



The Husker Patriot



Issue 58

1st Qtr 2025



Declaration of Independence Signing Event

March 13, 2025

From the Desk of the President

Presidents Message

Compatriots,

Spring has arrived! Much is going on in our State Society and your participation is always appreciated. Coming events include:

- Apr 26—Liberty Tree Dedication in Lexington, NE
- May 24—Memorial Day Parade in Omaha, NE
- May 25—Patriot Grave Markings in Ste. Genevieve, MO
- July 4—Independence Day Parade—Ralston, NE
- July 12-18—SAR National Congress in Uncasville, CT
- Aug 9—Samuel Goodale Compatriot Grave Marking (Real Son) in Columbus, NE
- Sept 20—Liberty Tree Dedication in McCook, NE



Take time to attend an event near you. Travel to an event in another part of the state, if able.

Participation in events will help you learn more about our outreach programs, which help attract new members. The SAR University may be a helpful tool for you to learn more about the SAR, as well. Take some time to look at what is offered.

John C. Braisted

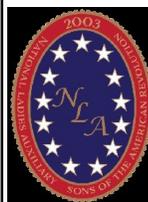
President, Nebraska SAR



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Ladies Auxiliary is approved!



The Board of Managers officially approved the formation of, and granting of a charter to, a Ladies Auxiliary of the Nebraska SAR at its meeting on March 29, 2025. The Ladies Auxiliary official charter date will be April 13, 2025, the date of our Spring State Meeting.

The Auxiliary is open to all ladies wanting to help promote the objectives of the Nebraska SAR. If your lady would like more information to join, please have her contact Paula Burright at pulaburright1973@gmail.com.



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

2024-2025

President:	John C. Braisted
1st Vice President:	Paul H. Burright
2nd Vice President:	James Hoke
Secretary:	Stanley Dale Wostrel
Treasurer:	William Webb
Registrar:	Mark A. Byars
Trustee:	Dr. James Sly
Alt. Trustee:	Mark A. Byars
Chaplain:	Dr. James Sly
Historian:	John Reinert

Const/ByLaws Chairman—	Paul Burright
Membership Chairman—	Mark Byars
Budget & Finance Chairman—	Bill Webb
Audit Committee Chairman—	John Reinert
Publicity Chairman—	Dale Wostrel
Eagle Scout Chairman—	Open
Awards & Medals Chairman—	Open
Flag Chairman—	Andrew Nehls
Color Guard Commander—	Paul Burright
First Responders Chairman—	Open
ROTC Awards Chairman—	Open
America 250 Chairman—	Mark Byars
Americanism Chairman—	Paul Burright
History Chairman—	John Reinert

BOARD OF MANAGERS

2024-2025

President:	John C. Braisted
1st Vice President:	Paul H Burright
2nd Vice President:	John Reinert
Secretary:	Stanley Dale Wostrel
Treasurer:	William Webb
Registrar:	Mark A. Byars
Chaplain:	Dr. James Sly
Historian:	John Reinert
Omaha Chapter Rep:	Dan Davis (Secretary)
Lincoln Chapter Rep:	David Ensign (VP)
Platte River Chapter Rep:	Rich Hulse (Pres)
Member At Large Rep:	Richard Loutzenheiser
Immediate Past President:	Thomas L. Upton
Past State President:	Merle T. McAlevy
Past State President:	David Kentsmith

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State Society News



Welcome New Members!

Cameron Allan Archbold #232587
Patriot: Andrew Fontaine (MD)
Omaha Chapter

William Stuart Singer #232810
Patriot: Moses Rich (MA)
Omaha Chapter

Eric Melvin Reed #233079
Patriot: Roger Phelps, Sr. (CT)
Member at Large—Curtis, NE

Ashton Nichols Reed #233080
Patriot: Roger Phelps, Sr. (CT)
Member at Large—Curtis, NE

Marvin Douglas Crawford #233083
Patriot: John Crooke (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Supplementals

John Andrew Whitler #216405
Patriot: John Logan (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Robert L. Knott, Jr #161712
Patriot Gideon Moon (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Reinstatements

Robert Steven Wolfe #228478
Member at Large—Kearney, NE

Joshua David Plueger #224467
Omaha Chapter

Transfers In

Robert Lee McCue #190110
Grand Island, NE
Platte River Chapter

Congratulations and Welcome to all our new Compatriots!

2025 Spring Leadership Meetings

National SAR Spring Leadership meetings were held in Louisville, KY, from Feb 27-Mar 1. Omaha Chapter members Paul Burright, Jim Sly, and Mark Byars all attended, representing the Nebraska SAR.

The three Nebraska members attended many of the different committee meetings, including Education, Membership, Americanism, Chaplains, America 250, Budget & Finance, Strategic Planning, Veterans, the Council of State Presidents, and the Trustees Meetings. All were extremely informative and there will be more information upcoming for the membership at future meetings and in our newsletters and communications.

Being a first time attendee, Paul got to take a tour of the SAR Headquarters, Genealogical Library, and the new Museum of the American Revolution. The museum is currently under construction, but the foundations for a lot of technology and very interactive exhibits, are already in place. The next step is building the exhibit spaces and finish work. The SAR plans for a soft opening in July 2026, just in time for the America 250 Celebrations!

All three members highly encourage you to travel, attend, and participate in the National Leadership meetings. You really do get an inside view as to how the SAR runs and operates at a National level, and you get to make new friends with Compatriots from all over the country.



L-R: Paul Burright, Mark Byars, Jim Sly



SAR Genealogical Library

Revolutionary History

America's Man in London

He had known that taking on the role of London agent—i.e., Lobbyist—for his native Massachusetts would endanger his many connections in England. For all her faults, he loved the Mother Country. And he was quite a well known figure there. He enjoyed a Crown salary as deputy postmaster general for America. He was a recipient of British scientific honors, he had many friends in high and low places...he had even talked a number of them into joining him in plans to found a twenty-million-acre western colony in lands later to comprise the state of Illinois.



But the Boston Massacre, an outgrowth of protest over the latest British decision to quarter troops in Boston, rankled and deeply offended. Never mind that a handful of British soldiers had been hard-pressed by an angry, dangerous looking mob of about four hundred Colonials. For Ben Franklin, the street mob wasn't the real issue. The issue, he said in a letter to a friend back in Massachusetts, was that it was unconstitutional for the British to keep "a standing army...among us in time of peace, without the consent of our assemblies." Not even the King, Franklin argued, could do the same in England without the approval of Parliament. And so, putting aside all risks, when the Massachusetts legislature ignored acting Gov. Thomas Hutchison's objections and decided to choose its own agent, Ben Franklin agreed to be the colony's man in London.

Franklin's stint in England started out well enough, but not quite three years later, Franklin came across a set of potentially incendiary letters that Hutchison wrote back in 1768 and 1769, during the riots that had greeted the Townshend Acts. In the course of communicating with Treasury official, Thomas Whatley, Hutchison had called for the deployment of British troops to discourage the mobs on Boston's streets. Worse, he had stated, "There must be some abridgement of what is called British liberty." Franklin sent the letters back to Boston to show, he later said, that not all the troublemaking could be blamed upon the British—there were also ill-advised Loyalist friends and agents, like Hutchison. When word of the letters became public, a double outcry arose. Hutchison was burned in effigy in several cities and Franklin received a petition from the Massachusetts Legislature requesting Hutchison's removal as Governor. Franklin was now responsible for ensuring the petition reached the desk of King George III.

Then came the summons for Franklin to attend a hearing before the august Privy Council on the petition to remove Governor Hutchison—on Jan 29, 1774, Franklin would be standing in the "Cockpit" before England's most powerful men, other than the King, and rumor had it around London that certain parties were preparing to skewer colonial America's best-known spokesman for England. As Franklin was preparing for this crucial confrontation, with two lawyers he hired to assist, word came of the Boston Tea Party and related acts of defiance in America.

Thirty-six English Lords crowded into the chamber chosen for what would amount to a prosecutorial attack on Ben Franklin by Solicitor General Alexander Wedderburn. After Franklin's lawyers presented the argument for Governor Hutchison's removal, Wedderburn advanced and launched a scathing personal attack upon Ben Franklin. The Solicitor General indulged in his tirade for almost a full hour, and all the while, Benjamin Franklin stood quietly, said an onlooker later, "like a rock, in the same posture, his head resting on his left hand, and in that attitude abiding the pelting of the pitiless storm." In the meantime, "the Cockpit rocked with laughter at Wedderburn's sallies and the lords of the Privy Council studied Franklin with mocking, haughty eyes."

Finally, thankfully, the storm of abuse ended, unanswered at the moment by its victim. Ben Franklin of course left the chamber deeply humiliated, but at the same time the scales had dropped from his eyes. Clearly, there could be no real accommodation between the Mother Country and her restless, freedom-seeking Colonials. This event flipped the switch for Ben Franklin to be all in for the Patriot Cause that he himself would contribute in great measure.

- from Best Little Stories from the American Revolution by C. Brian Kelly and Ingrid Smyer



Meet My Patriot

Daniel Avery P-105722

Patriot of Charles Franklin Ladd #24819, NE #244, 1913

Daniel Avery was born November 14, 1740, in Groton, New London County, Connecticut. He was the second son of Benjamin and Thankful Avery.¹

Daniel married Deborah Avery on Nov 14, 1763, in Groton, Connecticut. This marriage produced eight children:

- Daniel (1766-1842)
- Elias (1768-1837)
- Dudley (1770-1816)
- Isaac (1772-1858)
- Deborah (1774-)
- Latham (1775-1845)
- Rachel (1777-)
- Abel (1779-)²

According to the narrative on Charles Franklin Ladd's SAR application in 1913, "In May 1779, Daniel Avery was made an Ensign in the First Company of the Town of Groton, in the Eighth Regiment. He served under Col. William Ledyard when Fort Groton was attacked on Sep 6, 1781, and fell while defending the fort against the British."³

Upon hearing the alarm on Sep 6, 1781, that Fort Groton was being attacked, Daniel "mounted, with his son Daniel, Jr. behind, to bring back the horse, and rode to the fort. His son returned home, and the next day, returned to the fort to bear away the body of his father."⁴

Daniel is buried in the Avery-Morgan Burial Ground in Groton, New London County, Connecticut. His original tombstone remains readable and is inscribed: "In Memory of Ensign Daniel Avery who nobly nobly Sacrificed his Life in Defence of Fort Griswold & the Liberties of America Sept 6 1781 in ye 41st Year of his Age."⁵

Sources:

1. Connecticut Town Birth Records, Pre-1870, p62.
2. Sweet, Homer De Lois, "The Averys of Groton", Rice Taylor Printing, Syracuse, NY, 1894, p48.
3. SAR Member Application, Charles Franklin Ladd (Nat. #24819, NE #244), Mar 24, 1913.
4. Harris, William W., "The Battle of Groton Heights", New London, CT, 1882, p254.
5. Find-a-Grave, Memorial #11558886, ENS Daniel Avery.

Written by Paul H Burreight #200016

for the Nebraska SAR America 250 Biography Project.



Chapter Chatter

Omaha Chapter

The Omaha Chapter presented Compatriot Drew Whitler his Bronze America 250 medal and certificate. This was the first opportunity to award Drew his medal, since announcing he received it at our December Chapter Awards Night, which he was unable to attend. Congratulations, Drew!

The Omaha Chapter was also presented with the Youth Education Streamer, from National, that was promptly put on our new Chapter flag, which can be seen in the photo to the right.

Lincoln Chapter

On Saturday, Mar 8, Lincoln President John Reinert, and Vice President Dave Ensign, manned a table at the Lincoln Genealogical Society Genealogy Day Fair. Both Compatriots had good conversations with people in attendance, and received some promising inquiries into membership into the Society.

The Lincoln Chapter hosted the 12th Annual American Heritage Banquet at Havelock Social Hall, in Lincoln, NE. There was a great turnout for the event, by not only SAR members, but members of the DAR, War of 1812, Society of Colonial Wars, and many other lineage societies that were represented. This year's excellent program was by the Nebraska Humanities, Jim McKee, on Thomas Jefferson Fitzpatrick's book collection. It was a fascinating look into the thousands and thousands of volumes of books this man collected in his life. Truly remarkable.



Lincoln President John Reinert,
VP Dave Ensign



America 250 Chairman
Mark Byars
Bronze Medal Recipient
Drew Whitler



SAR attendees at the American Heritage Banquet

Platte River Chapter

The Platte River Chapter resumed its chapter meetings on March 13.

The Chapter has grown by two members, already this year, with Randy Rademacher from Kearney joining the chapter from the Members at Large ranks and Robert McCue joined the chapter, transferring into the Nebraska SAR from the Delaware SAR. It is great to see growth already in our new chapter in North Platte. If you are a member at large in the region and would like to join the Platte River Chapter, please contact Chapter President, Rich Hulse at rnhulse@gmail.com.

America 250—Declaration of Independence Signing Event

On March 13, 2025, the Nebraska SAR hosted a Declaration of Independence signing event in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building in Lincoln, NE.

In anticipation of our America 250 celebration coming in July 2026, the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, each SAR State Society received a replica copy of the Declaration. Our focus over the next year and half until July 2026, is to get prominent citizens of the State of Nebraska to sign the back of the Declaration to present to the SAR Congress.

With that in mind, we will be taking the Declaration with us across the State to each of our events, to get more signatures all year long.

Our first event was in the Rotunda of the Capitol, and our esteemed Governor, Jim Pillen, was the first signer for Nebraska. The ceremony included the Nebraska SAR Color Guard presenting the Colors and Nebraska SAR President John Braisted was the Master of Ceremonies. We had greetings from Nebraska DAR State Regent, Ann Cox, and Nebraska SAR Registrar Mark Byars, who was instrumental in setting up the event, gave a history of how the Declaration came to be, and its importance in our society today. Governor Pillen also gave an address on the Declaration and the importance of our Republic. We were also able to get numerous State Senators to sign, as well.

We look forward to getting many more Nebraskans to sign our Declaration as the year moves on and we host and attend more events around the State.



Governor Pillen giving his address next to the Declaration of Independence



Governor Pillen as the first Nebraska signer



SAR Members in attendance



SAR and DAR members in attendance



Color Guard Nebraska SAR

The Nebraska SAR Color Guard now has a unit Cockade that will be worn by all Color Guard members. It will be provided by the Color Guard command to all existing members, and all new members that join will be given the unit cockade to place on their tricorne hat. We hope this will be a way to distinguish the Nebraska members from others at larger District and National events and that our members will wear it with pride, as we honor our ancestors and veterans. Special thanks to Compatriot Dan Davis for working with the supplier on design and logistics for creating our new unit cockade!

Huzzah!!



Saturday, Feb 22, 2025—American Heritage Banquet—Lincoln, NE

The Color Guard presented the Colors at the 12th Annual American Heritage Banquet. Mustering for the event was Commander Paul Burright, Jim Sly, Dan Davis, Ron Stites, Allyn Sheldon, John Braisted, and Todd Fleischer.



Commander Paul Burright, Jim Sly, Dan Davis, Allyn Sheldon, Todd Fleischer, John Braisted, and Ron Stites

Saturday, Mar 8, 2025—St. Patrick's Day Parade—Omaha, NE

The Omaha Color Guard participated in the Omaha St. Patrick's Day Parade for the 3rd straight year. Mustering for the event was Paul Burright, Jim Sly, Mark Byars, Allyn Sheldon, and Andrew Sullivan. Special thanks to Compatriot Jim Gansemer for joining us and helping us carry our parade banner!



Color Guard

Nebraska SAR



Photo provided by Compatriot Nick Mizaur



Color Guard members after the parade

Tuesday, Mar 25, 2025—Medal of Honor Dedication—Independence, MO

Omaha Color Guard members Dan Davis and Allyn Sheldon participated with the Color Guards of the Kansas SAR and Missouri SAR in presenting the colors for an event honoring two Medal of Honor recipients, at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, MO. We were invited by the Kansas SAR to participate in the event.



Above—Full Color Guard
Right—Allyn Sheldon and Dan Davis



Saturday, Mar 29, 2025—Multicultural Fair—Westside High School—Omaha, NE

Color Guard members Andrew Sullivan and Allyn Sheldon manned an SAR table, in uniform, at the Westside Multicultural Fair held at the High School. This was the first year the SAR has done this event.



Right—Andrew Sullivan and Allyn Sheldon

SOCIETY INFORMATION



Contact Information Update

If you, as a Nebraska SAR Member, have recently had a change of address, telephone number, or email contact information, please inform State Secretary, Dale Wostrel at dwestrel43@gmail.com.

Help us keep our records up to date!



SAR Applications

Please submit all applications through the online application system at www.sar.org. If you have any questions, contact the State Registrar, Mark Byars.

Contact information for Compatriot Byars:

Mark A. Byars

5519 N. 156th St.

Omaha, NE 68116

Email: markabyars@gmail.com

2nd Quarter 2025 Meetings and Events

Saturday, Apr 5—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Apr 8—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Thursday, Apr 10—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Sunday, Apr 13—Spring State Meeting, 2pm, Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE

Saturday, Apr 26—Liberty Tree Dedication, 11am, Kirk Patrick Memorial Park, Lexington, NE

Saturday, May 3—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, May 13—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Thursday, May 15—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Saturday, May 24—Memorial Day Parade, 11am, Downtown Omaha, NE

Sunday, May 25—Battle of Fort San Carlos and Patriot Grave Markings, Ste. Genevieve, MO

Monday, May 26—Memorial Day

Saturday, Jun 7—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Thursday, Jun 12—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Saturday, Jun 21—Parade and DAR Grave Marking, Beatrice, NE

Social Media and Online Presence



Nebraska SAR is online! Visit the Nebraska SAR website at www.nebraskasar.org.

Nebraska SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR

Omaha SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR

Omaha SAR Instagram page: www.instagram.com/omahasar



Join the Nebraska SAR Color Guard



The Nebraska SAR is looking for men who want to join the Color Guard ranks.

Are you excited to be a member of the SAR?

Do you want to be part of the face of our organization within the greater community?

Do you want to get more involved but don't know what to do?

Don't have your own uniform, yet? Don't worry, we have loaner pieces you can use!

Join the Color Guard!

The Color Guard participates in many fun and exciting events throughout the year, including:

Parades

Grave Markings

Monument Dedications

Presenting the Colors at Society Meetings, Patriotic Events, and Community Sporting Events

Wreaths Across America

Contact Color Guard Commander Paul Burrigat at pburrigat72@gmail.com for more information and how you can get involved!