



The Husker Patriot



Issue 59

2nd Qtr 2025

The Shot Heard Round the World 250 Years



April 19, 1775

From the Desk of the President

Presidents Message

Compatriots,

We are on the eve of July and the celebration of Independence Day. Each year some counties have an official read the Declaration of Independence. I have been present at some of these readings, the first on July 4th 1976. It takes a while to read from start to finish and the list of offenses by the British monarch seem to go on and on. One reading was abbreviated by skipping the section which contains the list of grievances. We often forget what exactly was taking place and the thoughts and desires of the colonists. When was the last time we have taken the time to read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution? These two documents are the real reason July 4th is even a holiday.



The celebrations do contain elements of what John Adams hoped for, but one must wonder if the commercial celebrations seen now would in any way match his expectations. In his letter to his wife Abigail, he wrote:

“I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

Adams continued, “You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. -- I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. - - Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory.

I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.”

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution we all share one common bond- each of us has an ancestor who has a connection with the fight for our nation’s independence. I hope that each of us will take time during all the America 250 events to read both of our founding documents and reflect on how they continue to shape our nation in 2025.

Have a happy and safe 4th of July.

John C. Braisted

President, Nebraska SAR



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

2024-2025

President:	John C. Braisted
1st Vice President:	Paul H. Burrigh
2nd Vice President:	John Reinert
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 Burrigh
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 Burrigh
First Responders Chairman—	Open
ROTC Awards Chairman—	Open
America 250 Chairman—	Mark Byars
Americanism Chairman—	Paul Burrigh
History Chairman—	John Reinert

BOARD OF MANAGERS

2024-2025

President:	John C. Braisted
Sr. Vice President:	Paul H Burrigh
Jr. 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

Husker Patriot Co-Editors

William S. Webb Paul Burrigh
webb.w@q.com pburrigh72@gmail.com

Webmaster

Mark Byars
markabyars@gmail.com
www.nebraskasar.org

Inside this issue:

Member Additions	pg 3
Revolutionary History	pg 4-5
Chapter Chatter	pg 6
Liberty Tree—Lexington	pg 7
Battle Road	pg 8-9
Color Guard Dispatches	pg 12-14
State Society News	pg 14-15
ROTC Awards	pg 16
Society Information/ Calendar	pg 17



Our Newest Compatriots



Welcome New Members!

Kameron Charles Heffner #233327
Patriot: Jacob Dreibelbis (PA)
Omaha Chapter

Seth Andrew Howard #234056
Patriot: Joseph Adair, Jr. (SC)
Omaha Chapter

Dorian Garrett Dunham #234057
Patriot: James Scott (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Bryce Craig Wells #234058
Patriot: William Flansburg (NY)
Omaha Chapter

Douglas Glenn Ives #234059
Patriot: Simon Deyo (NY)
Omaha Chapter

Barry Paul Higgins #234060
Patriot: John Blakeley (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Russell Lee Rech #234061
Patriot: Josiah Leake (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Michael Scott Kelly #234062
Patriot: Abraham Slack, Jr. (PA)
Lincoln Chapter

Jameson Elias Traugher #234064
Patriot: Andrew Hill (NY)
Lincoln Chapter

Rogert Leon Carmichael #234065
Patriot: Archibald Carmichael (NC)
Lincoln Chapter

Owen Lee Henderson #234065
Patriot: James Clark (MD)
Lincoln Chapter

Karel David Capek #234066
Patriot: Elnathan Jacobs (MA)
Member at Large—Refugio, TX

Robert Roy Foresman #234067
Patriot: Ralph Deveraux (MA)
Lincoln Chapter

Daniel Alfred Thomson #234068
Patriot: Stephen Stackhouse (PA)
Lincoln Chapter

Joseph Daniel Thomson #234069
Patriot: Stephen Stackhouse (PA)
Lincoln Chapter

Supplementals

Nick Mizaur #160582
Patriot: William Dulin (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Andrew Sullivan #217396
Patriot: Peter Van Bibber (VA)
Omaha Chapter

Mark A. Byars #221675
Patriot: Isaac Lane (VA)
Patriot: Zachariah Smith (VA)
Patriot: George Russell (NC)
Omaha Chapter

Reinstatements

Shade Austin Jones #212597
Omaha Chapter

Thomas O'Connor Creigh #229099
Omaha Chapter

James Carey Creigh #229098
Omaha Chapter

James Cue Creigh #299100
Omaha Chapter

Congratulations and Welcome to all our new Compatriots!
Congratulations to our Compatriots who had Supplemental applications approved!
Welcome back to our Reinstated Compatriots! We are glad to have you back in active membership with the
Nebraska SAR!!

Revolutionary History—America 250



The Shot Heard Round the World!

By the rude bridge that arched the flood, Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
 Here once the embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world.
 The foe long since in silence slept; Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
 And Time the ruined bridge has swept, Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.
 On this green bank, by this soft stream, We set today a votive stone;
 That memory may their deed redeem, When, like our sires, our sons are gone.
 Spirit, that made those heroes dare to die, And leave their children free,
 Bid Time and Nature gently spare, The shaft we raise to them and thee.

Ralph Waldo Emerson— July 4, 1837

On April 19, 1775, the Shot Heard Round the World was fired at Lexington and Concord and the world was never the same. The Minutemen assembled on Lexington Green that fateful morning were told not to fire until fired upon. Everyone knew that it had to be the redcoats to fire first, if the sentiment of rebellion, and ultimately revolution, was going to stick. The standoff at Lexington did not last long, there only being about 50 or 60 mustered men. Paul Revere, having been captured earlier in the night during his famous ride, was in Lexington, getting a trunk of John Hancock's papers. He went upstairs at Buckman's Tavern to retrieve the trunk and looked out the window to see the column of redcoats coming up the road. As Revere, and his companion, rushed off with the trunk, they went right past the Lexington Minutemen, drawn up on the green. "We made haste and had to pass thro' our Militia, who were on a green behind the Meeting house to the number I supposed about 50 or 60." So close was Revere that he heard the militia commander tell his men, "Let the troops pass by, and don't molest them, without they begin first."



According to Revere's eyewitness account, "They {redcoats} made a short halt, when a gun was fired. I hear the report, turned my head, and saw the smoke in front of the Troops, they immediately gave a great shout, ran a few paces, and then the whole [body] fired."

After the Battle of Lexington, where 8 Americans were killed, the column continued on to Concord, their original destination, to claim the powder stores and weapons and ammunition that the Colonials had been storing in town. The British actually found very little to take or destroy in Concord, because the provincial congress had already moved most of it

Revolutionary History—America 250

out of town.

The British faced a long and rough road home to Boston after the actions in Concord and on Lexington Green earlier in the day. When they finally decided to go back to Boston, having searched nearby farms and stores for powder and supplies as ordered, more and more minutemen and militia were beginning to show up to the battle areas. Recalled British Ensign Jeremy Lister, “The Light Infantry March’d over a Hill about the Town, the Grenadiers through the Town, immediately as we descended the hill into the Road, the Rebels begun a brisk fire but at so great a distance it was without effect.”

Soon the Americans were closer and the British Grenadiers were firing back. “About that time,” said Ensign Lister, “I rec’d a shot through my Right Elbow joint which effectually disabled that Arme.” From there all the way to Lexington, added Lister, “it then became a general Firing upon us from all quarters, from behind hedges and Walls.” To be sure, the British returned fire at “every opportunity,” but the harassment by the aroused Colonials was unabating. When the one dirt road to Lexington reached a creek and stone bridge at Meriam’s Corner, the British had to pull in their flanking parties to squeeze their column across, with an estimated 600 Americans facing them at the bridge. After more American fire left more British casualties, the light infantrymen charged and chase off their tormentors. Half a mile long, the column hastened on down the road to Lexington, where reinforcements, with two light cannon, would be waiting for them.



First, though, more severe punishment was in store. As an estimated 1500 armed Americans swarmed about the fields on just one side of the road, the British stumbled onto Hardy’s Hill, where five companies of Minutemen greeted them with withering fire. More British casualties. Just beyond, at a crook in the road destined to be known as “Bloody Angle”, lurked Woburn’s Minutemen. The crack of a single volley took down 31 redcoats in an instant, eight of them dead and the rest wounded. The column was held up for 30 minutes clearing this one small spot in the road.

Waiting in the woods were minutemen from Lexington, who were victimized by the British just hours before. They unleashed their lethal volley, just as the British were crossing a small bridge, this delay in the column allowed more minuteman, pursuing from the countryside, to reach the tail end of the column and join the attack. Seeing the column picked to pieces, Major Pitcairn organized a line of defense on the first hill ahead. With his marines barely holding on for a few minutes of delay of the swarming Americans, the rest of the column streamed ahead, only to encounter a fresh blast of fire from Minutemen hidden in the woods crowding the road at the second hill. By the time the column cleared the crest of the third and final hill, recalled one British officer later, “We began to run rather than retreat in order.”

There was a pause just beyond Lexington, and the British column turned for Bunker Hill and Boston itself, another 13 miles down the road. The redcoats had hardly left Lexington when they met the same stinging harassment as before, with concurrent casualties.

After a major battle at the village of Menotomy (now called Arlington), perhaps involving as many as 5,500 men from both sides, the British column at last staggered onto Charlestown peninsula, a neck of land next to Boston, that lay under the cover of the naval guns aboard British warships. This was about 7pm, where the British losses were 73 men killed, another 174 wounded, and 26 missing—373 in total. The American casualties were 49 known dead and probably 2-3 times wounded. The American Revolution had truly begun!

Excerpts taken from: “The Best Little Stories from the American Revolution”, by C. Brian Kelly with Ingrid Smyer, pp49-52.

Chapter Chatter

Omaha Chapter

On Saturday, May 10, The Omaha Chapter held a clean up day event at Prospect Hill Cemetery. This event was scheduled to help the cemetery ready the main road and center flag circle, and areas surrounding the main section, for their annual Memorial Day ceremonies. Paul Burrigh, Mark Byars, and Mike Schofield all volunteered their time from about 8am-12pm in trimming down short growth and weeds around trees and the main road, greatly enhancing the cleanliness of the area.

The following Saturday, Paul Burrigh and Jim Gansemer traveled out to Prospect Hill Cemetery and helped to place flags on veteran's graves throughout the cemetery. Paul and Jim completed two full sections, then helped some of the other volunteers complete their sections, placing roughly 150 flags on gravesites.

On Monday, May 12, Mark Byars and Paul Burrigh donned their uniforms and gave a Patriot Chest Presentation to about 30 residents of the Ridgemont Retirement Center in Bennington, NE. The presentation went wonderfully and it was the most attended education presentation that the Center has had in recent memory.

On Sunday, May 25, Paul Burrigh and Mel Burrigh traveled to Ste. Genevieve, MO, to participate in the 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort San Carlos and a 5 Patriot Grave Marking ceremony. Paul participated with the National Color Guard for the event and both members presented a wreath on behalf of the Omaha Chapter.

We regretfully omitted this announcement in the last newsletter. Omaha President Jim Sly was awarded the District Meritorious Service Medal by VPG Chris Moberg at the February District Meeting, for his support of the District Zoom Events and having given six different presentations over the last couple of years. Congratulations, Com-patriot Sly!



Lincoln Chapter

Members of the Lincoln Chapter, John Braisted, John Reinert, and Tom Masters (back row in picture), and Dave Ensign (front in picture) attended the Memorial Day ceremonies at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, NE. John Reinert and Tom Masters attended the wreath casting for those lost at sea, then marched with the bagpipes and color procession to Soldier Circle for the observance ceremony. John Reinert and Tom Masters presented a wreath on behalf of the Lincoln Chapter, and Nebraska SAR President John Braisted presented a wreath on behalf of the Nebraska SAR.



Lincoln Chapter presented Brad and Teresa Havlovic, of Lincoln, with a flag certificate on June 7.

Platte River Chapter

The Platte River Chapter has been busy presenting worthy community members and Eagle Scouts with deserving recognition. They have given out 11 Flag Certificates to members in the North Platte community for flying the American Flag correctly and with patriotic pride, and they have given out 9 Eagle Scout Certificates to new Eagle Scouts from this past year in the North Platte area.

Chapter President Rich Hulse attended the Memorial Day ceremony at Fort McPherson, presenting a wreath on behalf of the Chapter.



America 250—Liberty Tree Dedication—Lexington, NE

The Nebraska SAR dedicated its 3rd Liberty Tree on Saturday, April 26, in Lexington, NE. The event honored the 250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and the start of the shooting war of the American Revolution.

The weather for the event turned out to be cold and rainy, but it did not dampen our spirits of celebration of the event! We called an audible and rearranged our setup at the park's amphitheater, and had all the spectators come up under the awning on stage, out of the rain. We had a good turnout for the long distance drive for most of the members, with Mark Byars, Dan Davis, Allyn Sheldon, and Rich Hulse forming the Color Guard. Nebraska SAR Sr. Vice President Paul Burright was the Master of Ceremonies. Also in attendance were Chaplain Jim Sly, Dave Ensign, Andrew Nehls, William and Dalton Heard, Secretary Dale Wostrel, Jon Ketterling, Rich Loutzenheiser, Mel Burright, and John Reinert. There were also numerous Nebraska DAR representatives in attendance, as well as the Mayor of Lexington, John Fagot, and the Director of the Museum of Military Vehicles.



As part of the ceremony, Mayor Fagot became the first Nebraska Mayor to sign the replica Declaration of Independence, as well as getting to meet SAR Compatriots William and Dalton Heard, who are descended from Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the original Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Eleven wreaths were presented, including the Nebraska SAR, all 3 Chapters of the Nebraska SAR, and also our new Ladies Auxiliary presented a wreath at their first event. Various DAR chapters presented wreaths, along with the local American Legion Post 111, and the Museum of Military Vehicles. We were thankful that the rain stopped for us to complete our wreath laying portion of the ceremony.



The Liberty Tree was dedicated in front of the Veterans Memorial Wall, and we are looking forward to dedicating more Liberty Trees across Nebraska, later this year.



Battle Road—A Visit to Minuteman National Park



I visited Battle Road and Minuteman National Park for the 250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. April 19th 1775 was a very important date in our history and I've always wanted to walk Battle Road at the Minuteman national historic park. This is a recap on some of the important actions that occurred during the battles of Lexington and Concord. I mostly focused on the events on Battle Road mostly due to such a great walking trail. Photos added for a lot of the events to help the reader with orientation of the park and the order that they occurred.

Started out with the Hancock -Clarke house in Lexington. This is the house where John Hancock and Samuel Adams were staying when Paul Revere alerted them that the Regulars were on the way. Those two were in the area because the Provincial Congress had a meeting in Concord and John Hancock spent a lot of his youth in that house.

North Bridge was next. It was here that part of Regulars stayed behind to guard the bridge and another part went onto Col James Barrett farm to look for weapons and powder for warfare. The patriots marched into Concord to see what the Regulars were up to then countermarched back across the bridge to a hill overlooking the bridge with about 400 total. Tensions were high at the bridge and the regulars fired into the water and over the heads of the patriots. It was then that the patriots realized that they were firing ball. Major John Buttrick of Concord gave the order, " Fire , fellow soldiers, for Gods sake, fire!" Now known as the " Shot heard round the world." The militias did not hold the bridge after the retreat started to Boston allowing the part that went to Barretts farm to rejoin the main army.



Meriams Corner was next stop where after the retreat started from the North Bridge where militias started to catch up with the main army, the chase was on what eventually became 4,000 militia attacking in a 16 mile running battle back to Boston.

Across from Brooks Village in the field now known as Brooks Hill is where Peter Salem first arrives with Company from Framingham. Salem is generally credited with taken the shot that killed Major John Pitcairn at the Battle of Bunker Hill. I've included a photo of Job Brooks house one of the 11 witness houses that still stand today.



Battle Road—A Visit to Minuteman National Park

Bloody Angle was a place of horrific fighting. One group of militia was on one side of battle road and another on the other side, in a very vicelike attack in the most wooded area on Battle road, the rest was mostly cleared farm fields. If not for the Regular flankers and Grenadiers keeping the militia's off the main army, the battle might have ended there. Had to be exhausting work for the flankers, if anywhere along the 16 miles the regulars got bottled up they would have spent their ammo.



Hartwell Tavern and Captain William Smiths house (Abigail Adams brother) are next up on battle road, two more of the 11 witness houses. Captain Smith was the leader of the Lincoln militia and two of the Hartwell sons were in his company. The Lincoln company fought at the North Bridge.

Paul Revere capture site is next . Probably the most enduring part of American history.

The photo with the large boulder is now known the Minute Man Boulder. Lincoln militia man William Thorning lived close by. Thorning took aim behind this boulder and killed two of the flankers. Also in this area lived the Nelsons. When the fighting broke out the Nelsons fled. When they returned home they found a wounded British soldier on the their doorstep . The Nelsons cared for wounded soldier but he died the next day.

Parkers Revenge is one of my favorite sites. After the Battle of Lexington Parkers Company could have melted into the background of history . Would have been easy to forgive them since that company was very shot up at Lexington , but they didn't . John Parker knew the area very well and he staged his men in a place would be advantageous for the British return trip and it worked. New archeology evidence suggests that Parkers company fired one volley at some flankers and they in turn fired another volley back. This was a running battle so neither side stayed in one place very long. Parkers Lexington company joined in the chase.

Fiske Hill was the last stop on Minuteman National Historic park of the five miles. I went east to west so depending how you would do it could be reversed . I liked doing it that way for order of events. During the Fiske Hill action one of the events occurred that you would see in a movie. Two soldiers from both sides fired simultaneously. There is a well on this site called the Hayward Well. James Hayward from the Acton company stopped by at the well to refresh himself. As he did that an unknown British soldier came around the house, both fired at the same time. Hayward said " You're a dead man " the British soldier said " so are you." The British soldier died instantly , Hayward died a few hours after his wound was caused by shards of his powder horn went into his body from the shot that hit him.

It is just a great way to get some exercise and learn about these important battles of Lexington and Concord. The individual personal stories really add to it as well. Battle Road is a very special place for everyone but particularly for us descendants in the SAR.

By: Jon Ketterling #214220, Member at Large, Kearney, NE



In commemoration of the
250th Anniversary of General Washington
taking command of the Continental Army
you are cordially invited to join

*the Nebraska Society
Sons of the American Revolution
and the Mary Katharine Goddard Chapter
of the Daughters of the American Revolution*
for the dedication of a

Liberty Tree

*Sunday, July 27, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at
the Washington County Fairgrounds
Arlington, Nebraska*

*Following the dedication, join us in the
Washington County Fair Parade at 4:30 p.m.*

Refreshments will be provided by
the Mary Katharine Goddard Chapter of the
Daughters of the American Revolution



*Please RSVP to Mark Byars at markabyars@gmail.com
by July 20th to receive additional details.*

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!



Color Guard

Nebraska SAR

Saturday, May 24—Omaha, NE

The Nebraska SAR Color Guard participated in the Patriotic Productions Memorial Day Parade in downtown Omaha. Mustering for this event was Jim Sly, Mark Byars, Allyn Sheldon, Andrew Sullivan, Todd Fleischer, and Chad Callenius. Omaha Member, Jim Gansemer, volunteered his time and carried the banner out front of the procession.

Another great Memorial Day celebration!



Wednesday, June 18—College World Series—Omaha, NE

On June 18, the Nebraska SAR Color Guard, for the first time ever, presented the colors before Game 11 of the NCAA Men's College World Series at Charles Schwab Field in Downtown Omaha. Mustering for this event were Jim Sly, Mark Byars, Dan Davis, and Ron Stites. We hope to be able to present the colors again, in future years of the CWS.





Color Guard

Nebraska SAR

Saturday, June 21—Beatrice, NE

10am—The color guard participated in 3 events, on a very hot day, in Beatrice, NE, on June 21. The first event was the Homestead Days Parade down Court St. in Beatrice. The wind was blowing extremely hard, causing our flag bearers to really struggle with the flags. Mustering for the event were Paul Burrigh, Mark Byars, Jim Sly, Kameron Heffner, and Chad Callenius, as well as potential member Scott Clarke, and Lincoln VP Dave Ensign, his wife Virginia, and brother in law, Fred, joined our party on the parade route. We also had 3 members from the Kansas SAR Color Guard join us for the day; Brian Vasquez, John More, and Bruce Smith. We thank them for making the trip up to Nebraska and joining us for these events. We also had John Byars, from the Colorado SAR, and his family join us and walked with the group, his three daughters helping the DAR to hand out Betsy Ross flags to the spectators. John is Nebraska Compatriot Mark Byars' brother.



1pm—Nebraska dedicated its fourth Liberty Tree on the grounds of the Beatrice Library. We were able to move our ceremony indoors at the library, and the large Elm tree we dedicated, as well as the stone marker, could be seen through the large bay window from the comfort of the air-conditioned library, for which we were all grateful, especially those of us wearing the wool. During the ceremony, Beatrice Mayor, Bob Morgan, became the 2nd Nebraska Mayor to sign our replica Declaration of Independence.



2:30pm—The DAR dedicated the repaired original stone, as well as a new dedicated stone to Patriot Daughter Elizabeth Huitt Cowen, who is buried in Beatrice Cemetery. Her father was Patriot John Huitt. Once again, most of the ceremony was conducted indoors, with Mark Byars Keynote address, and biographies read of both Elizabeth and her father John, with the color guard providing the colors posting. Everyone then ventured a couple of blocks to the cemetery and did the official dedication with wreaths presented and flags displayed. Wreaths were presented by the Nebraska SAR, Omaha Chapter, Lincoln Chapter, and Ladies Auxiliary, as well as 3 wreaths from the Kansas SAR and two Kansas chapters, and numerous DAR chapters and State Society. It was a long, hot day, but a great show of patriotism from numerous members of the SAR and DAR and descendants of Elizabeth Huitt Cowen.

Top Picture: Homestead Days Parade
 Middle Picture: Liberty Tree—Beatrice Library
 Bottom Picture: SAR at grave of Patriot Daughter Elizabeth Huitt Cowan



Color Guard

Nebraska SAR

Saturday, June 28—Liberty, MO

Color Guard Commander, Paul Burrigh, traveled to Liberty, Missouri to participate in a Liberty Tree planting and dedication, and America 250 Memorial Bench dedication. The William C. Corum Chapter, Missouri SAR, of which Commander Burrigh is a dual member, hosted the event, along with the Alexander Doniphan Chapter, Missouri DAR. It was a great opportunity for some cross State Color Guard participation.



Picture: Members of William C Corum Chapter, Missouri SAR, with Nebraska SAR CG Commander, Paul Burrigh

State Society News

2025 Spring State Meeting

It was an information packed Spring Meeting that was held on Sunday, April 13, at Mahoney State Park.

Our Eagle Scout Award/Scholarship was awarded to Trey Siske, who read his essay to the membership. Several awards were given, including Bronze and Silver Color Guard medals, Bronze and Silver America 250 medals, Lafayette, and Liberty Medals. Compatriot LaVerne Stetson was awarded the Patriot Medal for his years of work within the Nebraska SAR. Mark Byars was awarded the Silver Henry Knox Medal, for his work on so many of the events and activities that we enjoy within the Nebraska SAR. Secretary Dale Wostrel and Treasurer Bill Webb were awarded the Silver Roger Sherman medal for their long and continuing work as State Officers.

The Ladies Auxiliary were presented with their official Charter, dated April 13, 2025, by President John Braisted, and they commenced with their first official business meeting, thereafter.

Officer and Committee Reports followed, with some changes being proposed to the Constitution and Bylaws, that will be voted on at the Fall State Meeting.

President Braisted activated the Nominating Committee to seek nominations for the upcoming 2026-2027 term, with elections to be held at the upcoming Fall State Meeting. If you are approached to fill an office by one of the nominating committee, please consider filling the need, for the good of the Society. We NEED men to step up and do the work!

The Fall State Meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7, at 2pm, at Mahoney State Park. Please plan to attend to cast your vote on these important elections and policies.



Left Picture: Ladies Auxiliary w/ Charter
Right Picture: Eagle Scout Trey Siske and Family

State Society News

Eagle Scout Scholarship Fund

The Nebraska Society Eagle Scout Fund exists today because of Compatriot Merle Rudebusch. Merle was involved in scouting as soon as his sons were eligible. Merle joined the Nebraska SAR, Lincoln Chapter, becoming very active in the Society. He was soon elected as State Treasurer, and is the reason that we have the SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Program. He donated \$1500 to start the fund for the Eagle Scout Scholarships after the passing of his father, John. These funds were received from his father's estate. The following conditions were that the principle could not be used, only the interest received would support the amount of the annual scholarship. The Nebraska SAR authorized a memorial of \$50 for each deceased active Compatriot to be added to the trust. Donations received for the Eagle scout Scholarship, above the amount needed for the Scholarship, are added to the trust account, as well.

Merle passed away in January of 2022. His family requested that donations received will be added to the scholarship fund. In the beginning, the scholarship was able to award \$250. As the fund grew from member donations, additions from Compatriots passing, and interest from the fun, the scholarship was raised to \$500. Today, the contribution from members and income from the fund has grown the fund to over \$10,000. Please continue to contribute to the Eagle Scholarship fund so the Scholarship can be increased to \$750.

In his many contacts with the Boy Scout Councils, Merle often presented a Certificate of Eagle Scout Completion, from the Nebraska SAR, to new Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor. He would also provide documents describing our Eagle Scout Award and Scholarship Program to the Eagle Scouts to help promote our Eagle Scout Award. While Merle was active, we typically had four to six applications for the scholarship. Each chapter is encouraged to recognize new Eagle Scouts at their Courts of Honor, and promote our Eagle Scout Award throughout the State. Each chapter can select a recipient, which are forwarded to the State Society for a final selection as a State winner of our scholarship. That state winner is then forwarded to National for the National Award. Nebraska had a National winner in 2019, Ambrose Terneus. The National winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship.

In recent years, applications have been very few to none. Please work to promote this program within your chapters. I was fortunate to do some presentations for the scholarship at Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. It is a rewarding experience to represent the Nebraska SAR and recognize these Eagle Scouts for their hard work. If requested to present, please feel honored to recognize an Eagle Scout.

By: Laverne Stetson—Lincoln Chapter SAR

SAR University

The Sons of the American Revolution have created new training modules for Compatriots to complete to be certified in the various Officer positions that you may encounter in your work with the SAR at the Chapter, State, and National levels. There are nearly 25 current training modules to complete and learn about the specific Officer role, with more coming for committees. For new Compatriot members, there are modules on how the SAR is organized, and also how you can get involved right away within your chapter and state society. For Officers, the modules run between items such as how to run a meeting, how to engage your chapter members, and nearly every officer duty from Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar, all the way up to Vice President-General at the National level. These modules can be accessed on the National SAR website at www.sar.org. Login and at the ribbon at the top of the page, you will see SAR University. That link will take you to the page and you can then choose which modules you would like to complete.

If you are a current Chapter or State Officer, I would like you to complete the Youth Protection Training (required for ALL Officers), as well as just the module for your specific office that you are currently in (Secretary, Vice President, etc.). I would like these done by our Fall State Meeting on Sept 7. I will email you, and copy your chapter President, with exactly what need to be completed. When you complete a module and get your certificate, you must take a screenshot of the certificate and send me a copy of the picture of your certificate to my email, pburright72@gmail.com.

If you are planning to be in an officer position in the upcoming elections at the end of this year, you must be fully certified in the position you will be looking to take over, meaning if you plan to be Secretary in the next term, you must be fully certified (all modules taken and passed under the Secretary role) by the end of this year. Email me with any questions you may have (pburright72@gmail.com).

By: Paul H Burright—Sr. Vice President and Education Chairman

ROTC/JROTC Awards 2025

Members of the Nebraska SAR volunteered their time to represent their Chapters and the State Society, and presented worthy cadets with our Bronze and Silver ROTC medals and certificates. Cadets are chosen for this award by their Commanding Officers based on their Leadership Skills, Academic Achievements, Military Bearing, and General Excellence. Members of the Omaha and Lincoln Chapters presented 22 medals and certificates to area cadets.



Bronze JROTC Medal Recipients

- Christian Arias—Omaha Buena Vista High School
- Brandon Salnicky—Omaha Central High School
- Marcus Toney—Omaha North High School
- Michale Ruvalcaba—Omaha Westview High School
- Madison Swoboda—Bellevue East High School
- Ian Lor—Omaha Burke High School
- Nathaniel Schicker—Bellevue West High School
- Michael Craig—Papillion LaVista South High School
- Aubree Day-Garrido—Plattsmouth High School
- Sydney Sainovich—Omaha Benson High School
- Jamal Horner—Boys Town High School
- Eric Montrose—Omaha Northwest High School
- Juan Montez—Omaha Bryan High School
- Marcus Whittaker—Millard South High School
- Maria Villalobos—Omaha South High School
- Kale Divis—Lincoln North East High School



Silver ROTC Medal Recipients

- Esther Baldwin—University of Nebraska—Lincoln (Army)
- Thomas Clark—University of Nebraska—Lincoln (Navy)
- Abigail Hughes—University of Nebraska—Lincoln (Air Force)



- Zachariah Wooten—Creighton University (Air Force)
- Justice Kellett—University of Nebraska—Omaha (Air Force)

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

3rd Quarter 2025 Meetings and Events

Friday, Jul 4—Independence Day!

Friday, Jul 4—Independence Day Parade, 1pm, Ralston, NE

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

Jul 13-18—SAR Annual Congress, Uncasville, CT

Sunday, Jul 27—Liberty Tree Dedication and Parade, 3pm, Arlington, NE

Saturday, Aug 2—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Aug 9—Real Son Compatriot Grave Marking, 10:30am, Columbus, NE

Thursday, Aug 14—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Saturday, Aug 23—Fall Board of Managers Meeting, 11am, Sean O'Casey's, Omaha, NE

Saturday, Sep 6—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Sunday, Sep 7—Fall State Meeting, 2pm, Kiewit Lodge, Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE

Tuesday, Sep 9—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Thursday, Sep 11—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Sep 19-20—Nebraska Heritage Alliance, Omaha, 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

