



Texas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

Arlington Chapter #7 Bulletin



Arlington #7 Chapter
Arlington, Texas

Established 1938

Re-Chartered 1994

July 2023

Chuck Andrews, Editor

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Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, Visitors Welcome

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Skillet-N-Grill Cafe 1801 W. Division St. Arlington, Texas 76012

INDEPENDENCE DAY: WHY JULY 4TH

Independence Day is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

The Founding Father delegates of the Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states.^[1] The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2 and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author.

While Jefferson consulted extensively with the other four members of the Committee of Five, he largely wrote the Declaration of Independence in isolation over 17 days between June 11, 1776 and June 28, 1776 from the second floor he was renting in a three-story private home at 700 Market Street in Philadelphia, now known as the Declaration House, and within walking distance of Independence Hall.



Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, removing Jefferson's vigorous denunciation of King George III for importing the slave trade, finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail:

“The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch 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 shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Ameri

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President Dan Hamilton
817-274-7900
maverick73@swbell.net

Secretary Bill C. Goodman
817-2358830
goodman.bill@sbcglobal.net

Registrar Joseph “Joe” Kohn
817-992-1035
Joe_Kohn@sbcglobal.net

1st Vice-President Joseph “Joe” Kohn
817-992-1035
Joe_Kohn@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer William “Richard” Coffey
469-272-0164
coffeywr@hotmail.com

Historian William S. “Bill” Covington, Jr.
972-299-9328
covingtonw@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain Robert H. “Bob” Wehr
817-460-0421
rhwehr@cwagroup.com

Sergeant-At-Arms Richard L. Martin
469-272-0110
furball2604@gmail.com

President's Letter

Fellow Members,

Wow! What a difference a few days can make in the lives of so many folks. I hope that all of you have come through "The Great Freeze of '21" with minimal damage and or distress.

About 1964, a monster ice storm invaded the NE part of the United States. I was a young teenager, living in the northern part of New York close the Adirondack Forest. As so much of the NE did, we lost power. Luckily, our furnace was gas powered. With the electricity off, the furnace had to be turned on and off manually. So, we were not cold, but it was hard to see and we could not cook. Well, we did cook, sort of, one of us would hold a pot up and somebody else held a butane torch under it until the soup or whatever got warm.

Who else in your family has remembrances of storms and events that affected their life? Have you included their unique stories with yours?

Several years ago, I decided to publish the genealogy work I had completed concerning the major trunks of my tree. That would be "The Hamilton's (my Dad) and The Querry's (my Mom) I also did my Wife, Judy's family. The Greenall's (her Dad) and The Smith's (her Mom) I did a timeline page for each father, great grandfather, great great grandfather, etc. Behind the timeline, I put copies of all the records I was able to find and finished with as many photos as I could. Then I went to the next generation. Ancestry included "Historical Insights" on the timeline of each person. Usually these "insights" provided photos and more detailed information which you could print out.

I believe as genealogist; we have a duty to leave a trail and put our lives into the context of the times we live in for our posterity.

Dan Hamilton, President, SAR Chapter #7

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cans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

By a remarkable coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as presidents of the United States, both died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration, Jefferson even mentioning the fact.^[16] Although not a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, another Founding Father who was elected president, also died on July 4, 1831, making him the third President who died on the anniversary of independence. The only U.S. president to have been born on Independence Day was Calvin Coolidge, who was born on July 4, 1872.

•In 1777, thirteen gunshots were fired in salute, once at morning and once again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. An article in the July 18, 1777 issue of *The Virginia Gazette* noted a celebration in Philadelphia in a manner a modern American would find familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships in port were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.

•In 1778, from his headquarters at Ross Hall, near New Brunswick, New Jersey, General George Washington marked July 4 with a

double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute (*feu de joie*). Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.

•In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.

•In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4 as a state celebration.

•In 1783, Salem, North Carolina, held a celebration with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter entitled *The Psalm of Joy*. The town claims it to be the first public July 4 event, as it was carefully documented by the Moravian Church, and there are no government records of any earlier celebrations.

•In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.

•In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.

Independence Day is a national holiday marked by patriotic displays. Per 5 U.S.C. § 6103, Independence Day is a federal holiday, so all non-essential federal institutions (such as the postal service and federal courts) are closed on that day. While the legal holiday remains on July 4, if that date happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday, then federal government employees will instead take the day off on the adjacent Friday or Monday, respectively.

Families often celebrate Independence Day by hosting or attending a picnic or barbecue; many take advantage of the day off and, in some years, a long weekend to gather with relatives or friends. Decorations (e.g., streamers, balloons, and clothing) are generally colored red, white, and blue, the colors of the American flag. Parades are often held in the morning, before family get-togethers, while fireworks displays occur in the evening after dark at such places as parks, sporting venues, fairgrounds, public shorelines, or town squares.

The night before the Fourth was once the focal point of celebrations, marked by raucous gatherings often incorporating bonfires as their centerpiece. In New England, towns competed to build towering pyramids, assembled from barrels and casks. They were lit at nightfall to usher in the celebration. The highest were in Salem, Massachusetts, with pyramids composed of as many as forty tiers of barrels. These made the tallest bonfires ever recorded. The custom flourished in the 19th and 20th centuries and is still practiced in some New England towns.

Independence Day fireworks are often accompanied by patriotic songs,^[28] such as "The Star-Spangled Banner" (the American national anthem); "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean"; "God Bless America"; "America the Beautiful"; "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"; "This Land Is Your Land"; "Stars and Stripes Forever"; "Yankee Doodle"; "Dixie" in southern states; "Lift Every Voice and Sing"; and occasionally, but has nominally fallen out of favor, Hail Columbia. Some of the lyrics recall images of the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812.

Firework shows are held in many states, and many fireworks are sold for personal use or as an alternative to a public show. Safety concerns have led some states to ban fireworks or limit the sizes and types allowed. In addition, local and regional conditions may dictate whether the sale or use of fireworks in an area will be allowed; for example, the global supply chain crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellations of shows. Some local or regional firework sales are limited or prohibited because of dry weather or other specific concerns. On these occasions the public may be prohibited from purchasing or discharging fireworks, but professional displays (such as those at sports events) may still take place.

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NEWLY INDUCTED COMPATRIO



Lee Bryan Ehrler was inducted into the Arlington #7 Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in June, 2023. Bryan's Patriot is Jacob Weygandt, Captain in the Pennsylvania Continental Line. He was a member of the Northampton County Associators, one of the first patriot military organizations. Capt. Weygandt was born December 13, 1742 in Germantown Pennsylvania and died July 11, 1828. He is buried in Easton Cemetery, Easton, Pennsylvania.

~Additional biographical data from www.thehopkinsthomasproject.com

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A salute of one gun for each state in the United States, called a "salute to the union," is fired on Independence Day at noon by any capable military base.

New York City has the largest fireworks display in the country sponsored by Macy's, with more than 22 tons of pyrotechnics exploded in 2009. It generally holds displays in the East River. Other major displays are in Seattle on Lake Union; in San Diego over Mission Bay; in Boston on the Charles River; in Philadelphia over the Philadelphia Museum of Art; in San Francisco over the San Francisco Bay; and on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

During the annual Windsor–Detroit International Freedom Festival, Detroit, Michigan hosts one of the largest fireworks displays in North America, over the Detroit River, to celebrate Independence Day in conjunction with Windsor, Ontario's celebration of Canada Day.

The first week of July is typically one of the busiest United States travel periods of the year, as many people use what is often a three-day holiday weekend for extended vacation trips.

~ From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



SAR CHAP. ARLINGTON #7 MEMBERS ATTEND CENOTAPH DEDICATION



Members of Louisiana and several Texas SAR Chapters, including Arlington #7, attended the dedication of a cenotaph honoring Revolutionary Soldier Martin Camersac.

Camersac is the only Revolutionary Soldier buried in Calcasieu Parish Louisiana.

"What we were doing today was marking the grave of a Revolutionary War era patriot named Martin Camersac," said Randall Domingue, President of The Louisiana Society for the Sons of the American Revolution. "He served under General Bernardo de Galvez during the American Revolution in Louisiana; this case, we had multiple states, Louisiana and Texas, because some of his descendants live in Texas."

"We're thrilled to have a member of the Texas Society was an ancestor of this particular patriot, Martin Camersac," said **Sam Massey, President of The Texas Society for the Sons of the American Revolution.** "We just love remembering not only our ancestors from the American Revolution who fought, those patriots, but also all the patriots who fight today and who have fought in the past."

Camersac served as a rifleman in the 3rd Company of the Official Militia of the City of New Orleans. Under the command of Spanish Governor Bernardo de Galvez, they defeated the British, driving them from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

"And that was in 1779, Camersac is my fifth great great grandfather and his daughter is Catherine LeBleu, who married Charles Sallier," said Richard Zdunkenwicz. "And we all know if you're a native of the area, you pretty much should know Charles Sallier, the namesake for Lake Charles."

In late 1814 and 1815, Martin Camersac also served as a private in the 16th Regiment under Colonel John Thompson, and fought in the battle of New Orleans, the final battle of the War of 1812.



LA. SAR DEDICATES PLAQUE TO HONOR PATRIOTS



SAR Chapter Arlington #7 was represented at an event held on May 28, 2023, to pay tribute to sixteen American Revolutionary War era patriots who were members of the church parish that is now known as the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Plattenville. Most of the patriots honored during the event are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church, but the exact locations of their grave sites are unknown. The patriots honored served in the Galvez expedition and lived in the area that was once known as the Valenzuela Territory. The event was attended by SAR compatriots throughout the state, Texas, the DAR state regent, and other DAR officers from Louisiana. A plaque honoring the patriots was blessed by the parish priest and hung in the rear of the church.



**NATION'S
250TH BIRTH-
DAY IS COMING—
4 JULY 2026**

The celebration of the founding of America includes the time period from the Stamp Act to the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War. As the Revolution included Political and Civic actions, as well as War activities, events will include all that shaped the development of our Great Nation during the time period.

America 250 Website: www.america250sar.com

MILESTONES

Inductions

Brian Ehrler 06/13/2023

Anniversaries

David R. Wells 22 years
Roland A. Brucks 7 years
Daniel R. Hamilton 5 years
Christopher S. Martin 5 years
William J. McCoy 3 years
Branden A. Kennedy 1 year
Stanley J. Kennedy 1 year
Jonathan T. Kennedy 1 year

Junior

Dustin D. Decker 5 years
Grayson K. Kennedy 1 year
Preston C. Kennedy 1 year

Dual Membership

F. Russ Godwin, Jr, La.

ARLINGTON #7 MERCHANDISE

Keep in mind that Arlington #7 offers logo merchandise:

Challenge Coins- \$10

Lapel Pins- \$5

Coffee Cups- \$15

These can be purchased by contacting:
Sergeant-at-Arms: Richard Martin

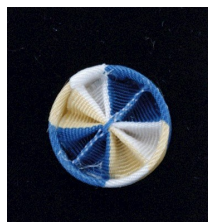
furball2604@gmail.com





John Fehler, Jr. Member	July 7
Alexander E. Cole, Jr. Member	July 10
Grant A. Hamilton	July 11
Ray H. Wehr	July 15
Kevin S. Jorrey	July 20
Stan Kennedy	July 21
Brent Houser	July 22
John D. Anderson, Jr.	July 26
Preston C. Kennedy, Jr. Member	August 3
Kyle A. Stephenson, Jr. Member	August 14
Aeden C. Cole, Jr. Member	August 15
Wendell W. Black	August 19
David K. Setzer	August 23
Michael W. Fairchild	August 25
Lee Bryan Ehrler	August 26
Ronald K. Carter	August 29

THE ROSETTE



The rosette is a small tightly folded circle of ribbon of the Society's colors not exceeding 7/16th of an inch in diameter. It may be worn by all members, at their discretion, on the left lapel of the jacket, daily if desired, during business or social hours. It is only worn on a coat lapel, or shirt collar, but not on an overcoat. A rosette is commonly presented to a new member at the time of his induction into the society. Except in France, the rosette is informal and therefore is not appropriate for formal wear. A fraternal or other organization badge may be worn with the rosette, but this is strongly discouraged. In any event, only one rosette should be worn on a suit or sport coat.

EVENTS

INDEPENDENCE DAY July 4

Arlington Independence Day Parade
Theme: "Let Freedom Sing"

Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting July 8

SAR 133rd Congress Orlando, FL July 13-20

Summer BOM (Zoom) July 29

Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting Aug 12

South Central District Meeting, Wichita, KS Aug 25-26

LABOR DAY Sept 4

Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting Sept 9

PATRIOT DAY Sept 11

U.S. CONSTITUTION DAY Sept 17

Fall Leadership Meeting Louisville, KY Sept 21-23

2023 BOM College Station Oct 20-22

2024 Annual Conference San Antonio, TX

Local Events

District Events

State Events

National Events

Editor's Note

This marks the re-launch of a Chapter newsletter last seen in the mid to late 90's. Please offer input, suggestions and content. A placeholder name has been added subject to Chapter approval. This publication will be a continuing work in progress but hopefully it will reflect positively on the Chapter and it's members.



For more information:
 Email: wreathslccc@gmail.com

Wreaths Across America Day December 16, 2023

Arlington, TX, May 2023 – Local Arlington Wreaths Across America volunteers led by the **Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter, NSDAR** are working hard to ensure that all veterans laid to rest in the **Arlington Cemetery and Parkdale Cemetery** located in DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON are honored as part of **National Wreaths Across America Day - Saturday, December 16, 2023**.

The goal: to place a live, balsam fir **veteran’s wreath** at the headstone of every American veteran in the **Arlington and Parkdale Cemeteries** to Remember their sacrifice, Honor their service, and Teach the next generation about the value of freedom. There are **880** veterans’ gravesites in these cemeteries. Please consider a sponsorship of a wreath. If you wish to pay by credit card, just use the QR Code or use the link. You may also pay by check.

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business =10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code



or by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/3zbkav3>

Fundraising Group— TX0506
 Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter NSDAR

Or make checks payable to:
Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter NSDAR
Committee Treasurer
2205 Fall River Drive
Arlington, TX 76006

INDICATE WHICH CEMETERY FOR WREATH PLACEMENT

TXPDCA— Parkdale Cemetery

TXACAT— Arlington Cemetery

TXDFWN—D/FW National Cemetery

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization’s mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies in December at thousands of cemeteries in all 50 states and beyond.