

STAMP DEFIANCE MESSENGER

Serving our community through Patriotism, Education, and Historic Preservation

SAVE THE DATE

- May 1 – 4 – State Conference, Durham
- May 5 – Executive Board Meeting
- May 17 – Annual Luncheon at Porters Neck Country Club
- May 26 – Wreath Laying, Wilmington National Cemetery
- June 14 – Flag Retirement at Oakdale Cemetery
- June 25 – 29 Continental Congress, Washington, DC
- July 24 – District Meeting in Fayetteville
- August 19 – Book Club
- August 23 – Fall forum via Zoom

ARTICLES

- Regents Message
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When an American flag becomes worn, faded, or tattered beyond repair, it is retired with dignity and respect. The U.S. Flag Code recommends that unserviceable flags be destroyed in a "dignified way, preferably by burning.

Each June we join with the Lower Cape Fear SAR to celebrate Flag Day by retiring flags that are beyond their service life. On Saturday, June 14, 2025 we will gather at 9 AM at Oakdale Cemetery for a short ceremony before beginning a dignified burn of the used flags.

Bring a chair if you wish. You can park inside the cemetery gates which are at the north end of 15th St. in downtown Wilmington.

FROM THE REGENT

Dear Chapter Members,

I'd love to take a moment to reflect on all that our chapter has accomplished this year. When we look back on our work in Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism, it's clear that our chapter continues to live out the DAR's mission with heart and purpose.

In Historic Preservation, we made a meaningful impact right here in our community. We donated \$2,000 to Thalian Hall to support their restoration efforts, helping preserve one of Wilmington's historic treasures. We also supported the Brunswick County Rice Festival, celebrating a unique and important part of our state's heritage.

Our outreach in education has reached far and wide. We distributed 1,300 copies of the U.S. Constitution, ensuring that students and citizens alike have access to our nation's founding principles. We visited local middle schools to share the stories of North Carolina's delegates to the Continental Congress, bringing our state's role in American history to life.

We also awarded \$4,500 in chapter-level scholarships to local college students, helping shape the future through educational opportunity. During the holidays, we donated Christmas gifts to students at the Hindman Settlement School and the Crossnore School and provided therapy scholarships to support the healing and emotional wellness of Crossnore students.

In Patriotism, we were honored to support our veterans and active military in heartfelt ways. We helped sponsor and attended the Purple Heart Dinner, showing gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much. We proudly marched in the Veterans Day Parade and sold and placed Wreaths Across America wreaths at the Wilmington National Cemetery, ensuring every hero is remembered and honored.

We also decorated Ashley House for Christmas, bringing holiday cheer to its residents and making sure each received a personal Christmas gift. We supported a local Honor Flight guardian and handmade neck pillows for every Honor Flight veteran—a small gesture of comfort for their incredible journey.

Each of these efforts reflects your dedication, your compassion, and your deep love for country and community. Thank you for your service, your time, and your unwavering commitment to our society's mission.

*Warm Regards
Lynne Ashcraft
Stamp Defiance Regent*

FROM THE OFFICERS

ANN MILANCHUS - THIRD VICE REGENT

I'm so excited that May is just around the corner! Registration for the lunch is due by May 3 for the lunch on May 17th at Porters Neck Country Club—just like last year. The menu alone is making me hungry! The registration form is attached to the letter.

This special gathering is a time to celebrate all that we've accomplished together over the past year. We'll recognize our wonderful members with awards and anniversary certificates, and we'll officially welcome our new members into the Stamp Defiance Chapter and the NSDAR.

To our newest members—welcome! We can't wait to get to know you. If you're feeling a little nervous, just remember my mother's advice: Put a smile on your face, and it will make you happy inside!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - LISA BAKER, CHAPLAIN

Mother's Day

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of motherhood. On Mother's Day we celebrate the loving sacrifice of mothers, both biological and spiritual, who nurture and guide us in Your ways. Bless them with joy, strength, and love to continue their selfless devotion. May they feel deeply appreciated and honored not just today, but every day." Amen.

Memorial Day Remembrance

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead; we give You thanks for all those who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them Your mercy and the light of Your presence, that the good work which You have begun in them may be perfected; to the glory of Your Holy Name, we pray. Amen

LINDA HUTCHISON - LIBRARIAN

As we say goodbye to April showers and hello to the May flowers, I hope you are enjoying the spring-like weather we are finally having. And I hope you are enjoying a good book during your leisure hours. Just in case you don't have anything to read or are looking to add to your library, the Cape Fear Literacy Council is having their semi-annual book (and puzzles!) sale May 7th from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Hi-Wire Brewing located at 1020 Princess Street in Wilmington. These books and puzzles are priced between \$1 - \$3. Hope to see you there.

FROM THE COMMITTEES

DAR SERVICE TO VETERANS - PATTY MILJENOVIC, CHAIR

Support Our Veterans – May Luncheon Donation Drive

At our May luncheon, we invite you to donate much-needed personal care and comfort items to help make a difference in the lives of the Veterans at the Fayetteville VA Hospital. A collection table will be located near the entrance for your convenience.

Every item—big or small—can bring comfort, joy, and a sense of appreciation to those who've served. Let's show our gratitude by giving back!

The VA's Wish List Includes (but is not limited to):

- Toothbrushes
- Denture cleaner & adhesive
- Razors
- Lotion (travel-size & full-size)
- Body wash (travel-size & full-size)
- 20–30 piece puzzles
- Composition books
- Word search & adult coloring books
- Playing cards
- Inspiring reads: Spiritual/self-care, Westerns, Military history
- Magazines: Cars, National Geographic, Sports
- Comfortable clothing for men & women (all sizes):
 - Sweatpants
 - T-shirts
 - Socks
 - Underwear
 - Sports bras (S to 2X)

Together, we can bring a little extra light into a Veteran's day. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

AMERICAN HISTORY - LISA BAKER, CHAIR

The American History Committee is looking for some more members to join us. We sponsor the annual American History Essay Contest for grades 5-8. This year we are adding a brand new project, the American History Video Contest for high school students, grades 9-12. We also nominate local New Hanover County women (living or deceased) for Women in American History to be added to the national index. If you have questions or would like to know more information about this committee, please contact Lisa Baker at 919-414-9774 or Lg50baker@gmail.com. Please consider adding your talents to our endeavors.

FROM THE COMMITTEES

STAMP DEFIANCE BOOKCLUB - KATHERINE BRANDI & KAY SANDERLIN, CO-CHAIRS

Please mark your calendar now for the Tuesday, August 19, 2025, meeting at McAlister's Deli, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The Secret Wife of Aaron Burr by Susan Holloway Scott is the August book selection. Check the yearbook for details on the book.

FLAG COMMITTEE - ROSEMARY UTVICH, FLAG CHAIR

Honoring Old Glory: Flag Day Retirement Ceremony Set for June 14, 2025

Each year in June, members of the community come together to honor the American flag and the values it represents. On Saturday, June 14, 2025, the tradition continues as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) join the Lower Cape Fear Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) to host a Flag Day ceremony and flag retirement event.

The event will begin at 9:00 AM at the historic Oakdale Cemetery in downtown Wilmington. Attendees will gather for a brief but meaningful ceremony recognizing the significance of the American flag and its role in our nation's history. Following the ceremony, participants will conduct a dignified flag retirement through a ceremonial burn, respectfully retiring U.S. flags that have reached the end of their service life.

This solemn occasion reminds us of the sacrifices made for our freedoms and offers a meaningful way to show respect for our nation's symbol.

Community members are invited to attend and encouraged to bring worn or tattered American flags in need of proper retirement.

UNITS OVERSEAS - PAMELA PROCTOR, CHAIR

Did you know there are 16 DAR Chapters in 11 countries and one territory? Known as Units Overseas, these chapters advance our mission of education, patriotism and historic preservation outside our borders.

The oldest surviving Unit Overseas is the Walter Hines Page Chapter located in London. It was established in 1925 and named in honor of North Carolina native Walter Hines Page, who was the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom during World War I. He is honored at Westminster Abbey for his role in influencing the U.S. to support Britain in the war.

The chapter has 120 members and over 700 associate members residing in the UK, Europe and the U.S. The 100th Anniversary will be celebrated this October in London with a four-day series of events including a tour of Westminster Abbey, an America 250 Patriot plaque unveiling, a Gala dinner, a service at St. Paul's Cathedral and an afternoon high tea. Several North Carolina Daughters are planning to attend this celebration!

If you are interested in joining a Unit Overseas as an associate member, you will find all the information you need on the members section of the national website; look under "Committees" then "Units Overseas". We will feature other Units Overseas in future issues of our chapter newsletter!

Happy

Birthdays

Deborah Sheehan	May 2	Anna Eubanks	May 17
Debby Marsh	May 4	Norma Luther	May 20
Peggy Erickson	May 5	Lisa Baker	May 21
Sognia Weiss	May 6	Mary Roche	May 21
Jeanette Greiner	May 7	Sims Foulks	May 23
Ann Milanchus	May 7	Harriet Kimbro	May 23
Cynthia Dixon	May 8	Betsy Thomas	May 23
Lani Beuerman	May 9	Carter Hamerski	May 27
Kandy Giblin	May 9	Mary Wright	May 27
Meg Smith	May 10	Polly Sheats	May 28
Mary Corcoran	May 12	Vickie Lide	May 29
Beth Connaughton	May 14	Melanie Trainer	May 31
Peggy Clark	May 16	Caroline Withers	May 31
Heather Zeznock	May 16		





April Meetings





APRIL 2025

- General James Moore America 250 Statue dedication
- Liberty Point Chapter 50th Anniversary - Chapter formed in 1975.
- Moores Creek Naturalization Ceremony

