William Freeman's grave at the National Cemetery.



Compatriots firing a volley at Phelps Grove Park.

Awards and Events



Compatriot Librarian General James Osbourn presenting the manager of the University Park Plaza Hotel with a Flag Certificate. To the left is Compatriot Don King and to the right is Steve Perkins.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting the guest speaker, Dr. William Ambrose with a Missouri State Society Bronze Medal and Certificate.



Compatriots Steve Perkins and Gene Henry singing the National Anthem at the beginning of the Friday night dinner.



MOSSAR State Chaplain Dan Philbrick and State Chaplain Elect Michael Hahn during the ceremony of remembrance for Compatriots we lost this past year.



Compatriot J. Howard Fisk introducing our guest speaker for the evening.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting OMC President Steve Perkins with a certificate for being first in Flag presentations.

Awards and Events



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting OMC Compatriot Dan Piedlow with a check for the first place winner in the Brochure Contest.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting Compatriots with a Distinguished Service Certificate. OMC Compatriots Dan McMurray (3rd from left), and J. Howard Fisk (4th from left).



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting OMC Compatriot Dan Piedlow with a check for the first place winner in the Poster Contest.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting Silver Good Citizenship Medals and Certificates. OMC Compatriot Steve Perkins (2nd from right)



OMC Compatriot Gary Gift with Scouts Tristan Hall (L) and Jesiah Richardson (Middle) with their Life Saving Medal and Certificate, and Eagle Scout Lilly Stevens with a Certificate for the Eagle Scout Contest.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (Middle) presenting the Silver Henry Knox Medal and Certificate. OMC Compatriot Dan Philbrick (2nd from left).

Awards and Events



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (L) presenting the Meritorious Service Medal Bronze Oak Leaf. OMC Compatriots Charles McMillan (2nd from left), and Gary Gift (2nd from right).



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (L) presenting OMC Compatriot J. Howard Fisk with a trophy for Outstanding Service Lifetime Achievement Award to the MOSSAR.



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting OMC Compatriots Norm Knowlton (2nd from right) and Ken Lawrence (middle).



MOSSAR President Steve Biggs (R) presenting OMC Compatriot George Swales with the Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate.



MOSSAR swearing in of the new officers by SAR Secretary General William Greenly. OMC Compatriots Dan Piedlow (2nd from left) Sgt.-at-Arms, and Norman Knowlton (2nd from right) Surgeon General.

Awards and Events



SAR Secretary General William Greenly swearing in MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence.



MOSSAR Past-President Steve Biggs and wife Vicki (R), and newly sworn in MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence with wife Patti (L) after the ceremonial transfer of the ribbon.



MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence.



MOSSAR Past-President Steve Biggs (R) receiving his Past-President pin from President Ken Lawrence.



Certificate of Appreciation for OMC Compatriot Ed Choate.

46-47.

[14] "Jefferson's Outline of Argument Concerning Insubordination of Esek Hopkins, 12 August 1776," founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-15-02-0547.

[15] "Monday August 12, 1776, from the Diary of John Adams," founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/01-03-02-0016-0166.

[16] "August 15, 1776," JCC, 5:659.

[17] John Adams to Samuel Adams, August 18, 1776, founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/06-04-02-0217.

[18] William M. Fowler, Jr, "Esek Hopkins: Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Navy," in James C. Bradford, ed., *Command Under Sail: Makers of the American Naval Tradition, 1775-1850* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1985), 15.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2024/04/congress-and-the-commodore-esek-hopkins-and-the-raid-on-nassau/>

Upcoming Events



Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 P.M., the Chapter Development Committee will be having their meeting at the Gate of the Temple Lodge, located at 1700 N. Boonville, Springfield. All members are welcome to attend.



Saturday, May 16 at 9:30 A.M., the Monthly Chapter Meeting will be held at the Ozark Technical Community College, located at 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.



Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 P.M., the Jasper County Cemetery Preservation Association will be honoring Patriot Moses Duncan at the Cave Spring Cemetery, located at 1001 Co. Rd. 4, Sarcoxie, MO 65862. All are welcome to attend.



Monday, May 25 at 10:00 A.M., the chapter will be having a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Springfield National Cemetery, located at 1792 E. Seminole St., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.



Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 A.M., the MOSSAR Color Guard will be honoring Patriot Leonard Walker at the Old Salem Cemetery, located at 547 Co. Rd. 478, Millersville MO. All are welcome to attend.



Saturday and Sunday, May 30-31 starting at 11:30 A.M., the Battle of Fort San Carlos event will be taking place in Ste. Genevieve, MO. The event starts with the marking of five patriots who are buried at the towns cemetery. This is a two day event (see flier on the last page). The event is also a National SAR event.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, June 6 at 1:00 P.M., the chapter Color Guard will be at the first meeting of the Ozarks Gateway Chapter meeting in Poplar Bluff. MOSSAR Color Guard are to muster at 12:15.



Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 P.M., the Chapter Development Committee will be having their meeting at Steve's house. All members are welcome to attend.



Fort San Carlos

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 250



1776 2026



Sons of the American Revolution

Remembrance Day & Grave Marking Ceremony

Sunday, May 31 • 1:00—2:00 PM

— Memorial Cemetery • 35 5th Street —

Honoring Patriots:

François LeClerc • Hypolite Robert

J. B. Pratte • Louis Bolduc • Pierre Roi

Battle of Fort San Carlos Commemoration

Following the Ceremony: 2:00—3:00 PM

— François Vallé II House —

167 S. Gabouri St.

Ste. Geneviève Celebrates the U.S. 250th!

May 30 & May 31 ~ Two Days of Festivities

— Colonial Market Fair • Drum & Fife • Encampments —

— Military Demonstrations • Parades • Games & More!

For more information: VisitSteGen.com