



# The Husker Patriot



Issue 60

3rd Qtr 2025

## 135th SAR Congress, Uncasville, CT



# From the Desk of the President

## Presidents Message

Compatriots,

What a busy summer it has been! With schools back in session, the trees turning colors we are able to look forward to the fall and winter months.

SAR University offers all of us the opportunity to learn more about the role we each play in the society. Each program is geared to a specific position, take the course or courses that apply to you. Any Compatriot who works with youth in any way should complete the SAR Youth Protection Training course as soon as possible, the national society is asking us all to take the course. Make sure to print out or take a photo of the completion certificate. Once completed send a copy of the certificate to VP Paul Burrignt who is tracking these classes for the Nebraska Society. Each course is 15-30 minutes long and the test on the material is well covered in each of the videos.

Membership is up this year, which allows us to do more in our communities. The goal for all of us is to become an involved member as this will help in retaining members. Get to know the new members in your chapter, ask them what interests they have in advancing our goals as an organization. Listen to the ideas they may propose. Fresh viewpoints always should be welcomed to allow us to become better known in our communities.

With dues statements in the mail, you should consider the areas we are focusing on in Nebraska. Opportunities to support one or more areas are found with the dues statements. As a deadline does exist for getting the report to SAR for the national dues, please return your dues as soon as possible. America 250 will continue for the next several years, the coming year will be especially crowded with many events around the nation. While we do not have any known patriots buried in Nebraska, many of our counties are named after well known Patriots. Take time to enjoy the events of the year, keeping in mind that the parades and fireworks are fun and exciting, but it was the battles of 1776 and the following years that made our current celebrations possible. Freedom is not free. Each generation needs to fight to preserve what we have been given by our patriot ancestors. The documents we have, the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights took time and effort to write and it is our responsibility to make sure we are able to pass on these founding charters to the next generation.

As SAR members we all know who our patriot ancestors are. My challenge to each of you is to learn something new about your ancestor and embrace the joy of learning, for we only die when we stop learning. Until the next time,

*John C. Braisted*  
President, Nebraska SAR



### NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

**2024-2025**

<b>President:</b>	John C. Braisted
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	Paul H. Burrignt
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	John Reinert
<b>Secretary:</b>	Stanley Dale Wostrel
<b>Treasurer:</b>	William Webb
<b>Registrar:</b>	Mark A. Byars
<b>Trustee:</b>	Dr. James Sly
<b>Alt. Trustee:</b>	Mark A. Byars
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Dr. James Sly
<b>Historian:</b>	John Reinert
<b>Const/ByLaws Chairman—</b>	Paul Burrignt
<b>Membership Chairman—</b>	Mark Byars
<b>Budget &amp; Finance Chairman—</b>	Bill Webb
<b>Audit Committee Chairman—</b>	John Reinert
<b>Publicity Chairman—</b>	Dale Wostrel
<b>Eagle Scout Chairman—</b>	Open
<b>Awards &amp; Medals Chairman—</b>	Open
<b>Flag Chairman—</b>	Andrew Nehls
<b>Color Guard Commander—</b>	Paul Burrignt
<b>First Responders Chairman—</b>	Open
<b>ROTC Awards Chairman—</b>	Open
<b>America 250 Chairman—</b>	Mark Byars
<b>Americanism Chairman—</b>	Paul Burrignt
<b>History Chairman—</b>	John Reinert

### BOARD OF MANAGERS

**2024-2025**

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

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## Our Newest Compatriots



### Welcome New Members!

Ross Richard Johnson II #234618  
Patriot: Amasa Allen (CT)  
Lincoln Chapter

Nathan Daniel Kato-Wallace #234617  
Patriot: Eleazer Whipple (RI)  
Omaha Chapter

Frederick James Lieth #234692  
Patriot: Stephen Stackhouse (PA)  
Lincoln Chapter

Jerry L. Lippencott #234619  
Patriot: Thomas Freeman (MA)  
Lincoln Chapter

Randy Lee Wallace #234616  
Patriot: Eleazer Whipple (RI)  
Omaha Chapter

Scott David Clarke #235206  
Patriot: James Clark (MD)  
Lincoln Chapter

Jeffrey DeWayne Kort #235208  
Patriot: Jonathan Willis (MA)  
Platte River Chapter

Scott Allen Kort #235209  
Patriot: Jonathan Willis (MA)  
Platte River Chapter

John Patrick Pearson #235204  
Patriot: David Alexander (SC)  
Omaha Chapter

Jeffrey Owen Raymond #235207  
Patriot: Abraham Scott (NH)  
Lincoln Chapter

Trenton Wayne Steele #235210  
Patriot: Matthew Duke (VA)  
Omaha Chapter

Ryan Christopher Todd #235205  
Patriot: Oliver Pettengill (CT)  
Omaha Chapter

### Supplementals

Chadwick Allan Callenius #225702  
Patriot: Alexander Wolcott (CT)  
Omaha Chapter

Andrew L. Sullivan #217396  
Patriot: William True (MA)  
Omaha Chapter

John Andrew Whitler #216405  
Patriot: William Davenport (NC)  
Patriot: William Logan (VA)  
Patriot: Susannah Wallace Woods (VA)  
Omaha Chapter

Richard Allen Loutzenheiser #226721  
Patriot: Isaac Gates (NH)  
Patriot: Isaac Goodale (MA)  
Patriot: John Plumley (NH)  
Member at Large—Hastings, NE

Robert Lee Knott, Jr. #167712  
Patriot: Martin Dawson (VA)  
Patriot: John Franklin (VA)  
Patriot: Henry Gaines (VA)  
Patriot: James Gaines, Sr. (VA)  
Patriot: Mrs. Elizabeth George Mayo (VA)  
Patriot: Samuel Pugh (VA)  
Patriot: Willoughby Pugh (VA)  
Patriot: John Sorrell (VA)  
Patriot: Philip Thomas (VA)  
Patriot: James Herbert Wagner (VA)  
Patriot: Richard Wagner (VA)  
Omaha Chapter

John Thomas Parsons #149646  
Patriot: George Steele (PA)  
Omaha Chapter

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

## Revolutionary History—America 250



### Washington Takes Command of the Continental Army—July 3, 1775

Before the American colonies even made their declaration of independence, the Second Continental Congress gathered together in Philadelphia 250 years ago to formally create a standing Army.

On June 15, 1775, Congress chose George Washington, a Virginian, to be commander in chief. Washington's military experience was perhaps greater than that of any other American, and he came from the largest and arguably the most important of the southern colonies. His impressive appearance, quiet and confident manner, and good work in the military committees of Congress had impressed his compatriots.

Washington himself recognized, when he accepted the command, that he lacked the requisite experience and knowledge in handling large groups of men. His entire military experience had been in frontier warfare during the French and Indian War, though he had commanded a brigade of troops from several colonies during the capture of Fort Duquesne. He was the only native-born American up to that time to command a force that size. Experience gained as a political leader in his native Virginia and in directing the business affairs of his large plantation at Mount Vernon also stood him in good stead.

Washington brought to command traits of character and abilities as a leader that in the end more than compensated for his lack of European military experience. Among these qualities were a determination and a steadfastness of purpose rooted in an unshakable conviction of the righteousness of the American cause, a scrupulous sense of honor and duty, and a dignity that inspired respect and confidence in those around him. Conscious of his own defects, he was always willing to profit by experience.

The Army of which Washington formally took command on July 3, 1775, he described as "a mixed multitude of people under very little discipline, order or government." Out of this mixed multitude, Washington set out to create an Army shaped in large part on the British image. Basing his observations on his experience with British regulars during the French and Indian War, he wrote: "Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak and esteem to all."

Washington and his staff made strenuous efforts to halt the random comings and goings of officers and men and to institute regular roll calls and strength returns. Suspicious of the "leveling" tendencies of the New Englanders, Washington made the distinction between officers and enlisted men more rigid. He introduced various punishments such as the lash, pillory, wooden horse, and drumming out of camp along with courts-martials.

While establishing discipline in the existing army, Washington had at the same time to form a new one enlisted directly in the Continental service. Out of conferences with a congressional committee that visited camp in September 1775 emerged a plan for such an army, composed of 26 regiments of infantry of 728 men each, plus one regiment of riflemen and one of artillerymen. In all, 20,372 men became uniformly paid, supplied, and administered by the Continental Congress and enlisted to the end of the year 1776. The general by his choice received no pay throughout the Revolution.

It was a decent plan on paper; but Washington soon found he could not carry it out. Both officers and men resisted a reorganization that cut across the lines of the locally organized units in which they were accustomed to serve. The men saw as their first obligation their families and farms at home, and they were reluctant to re-enlist for another year's service.



## Revolutionary History—America 250

Washington also had to maintain the siege of Boston and overcome his deficiencies in supply. In these efforts he was more successful. Congress and the individual colonies sponsored voyages to the West Indies, where the French and Dutch had conveniently exported quantities of war materials. Washington put some of his troops on board ship and with an improvised navy succeeded in capturing numerous British supply ships.

He sent Col. Henry Knox, later to be his chief of Artillery, to Forts Ticonderoga; and Knox in the winter of 1775-1776. Knox brought some 50 pieces of captured cannon to Cambridge, Mass., over poor or nonexistent roads in icebound New York and New England. By March 1776, despite deficiencies in the number of continentals, Washington was ready to close in on Boston.

On March 4, 1776, he moved onto Dorchester Heights and emplaced his newly acquired artillery in position to menace the city; a few days later he fortified Nook's Hill, standing still closer in. On March 17 the British moved out.

Maj. Gen. William Howe, who succeeded Maj. Gen. Thomas Gage in command, had concluded long since that Boston was a poor strategic base and intended to stay only until the transports arrived to take his army to Halifax in Nova Scotia to regroup and await reinforcements.

Nevertheless, Washington's maneuvers hastened his departure, and the reoccupation of Boston was an important psychological victory for the Americans, balancing the disappointments of the Canadian campaign. The stores of cannon and ammunition the British were forced to leave behind were a welcome addition to the meager American arsenal and helped win the revolution.



## Chapter Chatter

### Omaha Chapter

The Omaha Chapter held a summer ice cream social on Sunday, Aug 3. It was a fun day of ice cream sundaes and Revolutionary War and SAR trivia. All in attendance had a fun time!

The Omaha Chapter resumed its regular meeting schedule with a chapter meeting on Sep 9. We promptly inducted seven new members into the Chapter and SAR, that had been approved over the summer hiatus. All new Compatriots received their member certificate, their rosette was pinned on by their sponsor, and they signed their respective Patriots into the Chapter Patriot Muster Roll. Congratulations new members!



### Lincoln Chapter



Numerous members of the Lincoln Chapter traveled to Homestead National Monument, outside of Beatrice, NE, on Saturday, August 30, to participate in Homestead's Living History Extravaganza. Lincoln Vice President, Dave Ensign, spearheaded the organization of Compatriots to participate, with both Lincoln and Omaha Chapter members attending. It was a fun day of talking with museum goers about the SAR and the American Revolution.

At their Chapter meeting on Aug 2, the Lincoln Chapter inducted 4 of 7 new members into the Chapter and Society; Michael Kelly, Owen Henderson, Dan Thomson, and Jameson Trauger. All new members were presented

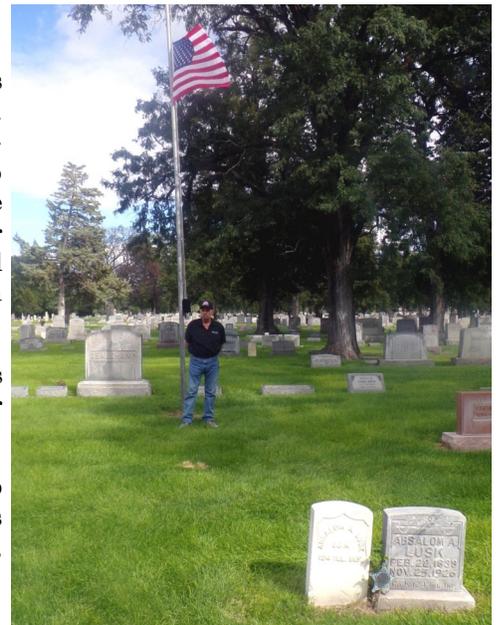
with their member certificates, their rosettes, and a new member orientation workbooks. The Lincoln Chapter is continuing to grow and we look forward to these new members becoming active participants within the organization.

### Platte River Chapter

The Platte River Chapter obtained a flag through Senator Pete Rickett's office, that had been flown over the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. They presented this flag, at the North Platte City Council Meeting, donating it to the North Platte Cemetery. President Rich Hulse realized that no flag was flown in the cemetery on the flag pole in the veteran's section. The Chapter procured a light for the top of the flag pole, had some other maintenance done, and the Capitol flown flag now flies on the pole, day and night, honoring our veterans laid to rest there. The Chapter will maintain the flag and order new flags, as needed.

On Sep 7, chapter President, Rich Hulse, presented Eagle Scout Thomas Jay, with an Eagle Scout certificate. Thomas plans to submit an entry for our State Eagle Scout Award.

The Platte River Chapter is now a Wreaths Across America sponsorship group, supporting wreaths for Fort McPherson. Please help support this program by sponsoring a wreath on the Platte River Chapter's WAA page, which can be found on the Platte River Chapter page on our website.



## Fall State Meeting

The Nebraska SAR held its Fall State Meeting at the Kiewit Lodge at Mahoney State Park, near Ashland, NE, on Sunday, September 7, at 2pm.

Numerous awards were presented for America 250 participation, SAR service anniversaries, and the awards Nebraska brought home from Congress, were discussed. Our very first Compatriot Grave Marking Medal, as well as our first Patriot Grave Marking Medal were also presented. A Compatriot must participate, or help fund, at least 15 grave markings to be eligible for either medal. The Bronze Color Guard medal was also presented at this meeting.

The Ladies Auxiliary supplied us with cookies, cake, and water, as they also met for their in-person meeting.

Various Officers and Committee Chairmen gave their reports. The largest discussion was due to the major amendments that were proposed to the State Constitution and Bylaws concerning committees and their structure. The amendments passed, and the new Constitution & Bylaws are posted on the website. Our Ad Hoc America 250 Committee will remain in place through our National Decade of Celebration, sunsetting in 2033. Our list of new standing committees that will be instituted beginning with the new term will be:

- Constitution & Bylaws
- Audit
- Education/Youth Awards
- Nominating
- Membership/Awards & Medals
- Color Guard
- Americanism
- Budget & Finance
- Activities & Events
- History



Elections were also held for our Officer ranks for the upcoming 2026-2027 term, to be installed at the Spring Meeting on April 19, 2026. Your new Officers Elect are:

- President—Paul Burrright
- Sr. Vice President—Jim Sly
- Jr. Vice President—Dave Ensign
- Secretary—Dale Wostrel
- Treasurer—Bill Webb
- Registrar—Mark Byars
- BOM—Member at Large Representative—Richard Loutzenheiser
- BOM—Past President Representative—Merle McAlevy

Appointed Officers—Appointed by incoming President Paul Burrright

- Historian—John Reinert
- Chaplain—Andrew Nehls

Please reach out to any of your elected officers if you ever have any questions!

## 135th SAR Congress—Uncasville, Connecticut

The 135th SAR Congress was held at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Uncasville, Connecticut, from July 13-18.

The Nebraska SAR had its largest contingent of Compatriots attend, in recent memory. State Vice President Paul Burrigh, National Trustee Jim Sly, Alternate Trustee and State Registrar Mark Byars, and Omaha Chapter Treasurer Andrew Nehls, all attended and represented Nebraska at the Congressional Sessions. Three officers of our new Ladies Auxiliary also attended, and participated in Ladies Auxiliary functions, meetings, and events; Paula Burrigh, Nicki Byars, and Janet Sly.



North Central District members—L-R; Kevin Sullivan (MN), Rick Smith (MN), Jim Sly, Mark Byars, Paul Burrigh, and Andrew Nelhs



Ladies Auxiliary Officers—L-R; Janet Sly, Paula Burrigh, Nicki Byars

Compatriot Mark Byars participated in the National SAR Color Guard during Congress, as well as a Patriot Grave Marking ceremony for five Revolutionary War Patriots, that was held in Woodbury, CT, just after Congress adjourned.

Nebraska did well during the recognition night celebrations. Nebraska's recognition for our work in 2024 is listed as follows:

- President General's Education Outreach Streamer—growth in outreach education presentations—Nebraska SAR
- Matthew Seller's Award—district membership growth—2nd place—North Central District
- Colorado Award—highest percentage membership growth—2nd place—Nebraska SAR
- Liberty Medal—recruit 10 members—Mark Byars (1st Award), Paul Burrigh (3rd Oak Leaf)
- Franklin Flyer Award—Increase in Friends of the Library w/ under 200 members—Nebraska SAR
- Allene Wilson Groves Award—Americanism points under 200 members—3rd place—Nebraska SAR
- President General's Society Award—SAR activities under 200 members—2nd place—Nebraska SAR
- George Washington Endowment Fund—Three new donors—Nebraska SAR
- 1776 Society—One new donor—Bronze Quill level

## 135th SAR Congress—Uncasville, Connecticut

Nebraska also has several Compatriots serving in Leadership roles and on Committees within the National Society. At Congress this year, our very own Jim Sly was installed as the Vice President-General of the North Central District, which encompasses Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakotas. Compatriot Mark Byars was installed as National Trustee for Nebraska, Richard Loutzenheiser will serve as Alternate Trustee. Compatriots will serve on numerous national committees as well, including Jim Sly on the Chaplain’s Committee and History Committee, Paul Burrigton on the Americanism Committee, and Mark Byars on the America 250, Membership, and Finance Committees.

Beginning in November, there will now be national liability insurance coverage for all state societies, including black powder firing and general liability at events.

There were numerous national bylaws changes proposed. Many of them did not pass, however, there are few that did.

- President General will appoint a committee to consider district boundaries, every 10 years, much like our Federal Census does with Congressional Districts and boundaries.
- Chaplain General must now be ordained or commissioned, in accordance with IRS regulations.
- Chairman of Council of State Presidents will now be elected by the Council, rather than the President of the host society of the immediate past Congress automatically becoming Chairman.
- Eliminate the provision that at least 50% of the George Washington Endowment be invested in U.S. Treasuries, allowing the Board more flexibility in investment options with greater returns.

All in all, the Nebraska Delegates and Officers had a grand time in Connecticut, representing the Nebraska SAR. Next year’s Congress will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, with many exciting events and programs scheduled to celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary! Nebraska is allowed five voting delegates, in addition to our National Officer Representatives, so please consider attending next year and representing your state society!



Procession of Jim and Janet Sly as Jim is installed as our new District Vice President-General



Mark Byars participating in National Color Guard duties during Congress



Grave marking ceremony honoring  
Nebraska Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
compatriot

## LeRoyce White

*Saturday, October 11th, 2025  
1:30 p.m.*

*North Platte Cemetery  
811 W. Rodeo Rd. No. Platte, NE*



## 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](mailto:pburrigat72@gmail.com) for more information and how you can get involved!



# Color Guard

## Nebraska SAR

July 4, 2025—Ralston, NE

The Nebraska SAR Color Guard marched in the Independence Parade in downtown Ralston, NE, once again this year. Participants this year included Paul Burrig, Mark Byars, Chadwick Callenius, Andrew Sullivan, Adam Ensign, Allyn Sheldon, and Todd Fleischer. It was another grand parade celebrating American Independence!



July 13-18, 2025—Uncasville, CT

July 19, 2025—Woodbury, CT

Compatriot Mark Byars represented the Nebraska SAR in the National Color Guard at the 135th SAR Congress, presenting the colors at the start of the Congressional Sessions, as well as the banquets.

Compatriot Byars also participated with the National Color Guard, handling bugle duties, and the playing of TAPS, during a five Patriot grave marking ceremony, at the conclusion of Congress, in Woodbury, CT.





## Color Guard

### Nebraska SAR

Sunday, June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 2025—Omaha, NE, Saturday, July 26—Beatrice, NE

Members of the color guard were able to participate and support the DAR with their national traveling exhibit, The American Revolution Experience. It is an interactive museum exhibit about the Revolutionary War and its people, events, and impacts on the country and world. Members were able to interact with museum patrons checking out the exhibit, and discuss the SAR and DAR with them, as well as answer questions they had regarding events of the Revolution. These exhibits were located at the Durham Museum in Omaha, and Homestead National Monument in Beatrice. Participating during various days were, Paul Burrignt, Mark Byars, Jim Sly, Allyn Sheldon, Dan Davis, Andrew Sullivan, Ron Stites, and Adam and Dave Ensign.

Sunday, July 27, 2025—Arlington, NE

The Nebraska SAR dedicated a Liberty Tree on the Washington County Fairgrounds, in Arlington, NE, in honor of the 250th Anniversary of General Washington taking command of the Continental Army. The Color Guard presented the colors at the event. We were joined by members of the Nebraska DAR for this event. In attendance were Paul Burrignt, Mark Byars, Jim Sly, Andrew Sullivan, Andrew Nehls, David Ensign, Kameron Heffner, Dan Davis, John Braisted, and Allyn Sheldon.



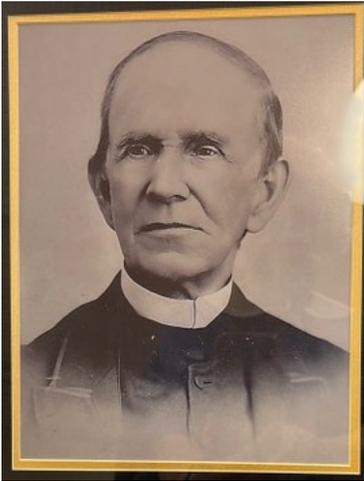
Friday, Sep 19, 2025—Omaha, NE

The Nebraska SAR presented the colors at the Nebraska Heritage Alliance, at the Centris Federal Credit Union building in Omaha, NE. This is a conference of lineage and heritage societies with chapters and organizations in Nebraska, including the SAR, DAR, War of 1812, Sons of Union Veterans, and many others. Participating at this event was Mark Byars, Jim Sly, Allyn Sheldon, Ron Stites, and Dan Davis.

Thursday, Sep 25, 2025—Lincoln, NE

Members of the color guard held a Declaration of Independence signing event at the League of Municipalities Conference at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, NE. We were allowed at the Mayor's meeting, and were able to get many more Mayors from around the state of Nebraska to sign our replica Declaration. The Mayors were also provided information on the SAR, and some of the events that we could provide to their respective communities, including Patriot Chest presentations in their schools, Liberty Tree dedications, First Responder recognition, etc. All Mayors were excited to have us there, and the things we are doing for Nebraska and patriotism!

## Compatriot Grave Marking—Real Son, Rev Samuel Goodale



On Saturday, August 9, 2025, the Nebraska SAR had the honor of marking the grave of Compatriot Real Son, Rev. Samuel Goodale, at Columbus Cemetery, in Columbus, NE.

Samuel Goodale was SAR #4633, and Nebraska SAR #33, having joined the Nebraska SAR in 1895 at the age of 80.

Samuel, born Dec 20, 1814, was the youngest of five children born to Chester Goodale and Asenath Cook. He arrived just a couple of months after his father's 51st birthday, and he was 22 years younger than his older brother. The family was farmers, and eventually, Samuel went on to higher learning, attending Union College in Schenectady, NY, then moving on to Episcopal Theological Seminary in New York City, graduating in 1841. He became a missionary in Syracuse, NY, meeting his first wife, Rebecca Kimball, and they married in 1843. They relocated to Kalamazoo, MI, where Samuel became Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Rebecca sadly died at the young age of 24 years, after complications from childbirth, in December of 1850.

In 1852, he met and married his second wife, Roxanna Starkweather Merrick, or "Anna". They moved to Cedar Rapids, IA, in 1853, then to Rock Island, IL in 1855. They had a daughter, Josephine, in 1859. In 1866, Samuel became a full-time Episcopal missionary, charged with bringing the gospel to the wilds of the American West. His task was to plant churches in towns located along the Union Pacific Railroad.

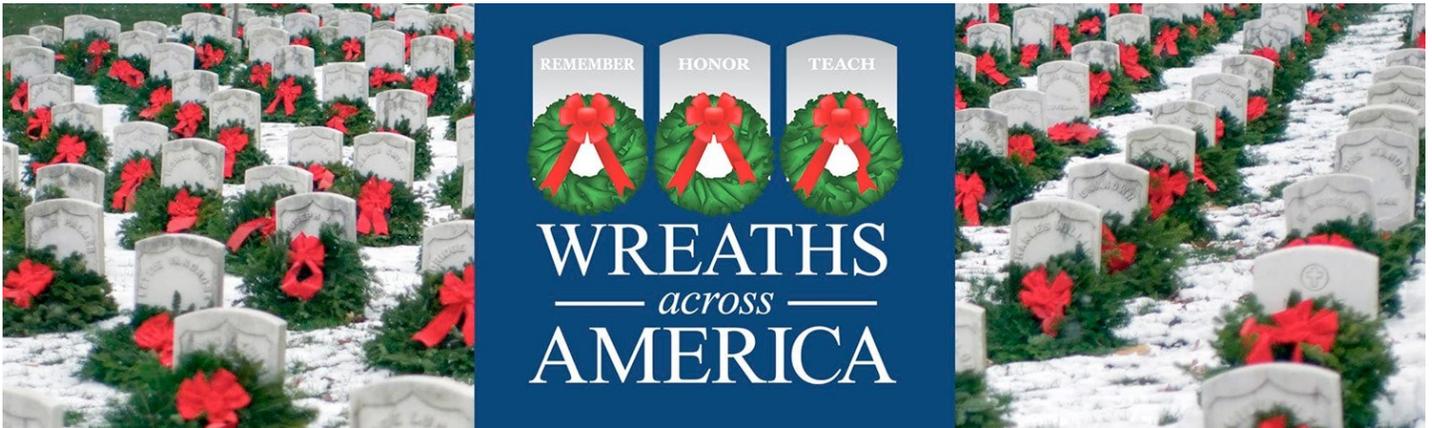
In 1866, they found their way to Columbus, NE, where he founded Grace Episcopal Church, and frequently visited the nearby Pawnee Indian Reservation. They left Columbus two years later, when he briefly became Rector for the Episcopal Church in Omaha. Over the next ten years, he established Episcopal churches in Lincoln, Ashland, Fremont, Central City, and Silver Creek. In 1872, he served as Chaplain of the Eighth Nebraska Legislature.

Samuel and Anna returned to Columbus to stay, in 1877. Samuel returned as Rector of Grace Episcopal Church until he retired in 1885, at the age of 72. Samuel joined the SAR in 1895, on his father's, Chester Goodale, Revolutionary War service with the Connecticut Militia, serving numerous short enlistments from 1777-1781. This makes Rev. Samuel Goodale a Real Son of the American Revolution!

Compatriots Paul Burrigh, Mark Byars, Dan Davis, Kameron Heffner, Andrew Nehls, Dave Ensign, Dale Wostrel, Allyn Sheldon, Jon Ketterling, and Richard Loutzenheiser (who is also a distant cousin to Rev. Samuel Goodale) all attended or participated in the ceremony. Wreaths were presented on behalf of the Nebraska SAR, Omaha Chapter, Lincoln Chapter, and the Nebraska Ladies Auxiliary. A portrait (above) and bio were framed and presented to the Platte County Historical Society and Museum, after the conclusion of the ceremony.



## State Society News



It is that time of year, once again, to be thinking about sponsoring wreaths for your local cemetery and participating in the National Wreaths Across America ceremonies on December 13, 2025 at 11am Central time.

Both the Omaha Chapter and the Platte River Chapter are wreath sponsorship groups, helping to promote this event and ensure all veterans have a wreath on their place of rest, and they are honored for their service, and sacrifice, during the holiday season.

Nearly 30 different cemeteries, across Nebraska, participate in this national program. We hope that you will consider participating this year at a ceremony near you, or at the very least, sponsoring one, or more, wreaths to help your Chapters reach their goals.

Wreaths, this year, are \$17 each to sponsor. The wreaths are delivered, all together, directly to the cemetery, prior to the national ceremonies that take place simultaneously with the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. You can sponsor a wreath directly on each chapter's WAA page. The links are below:

**Omaha Chapter**, supporting Prospect Hill Cemetery—[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NE0026P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NE0026P)

**Platte River Chapter**, supporting Fort McPherson—[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NE0069P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NE0069P)

Please sponsor one or more wreaths, and Remember, Honor, and Teach this holiday season!



## In Memoriam



### **James Richard Knott (1935-2025)**



James Richard Knott, born Jan 16, 1935, in Beardstown, Ill., passed away Jul 6, 2025, in Tucson, AZ. James was the son of Robert L. Knott, Sr. and Helen Elizabeth (Pool) Knott. He was married to Emma Guzman Ramirez. After her passing in 1991, James married Elsa Stuker in 2001. She predeceased him in 2023.

James and Emma were the parents of James Richard, Jr. (Lani), and Pilar Elena (David Blaber). His grandchildren are Nicole Blaber, Kelly Blaber, and Richard Knott III.

After a years long battle with leukemia and a brief remission, the cancer recently returned. He passed in his sleep in his home in Tucson, in his own bed, exactly where and how he wanted it to be. He had been under the loving care of his niece, Bobbie Atchison, who was like a second daughter to him and also lives in Tucson. The best Father, Son, Brother, Uncle, Grandfather, and friend to all who knew him. A humble, gentle, hardworking, not wealthy in means but in character, integrity, and love for his family.

James joined the Air Force in the early 1950's and served in Korea. James joined the SAR in 2015 and always looked forward to reading the newsletters and the SAR magazine. His body will be shipped back to Chicago to be buried with his first wife, Emma.

### **Thomas Lee Upton (1944-2025)**



Thomas Lee Upton was born Mar 25, 1944, in Omaha, Ne. He passed away Jul 14, 2025, in Omaha, Ne. He was the son of Carl Upton and Nancy (LaMalfa) Upton. He married Jane Treutler in 1966.

Tom joined the SAR in 2015, and quickly began to become active in the Omaha Chapter, serving as Secretary in 2016-17, and then Chapter President from 2018-19. He served as Jr. Vice President of the Nebraska SAR in 2020-21, and as Nebraska SAR State President in 2022-23. Tom also served on the Board of Managers for the State Society, for many of those years, including up until his death. He attended numerous National Leadership meetings, as well as a couple of National Congresses in his time in leadership in the SAR.

Tom was also a proud Freemason, being a member of Beehive Lodge #184, and Miloma Lodge #328, both in Omaha. Many Compatriots also knew Tom as a Brother of the Fraternity.

Tom was a great leader of the Nebraska SAR and Omaha Chapter, and a great Father, Brother, Husband, Compatriot, Friend, and Mentor to many of us who were lucky enough to have known him. He will be sorely missed among the ranks of the Nebraska SAR!

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.sar.org). If you have any questions, contact the State Registrar, Mark Byars.

Contact information for Compatriot Byars:

Mark A. Byars

5519 N. 165th St.

Omaha, NE 68116

Email: [markabyars@gmail.com](mailto:markabyars@gmail.com)

### **4th Quarter 2025 Meetings and Events**

Oct 2-4—SAR Fall Leadership Meetings—SAR Headquarters, Louisville, KY

Saturday, Oct 4—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Thursday, Oct 9—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Saturday, Oct 11—Compatriot Grave Marking, 1pm, North Platte, NE

Tuesday, Oct 14—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Saturday, Oct 25—Fun With Flags—Girl Scout Presentation, 1pm-4pm, Nebraska City, NE

Saturday, Nov 1—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Nov 11—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Tuesday, Nov 11—Veteran's Day Parade, 11am, North Platte, NE

Thursday, Nov 13—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Sunday, Nov 16—Veteran's Day Parade, 2pm, Lincoln, NE

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

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

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

Saturday, Dec 13—Wreaths Across America, 11am, Cemeteries across Nebraska

### Social Media and Online Presence



Nebraska SAR is online! Visit the Nebraska SAR website at [www.nebraskasar.org](http://www.nebraskasar.org).

Nebraska SAR Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR)

Omaha SAR Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR](http://www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR)

Omaha SAR Instagram page: [www.instagram.com/omahasar](http://www.instagram.com/omahasar)

