

JANUARY 2026

Historic Preservation Education Patriotism



Regent's Message

With the upcoming America 250 celebration just six months away, I wanted to introduce some under-known Patriots between now and then. The National Society DAR is continuously verifying new Patriots. Many of these un-known patriots are women, African Americans and Native Americans.

During the Liberty Bus trip to JL Bowler Elementary School, I was listening to the museum docent and he mentioned that many women Patriots have gone unrecognized for 250 years. Patriots such as Abigail Adams, Sybil Ludington and Deborah Sampson. Through my involvement with the DAR, I was familiar with these women, however, I realized that many people have never heard of these Patriots. I thought to begin with, I would share the story of Deborah Sampson.

Deborah Sampson was born on December 17, 1760 in Plympton, Massachusetts. At age 10, Deborah was bound as an indentured servant after her father never returned from Sea. After being released from her indenture at 18, Deborah worked as a teacher and a weaver.

In 1782 at age 22, Sampson assumed the identity of Robert Shurtleff and joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. Later that year at West Point, New York she was assigned the job of scouting to assess the British in Manhattan. During a confrontation with the Tories, Sampson found herself in one on one combat. She also led a raid on a Tory home that resulted in 15 men being captured. At one point Deborah extracted a pistol ball from her thigh to avoid her sex being revealed.

Eventually she was found out after becoming ill and hospitalized. Sampson received an honorable discharge in 1783. She also received a military pension from the state of Massachusetts. In 1837 a Congressional Committee concluded that the history of the Revolution "furnished no other similar example of female heroism, fidelity and courage".

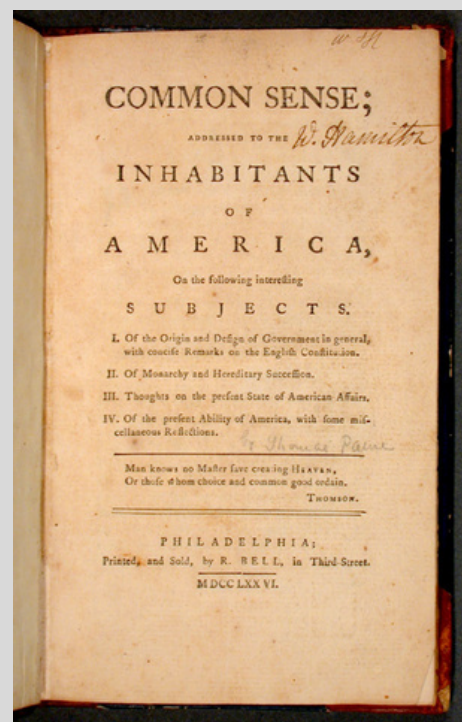
MLA - Michals, Debra. "Deborah Sampson." National Women's History Museum, 2015



Deborah Sampson

Common Sense has been around for 250 Years

Common Sense is a 47-page pamphlet written by Thomas Paine and published on January 10, 1776. This famous publication advocated independence from Great Britain to the people in Colonial America. Paine presented moral and political arguments in a clear and persuasive way to encourage common people in the Colonies to fight for freedom against the British. It was published anonymously at the beginning of the American Revolution and became an immediate sensation.



Common Sense was sold and distributed widely and read aloud at taverns and meeting places. In proportion to the population of the colonies at that time, it had the largest sale and circulation of any book published in American history. According to Wikipedia, as of 2006, it remains the all-time best-selling American title and is still in print today.

President General's Message



Illuminate Our Legacy



December 2025

Dear Daughters,

For many, winter weather is sweeping across the country as we welcome the month of December, and I hope you are staying safe, warm, and uplifted by the spirit of the season.

Your Executive Officers are excited to greet those who are able to attend our annual Holiday Open House. The DAR National Headquarters building is beautifully decorated and ready to celebrate the season. I look forward to seeing you and your friends and families on Wednesday, December 10, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. here in Washington, D.C.

We are still energized by the tremendous success of Ken Burns' The American Revolution documentary on PBS. If you have not yet watched it, the full series is now available for streaming through PBS. It has been a privilege to see chapters across the country proudly commemorate this moment and embrace the opportunity to share DAR's mission with their communities. Millions of viewers were introduced to DAR through our sponsorship and the "Discover Your Family Story" video spot, helping to elevate the work of our Society on a national scale. With your help, interest in the program has extended far beyond the original 13 markets—truly reaching audiences nationwide.

[To Continue Reading the President General's Message Click Here](#)



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Officer Induction & New Member Installation



Installation of Chaplain Sally Kershisnik



Induction of new members
Nova Mastrogiovanni and Jacqueline Hart



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JANUARY 9-11, 2025

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Civics question for Naturalization

1. The words “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” are in what founding document?
2. Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?
3. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803? •
4. What amendment says all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are U.S. citizens?
5. During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?

(Answers on Page 6)

Month in Review



Packing Goodie Boxes for Active Military



Wreath Laying Ceremony with the Honor Guard

Vets Chat at Mesa Valley Estates

The topic at the December Vets Chat was Gold Star Families





Flag Facts

There have been 27 versions of the American flag. From the 1777 original that had 13 stars and 13 stripes for the American colonies, there have been many changes and versions of the flag. Each time a state was added to the union, a star was added. We, of course, now stand with 50 stars and 13 stripes.



About Natives Americans



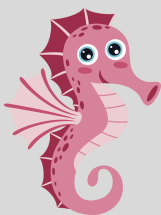
Sergie Sovoroff was born in 1901 in the small village of Nikolski on Umnak Island, far out in the Bering Sea. His people, the Unangan (Aleut) hunted sea otters using Aleut sea kayaks. By 1910 sea otter hunting was outlawed. As a result, the Aleut's kayaks began to disappear and with them, the knowledge of the Aleut's culture began to disappear. Sergie, as a young man, began to make small wooden models of the kayaks. He used the models to preserve and to pass on traditional knowledge. Sergie spent his life traveling to Aleut communities, teaching about the Aleut culture and sharing his kayak models. Sergie was keeper of the Aleut cultural knowledge about plants, language, and the sea. He is directly credited by many as being the reason why knowledge about the kayaks was able to be revived in the twenty first century. His surviving models are now held in museums around the world.

Source: Keene, Adrienne. *Notable Native People* (pg.27). Ten Speed Press, Copyright 2021



Concerning the Constitution

Under the Constitution, the Electoral College chooses the President and Vice President. Initially, the candidate who received the most Electoral votes was elected President and the one who received the second-most votes was elected Vice President. When George Washington was elected President twice, this worked quite well. However, during those eight years, political parties developed and the elections of 1796 and 1800 made clear this method of choosing the President and Vice President needed to be changed. The Twelfth Amendment created the method for electing the President and Vice President from the same political party.



Caring about Conservation

Protecting Our Oceans: **The New Year's Resolution We Need**, Oceans cover more than 70% of our planet, playing a vital role in regulating climate and supporting marine life. They're home to an astounding diversity of organisms, many of which are still undiscovered. Unfortunately, our oceans face numerous threats, including pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Simple actions like reducing plastic use, supporting sustainable seafood choices, and advocating for marine protected areas can help preserve these precious waters.

Here are specific things you can do.

Replace single-use plastic items with reusable alternatives, such as cloth shopping bags.

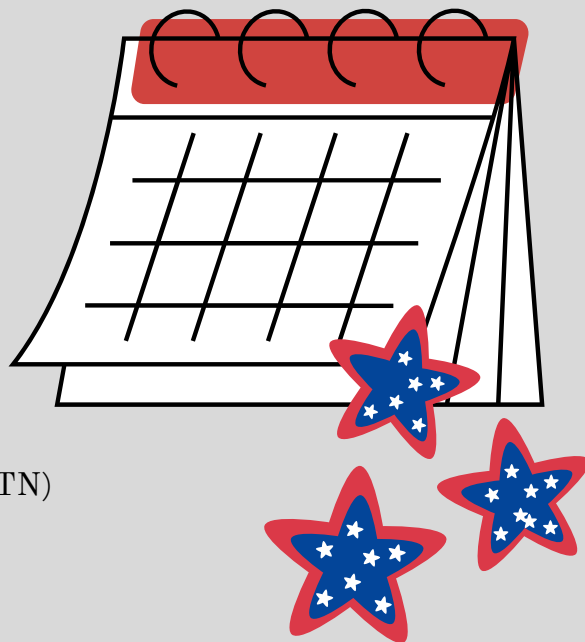
Explore a variety of seafood species to reduce the pressure of popular and overfished species.

Encourage responsible tourism practices, such as respecting wildlife, avoiding damage to coral reefs, and minimizing waste during beach visits.

January Dates of Note



- Jan 1, 1863: President Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Jan 1, 1892: Ellis Island opens in New York Harbor.
- Jan 3, 1922: King Tut's tomb is discovered.
- Jan 9, 2007: Steve Jobs debuts the first iPhone.
- Jan 10, 1776: Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*
- Jan 24, 1848: Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill, California.
- Jan 28, 1780: Fort Nashborough established (now Nashville, TN)
- Jan 28, 1986: Space Shuttle Challenger disaster occurs.



National Defender

By Madeleine Tanguay, Collections Intern Military Women's Memorial Manor House Chapter, Washington, DC

OBJECT OF THE MONTH From the Editor: We are introducing a new recurring segment featuring artifacts from the Military Women's Memorial Collection that highlight the experiences of women in the U.S. military.

Our first object is an American Expeditionary Forces identification card belonging to Julia L. Dougher during World War I. She served in the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) from June 19, 1918, to July 20, 1919, and was stationed in various American hospitals in France, such as the U.S. Army Base Hospital #45 in Toul, France. You can see clues to her French station through the French translation of each English script. Carrying this small identification card gave nurses like Julia noncombatant status, crucial for safety while traveling through war zones. The constant need for security explains its pocket-sized dimensions, measuring 3¼ in. x 2¾ in.

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**MILITARY
WOMEN'S
MEMORIAL**

Interested in learning more about women's military history? Visit the Military Women's Memorial at the Gateway to Arlington National Cemetery or the Memorial's website (<https://womensmemorial.org>) where you can access information on their exhibits, collection, oral history collection, research library, and other educational resources.



Answers to Civics Questions: 1. Declaration of Independence 2. To more closely follow public opinion 3. Louisiana Territory 4. 14th Amendment 5. Communism • Nuclear war

2026 Calendar



January 10 - 10am Regular Meeting

January 21 - 10:45 Vets Chat

February 14 - 10am Regular Meeting

February 18 - 10:45 Vets Chat

March 14 - 10am Regular Meeting

March 18 - 10:45 Vets Chat

March 27-29 - State Conference - Reno

April 11 - 10am Regular Meeting

April 15 - 10:45 Vets Chat

May 9 - 10am Regular Meeting &
Installation of Officers

May 13 - 10:45 Vets Chat

June 18 - America 250! Reception at the
Mesquite Fine Arts Center

