

The Plano Compatriot Gazette

*The Official Newsletter of Plano Chapter #37
Texas Sons of the American Revolution*

In This Issue:

- President's Message - 2
- Chapter and State News Items - 3
- Contribution Opportunities - 18
- Upcoming America 250 & Patriotic Travel Events - 22
- Compatriot News - 23
- Connect! - 27

April 2026

Issue #4



Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and by educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country





President's Message



By Bob Johns, President

The Declaration of Independence

Nations come into being in many ways: military rebellion, civil war, acts of heroism, acts of treachery, a thousand greater and lesser clashes--all these occurrences and more have marked the emergences of new nations, large and small.

The birth of our nation included them all. That birth was unique, not only in the immensity of its later impact on the course of world history and the growth of democracy, but also because so many of the threads in our national history run back through time to come together in one place, in one time, and in one document: the Declaration of Independence. Full of words and thoughts never before spoken or recorded anywhere in the world during the in establishment of a new nation.

The clearest call for independence up to the summer of 1776 came in Philadelphia on June 7. On that date in session in the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall), the Continental Congress heard Richard Henry Lee of Virginia read his resolution beginning: "Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

Events quickly transpired and the Continental Congress appointed a Committee of Five to draft a Declaration of Independence. The committee consisted of two New England men, John Adams of Massachusetts and Roger Sherman of Connecticut; two men from the Middle Colonies, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York; and one southerner, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia.

This is the document we will celebrate this coming July on our 250th Anniversary as the document that founded the United States of America.

Chapter and State News Items and Upcoming Events

[Color Guard Upcoming Events - Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander](#)

SAR Annual State Conference - Austin, TX

17 April - Color Guard Committee 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Muster for Color Guard Photo 1:45pm - 2:00pm

18 April - Color Guard Assembly for Monument Dedication 8:00am - 8:30am

Dedication Ceremony 10:00am - 11:00am

There will be a musket salute - bring fireable muskets with required safety items (frizzen covers and flash guards) and blank black powder cartridges. All muskets will need to pass a safety inspection.

This is a **State** Event, but most likely will be a **National** Event.

Medal of Honor Parade - Gainesville TX

18 April - 10:00 am event; 8:00 am show time

Contact: [Bill Sekel](#) or 830-992-5619

Muskets allowed but must pass safety inspection.

Additional information such as muster point will be put out as soon as it is available.

This is a **National** Event.

NOTE: If you are not attending the Annual Convention in Austin, your participation in the Medal of Honor Parade is needed. Dust off your continental attire or gear up and participate in this salute to America's finest. **One time participation in this parade qualifies all for the Texas SAR Bronze Bernardo de Gálvez Medal.** The City of Gainesville has planned a multi-day celebration surrounding the event. Additional details can be found at: [Medal of Honor Host City](#)

If you are able to walk in the parade, please contact [Bill Sekel](#).

Plano Symphony Orchestra School Concerts

21 April - 10:00am & 11:30am

Present and post the colors during the National Anthem.

Place: Robinson Fine Arts Center (Plano ISD)

1800 Alma Dr, Plano, TX 75075

Muster for 10AM Concert at 9:30 AM

Muster for 11:30 AM Concert at 11:00 AM

Food will be provided between the concerts.

No weapons allowed. I will bring extra flags.

This is a ***National*** Event (Patriots Day)

John F. Greer DAR Chapter Marker Dedication

25 April – 2:00 pm ceremony; Muster at 1:30pm

Place: Fitzhugh Cemetery

2540 Country Club Rd, Lucas TX 75002

This is a ***Chapter*** Event

A Peep at the Coops - Feathered Freedom

3 May - 11:00 am- 12:00 pm event; Event times may change; Details to come

Place: Moss Haven Elementary

9202 Moss Farm Ln, Dallas TX 75243

Engage in Colonial Attire with attendees and pose for photos as living history for families and children.

This is a ***Chapter*** Event.

Frisco Lakes Veterans Group Memorial Day

20 May – Details to come

Place: Frisco Lakes Main Village Center, Rooms D & E (Separate building to left of main building)

7277 Frisco Lakes Dr, Frisco TX 75036

This is a ***National*** Event.

Survive 1776 - Dallas, TX

23 May - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm; 12:30 PM show time

J Erik Jonsson Central Library

1515 Young St

Dallas, TX 75201

Multiple Activity Stations: 6 or more volunteers; to either greet at the sign in table (where folks will fill out their "enlistment cards") run one of the stations, run the drill, or host the SAR information/recruitment table where y'all can encourage folks to study their genealogy and find revolutionary ancestors. It would also be great if anyone helping out with this event were in some level of period garb, especially if running one of the activity stations. More details to come

This is a ***Chapter*** Event.

DART Older Americans Event

28 May - Details TBD

Present colors during opening ceremony.

This is a **Chapter** Event.

July 4th Gala

7 June - 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm event; 12:45am show time

Place: Texas Rangers Golf Club

701 Brown Blvd

Arlington, TX 76011

Contact: [Dan Hamilton](#) or 817-703-1356

This is a **National** Event.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

13 June – Details TBD

Place: Plano Fire Station #12

4101 Parker Rd, Plano TX 75093

This is a **Chapter** Event.

Audie Murphy Parade - Farmersville, TX

20 June - 9:30 am event; 8:30 am show time

Contact: [Bill Sekel](#) or 830-992-5619

Notes: Muskets allowed but must pass safety inspection. More information like muster point will be passed when available.

This is a **State** Event.

Liberty & Lace Ball

27 June - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

J Erik Jonsson Central Library

1515 Young St, Dallas TX 75201

Revolutionary style ball where we'll have live music, dancing, food, games, and crafts so folks can experience how our founding patriots might have celebrated their newly won independence.

(cont'd)

Need: Any number of interested volunteers to help out by: providing information on colonial genealogical research and the SAR itself, assisting in teaching folks about "quilling", hosting gaming tables where attendees can learn colonial era games such as table-bowling and "cup and bowl", interacting with attendees through games of Pictionary using colonial terms, or even just being in period attire and posing for photos with folks.

This is a ***National*** Event.

Dallas Banjo Band Concert

Place: Allen Public Library Auditorium, Allen TX

2 July - 7:30pm

Details TBD

This is a ***National*** Event.

Richardson Community Band July 4 Concert

4 July

Place: Brekinridge Park, Richardson TX

Details TBD

This is a ***National*** Event.

Family Fun Days - Dallas Public Library Branches

13 & 27 June, 11 & 25 July and 8 August (Saturdays)

Details on location and time TBD.

Need: Any number of volunteers. Activities will vary, but June 13 will be Flag Day themed (and may conflict with our Flag Retirement Ceremony). We may be able to come in the role of your ancestor and talk about their experiences or do some re-enacting, but either way we will be able to set up a table to talk about joining the SAR and getting folks interested in their ancestors.

This is a ***Chapter*** Event.

NHRA Fall 2026 Nationals - Ennis, TX

18 October - All Day event; 12:00 pm show time

Place: Texas Motorplex

7500 W Hwy 287

Ennis, TX 75119

Contact: [Larry Kollie](#) or 972-903-9037

Notes: The Ellis County CG chapter, #70 will be participating in the ESPN televised opening ceremony of the fall 2026 NHRA Nationals. All TX state CG are invited to participate. Please confirm your participation to Larry Kollie by September 30, 2026. Additional information regarding parking and admittance will be provided as it becomes available. If you are considering attending and planning an overnight stay in Ennis or Waxahachie, book your room now as they will fill up fast if not already. The event actually runs from Thursday -Sunday.

This is a ***Chapter*** Event.

UPCOMING EVENT

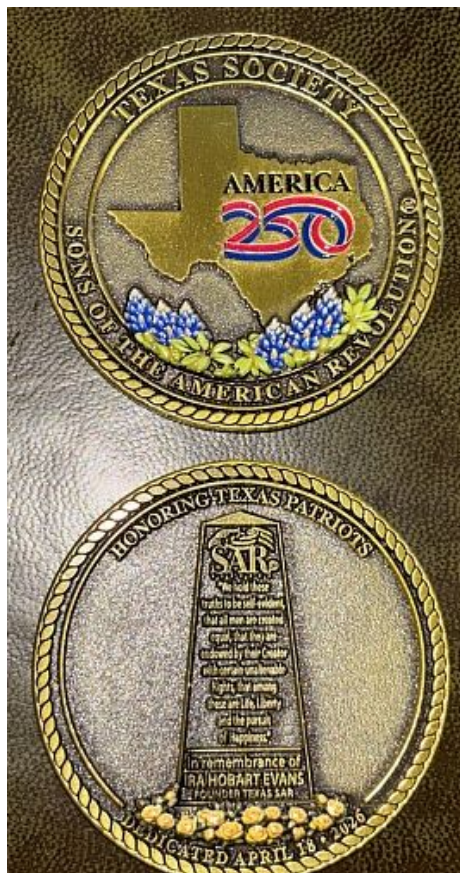
The Texas SAR 2026 State Convention



Dear Texas Compatriots,

On behalf of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution, we invite you all to the Texas 2026 State Convention to be held in **Austin, Texas, on April 15-19, 2026** at the **Austin Southpark Hotel**. Event registration will soon be live on the [Texas SAR](#) website. Go to “Events” to access.

In honor of the dedication of the Texas SAR 250 Monument and the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we have produced a one-of-a-kind challenge coin. The challenge coin will be available for a donation of \$25.00 and can be obtained at the Convention registration table. The photo below doesn't do the actual coin justice! It is simply beautiful!



UPCOMING EVENT
The Texas SAR 250 Monument



Compatriots,

A Dedication Ceremony at the Texas State Cemetery is being planned for the weekend of **17 April 2026** in coordination with the Texas SAR State Convention in Austin. The program will include:

- o Official Unveiling and Dedication
- o Participation of the Texas SAR Color Guard
- o Attendance by dignitaries, including elected officials and both State and National SAR officers
- o Recognition of substantial donors
- o Recognition of descendants being honored on the monument
- o Music from local choir

We continue to raise funds for the Monument Dedication Ceremony, which is to take place at **10:00am, Saturday, 18 April 2026** in conjunction with the Texas SAR Annual State Convention. We are a few thousand dollars from having the funds necessary to cover the budgeted costs.

You may donate funds via PayPal when you pay your dues or via the [monument web page](#) on the Texas SAR website.

If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to: **Texas SAR, Attn: Treasurer, 11 Winhall Place, The Woodlands, TX 77354-3313.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Richard Zdunkewicz, Chairman of the Monument Committee.

Richard Lee Zdunkewicz
 Staff Secretary, Texas SAR
staffsec@texassar.org
 713.302.0237

UPCOMING EVENT

John F. Greer DAR Chapter Marker Dedication



Dear Compatriots,

Please join the DAR Chapter for the Grave Marker Dedication for John F. Greer on **25 April at 2:00 pm** at Fitzhugh Cemetery located at 2540 Country Club Rd, Lucas TX 75002.

UPCOMING EVENT

America 250 Celebration, Arlington Chapter TX SAR

Dear Compatriots,

You and friends are warmly invited to join us in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States—a historic milestone honoring our nation’s heritage, progress, and shared future.

Event Details:

Date: 7 June, 2026 at 1:30 – 4:00 pm; Cash Bar @ 1:15 pm

Location: Texas Rangers Golf Club
701 Brown Blvd, Arlington TX 76011

This special gathering will bring together community members, leaders, and guests for an engaging and meaningful commemoration of America’s Semiquincentennial. The program will include SAR and DAR Dignitaries, Mayor Jim Ross, program speaker Bill Covington, Texas SAR Color Guard, music and historical reflections.

Registration Information:

Reservations are required and limited (first come, first reserved, avoid the waiting list). Please note that these funds are not intended as a fundraiser; they are solely to cover event costs and ensure a high-quality experience for all participants. (Cont’d)

We look forward to celebrating this historic occasion with you. Your family and friends are welcome. Please accept our invitation and RSVP quickly using the attached flyer, also available from Arlington 250 Celebration flyer.

Sincerely your hosts,

Arlington TX SAR Chapter President

Bob Pope rbpopejr@sbcglobal.net 817-896-1133

Lucretia Council Cochran NS DAR Chapter Regent

Nancy Bergvall nancy55b@gmail.com 972-670-0714

UPCOMING EVENT

The 136th SAR Annual Congress

Dear Compatriots,

If you plan to attend, or are thinking about attending, the **SAR Congress in Greensboro, NC, 10-16 July 2026**, please email me your name and National number so I can notify NSSAR that you qualify to be a Delegate for Texas SAR.

It's recommended that you include yourself even if you are undecided and you aren't sure that you will be attending.

Please respond to sec@texassar.org if you want to be listed as a potential Delegate. NSSAR will issue Voting Credentials this year...you will not receive them from the State Secretary as in the past.

I look forward to seeing you in Greensboro in July. Please respond by May 1, 2026.

Regards,

Kevin Kanter

State Secretary, Texas SAR

sec@texassar.org

Report: Medal of Honor Pilgrimage
Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio TX
21 March 2026

Compatriots,

On Saturday, March 21, representatives from the SAR and DAR gathered at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery to honor 16 Medal of Honor recipients. This National Color Guard event included members from San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, and Plano Chapters, concluding with a three-volley flintlock musket salute.

I was particularly honored to read the citation for William Bordelon and place an SAR Patriot Sons & Daughters marker on his headstone. William is a direct descendant of my patriot ancestor, Antoine Bordelon, who served in the Louisiana Militia under Bernardo de Galvez. This marker is a new initiative for the America 250 Project, designed to honor descendants of Patriot ancestors who are not members of the SAR or DAR without requiring a formal Memorial Membership.

William Bordelon, a San Antonio native and former Central Catholic High School JROTC cadet commander, served as a Staff Sergeant in the Marine Corps Combat Engineers and was killed in action at Tarawa. To this day, he remains a revered figure among Marine Combat Engineers.

We are currently planning a large public ceremony near Veterans Day to specifically honor his legacy. The event will include participation from the Catholic Diocese, Central Catholic High School, the DAR, the SAR, and the Marine Corps. We also intend to invite Bordelon family members from across Texas and Louisiana.

During the recent ceremony, three SAR members honored ancestors who fought under the Spanish Cross of Burgundy: Raul Hinojosa (Dallas Chapter) carried the flag, a San Antonio member wore period Spanish cavalry attire, and I wore my Spanish Louisiana Infantry uniform.

Best regards,
Major Dave Fautheree
Color Guard Commander

Report: Medal of Honor Pilgrimage
Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio TX
21 March 2026



Chapter Media Director Wanted!

Compatriots,

The Board of Managers of the Plano SAR Chapter #37 has an opening for the volunteer position of Media Director. The requirements to hold the position are listed below. The holder of this position will report directly to the Secretary. SAR Membership is preferred, but not required. This is a great opportunity for your sons and daughters, grandchildren, etc. to hone their Social Media skills in the service of a good cause. If you feel that you or someone you know have the necessary skills and wish to volunteer for this position, please reach out to [Bob Johns](#), President, or [Randall Bush](#), Secretary, for more information or to apply.

MEDIA MANAGER:

The Chapter Media Director will report directly to the Chapter Secretary and shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Management of and posting on all Media Platforms (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, etc.).*
- b. Maintain open lines of communication with the VP Veterans Affairs, VP Youth Activities and the Color Guard Commander in order to obtain the latest news and events for posting.*
- c. Publications*
 - 1) Submit regular articles reporting Chapter activities to the National SAR Magazine, The Texas Society Compatriot Newsletter and other media the Director deems appropriate. All submissions shall have the Chapter President or Secretary's review and advance approval.
- d. Annual Yearbook*
 - 1) The Annual Yearbook should include records, photographs, program, Color Guard activities, and other activities the Director deems appropriate.
 - 2) Storage of the Yearbook. Manage hard copy and digital storage of the Yearbooks.
 - 3) Representing the Chapter via direct membership or membership via approved proxy for the Chapter of the State Historian and Yearbook Committee.
- e. Support*
 - 1) The Director may draft others to support these activities and to report to the Director, including a photographer, administrative assistant and author/report writer.
- f. The Director's legitimate expenses incurred in the performance of his responsibilities shall be reimbursed by the Chapter.*
- g. Terminology. Should the BOM choose a female to hold this position, all references herein to "him" shall also refer to "her".*

MEMBER APPROVED FLAG PRESENTATIONS

The Summer Issue of SAR Magazine contains NSSAR Goals to be fully implemented by the National Organization, State Societies and Local Chapters. Among those is increasing the issuance of SAR Flag Recognition Certificates.

To refresh your knowledge of Flag Certificates, ***“The SAR Flag Certificate is presented to individuals, companies, and government agencies that fly the United States flag regularly and properly for patriotic purposes.”***

Previously, the Chapter President was required to sign a Flag Certificate prior to issuance. To make Flag Certificates easier to award and to involve the Chapter Membership in general, ***the President General has now delegated authority to award Flag Certificates DIRECTLY to every Chapter Member!***

That means any of us who observes neighbors, businesses, etc who fly the flag regularly can award that person or business a Flag Certificate. Simply send [VP Alan Roach](#) the entity’s name to place on the Certificate, sign it when you receive it from him and award it to the deserving party at your convenience.

How about each of us make an effort to award at least one certificate a year starting this year!

Bob Johns, President



[The Plano Chapter #37](#) [Community Service Lapel Pin](#)

The Plano SAR Chapter Community Service Pin is a 1" lapel pin with artwork based on our 2" Commemorative Coin.

The Summer 2025 issue of SAR Magazine contains NSSAR's "2030 Operational Plan" which contains many goals, including some directed at local Chapters. We will be implementing those goals, one of which is to promote and improve community service by our Chapter Members.

Accordingly, we have created our new Community Service lapel pin. "Serving our Communities and Promoting Patriotism" being front and center in our SAR Mission Statement.

Any Chapter Member can earn the pin by participating in at least 3 events which focus on serving our communities and promoting patriotism. Events that are not sponsored by our or any other SAR Chapter, but by are sponsored by other community organizations, are also eligible..

Let's get involved—more of us—especially at the time of our country's 250th Anniversary!



[SAR Youth Protection Training](#)

Compatriots,

As we approach the time of contests in our SAR Society, ***please be reminded that all who participate in ANY SAR Sponsored event involving children are required to take the SAR Youth Protection Training*** -

<https://www.bredenfoerder.com/youth-protection-training.html>

Please take the training provided at the link above, and print and retain the completion certificate for your records.

If you have taken this training even within the last two years, please review the video, as new information has been added.

Please reach out to any State or Chapter Officers if you have any questions.

In the Spirit of '76,

Mel Oller

Texas SAR President

[The Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin](#)

TO ALL PLANO SAR CHAPTER MEMBERS WHO SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ERA:

The Department of Defense (DoD) has authorized any veterans who served anywhere and in any capacity during the Vietnam Era, Nov 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 to be eligible to receive a **Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin (VVLP)**.

Pins have previously been awarded at scheduled group events, but the DoD has now made it possible for eligible veterans to request a pin be delivered to their home address.

This program is open to all Veterans, not just our chapter members, so if you know of eligible veterans not in our chapter, feel free to notify them of the program. If eligible Veterans have not previously received a pin, here is how one can be ordered:

1. Veterans who served anywhere in any capacity during the period Nov 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 are eligible to receive a pin.
2. Veterans can email whs.pentagon.wso.mbx.vnwar50th-cpp-events-application@mail.mil and a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin will be sent to you via USPS. Please include a good mailing address including your city and state.

If you have questions or have served during this time period, please contact [BJ Bjorklund](#), VP Veterans Affairs for more information about this well-deserved award.

[The Texas Patriot Winter Edition Now Available!](#)

Compatriots,

Please visit the Texas SAR website for the latest edition of [The Texas Compatriot!](#) The Fall/Winter 2025 Edition has been prepared for your reading pleasure! This latest issue includes numerous tidbits of information, useful to all members. Please note:

- Upcoming Texas SAR State Meeting
- Veterans Survey
- Texas Society State Flag
- Chapter Events
- A new Comics section
- Don't forget to check out an important message from the Editor!

This latest edition should impress, please, or otherwise delight your senses and fill you with informative and fun activities from across our great state! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact the Editor at Compatriot@TexasSAR.org.

Thanks,

Matt Hoffman
979-415-5302
Compatriot@TexasSAR.org

[SAR Name Badges Now Available Locally](#)

We have developed a local source for member name badges. These badges are similar to those available from National for \$35. This local supplier makes them for \$18 and they attach to clothing with magnets.

They may be ordered from **AAI Trophies** in Plano.

AAI Trophies and Awards
1710 K Ave
Plano TX 75074
972-422-9420



Contribution Opportunities

[Bonham VA Winter Needs List](#)

Dear Compatriots,

The Plano Chapter of SAR continues to support our veterans at the Bonham Veterans Center. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated by our veterans. Attached is a list of current needs. Please inform [BJ Bjorklund](#), chapter VP for Veteran Activities, if you feel called to help with items on this list. Thank you!

Bonham VA Needs Listing

We appreciate your interest in wanting to serve Veterans and below is an updated needs listing for Summer 2025. All items must be new and in original packaging.

Clothing & Comfort Items:

- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Electric Razors (for Veterans on blood thinners)
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Shaving Cream
- Nail Clippers
- Brushes and Combs
- Chapstick

Refreshments: Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

- Bottled water
- Coffee and Coffee supplies (8 oz cups, sugar/Splenda packets)
- Juices (small boxed)
- Individually wrapped snacks (no homemade)
- Danishes, donuts
- Chips
- Cookies (Variety Pack, Individual Bags)
- Candy

Miscellaneous:

- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Leather crafts
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils
- Paint by stickers
- Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Pens, stationary

Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:

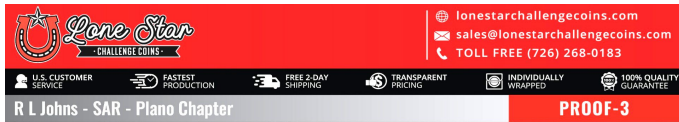
- Monthly Birthday Socials
- Bingo & Prizes
- Cooking Group – monthly or quarterly
- Bowling for Domiciliary Residents
- Bonham State Park Pass
- Sporting & Music Events - Baseball Games [Rangers/Roughriders] and movie tickets for Domiciliary residents.

Monetary and In-Kind Donations by mail, please send to:

**Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center
Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
Atten: Brenda Magness, CDCE Specialist
1201 E.9th Street
Bonham, Texas 75418**

- If you would like to make a monetary donation please make check or money order payable to *Bonham VA Medical Center*.
- You can also donate to the Bonham VA Medical Center using E-Donate online: Donating is just a click away with an online donation option that provides community members the account of their choice. E-Donate provides a quick, safe way for you to pledge your support to Veterans online. E-Donate also allows you to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Select *VA North Texas Health Care System* and choose a designated medical center and program, along with amount that you'd like to donate. Every penny of your donation goes to help Veterans.
- All donations must be coordinated with Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) for acceptance and delivery drop off. Should you have questions regarding donations please call **903-583-6282** or email brenda.magness@va.gov. Items may be mailed to the mailing address listed above.

[The Plano SAR Chapter #37](#) [40th Anniversary Commemorative Coin](#)



SIDE A



SIDE B



*PLEASE REVIEW ALL DETAILS OF THE PROOF TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF SPELLING, GRAPHICS AND PRODUCT SPECS BEFORE APPROVING AS CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE ONCE PRODUCTION BEGINS

**A Special Item to Mark the
40th Anniversary of the
Plano Chapter of the SAR**

The Plano Chapter #37 of the SAR observed its 40th Anniversary in 2025. To celebrate the event, the Chapter Board commissioned a Commemorative Celebration coin intended to both recognize our anniversary and to enhance our budget funds as a fundraiser.

The coin is a full color 2” antique brass coin. The front shows a rendering of the famous Minute Man sculpture by Daniel Chester French, presently standing in Concord in recognition of the Battle of Lexington-Concord. The reverse celebrates our chapter and gives our founding date.

This impressive coin is available to all chapter members for a \$20 donation to the chapter. Donations will enable our chapter to fund even more of the activities and awards we engage in to support veterans, youth awards, public service awards and more.

Please consider making your donation this calendar year. Personally, I have purchased five of the coins to use for recruiting awareness and for recognition.

Make your donation check payable to **Plano SAR Chapter #37** and send it to **Treasurer Ronald Carey at 5504 Overland Drive, The Colony TX, 75056**. You will receive one of the coins in return.

Let’s make this a successful recognition program and fundraising opportunity.

The SAR Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

Greetings Compatriots,

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of a momentous development in our ongoing efforts to honor and preserve the legacy of our Patriot Ancestors. The Commonwealth of Kentucky's 2024 budget includes an allocation by the Kentucky General Assembly of \$5 million in the upcoming fiscal year to support the construction of the SAR Education Center and Museum in Louisville!

This monumental decision brings us closer to completion of your state-of-the-art facility that will enlighten and inspire citizens for decades. This important funding will keep construction on track, aiming for an opening date in 2026, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of our great Nation.

As we approach this historic 250th Anniversary, the importance of fostering a deep appreciation of our heritage and the principles upon which our country was founded cannot be overstated. The SAR Education Center and Museum will honor the sacrifices and ideals of our patriot ancestors, inspiring and educating present and future citizens to uphold their values of liberty and self-government.

Even if you have supported the project in the past, as our dream becomes reality, I encourage you to consider an additional contribution. The Liberty Tree Campaign is the easiest way to give. A small, recurring, monthly credit card contribution is the simplest way to make a difference. For those who are able, naming opportunities begin at \$100,000.00. Please contact Phil Bloyd for details. Thank you again for your support and for your important work on behalf of the SAR.

Yours in patriotism,

John L. Dodd
President General, 2023-2024

Upcoming America 250 Patriotic and Travel Events

[CSPAN America 250 Lectures](#)

Compatriots,

CSPAN has some America 250 lectures available for streaming from their website. They are usually about an hour long and are either university faculty giving a lecture in their classroom or notable historians giving a presentation at various institutions (e.g., the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Museum of the American Revolution).

As the year progresses, CSPAN will have more available.

Here are links to a some of them:

[Creation of the Continental Army in 1775 | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[British Army During Revolutionary Era | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Boston's Freedom Trail | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Walking Tour of Revolutionary Philadelphia | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Benedict Arnold | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[George Washington's Character | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Colonial School for Black Children | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Paul Revere's 1775 "Midnight Ride" | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[\[The Revolutionary - Samuel Adams\] | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Religion in Colonial America | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[British Recruitment of Slaves During American Revolution | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Washington's Lieutenants in Revolutionary War | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[1783 Treaty of Paris | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

Enjoy!

Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander

Compatriot News

Compatriot Anniversaries for April

Happy Anniversary, Compatriots!

Richard G Bradley	2018
Durrell A Dallas Jr	2013
George A Joyce Jr	1997
Scott Knightly	2023
Peter K Knightly	2023
James A Parsons	2019
Thomas M Alderman	2025
Gary D Campos	2015
Christopher D Mayfield	2020
Edward T Bishop, Jr.	2001 (25 years)

Patriot Stories

**Contributed by Roger Hardin
Regarding his Trip to San Diego CA for the Naming Ceremony
of the USNS Hector A. Cafferata, Jr.**

Compatriot Hardin and his family recently made a trip to San Diego to attend the 7 March 2026 Christening of the USNS Hector A Cafferata, Jr., the sixth and final Lewis B. Puller-class Expeditionary Sea Base vessel to be built at the General Dynamics NASSCO Shipyards. Our good Compatriot Hardin's wife, Anne, has a Niece, Jessica Cafferata. Jessica's Mom married the Son of a U.S. Marine Private First Class named Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. This fine Patriot served in the Korean War in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division of the X Corps and was present at the infamous Chosin Reservoir Campaign.

Here's the story: The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir was a campaign early in the Korean War and part of the Chinese Second Offensive (November–December 1950) to drive the United Nations out of North Korea. The Chosin Reservoir Campaign was directed mainly against the 1st Marine Division of the U.S. X Corps, which had disembarked in eastern North Korea and moved inland in severe winter weather to a mountainous area near the reservoir. The campaign succeeded in forcing the entire X Corps to evacuate to South Korea, but the Chinese did not achieve their particular objective of isolating and destroying the 1st Marine Division. Instead, in a deliberate retrograde movement that has become one of the most-storied exploits in Marine Corps lore, the Marines turned and fought their way down a narrow vulnerable road through several mountain passes and a bridged chasm until they reached transport ships waiting at the coast.

Private Cafferata then proceeded to distinguish himself by single-handedly holding off a regimental-sized enemy force and "annihilating two enemy platoons" after nearly all of his fire team had been killed or seriously wounded. Only he and fellow Marine Kenneth Benson were left able to resist, and Benson was temporarily blinded after a grenade went off near his face. Benson kept reloading Cafferata's M-1 rifle for him, while Cafferata, a crack shot, fought the enemy without either his coat or his boots, neither of which he could locate in the early morning darkness. The fight started in the early morning and lasted over five hours. When a live grenade fell into the shallow entrenchment occupied by his wounded fellow Marines, he grabbed it and hurled it away — saving the lives of many, but suffering severe wounds. Finally, he was seriously wounded by a sniper, but was rescued by other Marines. He was evacuated to Japan in December 1950. Cafferata returned to the United States in January for treatment at the U. S. Naval Hospital, St. Albans, New York. He was placed on the medically retired list on September 1, 1951. On November 24, 1952, Cafferata received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman during ceremonies at the White House.
(cont'd)

Let's listen to Compatriot Hardin as he relates his real-time experience to President Bob Johns via text:



We had a great dinner last night in San Diego, part of the christening ceremony for the new Navy ship, the USNS Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. Anne's niece, Jessica Cafferata, received many of the gifts to honor the family. Jessica is in the red dress! Wonderful day of ceremonies. How nice for her and the family. Anchors Away!

Part of the ceremony was "Stepping of the Mast". In this historical ceremony, coins or other symbols were placed into a container inside the ship where the main mast would be inserted and raised. In addition to all of the symbolic challenge coins that were placed into the steel "box" by various military units and government officials, I placed my SAR 250 pin inside the box. The SAR Plano Chapter will sail with the USNS Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. until the day that it is retired.

And why was the ship named after Caffareta

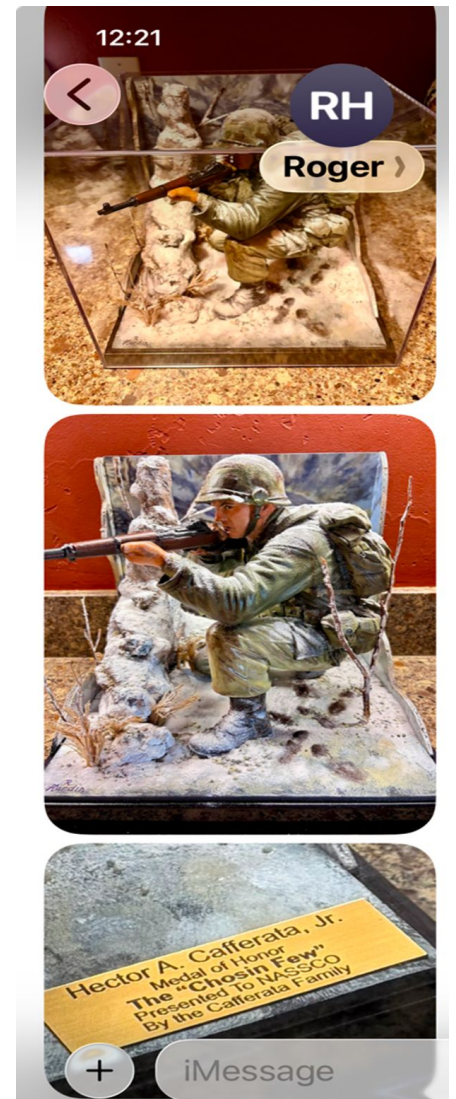
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Battle of Chosin Reservoir (Korean War) Medal of Honor recipient. Anne's sister was married to Hector's son.

I met the former Secretary of the Navy last night at dinner. He was the official who named the ship.

I felt honored to be able to tie the SAR to this Navy vessel for the entirety of its service life.

This figurine of Private First Class Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. was produced by Compatriot Lou Zettler and prepared by Compatriot Roger Hardin. It was presented to NASSCO by the Cafferata family.



USNS Hector A. Cafferata Jr. (ESB 8), the sixth and final Lewis B. Puller-class vessel in the Navy's Expeditionary Sea Base program, was christened during a ceremony in San Diego on March 7. General Dynamics NASSCO photo.

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