

A close-up photograph of the American flag, focusing on the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The stars are arranged in a curved pattern, and the stripes are visible in the lower half of the image. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the fabric.

# The Husker Patriot

*Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution*

**Q2, 2026**

**Issue 63**

# The Husker Patriot

Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



## President's Message

My fellow Compatriots,

It is my honor to serve as your Nebraska SAR President. We have a great group of State Officers leading your organization, and we have so many items and events that have already been done this year, and are still on the calendar, so please look to attend and support our mission of "promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring the future generations about the founding principles of our country".

Our organization continues to grow, with 27 new members already this year, and many new applications ready to submit for approval. We have also had 8 Compatriots reinstate their memberships this year, which is fantastic to see. Welcome back Compatriots! The Nebraska SAR now has over 200 statewide members for the first time in nearly 100 years.

We encourage all new members to get involved and participate in something within the society, no matter how small. A society like ours does not run by itself. It is reliant on volunteers to take up the work and the mission of the organization and keep it moving forward.

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's semi-quincentennial this July 4, in the midst of grilling out and shooting off fireworks, remember to honor what's truly important; your own patriot ancestors, and all of our founding fathers, for what they sacrificed to give us our country 250 years ago, risking their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. We can also celebrate, as John Adams famously wrote, "with Pomp and Parade, with Shows, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires, and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other..."

Come out to the Independence Day Parade in Ralston, where your color guard will be parading the colors proudly, as we do every Independence Day.

If you would like to help out the organization in some way, whether on a committee, helping with application preparation, joining the color guard, or any other number of ways to get involved, please reach out to me and I will get you in touch with the proper Compatriot to help you.

I pray you all have a very Happy and Safe Independence Day!

Huzzah!!

*Paul H. Burright*

Paul H. Burright  
President, Nebraska SAR

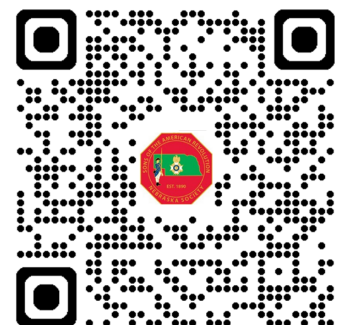


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or visit us at [nebraskasar.org](http://nebraskasar.org)



2026-2027

## Nebraska Society Officers

**President**—Paul H. Burrigh  
**1st Vice President**—Dr. James E. Sly  
**2nd Vice President**—Dan J. Davis  
**Secretary**—Stanley D. Wostrel  
**Treasurer**—William S. Webb Jr.  
**Registrar**—Mark A. Byars  
**Trustee**—Mark A. Byars  
**Alternate Trustee**—Richard A. Loutzenheiser  
**Chaplain**—Andrew J. Nehls  
**Historian**—John W. Reinert

### Chairmen

**Constitution/Bylaws**—Dr. James E. Sly  
**Membership**—Mark A. Byars  
**Budget & Finance**—William S. Webb Jr.  
**Audit Committee**—Dr. James E. Sly  
**Activities & Events**—Dan J. Davis  
**Color Guard Commander**—Allyn E. Sheldon  
**Education/Youth Awards**—Paul H. Burrigh  
**Americanism**—Stanley D. Wostrel  
**History**—John W. Reinert  
**America 250**—Mark A. Byars

### Board of Managers

**President**—Paul H. Burrigh  
**1st Vice President**—Dr. James E. Sly  
**2nd Vice President**—Dan J. Davis  
**Secretary**—Stanley D. Wostrel  
**Treasurer**—William S. Webb Jr.  
**Registrar**—Mark A. Byars  
**Chaplain**—Andrew J. Nehls  
**Historian**—John W. Reinert  
**Omaha Chapter Rep.**—OPEN  
**Lincoln Chapter Rep.**—OPEN  
**Platte River Chapter Rep.**—Rich N. Hulse (Pres)  
**Member At Large Rep.**—Richard A. Loutzenheiser  
**Immediate Past resident**—John C. Braisted  
**Past State President**—Merle T. McAlevy

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# State Society News

## Spring State Meeting



The Spring Meeting of the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was held at 2:00 PM on April 19, 2026, at Mahoney State Park's Kiewit Lodge in Ashland, NE. A Zoom option was also provided for members unable to attend in person.

### AWARDS

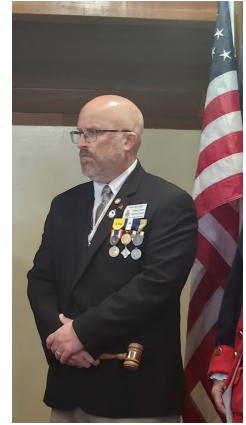
The following awards were conferred at the meeting:

- **250 Anniversary Award (Silver)**—Kameron Charles Heffner
- **Color Guard Award (Silver)**—Mark A. Byars
- **Caleb Gibbs Color Guard Commander Award**—Paul Howard Burrigh
- **Youth Education Medal**—Paul Howard Burrigh
- **Youth Education Oak Leaf Cluster**—Mark A. Byars

“*Oak leaf clusters are devices attached to ribbons and medals to signify receiving the same decoration multiple times. Click [here](#) to read more about the history of oak leaf clusters.*”

- **Roger Sherman Medal (Silver)**—Mark A. Byars
- **Meritorious Service Medal (Silver)**—James Edward Sly Jr.
- **Patriot Medal**—John Chester Braisted
- **Past President Pin**—John Chester Braisted





### OFFICER /COMMITTEE REPORTS

A copy of the 2020 Spring State Meeting Report is available for download [here](#).

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Burrigot reminded Officers to complete their [SAR University](#) and [Youth Protection Training](#) by June 1, 2026.

### NEW BUSINESS

The following motions were moved, seconded and approved:

- To provide funding for stipends for six (6) State-level Youth Awards—Elementary School Poster (\$50), High School Essay Contest (\$150), JROTC Outstanding Cadet (\$200), High School Oration Contest (\$200), High School American History Teacher Award (\$200), and Middle School American History Teacher Award (\$200)—with payments to be disbursed from restricted certificate(s) of deposit.
- To reimburse the Nebraska Society Ladies Auxiliary for the \$275 fee associated with its 501(c)(3) application.
- To elect Compatriots Mark A. Byars as National Trustee and Richard Allen Loutzenheiser as Alternate.
- To authorize a donation of \$165 to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in support of additional signage along U.S. Route 6, designated as the “Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Highway.”

Congratulations to our incoming SAR officers and award recipients—thank you for your dedication, leadership, and commitment to serving others with excellence.

### INDUCTIONS

The 2026-2028 State Officers (left panel) were formally inducted.





**Revolution Rediscovered: Bringing 1776 to Life**

As part of the nationwide commemoration of America’s 250th anniversary, members of the Color Guard and Compatriots joined Nebraska Public Media for “Revolution Rediscovered: Bringing 1776 to Life” on May 7 at The Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. Centered on “The American Revolution,” the acclaimed documentary by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt, the program explored the people, conflicts and pivotal moments that shaped the founding of the United States through film excerpts, a panel discussion and an interactive pop-up exhibit presented by the Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The exhibit featured artifacts from the Patriots Chest, including period-accurate materials and everyday colonial items.

Panelists included Dr. James Sly, 1st Vice President of the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; Dr. Susan Brynne Long, history instructor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha; Dr. Kyle Chattleton, public historian at The Durham Museum; and moderator Jessica Wagner, director of education and public engagement at The Durham Museum.



**Signing of the Declaration of Independence Replica**

On May 28, Congressman Mike Flood signed the NE Society’s replica of the Declaration of Independence at his Lincoln office, where he added his signature in recognition of this historic document. His participation marks another meaningful addition to our ongoing effort to commemorate the principles and legacy of American independence.



## Martha Eaton Rededication

On June 13, Compatriots joined the Deborah Avery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Fairbury, Nebraska, to honor Patriot Daughter and DAR member Martha Ann Sawin Eaton (1825-1912). The ceremony celebrated her legacy and recognized her contributions as a descendant of those who served in support of American independence.



## Liberty Tree Dedication

Later that day, a Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony was held at Fairbury City Park. This is the Society's sixth Liberty Tree and was dedicated in Jefferson County in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson County Commissioner Mark Schoenrock delivered remarks recognizing the historical significance of the occasion and the importance of preserving the ideals of liberty for future generations.



Additional images of the day's events can be viewed [HERE](#).

## America 250 Bench Dedication

In 2022, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) launched an initiative encouraging each state society to dedicate a commemorative bench in honor of America's 250th anniversary. In the fall of 2025, the Nebraska Society invited compatriots to support this meaningful project, and the response was remarkable. A total of 61 members generously contributed \$3,985.

The Nebraska SAR commemorative bench, crafted from polished black granite, features both the SAR and America 250 logos along with the inscription: **"In Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of American Independence and the Revolutionary Patriots Who Sacrificed to Earn Our Freedom."**

The bench has been installed along the Monument Walk in Omaha's Memorial Park, adjacent to the DAR America 250 marker dedicated in 2022. It joins the park's collection of memorials, helping to tell the story of the American people's struggle and sacrifice, as well as the nation's enduring progress and promise.

On Sunday, June 28, Nebraska Society compatriots and members of the Color Guard gathered at Memorial Park in Omaha to dedicate the bench in a special ceremony. Additional photos from the dedication can be viewed [HERE](#).





## Welcome New Members

**John Edward Anderson #238902**

*Patriot: Jonathan Haskell  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Todd Michael Armbrust #237978**

*Patriot: Abraham Sutton  
Omaha Chapter*

**Spencer Eugene Crews #238273**

*Patriot David Lewis  
Omaha Chapter*

**Jeremiah Lee Davlin #237977**

*Patriot: Obediah Harris  
Omaha Chapter*

**Benjamin Adam Deines #238270**

*Patriot: Jesse Owen  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Jonathan Everett Deines #238268**

*Patriot: Jesse Owen  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Larson Luke Deines #238272**

*Patriot: Jesse Owen  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Leo Mitchell Deines #238269**

*Patriot: Jesse Owen  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Mitchell Eugene Deines #238267**

*Patriot: Jesse Owen  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Reid Jonathan Deines #238271**

*Patriot: Jesse Owen  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Paul Jerome Hadley #239034**

*Patriot Joesph Elliot  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Aaron David Hahn #238108**

*Patriot: Andrew Bruner  
Lincoln Chapter*

**Alexander Weston Hahn #238107**

*Patriot: Andrew Bruner  
Lincoln Chapter*

**David Harry Hahn ##238106**

*Patriot: Andrew Bruner  
Lincoln Chapter*

**William Floyd Harvey #238653**

*Patriot: Nimrod Stone  
Omaha Chapter*

**Leonard Jason LaPorte #238104**

*Patriot: John Ridenour  
Omaha Chapter*

**Dennis Wayne Wagner #238105**

*Patriot: John Kincheloe  
Lincoln Chapter*



### Memorials

Cecil Lee Hill #237787 (Omaha)  
Matthew C. Henderson #238719 (Lincoln)

### Supplementals

Gary Lee Cline #155411  
Patriot: John Alban  
Platte River Chapter

### Reinstatements

Ashton Nicholas Reed #233080  
Platte River Chapter  
Eric Melvin Reed #233079  
Platter River Chapter  
Martin E. Niermann #103651  
Omaha Chapter  
Charles L. Robinson #161552  
Omaha Chapter

***The Nebraska SAR membership is the largest it has been since 1931.*** More than 20 additional applications are expected to be submitted in July.



## 250 years ago this quarter

Between April and June 1776, the American Revolution shifted heavily toward independence, highlighted by

North Carolina authorizing a vote for separation (April 12), the Continental Congress opening colonial ports to non-British trade (April 6), the introduction of the Lee Resolution for independence (June 7), and the Battle of Sullivan's Island (June 28).



### Key Events: April - June 1776

- **April 6, 1776:** The Continental Congress opens American ports to all nations except Britain, effectively acting as an independent nation.
- **April 12, 1776:** North Carolina adopts the Halifax Resolves, becoming the first colony to officially authorize its delegates to vote for independence.
- **May 1776:** Nine Provincial Congresses express support for independence.
- **June 7, 1776:** Richard Henry Lee proposes the Lee Resolution to the Second Continental Congress, declaring, "These United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States".
- **June 11, 1776:** Congress appoints the "Committee of Five" (Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Sherman, and Livingston) to draft a formal declaration of independence.
- **June 28, 1776:** American forces successfully defend Charleston, South Carolina, at the Battle of Sullivan's Island, boosting patriot morale.
- **Late June 1776:** The Virginia Declaration of Rights and a new state constitution are adopted

## Useful Links

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

[www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

Nebraska SAR website

[www.nebraskasar.org](http://www.nebraskasar.org)

Nebraska SAR Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR)

Omaha Chapter Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR](http://www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR)

Omaha Chapter Instagram page

[www.instagram.com/omahasar](http://www.instagram.com/omahasar)

## SAR Foundation

The SAR Foundation was incorporated in 2002 to secure funding for the various projects undertaken by the SAR to improve the understanding of the American Revolution and support the mission and objectives of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Their major current project is a \$15 million capital campaign to bring the visionary SAR Education Center and Museum to life at the National SAR Headquarters located in Louisville, Kentucky.

For additional information on how you can contribute, go to:

<https://www.sarfoundation.org/>



## Anniversaries this Quarter

As we recognize the anniversaries of our members, the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution offers its sincere thanks for your enduring dedication to preserving the history, principles, and patriotism of our founding generation.

The following Compatriots celebrated their anniversary this quarter:

### 10 Years

Roger Lynn Rotschafer (Lincoln)

### 15 Years

Charles Vernon Harris (Platte River)

### 20 Years

Lester Paul Olsen (Platte River)

### 30 Years

Denton Dean Weiss (MAL)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, the White House Historical Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization entrusted with preserving and sharing White House history. The Association is able to fulfill its mission through the sale of educational books and products and the support of private philanthropy. The Association also operates [The People's House: A White House Experience](#), a free, immersive, educational museum in Washington, D.C., which welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

The Association offers a number of heirloom-quality gifts commemorating America's 250th birthday [CLICK HERE](#).



## State-wide Events



Throughout 2026, Nebraska Game and Parks will host dozens of events and programs tied to the 250th anniversary theme.

[View Upcoming Events](#)



## NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL

The Nebraska Arts Council is honored to join the state and nation for America250, marking the nation's 250 years. In addition, they're celebrating the 50th anniversary of [Nebraska Interstate-80 Bicentennial Sculpture Project!](#)

[View Upcoming Events](#)



Checkout addition America 250 celebrations in Nebraska using the link below.

[View Upcoming Events](#)

# Gorgets

In Europe, the term *gorget*—derived from the French *gorge*, meaning “throat”—originally referred to a band of linen wrapped around a woman’s neck and head during the medieval period, or to the lower portion of a simple chaperon hood. Over time, the term evolved to encompass various forms of throat protection, including steel or leather collars, assemblies of plate armor, or a single plate suspended from the neck to protect the throat and upper chest.

By the eighteenth century, the gorget had undergone a gradual transformation from functional armor into a largely symbolic object. It diminished in size and assumed a crescent shape, worn on a chain that allowed it to hang progressively lower on the chest. As a result, it no longer served a practical defensive purpose when worn in the customary manner. Instead, the gorget became primarily ornamental. This form was frequently used as a trade item distributed to Native American communities and also persisted as a symbolic element of military dress, signifying rank and authority. In some military traditions, this ceremonial use has endured into the modern era. Such gorgets appear in numerous eighteenth-century paintings of military figures across Europe and colonial America, including well-known depictions of George Washington.

In the Americas, the earliest known use of gorgets as ornamental neck-hung objects signifying status or rank predates European contact by thousands of years. Archaeological evidence from mound-building cultures of Eastern North America reveals gorgets crafted from shell, stone, and copper. While it may be an overstatement to argue that this longstanding tradition directly predisposed Native American peoples to adopt European metal gorgets, the existence of earlier indigenous forms likely facilitated their acceptance. The transition can be viewed as broadly analogous to the replacement of stone or wooden tools with metal counterparts following sustained contact with Europeans.

During the American Revolutionary period, gorgets took the form of crescent-shaped ornamental metal plates worn by officers to indicate rank and duty status. The gorget depicted in Charles Willson Peale’s 1772 portrait of Colonel George Washington, for example, reflects its use during the French and Indian War, when Washington wore it as a visible symbol of his commission as an officer in the Virginia Regiment.



Continental officers also wore them, such as the example belonging to Lieutenant Alexander Hume, which featured American symbols and the motto "*Libertas. Potior. Vita*". The gorget is part of the Mount Vernon Collection.



Some American officers took captured British gorgets and modified them, such as one with the British royal arms scratched out and replaced with symbols of American independence.

# The First 4th of July Celebration

While it's only been a paid federal holiday since 1938, the Fourth of July has been celebrated by Americans stretching back to that first momentous day in 1776.

Before the American Revolution, the King George III's June 4 birthday was a celebration marked with bonfires, speeches, and the ringing of bells. But in 1776, as patriotic fervor swept through the colonies, praising birthday celebrations turned to mock funerals for the King.

So was the mood of the colonies on July 2, 1776, when the Continental Congress voted in favor of American independence. On July 4, after making several minor changes to Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence, Congress officially adopted the document.

While many parades, bonfires, and the firing of muskets and cannons greeted the document's public readings on July 8 of that year, the first organized July 4 celebration would take place in 1777 in Philadelphia and Boston.

According to the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* on July 5, 1777:

*Yesterday the 4th of July, being the anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America, was celebrated in this city with demonstrations of joy and festivity. About noon all the armed ships and gallies in the river were drawn up before the city, dressed in the gayest manner, with the colors of the United States and streamers displayed. At one o'clock, the yards being properly manned, they began the celebration of the day by a discharge of thirteen cannon from each of the ships, and one from each of the thirteen gallies, in honor of the Thirteen United States ... The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated.*



*"Pulling down the Statue of George III by the 'Sons of Freedom' at the Bowling Green, City of New York July 1776."*

In Boston that same day, Col. Thomas Craft of the Sons of Liberty is said to have fired off fireworks and shells over Boston Common.

Following Congress's July 2 vote in favor of independence, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail:

*The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America.—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 appears to have eventually capitulated to July 4 as Independence Day; according to David McCullough's biography of the second president, when Adams, on his deathbed, was told it was the Fourth of July, he answered clearly, "It is a great day. It is a good day."

Adams and Thomas Jefferson would both die on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Five years later, another Founding Father and U.S. president, James Monroe, would also die on July 4.



## Color Guard Dispatches Nebraska Society



On March 25, members of the Nebraska Color Guard participated in the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, MO, "Above and Beyond" ceremony honoring Medal of Honor recipients, specifically highlighting three WWII U.S. Army veterans—Gen. Jonathan Wainwright IV, 1st Lt. Vernon Baker, and SSgt. Herbert.



The Color Guard opened the 2026 State Meeting on April 19, at Mahoney State Park's Kiewit Lodge.

The Color Guard was also represented at:

**"Revolution Rediscovered"** Panel Discussion—May 7 at the Durham Museum (Omaha) - below



**33-Star Flag Dedication**—May 22 (Beatrice)

**Memorial Day at Prospect Hill Cemetery**—May 25 (Omaha)



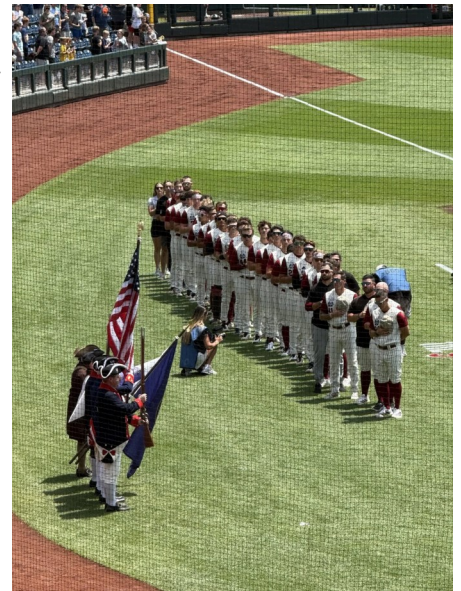
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**Gage County Museum**—June 13 (Beatrice)



**College World Series**—June 16 (Omaha)

The Color guard presented the colors at Game 6 of the College World Series at the Charles Schwab Field in Omaha.



**Martha Eaton Rededication**—June 13 (Fairbury)



**NebraskaLand Parade**—June 20 (North Platte)



**Liberty Tree Dedication**—June 13 (Fairbury)



**Join the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Color Guard** and help bring our nation's history to life! As a member, you'll have the honor of wearing the uniform of a Patriot, presenting and posting the colors at community events, parades, schools, and ceremonies across the state. The Color Guard preserves and promotes the legacy of our Revolutionary ancestors through service, education, and patriotism. Whether you're a seasoned reenactor or new to living history, your enthusiasm and dedication are all that's needed. Stand tall for freedom and heritage—join the Nebraska SAR Color Guard today!

Contact Color Guard Commander, Allyn Sheldon at [roundtowncbo@hotmail.com](mailto:roundtowncbo@hotmail.com) for more information.



# Chapter Chatter

Updates from our Chapters



## OMAHA

### APRIL

The featured speaker at the April 19th meeting of the Omaha Chapter NSSAR was Dr. Susan Brynne Long. Dr. Long is an Instructor of History at the University of Nebraska Omaha and the 2024-2025 Charles Young Fellow at the U.S. Army Center of Military History. Her research focuses on the American Revolution, especially civil-military relations and early federalism, and she has a forthcoming monograph on the frontier theater of the war. Dr. Long's presentation was entitled "American Prisoner Administration during the American Revolution."



During the American Revolution, control over British-allied prisoners was fiercely contested. Early in the war, local revolutionary bodies managed prisoners, reflecting a strong democratic spirit. In 1777, Congress created the Department of Prisoners, but local communities resisted this shift to centralized authority. Commissary General Elias Boudinot faced both public opposition and state rivalries. This struggle over prisoners mirrored broader conflicts over military power. The presentation traces the development of America's early prisoner system, highlighting key figures, detention sites, and new archival findings.

Invested at the April Omaha Chapter meeting were Matthew Ellis and Gregory Bowden. A supplemental was also presented to Compatriot Mark Byars.

### MAY

At the May Chapter meeting, members approved a \$250 donation to [Patriot Productions](#). In addition, Compatriots Leonard LaPorte and Spencer Crews were formally inducted.

Chapter President Byars presented the Bronze Color Guard Award to Andrew L. Sullivan and the America 250 Award to Kameron Heffner. Following the presentations, Compatriot Mark Byars delivered the program, "Rev. Dr. Samuel Goodale: A True Son of the Nebraska SAR."

An Episcopal missionary, Rev. Goodale established churches throughout Nebraska, including congregations in Lincoln, Ashland, Fremont, Central City, Silver Creek, and notably Columbus, where he founded Grace Episcopal Church in 1868 and served as rector from 1877 to 1885. He also served as Chaplain of the Eighth Nebraska Legislature in 1872.

In recognition of his dedicated service to faith, community, and country, the Nebraska SAR placed a commemorative marker at his gravesite and presented a portrait and biographical tribute to the Platte County Museum on August 9, 2025.



Continued next page.

## OFFICERS

- President**—Mark Byars
- Vice President**—Dan Davis
- Secretary**—OPEN
- Treasurer**—Andrew Nehls
- Registrar**—Mark Byars

The Omaha Chapter meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM for dinner and business at Gorat's Steakhouse, 4917 Center Street, Omaha

State Registrar and Omaha Chapter President Mark Byars delivered the keynote address on Champion Chase—Omaha mayor and founder of the Nebraska Society SAR—during the Memorial Day service at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha on May 25.



You can view the ceremony on Facebook [HERE](#)  
 Joining Compatriot Byars were the State Color Guard who also provided a three-volley musket salute.



*The Husker Patriot*



## LINCOLN

### OFFICERS

**President**—TBA  
**Vice President**—TBA  
**Secretary**—John Braisted  
**Treasurer**—John Reinert

The Lincoln Chapter meets on the first Saturday of each month at aa AM at the Charles H. Gere Branch Library, 2400 South 56th Street, Lincoln, NE

On May 30, State President Paul Burrigot and Allyn Sheldon showcased a Patriot Chest at the Cornhusker Council, Scouting America's Kick Off for America 250 Celebration, held at the Outdoor Education Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. During the event, new Lincoln Chapter member Dennis Wagner (pictured), dressed in authentic colonial attire, delivered a stirring recitation of the Declaration of Independence.



## PLATTE RIVER

### OFFICERS

**President**—Richard Hulse  
**Vice President**—Ronald Roberts  
**Secretary**—Richard Hulse  
**Treasurer**—Sam Kinsinger

The Platte River Chapter meets virtually via Zoom on the second Thursday of each month at 1 PM



# Nebraska Ladies Auxiliary

**The Nebraska SAR Auxiliary warmly invites all ladies** who share an interest in supporting and promoting the objectives of the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Becoming a member offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with others who value patriotism, history, and community service. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about joining, please contact Paula Burright at

[pjburright@gmail.com](mailto:pjburright@gmail.com)



## Children of the American Revolution

C.A.R., the nation's oldest, largest, patriotic youth organization, offers membership to anyone under the age of 22, lineally descended from someone who rendered material aid to the cause of American Independence as a soldier, sailor, civil officer, or recognized patriot in one of the several Colonies or States, or of the United States. C.A.R. activities focus on patriotism, service, and education about our American heritage.

Find out more at: <https://www.nscar.org>

*Training tomorrow's leaders to serve our country and preserve our nation's history. We honor those who came before us and paved the way for what we have today.*



## AMERICAN FLAG ETIQUETTE Half Staff

Residential display of the American flag is not required to follow half-staff proclamations issued by the President or a state governor. Those proclamations primarily apply to government buildings and official facilities. However, homeowners are certainly welcome to lower their flags as a personal gesture of respect and mourning.

For homes with a traditional vertical flagpole and pulley system, the standard half-staff procedure should be followed: the flag is first raised briskly to the top of the pole, then ceremoniously lowered to the halfway position.

For house-mounted flags with a fixed pole position, there are several respectful alternatives.



If your wall-mounted bracket offers two angle settings—such as an upward angle and a horizontal position—you may use the lower setting, provided the flag does not touch the ground. In this arrangement, the flag extends outward roughly parallel to the ground rather than upward. While less common, this is still widely recognized as an

appropriate display during periods of mourning.

If the flag mount cannot be adjusted, another accepted option is to attach a black streamer or bow to the top of the flagpole. Traditionally, the streamer should be about the width of one stripe of the flag and at least as long as the flag itself. It should be secured directly beneath the finial so it can flow freely above the flag.

Although black streamers are not specifically mentioned in the U.S. Flag Code, the practice was popularized by The American Legion and is widely accepted as a respectful expression of mourning for private displays of the American flag.



# SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Nebraska Society Sons of the American Revolution offers a Speaker's Bureau that shares the history, people, and ideals of the American Revolution with communities statewide. Our knowledgeable volunteers deliver engaging, customizable programs for schools, civic groups, libraries, and historical societies.

Presentations this quarter included:

- MAY 7—Nebraska Rediscovered Panel Discussion (Omaha)
- MAY 22—33-star Flag Celebration (Beatrice)
- MAY 25—Memorial Day Address at Prospect Hill (Omaha)
- JUN 27—MC for Patriotic Concert (Beatrice)



## OUTREACH EDUCATION

### PATRIOT CHEST

The SAR Patriot Chest Program is an interactive presentation, intended to complement Elementary and Middle School lesson plans on the Revolutionary War and Colonial Period of American History. The program's purpose is to bring that history alive, while providing students with a sense of the times and appreciation of the Patriot men and women who founded our nation.

Presentations this quarter included:

- APR 15—North Park Elementary (Broken Bow)
- APR 22—Aldrich Elementary (Millard Public Schools)
- MAY 30—Outdoor Education Center (Lincoln)
- JUN 13—Gage County Museum (Beatrice)
- JUN 26—Gold Crest Retirement (Adams)
- JUN 27—Omaha Public Library (Omaha)
- JUN 27—Homestead National Historic Park (Beatrice)

## ORATION CONTEST

On Sunday, May 3, 2026, Nebraska SAR President Paul Burrigh presented Ashmiza Shaik with the Nebraska SAR State Orations Contest neck ribbon medal, certificate, and a \$200 award in recognition of her achievement as the state winner in Nebraska SAR's inaugural High School Orations Contest.

Ashmiza recently completed her junior year at Millard North High School in Omaha, Nebraska, where she is an active member of the school's speech team. She has also competed in national speech competitions as part of her team.

Participants in the Orations Contest are required to prepare and deliver an original speech lasting between five and six minutes. The oration must be presented from memory, without notes or props, and focus on an event, individual, or document related to the American Revolutionary War. Contestants must also incorporate a reference to the celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary.

Ashmiza's winning oration highlighted the contributions of Polly Cooper, a member of the Oneida Nation who used her knowledge and skills as a healer to improve the health and well-being of soldiers at Valley Forge. Although Polly Cooper is not a widely recognized historical figure, she represents the many patriots whose service, sacrifice, and dedication to the cause of liberty and freedom have largely been overlooked by history.

Congratulations to Ashmiza Shaik, the 2026 Nebraska SAR State Orations Contest Champion.





## Third Quarter Meetings

- JUL 16** **Platte River Chapter Meeting**  
1:00 PM  
Lincoln Co. Historical Museum, N. Platte
- AUG 1** **Lincoln Chapter Meeting**  
11 AM  
Gere Branch Library, Lincoln
- AUG 13** **Platte River Chapter Meeting**  
1:00 PM  
Lincoln Co. Historical Museum, N. Platte
- SEP 5** **Lincoln Chapter Meeting**  
11 AM  
Gere Branch Library, Lincoln
- SEP 8** **Omaha Chapter Meeting**  
6:30 PM  
Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha
- SEP 10** **Platte River Chapter Meeting**  
1:00 PM  
Lincoln Co. Historical Museum, N. Platte
- SEP 13** **Nebraska SAR Fall State Meeting**  
2 PM  
Mahoney State Park, Ashland



## SAR Applications

Regular, Junior, and Memorial membership applications, as well as supplemental applications, should be submitted online through the application portal at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org). If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact State Registrar Mark Byars at [markbyars@gmail.com](mailto:markbyars@gmail.com). A PDF version of the SAR Application is also available for download [HERE](#).

## 2026 Event Calendar

*All events and dates subject to change. Check the NESSAR website for details.*

- JUL 1 (WED) Omaha Rotary Meeting—Color Guard (Omaha)
- JUL 1 (WED) Dec. of Indep. Dedication at State Capital (Lincoln)
- JUL 2 (THU) Phelps County America 250 Celebration (Holdrege)
- JUL 4 (SAT) 250th Kickoff Event (Ralston)
- JUL 4 (SAT) Independence Day Parade (Ralston)
- JUL 5 (SUN) Omaha Chapter Summer Social (Omaha)
- JUL 5 (SUN) Omaha Stormchasers—Color Guard (Omaha)
- JUL 8 (WED) Declaration of Independence Reading (Omaha)
- JUL 8 (WED) Declaration of Independence Reading (Lincoln)
- JUL 11 (SAT) DAR Patriot Son DAR Dedication (Fairmont)
- SEP 7 (SAT) Nebraska State Fair (Grand Island)
- SEP 13 (SAT) Fall State Meeting (Ashland)
- SEP 18 (FRI) Nebraska Heritage Alliance Meeting (Omaha)
- OCT 10 (SAT) Compatriot Founders Grave Marking (Omaha)
- NOV 15 (SUN) Veteran's Day Parade (Lincoln)
- DEC 19 (SAT) Wreaths Across America at Prospect Hill (Omaha)

Fellow Compatriots, our strength as Chapters—and as a Society—depends on your active involvement. By attending local SAR meetings and participating in community events, you help preserve our shared history, support patriotic initiatives, and inspire the next generation with the principles of liberty and service. Your presence, ideas, and enthusiasm make a real difference. Let's continue honoring our Revolutionary ancestors not only in remembrance, but through fellowship and meaningful engagement in our communities.

# The Husker Patriot

*Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution*