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Patriot Review

June 2025

Presidents Message

Hello Yosemite Chapter Compatriots!

We are entering the summer months where we will be taking July and August off for regular monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Fresno Yosemite Chapter of DAR on Saturday June 14 to hear a presentation on the "Taverns of the American Revolution". Please see the flier in the newsletter so you can RSVP.



This coming 4th of July marks our country's 249th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, where 56 brave men signed what would become a life changing document that would positively impact the trajectory of world history.

The 56 signers of the Declaration risked their lives, fortunes and honor for the cause of independence from Great Britain. There were four key, unalienable rights spelled out in the Declaration of Independence: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, along with the Right to "alter or abolish" a government when that government becomes destructive of those ends.

The signers were well aware that when they put pen to paper with their signatures, they were signing their death warrant, as the punishment for treason was death by hanging or by being brutally drawn and quartered. Do we have their courage to stand up for the freedoms that they so valiantly fought for?

Two hundred and forty-nine years later, we are blessed that we get to celebrate the 4th of July through parades, picnics and fireworks. As such, our Color Guard will be presenting the Colors at the Fresno Grizzlie Baseball game on Friday night July 4th. Come join us in a joint DAR/SAR get together at the ballpark! You can sign up by clicking on the registration button in the flier for this event. We hope to see you there to celebrate our Nation's Birthday!

In Patriotic Service,

Scott Nichols

President, Yosemite Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

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.

Welcome New Members

Name Patriot Ancestor

Larry Imperatrice John Sevier

Phillip Berghuis Hugh Alexander, Sr.

Bill Glover Elisha Smith



In Memoriam



Honoring the Legacy of Sheriff Ed Bates & Al Ludwig

Today, we pause in solemn reflection to honor the lives of Sheriff Ed Bates and Al Ludwig, two distinguished members of the Yosemite Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, whose dedication to history, patriotism, and service will forever be remembered.

These men embodied the spirit of the American Revolution, carrying forth the ideals of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our nation's founding principles. Through their steadfast involvement in the Yosemite Chapter, they helped preserve the legacy of those who fought for freedom and inspired countless others to uphold the traditions of honor and remembrance.

Sheriff Ed Bates, a guardian of justice and integrity, dedicated his life to serving his community with valor and compassion. His leadership and commitment extended beyond his official duties—he was a devoted patriot, ensuring that the sacrifices of our forefathers were never forgotten.

Al Ludwig, a true champion of history and heritage, enriched the Yosemite Chapter with his deep respect for America's past. His passion for preserving the stories of our nation's defenders was evident in every gathering, every tribute, and every conversation.

Their absence leaves a void in our hearts, but their legacy remains a guiding light. They lived with purpose, led with honor, and left behind an indelible mark on the Sons of the American Revolution and all who had the privilege of knowing them.

Let us stand united in remembrance, honoring their dedication to history and patriotism. May their spirits inspire us to continue the mission they held so dear—to keep the flames of liberty burning bright and to preserve the memory of those who fought for this great nation.

Rest in honor, Sheriff Bates and Al Ludwig. Your service, your sacrifice, your legacy—forever cherished.



**You are invited to join
with DAR for a
combined meeting
with Guest Speaker
Adrian Covert.**

**PROGRAM: TAVERNS OF THE
REVOLUTION
Saturday, June 14,
Trinity Lutheran Church, 3973 N.
Cedar
9:15 am
\$10 per person, snacks included,
R.S.V.P. important**



Adrian Covert is Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Bay Area Council and an expert on state water and homelessness policy. Covert has led numerous successful Bay Area Council initiatives, including state legislation, regional ballot measures, and the Bay Area Council Foundation's California Resilience Challenge. Adrian

also serves on the Board of Directors for the California Water Data Consortium and is a local lead for Santa Rosa YIMBY. Adrian lives in Sonoma County with his wife and 5-year-old son, plays baseball in the Pacific Coast Hardball League, and writes about old bars.

[Click Here To RSVP](#)



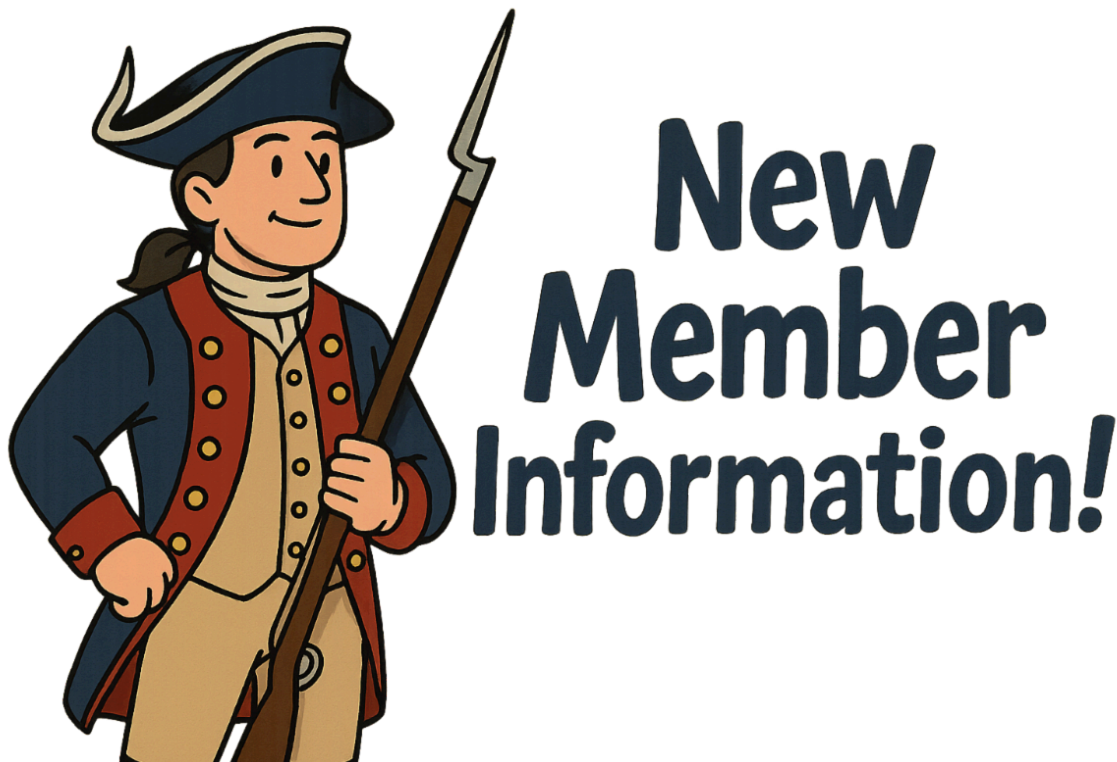
Chapter Survey Coming

Hello Yosemite Chapter SAR Compatriots!

The Yosemite Chapter Executive Committee (President, VP, Treasurer, Registrar and Secretary) will be conducting a member survey this summer to help us structure our chapter meetings and activities so as to bring value to a majority of our members.

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.

The survey will also ask if you have any special skills that you would be willing to share in service to our Chapter such as: Information Technology, Accounting, Marketing, Management, etc.
So, please keep an eye out for an email this summer with the survey.



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.

In Patriotic Service

Scott Nichols

President, Yosemite Chapter 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.





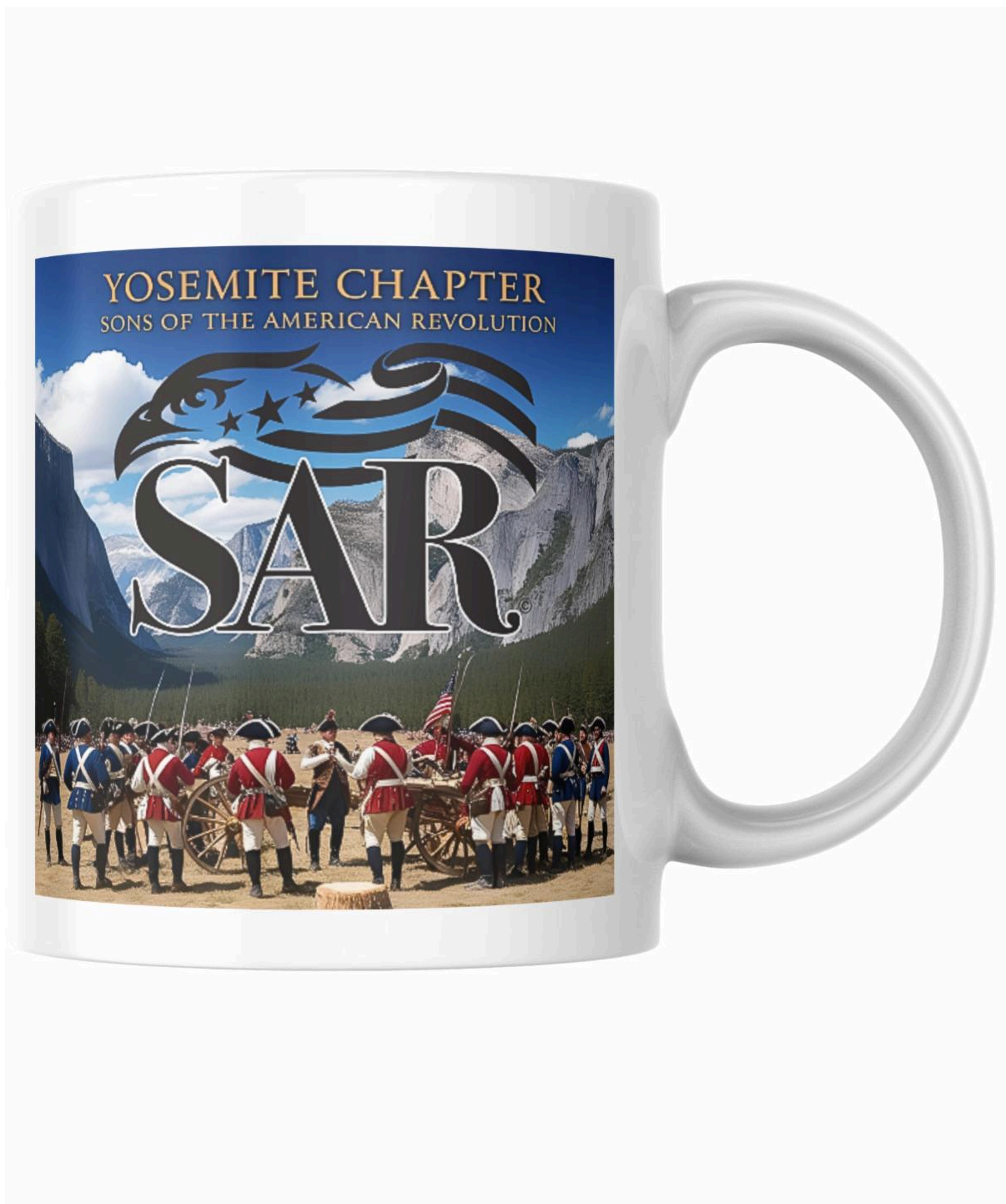


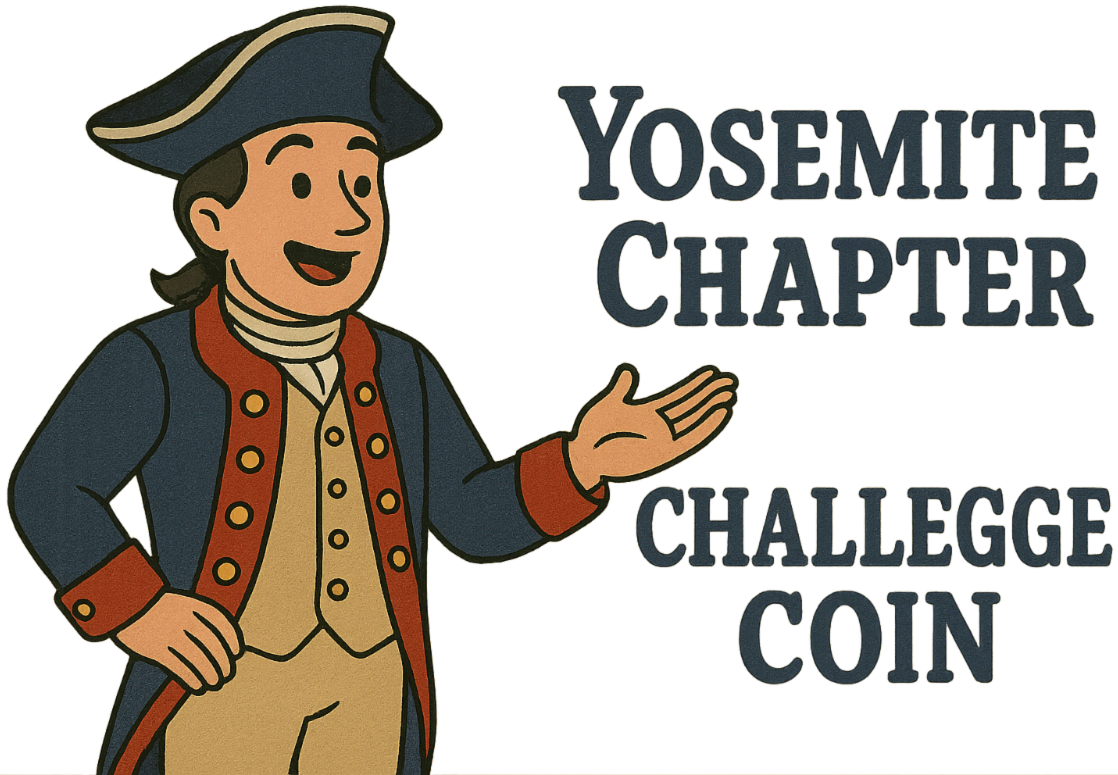






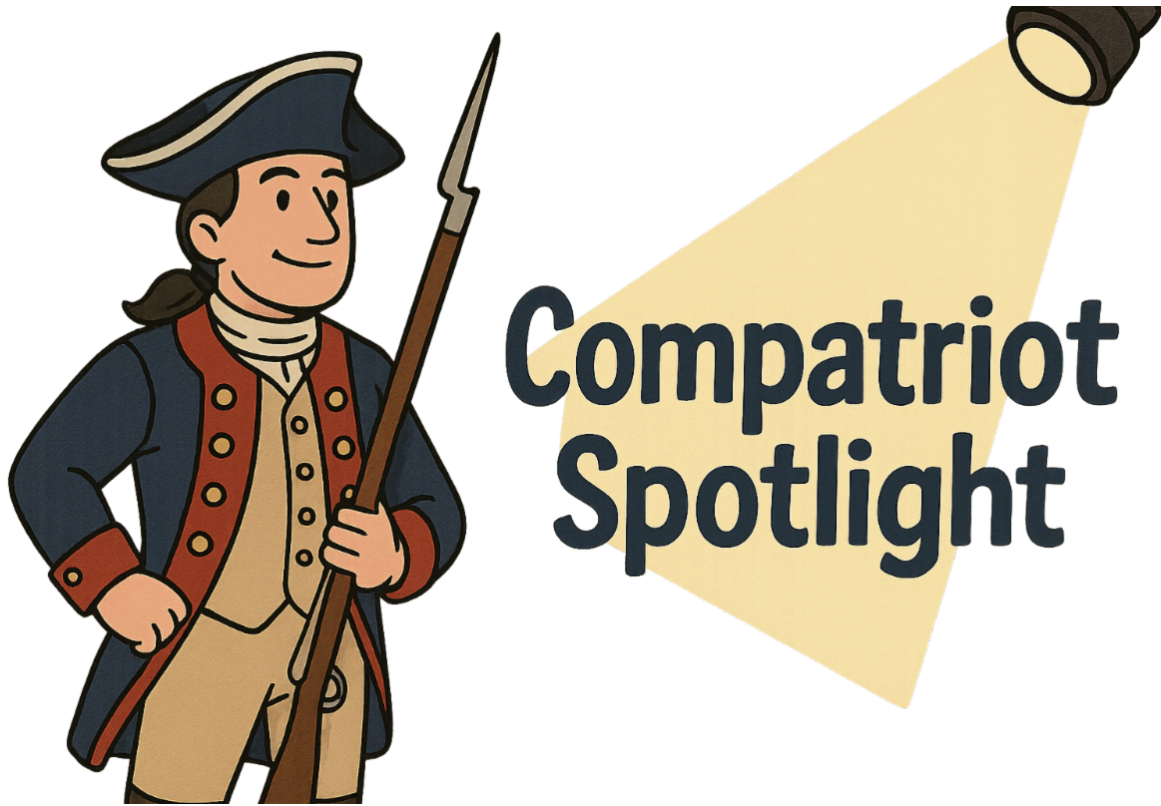






President Scott Nichols has "Challenged" the Yosemite Chapter to develop a Chapter Challenge Coin that can be given out to the community members at events, classrooms, etc.

We are looking for Chapter members to be a part of the design committee. Please reach out to [Jim Riley](#) or [Scott Nichols](#) if you are able to serve on the committee.



We would like to highlight 1-2 Compatriots each newsletter. We would like show who you are and include details on your patriot ancestor and their service during the Revolutionary War. Please reach out to [Randy Dhindsa](#) or [Peter Pardini](#) if you would be willing to be a part of this section of the newsletter.

America 250

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

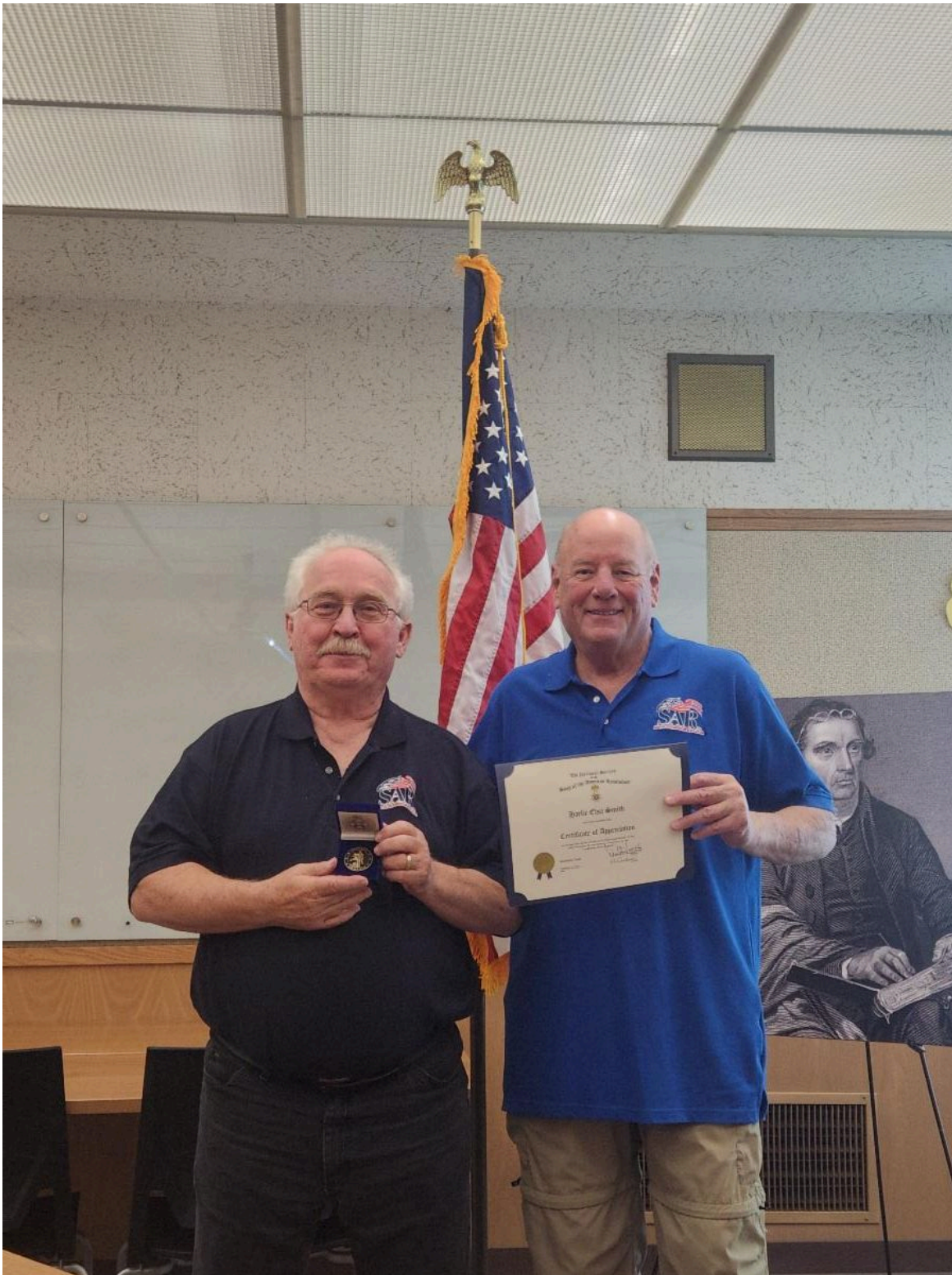
Chapter News



On May 10th, the Yosemite Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution welcomed a distinguished guest, Delta Chapter President Scott Elliott, for a morning steeped in history and patriotic pride.

President Elliott delivered an inspiring presentation on his ancestor, Patrick Henry, the legendary orator whose fiery words ignited the spirit of revolution. With unwavering passion, Elliott recounted Henry's pivotal role in rallying the colonies toward independence. From his steadfast opposition to tyranny to his famous rallying cry, "Give me liberty, or give me death," Henry's fearless advocacy for freedom stands as a beacon for all who cherish America's founding principles.

The Morning served not only as a tribute to Henry's enduring legacy but also as a reminder of the responsibility we bear in preserving the ideals of our forefathers. The Yosemite Chapter was honored to host Elliott and celebrate the lineage of one of the Revolution's most influential voices.



On May 10th at the Chapter Meeting, President Scott Nichols recognized two dedicated Compatriots; Harlie Smith and Jim Riley, for their support of the Color Guard event that launched Wreaths Across America last December In Sacramento.

In a proud display of gratitude, President Nichols presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a prestigious challenge coin, both issued by CASSAR Past President Don Littlefield, to honor Smith and

Riley's commitment to honoring veterans and preserving history. Their attendance and engagement in the Color Guard event exemplify the spirit of dedication and respect that defines our mission.

The Yosemite Chapter celebrates the patriotism and dedication of Smith and Riley, knowing that their support strengthens the foundation upon which our traditions stand.



Yosemite Chapter President Scott Nichols proudly presents the Gold America 250 Certificate to Connor Budge and Harlie Smith at the recent May 10th Chapter Meeting, in recognition of their dedication to preserving and honoring the legacy of our nation's founding.

This distinguished award symbolizes a commitment to patriotism, historical education, and the enduring spirit of America 250, marking a milestone in the celebration of our country's 250th anniversary.



Over Memorial Day weekend, the Yosemite Chapter Color Guard proudly presented the colors at the annual Fresno Community Concert Band's Memorial Weekend Concert, a stirring tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

With dignity and reverence, the Color Guard led the evening's solemn observance, standing as a living symbol of the devotion and gratitude we hold for our fallen heroes. As the concert filled the air with patriotic melodies, each note served as a powerful reminder that the freedoms we cherish have been safeguarded by generations of courageous individuals who answered the call to defend liberty.

The Yosemite Chapter was honored to be part of this meaningful tradition, ensuring that the legacy of our nation's defenders lives on through reflection, remembrance, and unwavering respect. May their sacrifices never be forgotten, and may we always strive to uphold the principles for which they fought. Their courage, their service, their lives—forever honored.

In attendance were: Scott Nichols, Jim Riley, Jon Russell, Jackson Dhindsa and Randy Dhindsa





On Memorial Day, the Yosemite Chapter Color Guard, alongside the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Camp 32, stood in solemn tribute at the Annual Memorial Day Remembrance held at the historic Liberty Cemetery, a sacred resting place for veterans who served from the Union Army through World War I.

In a powerful display of unity and respect, members of both organizations presented the colors, honoring the enduring legacy of the brave men who fought to preserve our nation's freedoms. The ceremony

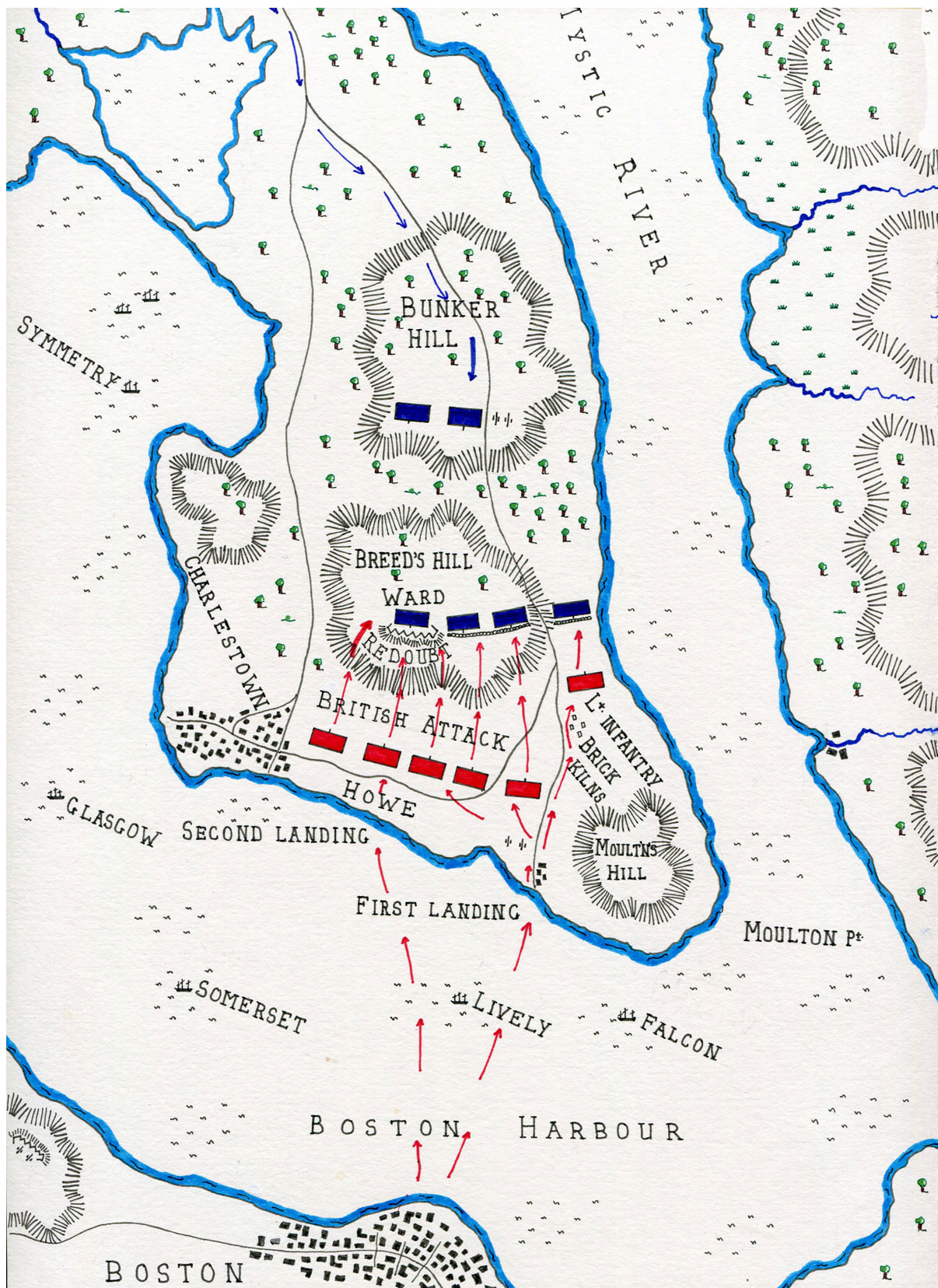
reflected the shared mission of remembering those who sacrificed everything for the ideals upon which America was founded.

Liberty Cemetery, steeped in history, provided a fitting backdrop for this solemn observance. As the flags waved in the breeze, attendees reflected on the courage and devotion of those laid to rest beneath its soil. The men who answered the call of duty in times of war, ensuring the promise of liberty for future generations.

The joint participation of the Yosemite Chapter and SUVCW Camp 32 reaffirmed the commitment to preserving the memory of America's defenders. Their service, their sacrifice, their legacy; forever honored in the heart of a grateful nation.

In attendance were: Scott Nichols, Jackson Dhindsa, Randy Dhindsa

The Battle of Bunker Hill: A Defiant Stand for Liberty





On **June 17, 1775**, in the early days of the **American Revolution**, colonial forces faced off against the mighty British Army in what would become one of the most iconic battles of the war; the **Battle of Bunker Hill**. Though technically a British victory, the battle proved that the American patriots were willing to fight, and fight hard, for their independence.

The Siege of Boston and the Road to Battle

Following the clashes at **Lexington and Concord**, British forces remained stationed in **Boston**, while colonial militias from **Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island** encircled the city. The British planned to seize the high ground surrounding Boston to strengthen their position, but the patriots acted first.

Under the command of **Colonel William Prescott**, approximately **1,200 colonial troops** marched onto the **Charlestown Peninsula** on the night of **June 16**, fortifying **Breed's Hill**, not Bunker Hill, as the battle's name suggests. By dawn, British forces realized the rebels had entrenched themselves and prepared to attack.

The Battle Unfolds

Led by **General William Howe**, the British launched **three assaults** against the colonial defenses. The first two were met with devastating resistance, as the patriots, low on ammunition, held their fire until the enemy was dangerously close, giving rise to the legendary command: **"Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."**

Despite their valiant defense, the patriots were eventually overwhelmed in the third assault, as their ammunition ran out. Forced to retreat, they withdrew to **Cambridge**, but not before inflicting **heavy casualties** on the British with over **1,000 killed or wounded**, compared to **450 American losses**.

The Legacy of Bunker Hill

Though the British claimed victory, the battle was a **Pyrrhic** one. The staggering losses shocked British leadership and proved that the colonial militias were a formidable force. The battle galvanized the revolutionary spirit, inspiring more men to join the fight for independence.

Among the fallen was **Dr. Joseph Warren**, a patriot leader whose sacrifice became a rallying cry for the cause. His death, along with the bravery displayed by the colonial forces, cemented Bunker Hill's place in American history as a symbol of **courage, resilience, and the unyielding pursuit of liberty**.

Strategic Lessons and Impact

The Battle of Bunker Hill had far-reaching consequences. The British, though victorious, realized that the war would not be easily won. The colonists, despite their retreat, gained confidence in their ability to stand against the world's most powerful army.

The battle also influenced British tactics. No longer would they underestimate the colonial militias, and future engagements saw more cautious planning and maneuvering. For the patriots, Bunker Hill reinforced the necessity of securing supplies, ammunition, and strategic positions to sustain their fight for independence.

The Battle of Bunker Hill was more than just a military engagement—it was a defining moment in America's fight for freedom. The courage displayed on that fateful day continues to inspire generations, reminding us that liberty is never freely given—it must be defended.



Annual SAR/DAR/CAR 4th of July Baseball Game

Join Us for Our Annual Fourth of July Baseball Mixer!

Join the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution at Chukchansi Park on July 4th for an unforgettable celebration of America's birth!

Watch as we proudly present our nation's colors in a moving tribute to our shared heritage During the 7th Inning Stretch! But that's not all! Your ticket includes a stylish Grizzlies group hat to show off your team spirit and patriotic pride! It's a day filled with fun, history, and community spirit—perfect for all ages! We will be in Section 115.

Game starts at 7:05 and the Color Guard Presents during the 7th inning Stretch. Tickets are \$22.00 each. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to honor America while enjoying a fantastic day at the ballpark. Purchase your tickets today and be part of this spectacular celebration! 🍌⚾️

Reserve your ticket here: [GET TICKETS](#)





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](#)

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

CASSAR Website [HERE](#)

National Website [HERE](#)



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