



May Newsletter

MAY 2026

Historic Preservation

Education

Patriotism



Regent's Message

The more I learn about the American Revolution, the more I realize that the American Revolutionary War and the American Revolution are two different things. The American Revolutionary War took place from 1775 starting with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Fighting continued through 1781 with the Siege of Yorktown, and was officially over in 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

The American Revolution is a little bit harder to pin down to exact dates. After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, many colonists had fought along side of the British army in the French and Indian War, (including George Washington). At the end of the war, colonists were still loyal British subjects, and had rights under the British Crown.

Also, during this time, the Age of Enlightenment was at its peak in Europe and much of Western civilization. This movement was built on new methods of empirical inquiry, whose central ideas focused on reason, natural rights and knowledge.

An Eight Year War A 30 YEAR REVOLUTION

The British crown had spent a lot of money fighting the French and Native Americans for control of the Ohio River Valley. Hence, the British Parliament started passing a series of acts as a means of recouping some of the war costs.

Tensions built as the Stamp Act was passed in 1765, taxing newspapers, legal documents and even playing cards. The Townshend Act in 1767 imposed even more taxes on items such as glass, lead and paint. The Boston Massacre in 1770 caused widespread Anti-British sentiment in the colonies, and the Tea Act in 1773 compounded said sentiment.

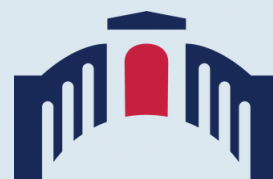
After the Boston Tea Party in 1773, the British Parliament started passing the Intolerable Acts (1774), which punished the colony of Massachusetts by closing the Boston Harbor, forcing colonists to house British soldiers in their homes and suspending the colonial government of Massachusetts. The colonists' opposition of the British government grew to a head in April of 1775 with the Battles of Lexington and Concord, thus beginning the American Revolutionary War.

After the War ended in 1783, the Articles of Confederation proved insufficient as a governing document. Instability of the central government and state disputes led to the drafting of the US Constitution.

Now that independence was won, ideals from the Enlightenment Era continued to influence America's social and political culture. The Revolution continued as the new nation faced the challenges of having

overthrown a monarchy and attempting to build a new republic. In addition, moral problems like slavery and conflicts with Native Americans over expansion were struggles that the new republic faced.

So while there is an accepted time frame of when the American Revolutionary War occurred, the American Revolution began in the mid-1760's and continued into the 1790's, when Rhode Island was the last State to ratify US Constitution.



**MILITARY
WOMEN'S
MEMORIAL**

Women Veterans Day is celebrated annually on June 12 in the United States. This date honors the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act on June 12, 1948, which allowed women to serve as permanent, regular members of the armed forces.

The Virgin Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is honoring local women Veterans with a luncheon on June 12th at the Mesquite Veterans Center. If you are or know a woman Veteran in the Virgin Valley or Arizona Strip who would like to join us, please RSVP to:

Vvalleydar@gmail.com



April Luncheon



Induction of New Members (l-r) Mary Fruit, Leslie Jaramillo, Kelly Intagliata, Registrar - Susan Cox Lyon and Chaplain - Sally Kershnik



Mary Fruit, Kelly Intagliata, Leslie Jaramillo and Susan Cox Lyon



New member pin & ribbon



VVDAR Chapter members Nancy Blanco, Amy Bradshaw and Linda Gault



Members, Prospective Members and HODARS at the luncheon

President General's Message



April 2026

Dear Daughters,

Spring has arrived, bringing with it a season full of meaningful events and inspiring initiatives. It is especially fitting that April is National Volunteer Month—a time to recognize the extraordinary impact of service in our communities and across our nation. I am proud to share that we are already on track to surpass our all-time volunteer service hours, a testament to the unwavering dedication and generosity of our members. Each hour you give reflects the very heart of our mission and strengthens the legacy we carry forward.

The DAR is proud to be a founding partner of America Gives, an initiative of America 250 that invites all Americans to help commemorate the Semiquincentennial by making 2026 a record-setting Year of Service. This year, all DAR Service to America hours will count toward the America Gives national total, further amplifying the impact of your efforts. Whether through community outreach, historic preservation, education, or support for those in need, your contributions matter. I encourage each of you to take part, to inspire others to join you, and to reflect on the many ways you can make a difference in this historic moment. Your continued dedication to service is not only remarkable—it is essential.

As we continue the countdown to America's 250th anniversary, DAR is proud to celebrate a truly transformative milestone. In partnership with the Trust for the National Mall, DAR has committed a \$2 million gift as the foundational Legacy Leader of the Cherry Tree Endowment, helping to preserve one of our nation's most beloved symbols of beauty and international friendship for generations to come. As a host sponsor of the 2026 National Cherry Blossom Festival, DAR recently welcomed distinguished guests to the Opening Ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall on March 20, 2026. This special event celebrated both the arrival of spring and the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan. We also look forward to participating in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on April 11, where DAR will sponsor a commemorative float honoring America's 250th anniversary and our shared commitment to service and heritage.

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

VIRGINVALLEYDAR.ORG

Log Your
Service to
America Hours

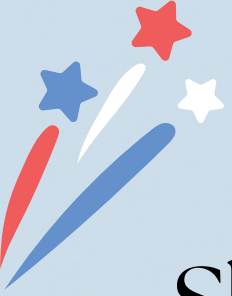


HERE

Chapter Officers

REGENT - LEIGH ROESSNER
VICE REGENT - LAURA JOHNSON
TREASURER - AMY BRADSHAW
SECRETARY - NOVA MASTROGIOVANNI
REGISTRAR - SUSAN COX LYON
LIBRARIAN - RUTH DICKIE
HISTORIAN - NANCY BLANCO
CHAPLAIN - SALLY KERSHISNIK
PARLIAMENTARIAN - CAROL LIVINGSTON

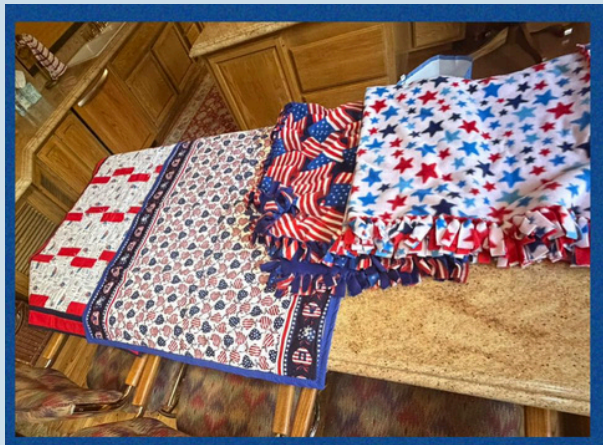




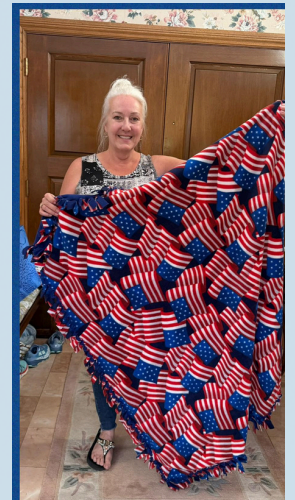
Member Spotlight

Sharon Wakefield

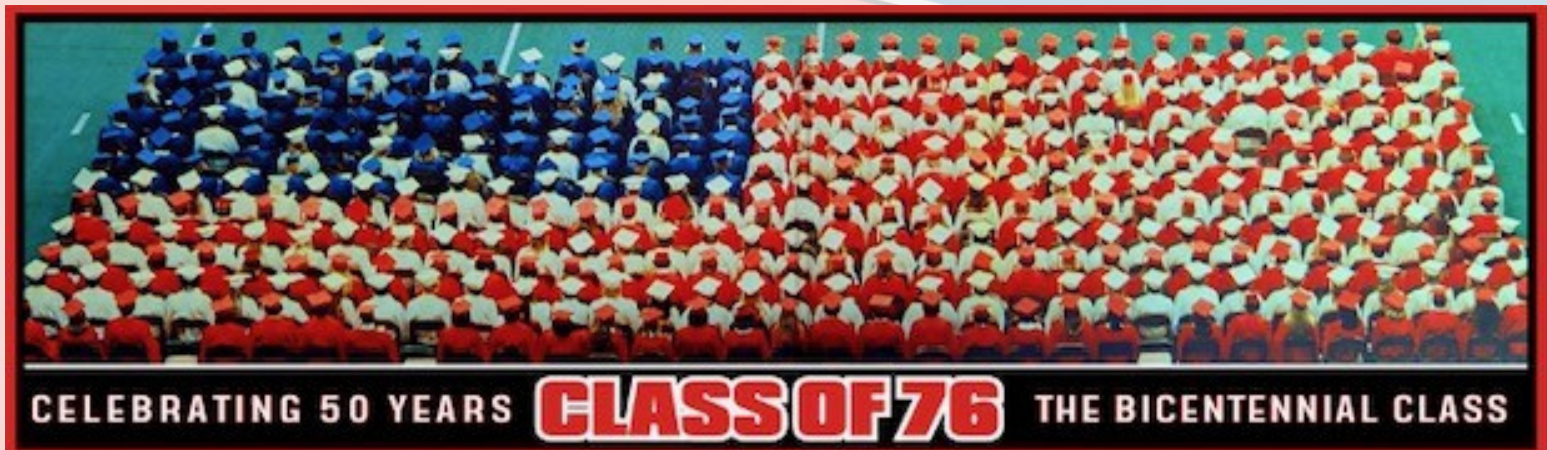
In April, Sharon Wakefield made and donated 2 no-sew blankets and 2 lap quilts to April Stewart of the Las Vegas Springs DAR chapter in an effort to gather 25 blankets to donate to the Fisher House in Las Vegas. The Fisher House Foundation provides free, high-quality "home away from home" lodging for military and veteran families while loved ones receive care at VA or military medical centers. With over 100 locations worldwide, these houses feature private suites, shared kitchens, and communal areas, allowing families to stay close to the hospital during medical crises.



Sharon's quilt work



Remembering the Bicentennial



Chapter treasurer, Amy Bradshaw's graduating class of 1976! Her graduating class wore red, white and blue gowns. "This was a big deal at the time. My town had just built a uni-dome, which was then a modern marvel in construction technology. Photos of the class were taken from the dome ceiling. Time magazine even highlighted the event. This picture was taken from the bleachers." - Amy Bradshaw

VETS CHAT

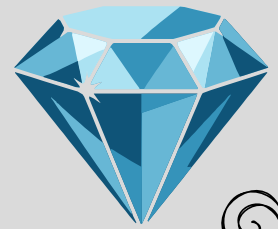
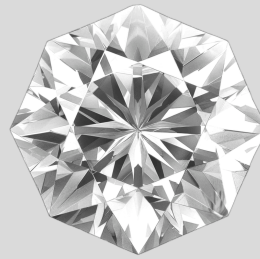


Group selfie by Ken Mastrogiovanni

April's birthstone is diamonds, and so was the topic of discussion at the Vets Chat. We talked about big diamonds and colored diamonds, and resident Veterans shared stories about buying their first diamond engagement or wedding rings. We even googled some famous diamonds like the Hope Diamond, the Kimberly Diamond and the Spoonmaker Diamond.



Shelton and Sharon Wakefield



Veterans, HODARS and DAR members



Nova Mastrogiovanni

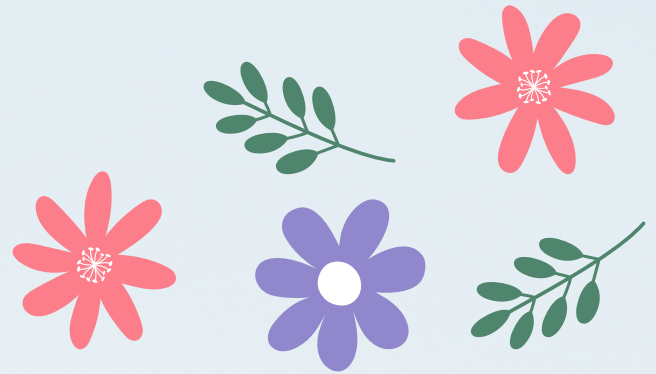


With Sympathy

Chapter member
Laura Johnson's husband,
Ken Johnson passed away on
April 12, 2026. Please keep
Laura and her family in your
thoughts and prayers

Get Well Soon!

Leslie Jaramillo



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month in May, led by [Mental Health America](#), focuses on creating "More Good Days, Together" through advocacy, education, and community connection. The 2026 campaign emphasizes actionable tools, including a dedicated 2026 Action Guide, community outreach, and mental health screenings.



To promote Mental Health Awareness Month- We are engaging all members outside of DAR meetings to raise awareness that there are many ways to interact as a DAR member. Devoting even five minutes every day to mindfulness meditation can be a game-changer. Meditation helps slow down breathing, cultivates breath and self-awareness, and is an effective tool for regulating emotions.



U.S. Vets come to Mesquite Veterans Center

U.S.VETS Las Vegas, opened in 2001, operates three residential facilities and a community support office in spaces including 330 beds of transitional and permanent housing. As a lead partner of the BETerment Community, U.S.VETS Las Vegas operates a short-term, rapid rehousing project supported by Clark County. Employment services are provided through a workforce program that helps over 110 veterans return to employment each year. Additionally, more than 400 veteran households are provided rapid re-housing and homeless prevention services annually.

May Dates of Note

- May 1, 1931: Empire State Building opened
- May 4: Star Wars Day ("May the Fourth be with You")
- May 9, 1765: Patrick Henry is accused of treason following his opposition to the Stamp Act.
- May 10, 1773: The Tea Act receives royal assent, setting the stage for increased colonial resistance.
- May 10, 1775: Fort Ticonderoga falls to Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold.
- May 10, 1775: The Second Continental Congress also convenes in Philadelphia.
- May 14, 1804: Lewis and Clark began their expedition
- May 20, 1932: Amelia Earhart flew solo across the Atlantic
- Third Saturday: (May 16th) Armed Forces Day
- Last Monday: (May 25th) Memorial Day



Civics question for Naturalization

1. Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
2. What is the economic system of the United States?
3. The President of the United States is elected for how many years?
4. The executive branch has many parts. Name one.
5. What does the judicial branch do?

(Answers on the last page)



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN: A HIGHWAY DEDICATION

What better way to honor Veterans, those killed in action, and first responders? A highway dedication, which most, if not all, states have. The Fort Greeneville Chapter, a Vietnam Commemorative Partner, has conducted several highway dedications in Darke County, Ohio, in honor of Vietnam soldiers.

Our experience started in 2016 when our local Ohio State Representative Jim Buchy (at the time) needed assistance with a highway dedication ceremony and reception. Representative Buchy called upon our chapter. The dedication was for two soldiers of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, SP4 Robert L. Fowble Jr., and PFC Jack E. Beam, who didn't make it back home safely. Being in a rural Ohio county, everyone knows each other, so it was a very heartfelt event.

Since then, our chapter has been contacted by other family members to help them submit a highway dedication request. It was new territory to be involved in the very beginning of the process, and a very sensitive and emotional journey to take with family and friends. The appreciation and healing for those loved ones is such a gratifying honor to be a part of as DAR members. Words cannot describe.

To Continue Reading *click here*

National Defender





Flag Minute

Colors' Meaning: The color symbolism reflects American ideals: red for courage and sacrifice, white for purity and innocence, and blue for justice and perseverance, enhancing the flag's role as a symbol of national values and identity

Native American Minute



Chris Newman born in 1980 is a citizen of the Choctico Band Piscataway. Chris was working a high stress software job in Washington D.C. when the stress started taking a toll on his health. In 2016 Chris and his wife, Annie, decided to make a lifestyle change. They moved to rural Virginia, where they now run Sylvania Farms on forty acres in Montross, an area where Chris's Piscataway ancestors lived and were stewards of the land for generations. His goal was to draw on the food cultivation knowledge of his Indigenous and Black ancestors. Chris is currently developing a food collective of a group of farmers that with combined resources and expertise could produce enough food to supply several full-time markets in the Washington D.C. area. Chris has a plan that by approaching large farms from an Indigenous perspective, entire ecosystems can be restored in addition to providing stable jobs and income.



Constitution Minute

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.

Conservation Minute



Sustainable Gardening: Growing Green Spring is ideal for launching a sustainable garden that benefits you and the environment through specific, green practices. Begin by using organic methods-swap chemical fertilizers for homemade compost; start a bin with kitchen scraps like vegetable peels and coffee grounds, turning it weekly. Plant native species like sunflowers, bee balm, or switchgrass, sowing seeds in well-drained soil suited to your climate for low-maintenance growth. Conserve water by installing a drip irrigation system or watering early mornings with a can from a rain barrel. Reduce waste-repurpose old pots or wooden pallets for planters and mulch with grass clippings to suppress weeds. Support local wildlife by adding a birdhouse or bat box, secured to a tree, and skipping pesticides; hand-pick pests or use soapy water sprays instead. Weed by hand and rotate crops yearly to maintain soil health. These steps cultivate a thriving, eco-friendly garden.

2026 Spring/Summer Calendar

May 9 - 10am Regular Meeting & Installation of Officers

May 13 - 10:45 Vets Chat

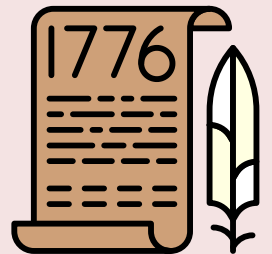
May 14th Veterans Memorial Park 7-9
Memorial Day flag set up

June 12 - Women Veterans Luncheon

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

July 4 - Fireworks

July 8 - Public Reading of the
Declaration of Independence



Answers to Civics Questions

1 Equality • Liberty • Social contract • Natural rights • Limited government • Self-government

2 Capitalism • Free market economy

3 Four (4) years

4 President (of the United States) • Cabinet • Federal departments and agencies

5 Reviews laws • Explains laws • Resolves disputes about the law • Decides if a law goes against the Constitution