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## Patriot Review

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October 2025

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### Presidents Message

**Hello SAR Yosemite Chapter  
Compatriots!**

One of our missions in SAR is to support

our Veterans. This month, we had a special guest speaker for our October 11 meeting, Julie Cusator, Public Information Officer for the California Veterans Home here in Fresno.

The Veteran's Home is a special place for those who have patriotically served in our Armed Forces. She filled us in on everything we wanted to know about the Home and how we as a Chapter can possibly do some community service for our Vets at the Home. Our sisters at DAR spend a lot of time at the VA Hospital in town but are not involved with the Vets Home, so perhaps we can fit in with programs for our retired vets.



October also brings us into the election season and we would like to have members step up and volunteer for service in our Chapter or as Program directors. All of our members on our Executive team, President, VP, Secretary, Registrar and Treasurer, have been serving for 3 years now, and we could really use some new members to take on leadership roles in the chapter.

October also brings the first calls for membership renewals, so we will try to make things easier this year with our Constant Contact renewal process. Dues are not changing and will remain at \$100 for Active Members, and you can make a check payable to "Yosemite Chapter, SAR" and mail to Yosemite Chapter, SAR, PO Box 27943, Fresno CA 93729 or, you can pay by Paypal via our website, [HERE](#). at the bottom of our home page, click "donate now". That will take you to paypal and you can pay your dues electronically. Dues go towards supporting Chapter activities, such as our website and outreach programs, medals, certificates and educational activities. We will also be sending out reminders through constant contact.

A special THANK YOU goes out to Dan Cabe and Curtis Replogle for volunteering to man multiple shifts at the Heritage Booth at the Big Fresno Fair! We hope we will get a lot of interested prospects for our Chapter.

In Patriotic Service,

Scott Nichols

President, Yosemite Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

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## SAR Mission Statement

***The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our***

*communities, and educating and inspiring future generations  
about the founding principles of our country.*

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**REGISTER  
NOW  
FOR  
THE  
FALL  
BOM**



## **CASSAR BOM Meeting**

Don't forget to register and join us for the fall BOM meeting in Orange

## Welcome New Members

### Name Patriot Ancestor

Curtis Replogle Rinehart Replogle, Sr



**Yosemite Chapter will meet in November and  
details will be sent out!**

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## **Chapter Survey**

Hello Yosemite Chapter SAR Compatriots!

The Yosemite Chapter Executive Committee has prepared a Survey for our chapter and your feedback is important! Please take time to review and answer the survey questions. Please send your responses to

We also would like to know where your interest lies in potential service such as organizing our outreach to the Boy Scouts, ROTC groups and Veterans. Or, perhaps you may want to serve in educational outreach to K-12 students or be part of our Color Guard. You may like to do genealogical research or be involved in marking gravesites of patriots, presenting flag certificates, etc.

## **TAKE THE SURVEY**

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We have had quite a few new members join us over the past 2-3 years and we have been remiss in being effective communicators of what SAR is all about and how you as a new member can fit into SAR.

First of all, if you have not visited the National SAR Website, please do so by clicking on **<https://www.sar.org/>** and check out everything SAR has to offer. Please go to the "login" tab and register your name as a member so you can access the whole website.

After you have registered as a new member, please click on the "members" tab, then "new member onboarding" tab where you will see the "new member information guide" (**<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/New-Member-Info-Guide-011122.docx>**) and the "SAR brochure" (**<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/New-SAR-Tri-fold-011022.docx>**) These documents are short reads about the SAR, our goals, mission

statement and organization.

We also have a California State website

(<https://www.californiasar.org/>) and our local Yosemite Chapter website (<https://sar-yosemite.com/>) which has had a major makeover thanks to Randy Dhindsa, our Chapter Treasurer and Registrar. Please take a look at these three websites to gain some valuable insight into the SAR.



# Chapter Merch!

We are excited to announce that we now have chapter merchandise available for purchase! Various styles and colors are available!

We can produce shirts, coffee mugs, hats, etc. Please contact [Randy Dhindsa](#) if you are interested. The more we order, the cheaper it becomes for us.



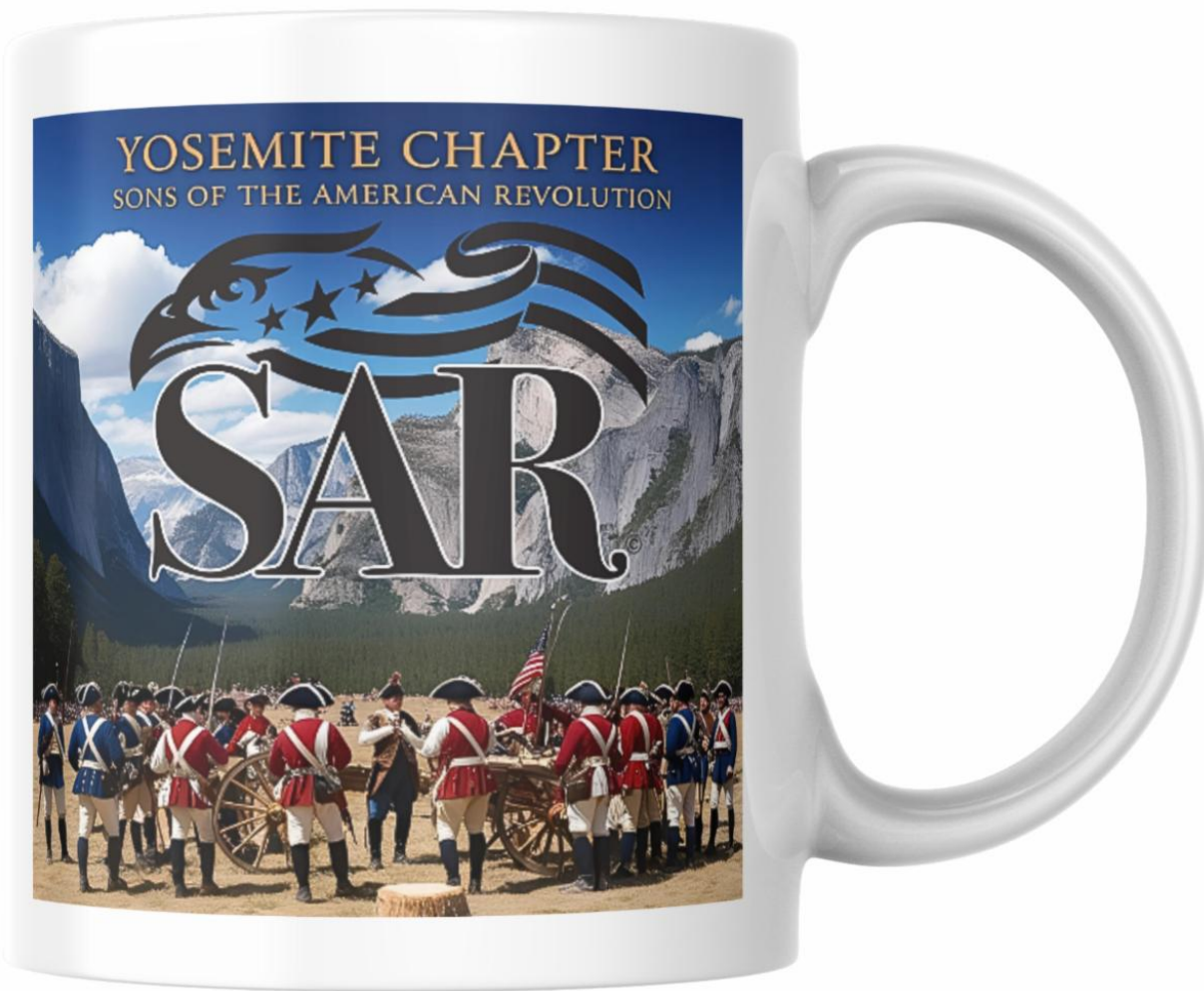














# YOSEMITE CHAPTER

## CHALLENGE COIN

We are in process of creating a Yosemite Chapter to develop a Chapter Challenge Coin that can be given out to the community members at events, classrooms, etc.

We have designed and are in the process of finalizing what the coin looks like. Thank you to all that have reached out to be a part of the development. Please reach out to [Jim Riley](#) or [Scott Nichols](#) if you have any additional feedback for the project.



## Compatriot Spotlight

## **Sheldon "Shell" Ball**

The Yosemite Chapter proudly shines this month's Member Spotlight on Compatriot Sheldon Ball — a man whose life reflects a deep love of country, service, and craftsmanship. Recently welcomed home on the Central Valley Honor Flight, Sheldon returned from Washington, D.C. to a hero's reception, where his fellow SAR compatriots, dressed in full Continental uniform, stood proudly to greet him. It was a moment of heartfelt patriotism and fraternity — honoring one of our own who continues to embody the spirit of American perseverance.



### **A Life Rooted in Service**

Born in Los Angeles on January 12, 1940, Sheldon spent his early years in Sherman Oaks before his family moved to Santa Barbara. A graduate of Santa Barbara High School (Class of 1958), he attended Cal Poly before transferring to Fresno State, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Vocational Education in 1963.

To help fund his education, Sheldon joined the U.S. Naval Reserve Construction Battalion (Seabees), attending weekly training and summer camps while completing his studies. After college, he was sent to Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. Though medical history prevented him from completing his commission, Sheldon was honorably discharged — a testament to his commitment and integrity in serving his nation.

### **A Distinguished Career and Lifelong Educator**

Sheldon's professional life began with Ford Motor Company in 1964 — just two days before the debut of the now-iconic Mustang. Assigned by none other than Lee Iacocca himself, Sheldon helped prepare and deliver 200 official Mustang pace cars for the Indianapolis 500, marking the start of a remarkable automotive career.

After several successful years with Ford, he transitioned to teaching, returning to his first passion — vocational education. He spent over two decades shaping young minds as a dedicated automotive technology teacher and department chair, inspiring countless students with his technical knowledge and infectious enthusiasm.

### **A Family Tradition of Patriotism**

Sheldon's family history runs deep with military and patriotic service. His Patriot Ancestor, John Edward Proctor, served as a Sergeant in the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War. Born in 1752 in Virginia and passing in 1856 in Indiana, Proctor's life spanned the birth and growth of the United States. He was married to Elizabeth Hudnall, and together they helped lay the foundations of a free and independent nation.

Patriotism continued through generations — Sheldon's great-grandfather Henry Winkler served with the 37th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War. In the 20th century, the Ball family carried that torch through World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, with relatives including Albert Ball and Dory Lee Ball serving honorably. His own son, Christopher Ball, followed this proud tradition with a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, while his daughter has built a successful career in computer technology in the Bay Area — a reflection of the same dedication and innovation that runs through their family's story.

### **A Passion for Preservation — On Four Wheels**

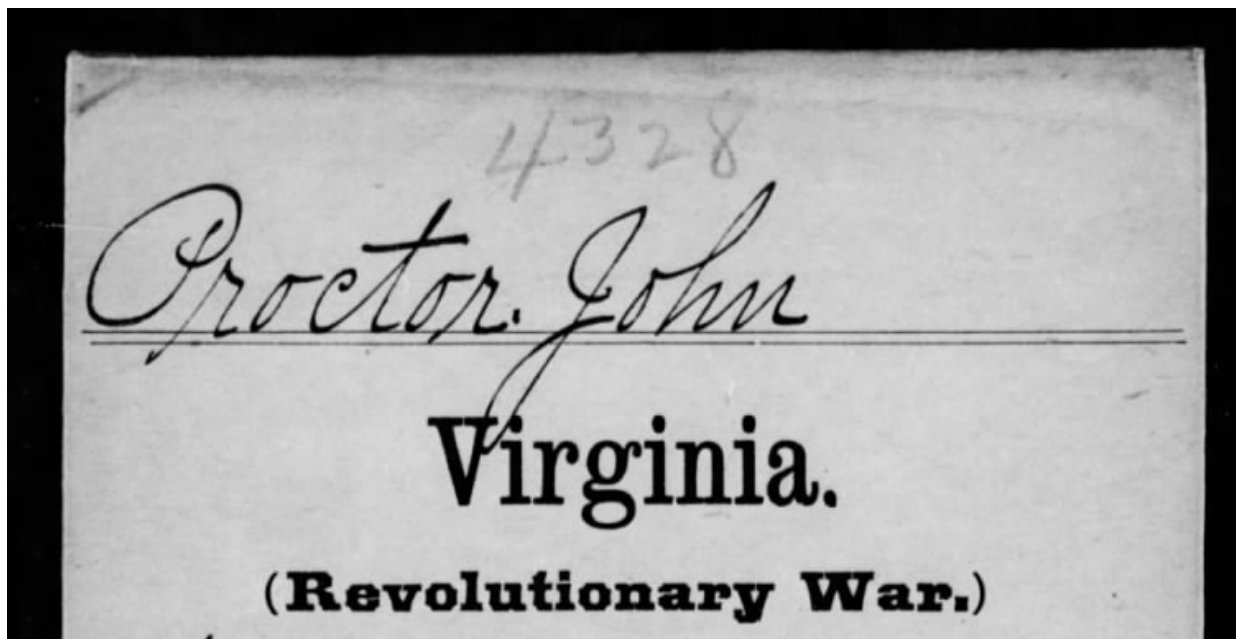
Outside of education and service, Sheldon's lifelong passion for classic cars has become a signature part of his identity. He fondly describes his hobby as "a lifelong condition — incurable and probably terminal," but one he wouldn't trade for anything.

His extraordinary collection includes rare and fully restored automobiles such as a 1909 Franklin Touring, 1913 and 1914 Ford Model Ts, a 1916 Studebaker Touring, 1919 Franklin Sedan, and even a 1930 Franklin Rumble Seat Roadster, winner of multiple shows. Each vehicle is more than a car — it's a piece of American history, lovingly preserved by a man who understands the value of craftsmanship and heritage.

### **A True Son of the American Revolution**

Compatriot Sheldon Ball exemplifies what it means to be a Son of the American Revolution — a man of honor, perseverance, and patriotic pride. From his family's centuries-long military legacy to his personal dedication to education and preservation, Sheldon's story reminds us that the American spirit endures in those who continue to live by the values of liberty, service, and brotherhood.

Please reach out to [Randy Dhindsa](#) to be featured in next month's Compatriot Spotlight!



*Sergeant* | *Sergeant*

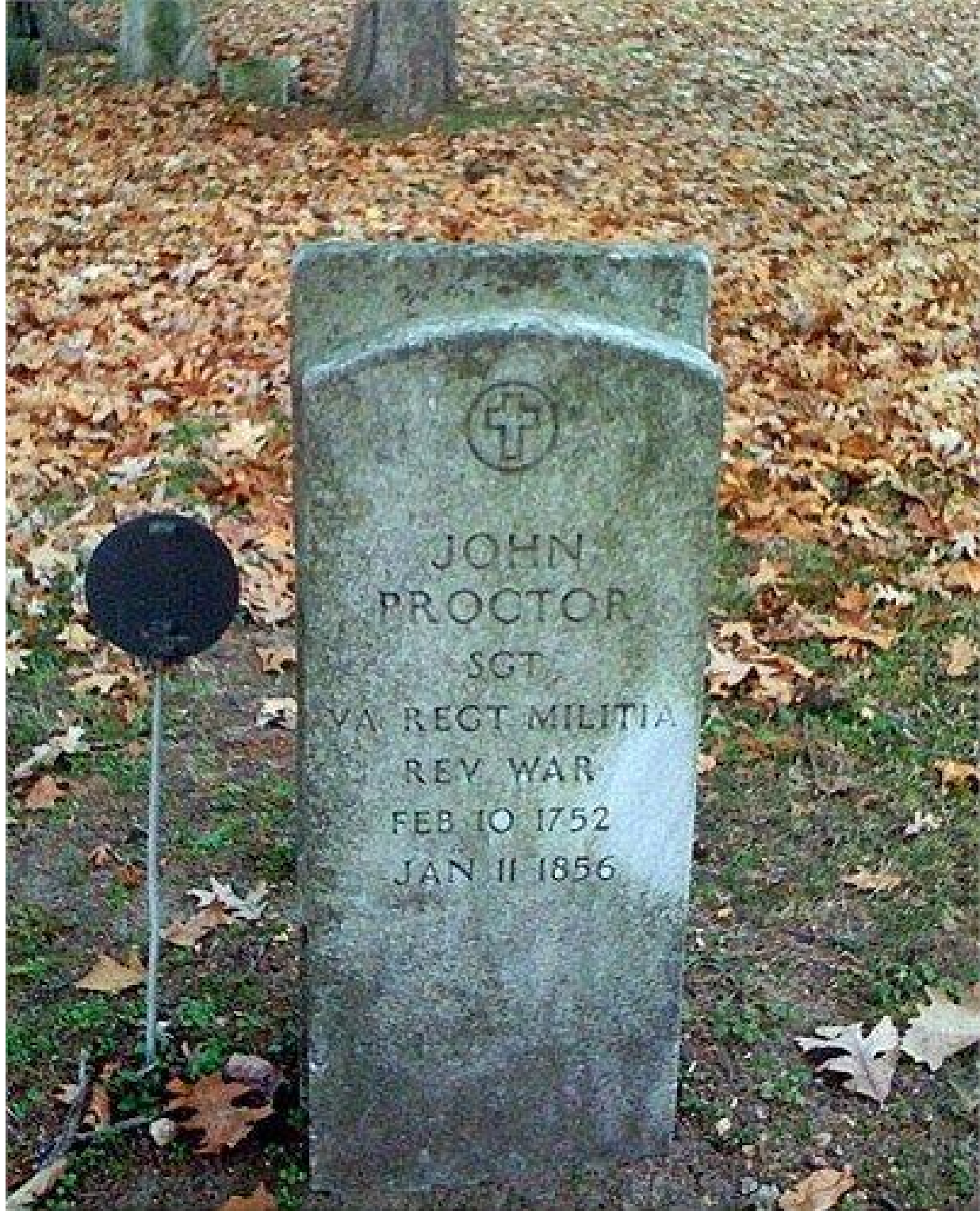
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Number of personal papers herein 0

BOOK MARK : .....

See also .....



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## America 250

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### **America 250th Anniversary Recognition Program**

The Yosemite Chapter has great representation with our America 250 program. Thank you to all our compatriots who have supported and participated in the program. Earning your award is as easy as attending a chapter meeting in person

or via Zoom. **Our goal is to have every chapter member earn an award before July 4th, 2026.** for more information, please contact [Randy Dhindsa](#)



### **Bronze**

Conner Budge  
Bert Budge, Jr.  
John Cline  
Stan Day  
Tim Desmond  
Tighe Dhindsa  
Jackson Dhindsa  
Randy Dhindsa  
John Hendon  
Bill Lee  
Fred Mossman  
Scott Nichols  
James Riley  
Jon Russell  
Harlie Smith  
Robert Thompson



### **Silver**

Conner Budge  
Bert Budge, Jr.  
Stan Day  
Tighe Dhindsa  
Jackson Dhindsa  
Randy Dhindsa  
John Hendon  
Bill Lee  
Scott Nichols  
James Riley  
Jon Russell  
Harlie Smith  
Robert Thompson



### **Gold**

Conner Budge  
Randy  
Dhindsa  
Scott Nichols  
James Riley  
Jon Russell  
Robert  
Thompson

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## **Wreaths Across America**

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**Wreaths Across America**  
**Saturday December 13, 2025**

The SAR Yosemite Chapter is once again sponsoring wreaths to honor the service of our Veterans. Our Chapter currently supports three cemeteries:

Veterans Liberty Cemetery in Fresno, Fresno Memorial Gardens in Fresno and a new location for 2025: Woodlake Public Cemetery in Woodlake, CA. Our goal for this year is to sponsor 200 wreaths, and with each wreath sponsored, our Chapter receives \$5.00 back which can go towards Chapter activities. Our Color Guard is planning to present and post the Colors for the Woodlake Public Cemetery on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Please reach out to family and friends who may want to sponsor a wreath for a loved one. You can sponsor a wreath by visiting our SAR WAA Website, **[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CA0800P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CA0800P)** Wreaths can be ordered through our website for delivery to cemeteries all over the country, not just the ones we are sponsoring locally.

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## Chapter News

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## Yosemite Chapter Honors Our Heroes with Honor Flight Welcome Homes

In September and October, the Yosemite Chapter proudly participated in two Honor Flight welcome home receptions, standing among hundreds of grateful Americans to celebrate our nation's veterans as they returned from their journey to Washington, D.C. The Central Valley Honor Flight program gives veterans the opportunity to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice, a profoundly moving experience for those who once stood in defense of liberty around the globe. When these heroes return

home, they are greeted with thunderous applause, waving flags, and tears of gratitude; a nation saying, "Welcome home and thank you."

For the Yosemite Chapter, participation in these ceremonies is more than community outreach, it is a continuation of the SAR's founding mission. Dressed in full Continental uniforms, our compatriots stood shoulder to shoulder, representing the spirit of the patriots who first secured our independence nearly 250 years ago. Their presence serves as a bridge between those who fought for freedom in 1776 and those who have defended it ever since.

The most recent flight held a special significance, as we proudly welcomed home our own compatriot and veteran, Sheldon Ball. As he returned from his journey to the nation's capital, where he visited the memorials to his fellow servicemen, our chapter stood united in deep pride and admiration. Seeing him step off the plane, greeted by cheers, waving flags, and heartfelt gratitude, was a moment none will soon forget. It was not only a tribute to Sheldon's service but a reminder of the brotherhood that binds patriots across generations.

Each Honor Flight homecoming is a reminder that the story of America's freedom is still being written, not only in the annals of history but in the faces of those who continue to serve. Through our ongoing participation in these ceremonies, the Yosemite Chapter reaffirms the timeless connection between the patriots of the Revolution and the veterans of today.

As the crowd saluted, clapped, and waved their flags, it was impossible not to feel the same sense of unity and gratitude that filled the hearts of Americans when liberty was first won. These moments remind us why we serve in the Sons of the American Revolution, to honor the past, celebrate the present, and ensure that the flame of freedom continues to burn brightly for generations to come.

"From Lexington to Normandy, from Yorktown to Kabul — the price of liberty has always been courage. And the spirit of 1776 lives on every time we say, 'Welcome home.'"

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## **Birth of the Continental Navy: Courage on the Waters of Revolution**



# CONTINENTAL NAVY





# ESEK HOPKINS

The air in Philadelphia was heavy with anticipation. Candles flickered along the paneled walls of Carpenter's Hall as men in powdered wigs and plain homespun coats gathered around a scarred wooden table. It was October 1775, and the colonies were at war, but their rebellion faced an empire whose power ruled the seas.

The delegates of the Continental Congress knew that without a navy, their struggle for independence would remain bound to the shores. Yet to challenge the British Royal Navy, the most formidable maritime force in the world, seemed an impossible act of defiance. "We ought to begin a maritime power," John Adams urged his colleagues, "not merely for our own defense, but to attack where we are able."

His words carried the conviction of a new nation finding its voice. Within days, the decision was made: the creation of the Continental Navy; a small fleet that would grow not from wealth or industry, but from courage and necessity.

## **A Nation Without a Fleet**

In the early months of the Revolution, British ships prowled the Atlantic, blockading harbors, cutting off trade, and capturing colonial vessels. The infant Continental Army, under Washington's command, lacked the means to fight back. The colonies were rich in spirit but poor in arms and infrastructure.

It was the pressing need for supplies that prompted action. Congress authorized the purchase of two armed vessels to intercept British transports, a modest beginning for what would become America's first national navy. On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress officially resolved "that a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, be fitted for the protection of the American cause." That date is now celebrated as the birthday of the United States Navy.

The new force would strike not through might, but through ingenuity; intercepting enemy supplies, raiding coastal forts, and harassing the invincible British fleet with the tenacity of a people who refused to surrender their liberty.

## **The Birth of a Fighting Spirit**

From the moment the first ships were outfitted, the navy embodied the daring resolve of the Revolution. Congress appointed Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island as the Navy's first Commander-in-Chief, a man whose experience and audacity would shape the early course of America's maritime war.

By the winter of 1776, Hopkins led a squadron of eight vessels, including the *Alfred*, *Columbus*, *Andrea Doria*, and *Cabot* into the frigid Atlantic. The fleet's flag, emblazoned with a rattlesnake and the words "Don't Tread on Me," captured the new nation's fighting spirit.

Hopkins' first major action came in March 1776, when he led his small fleet south to the Bahamas, capturing badly needed gunpowder and munitions from the British garrison at Nassau. It was the first amphibious assault of the Revolution. A stunning psychological victory for a nation barely six months old.

When news reached the colonies, it spread like wildfire. In Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin wrote that the navy had “shown the British lion that Americans are not afraid of the sea.”

## **Battles for Liberty**

The Continental Navy never rivaled the might of Britain’s warships in numbers or firepower. But it fought with imagination and audacity, achieving moral victories that rippled across the Atlantic.

Among its most famous heroes was Captain John Paul Jones, who took command of the Bonhomme Richard in 1779. Off the coast of England, he engaged the British warship Serapis in one of the most ferocious sea battles of the war. When called upon to surrender, Jones gave his immortal reply:

“I have not yet begun to fight.”

Hours later, battered and aflame, Serapis struck her colors. The victory electrified France and proved that America’s struggle for independence had reached even the enemy’s home waters.

These early naval triumphs were not merely tactical — they were symbolic. Each captured ship, each defiant stand, reminded the world that the cause of liberty was not confined to the land. The ocean, too, became a battleground for independence.

## **Securing Freedom on the Seas**

By the end of the war, the Continental Navy had captured or destroyed hundreds of British supply vessels, disrupted trade routes, and diverted enemy resources that might have crushed Washington’s army. Though small in size, its influence was profound.

The navy demonstrated that freedom required not just resolve, but reach, the ability to project strength beyond one’s shores. It laid the foundation for America’s enduring naval tradition, one that would later guard the very principles of liberty and self-governance born in those turbulent years.

When the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, recognizing the independence of the United States, it was not only the victories at Yorktown or Saratoga that earned the nation’s freedom. It was also the courage of sailors who braved the Atlantic in fragile wooden ships under the new flag of thirteen stars.

## **Legacy of the Continental Navy**

For members of the Sons of the American Revolution, the story of the Continental Navy reminds us that liberty is a charge carried by every generation, by those who stand on battlefields and those who sail uncharted seas.

The men of 1775 faced overwhelming odds, yet they chose to act. Their decision to launch a navy was an act of both defiance and vision; one that transformed a collection of colonies into a nation

willing to fight for its rightful place among the free.

Today, we remember their courage not only as history, but as heritage. The Continental Navy's daring on the waves reflects the same spirit that drives every patriot who honors their memory.





## Join the U.S. Army Rangers at the 93rd Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade

We are honored to announce that the U.S. Army Rangers Association has invited the Sons of the American Revolution Color



Guard to  
join them in the **93rd Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade** by  
presenting the Colors and marching alongside the Rangers along the  
world-famous Hollywood Boulevard parade route.

This is a unique opportunity for the SAR Color Guard to appear on  
National Television and proudly represent our patriot heritage during  
one of America's most recognized holiday parades.

Date: Sunday, November 30

Muster: Approximately 3:00 PM

Arrival Note: Due to heavy traffic and street closures, all  
participants are strongly encouraged to arrive early to allow time for  
parking and staging. More information will be provided closer to the  
event. Or you can monitor the **parade website**.

Parade Start: Around 6:00 PM

Location: Hollywood & Sycamore, Los Angeles, CA

Parade Route: The parade route is approximately 3.2 miles and  
takes about 2 hours to complete.

**There is no limit on the number of participants, but we must  
provide an estimated headcount in advance for staging and  
parking coordination.**

Sign Up

Here: **[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAE2CA1  
FBC43-59462376-93rd](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAE2CA1FBC43-59462376-93rd)**

More details will be shared as soon as they become available.  
Let's make this an unforgettable moment for SAR as we march  
beside the U.S. Army Rangers and represent the Sons of the  
American Revolution with pride on a national stage!

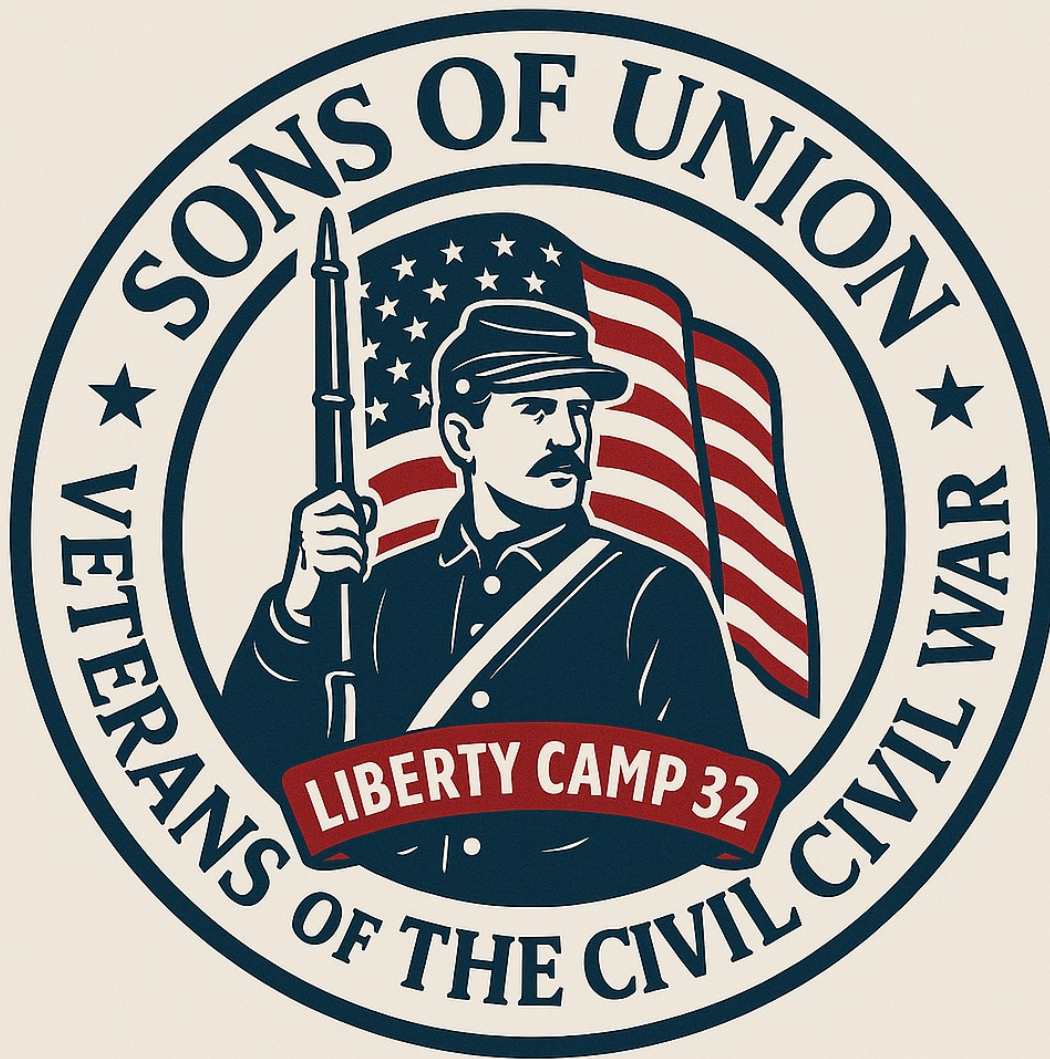
Patriotically,

Brandon Villardi

Vice President - South

Color Guard Commander

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Did you know we have a local Sons of the Union Chapter? If you have a Union Ancestor or just want to be a part of the Sons of the Union, Please reach out to [Randy Dhindsa](#)

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Got submissions for our newsletter? Send them to [Randy Dhindsa](#) or [Peter Pardini](#)

CASSAR Website [HERE](#)

National Website [HERE](#)

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