

STAMP DEFIANCE MESSENGER

Serving our community through Patriotism, Education, and Historic Preservation

SAVE THE DATE

- Jan. 9 General Meeting
- Feb. 13 Teacup Auction
- Feb. 18 Book Club
- Feb. 20 Night Meeting

NEW MEETING LOCATION

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
12 N. 6th St. Wilmington
in St Paul's Hall
Building on the corner of
N. 6th and Princess St. Enter
from the parking lot.

ARTICLES

- Regents Message
- Officers Reports
- Committee Reports
- [President General's Msg](#)
- [National Defense Msg](#)
- Activity Photos



As 2026 dawns, we pause to remember a nation born of courage and conviction. Two hundred fifty years ago, freedom was declared, setting a course that would change history forever.

At Moores Creek Bridge, patriots stood firm, their resolve shaped liberty's way. On February 27, we will gather to commemorate the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge with a wreath-laying, honoring those whose sacrifice helped secure independence.

From bold words written to brave deeds carried out, we honor the past as we begin this historic year. May this anniversary inspire our service, our remembrance, and our continued commitment to the ideals of America.

Hope to see you there on February 27th at 10 AM.

Dear Daughters,

🌟 Welcome to 2026 🌟

As we turn the page to 2026, we do so with gratitude for the friendships we share, pride in the work we accomplish together, and enthusiasm for the year ahead. A new year brings fresh opportunities to serve our community, honor our Patriots, educate future generations, and strengthen our chapter through fellowship and purpose.

Committee service is one of the most rewarding ways to participate in chapter life. Serving on a committee allows members to share their talents, learn new skills, and work with fellow Daughters in meaningful ways. Whether your interest is education, historic preservation, patriotism, community service, or hospitality, there is a place for you.

Committee involvement strengthens our chapter, lightens the workload, and ensures our programs continue to thrive. Members are encouraged to consider serving on a committee in 2026 and to reach out to committee chairs or chapter leadership to find the best fit for their interests and availability. A [committee chair list](#) is attached for your use.

The coming year will be especially meaningful as we continue to prepare for the America 250 commemorations. Look for America 250 opportunities as we celebrate the anniversary of Moores Creek Bridge in February, the dedication of our America 250 Patriot Marker in March, and the commemoration of the Wilmington Resolves in June. Each program, outreach event, and act of service—large or small—helps tell the American story and reminds others why it matters.

Another way to serve in 2026 is to be a delegate or an alternate at the State Conference, April 23 - 26 at the Sheraton Conference Center in Durham. At this conference, we will come together to celebrate our Society's achievements, conduct important business, and enjoy the fellowship of our DAR sisters. We will elect delegates and alternates at our January chapter meeting. If you would like to be a delegate or an alternate you can let me know in advance or just volunteer at the meeting.

Thank you for your commitment, your time, and your heart for service. May the new year bring good health, meaningful projects, and many moments of shared pride in our chapter.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and rewarding 2026!

Warm regards,
Lynne Ashcraft, Regent
Stamp Defiance Chapter

FROM THE OFFICERS

Ann Milanchus - Third Vice Regent

Welcome to 2026, Y'all!

Thanks to all who attended the "Christmas Tea", it was so much fun having tea with George Washington; he was the perfect host. I hope you were able to take a photo with him to remember the day.

I don't know if you are looking forward to the New Year, but I am excited to see what is in store for us all. In February we will have our big fund raiser; "The Teacup Auction and Luncheon". On Friday the 13th at 10 a.m. the fun begins.

Set-up day is the 12th. Please start gathering items to donate, ask your neighbors if they might like to participate in cleaning out the attic or garage, the more items we have the more money we make!

We host a raffle where you buy raffle tickets to place in cups that are designated for each item or a group of items. The fun is in the hunt for that special dish, necklace, handbag, or scarf that has caught your eye.

The Silent Auction is for the person that is looking for that special, more expensive item or items. Each item will have a clipboard describing the item and will indicate a starting bid. If you MUST have that item, you may pay the suggested price and remove it from the table. Bidding gets exciting when multiple people compete for the same item. Once the bidding gets started, you watch and wait to change your bid until one person submits the last bid! Good luck to everyone!

We are not finished with the excitement for the day. A luncheon is available for you; I am working with 3 caterers to see which one will give us the best price. Details about the luncheon, sign-up for set-up day, and event day will be shared at the January meeting.

Have fun by giving your valuable time and keeping track of your donated hours. Remember you should submit your hours to NSDAR for service time you give to the Chapter.

Lynn Kiniry - Historian

It is a great honor and with excitement to inform Stamp Defiance daughters that Sean Stanek is not only our chapter's Outstanding Teacher of American History, but for North Carolina State! Sean was selected UNANIMOUSLY at the state level from the six applicants!

His autobiographical dossier packet has already been forwarded to the National Historian general's office by Gloria Halsted, NCSDAR Historian! We anticipate the national winner selection in the spring. We are confident that Sean is a strong contender for this next level competition! Sean will be attending our Chapter's monthly meeting in January and addressing our group at that time. Please join in welcoming and congratulating Sean on this achievement and for his representation of Stamp Defiance Chapter throughout the process!

See you at the January meeting!

Chaplain's Corner - Lisa Baker, Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner - January 2026

Happy New Year 2026!

The Year Ahead

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,

But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

- Author Unknown; Adapted by Debra Mooney

In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Gracious God,

We live in times of deep division, mistrust, and violence. Bless in a special way our celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Open our hearts and minds to your truth and renew our commitment to justice and peace, pursued through cooperation and love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might realize and accept that we are all members of the same human family, created in your image and likeness. May the example of Dr. King inspire us to see in one another, sisters and brothers, with a common origin and destiny, guided by the conviction that together we can nobly fulfill the promise of our nation.

We pray in the name of the God who is our creator and who calls us to create communities of justice, freedom and peace.

Amen.

FROM THE COMMITTEES

DAR Schools Committee - Melinda Stewart, Chair

Collection of empty ink printer cartridges for Hindman will continue. Bring these to chapter meetings.

Fundraising Committee - Judy Cradler, Chair

Tea Cup Auction is in February.

YES! It is time for people to think about the Tea Cup Auction.

If you live in Wilmington I have not yet identified anyone as a point person to take your items to but I am working on that! If you can be a point person for Wilmington I would appreciate it.

If you live in Leland area you can drop off your items to Barbara Anderson.

I would like to make sure that the items that you give are:

- 1 Clean. Wash any articles that you bring so that they so not smell or invite bugs.
- 2 Complete items. Make sure all parts are there before you bring it in.
- 3 No books except the books used in the Book Club.



Stamp Defiance Book Club - Katherine Brandi and Kay Sanderlin, Co-Chairs

Thomas Paine and the Promise of America

by Harvey J. Kaye

This book fiercely traces the revolutionary spirit that runs through American history whose founding father and greatest advocate was Thomas Paine and shows how he turned Americans into radicals—and how we have remained radicals at heart ever since.

Please put on your calendar to join us on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at McAlister's Deli on South College Road at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and discussion. Come a little early if you are ordering lunch.

FROM THE COMMITTEES

Service for Veterans - Allyson Moore, Chair

Happy New Year Stamp Defiance! I'm so excited to jump into 2026 with new opportunities, continuing and/or starting new traditions, and serving our beloved veterans in ways that'll make more impact than we're able to see. Thank you to all who took time out of their holiday planning to give back to our veterans with the Sgt. Eugene Ashley House Stockings. Vice Chair, Grace Cooley and I are pleased to update you on the successful delivery of the stockings to the Ashley House! The veterans were extremely excited to receive their Christmas stockings from daughters like you who demonstrate a strong heart and desire to serve.

Speaking of Ashley House, come on down to the Sgt. Eugene Ashley House on Saturday, January 3, at 9:30 AM. We'll take down the Christmas decorations and store them for next year's holiday season. We will need lots of hands on deck to make this transition smooth and quick! Please wear tennis shoes as walking will be involved.

It's the time of the year in the Service for Veterans Committee where we're switching gears to the Honor Flight! We will start doing Mail Call in February, and more information will come through from me or Vice Chair Patty Miljenovic. Speaking of Honor Flight, should you have any questions regarding Honor Flight and/or how our chapter plays a vital role this way, please don't hesitate to contact me or Patty Miljenovic! Honor Flight is one of the meaningful ways we give back to our veterans and our community members, and I'm already counting down the days on welcoming our veterans' home.

I'm ecstatic about taking on the new year with you, our committee, and chapter. With your enthusiasm, patriotism, and support poured last year, I vision our chapter achieving milestones like never before in 2026. As we begin a new year of service, I challenge us all to carry our mission beyond our meetings and projects. May we honor our veterans daily. Not only through DAR, Honor Flight, or Ashley House, but through the way we live our mission -- through our compassion, the stories we preserve, every face we encounter, and the gratitude we embody in our everyday lives. Thank you, Daughters, for your service, and I cannot wait to see what the new year brings us!

Units Overseas - Pamela Proctor, Chair

Did you know there are four DAR Chapters in Canada? The Bytown Chapter was founded in Ottawa, Ontario, on February 1, 1985. The Chapter's name honors the rich history of the city of Ottawa. Until the mid-19th Century, Ottawa was known as Bytown, named after Lieutenant Colonel John By, who built the Rideau Canal in the early 1800s. In 1857, Queen Victoria selected Ottawa as the capital of Canada, and the names Bytown and Colonel By have since remained closely associated with the city. The Chapter's name proudly reflects this heritage and the region it represents.

Members of the Bytown Chapter take an active role in the work of the DAR, including participation in DAR Units Overseas, promoting American and Canadian heritage while fostering a shared love of country. The Chapter also supports the local community by awarding a \$1000 scholarship to a history student at Carleton University and by providing shoeboxes filled with essential supplies for homeless women.

If you are interested in joining the Bytown Chapter as an Associate Member, you can find the application form here: <http://dar.org/system/files/members/darnet/forms/UO-2003.pdf>

Moores Creek 250th Anniversary Event - Jo Stroud, Chair

The 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Moores Creek will be held on FRIDAY, February 27th 2026.

Items about which we should be aware:

- 1) The date of the event is FRIDAY
- 2) The Currie Community Church will NOT be offering a meal following the event. There will be an addition of about five food trucks around the Visitors Center.
- 3) Search Google for directions to Moores Creek National Battlefield
- 4) Stamp Defiance Chapter will line up for the walk down to the Grady Monument. Please join the chapter.
- 5) Parking will be at a premium. Please plan to drop off your wreath early. The event on Friday, the 27th begins at 10:00. It will be to your advantage to arrive by 9:00. Overflow parking will be in the parking lot of the Moores Creek Missionary Baptist Church. Golf carts will be available to transfer you to the tent in front of the Visitors Center.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NANCY	CANGELOSI	JAN	5
BEVERLY	DYER	JAN	6
BILLIE	COYLE	JAN	8
LINDSEY	SCHROEDER	JAN	9
CAROL	WALDKIRCH	JAN	9
BARBARA	DEVICTOR	JAN	10
TERRY	STIER	JAN	10
BARBARA	WILSON	JAN	10
JUDY	CAISON	JAN	12
LINDA	JOBE	JAN	13
ROBYN	DOSS	JAN	14
JENNIFER	TURNAGE	JAN	15
DOLLI	ALBRECHT	JAN	17
REBECCA	CHIPMAN	JAN	19
GLORIA	PETERSON	JAN	19
RACHEL	HERGERT	JAN	24
BETSY	KNOWLES	JAN	26
JOANN	SUMMEY	JAN	26
JOY	WALMER	JAN	28
MARY	WHITEHURST	JAN	30
ALLYSON	MOORE	JAN	31

Wishing you happiness in every thing you do this year

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS TEA





WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



The DAR Outstanding Cadet Medal is awarded to a Cadet who has demonstrated academic excellence, dependability, good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership, and fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of cadet training..

United States Naval League Cadet Corps
Petty Officer 3rd Class Christian Locklear



Merry Christmas

Ashley House !!

