



## DECEMBER 2025

### Officers

President: Dwight McEntire  
1st Vice President: Robert Anderson  
2nd Vice President: Art Hays  
Treasurer: Tom Hancher  
Secretary: Warren Wilson  
Sergeant-at Arms: Russell Pebworth  
Genealogist- Walter Arnold  
Registrar: Walter Arnold  
Chaplain: Dr. Bob Cundiff  
Historian/Publicist: Harry Fuller  
Governors -at- Large: Bob Yarnell and James Grayshaw  
Color Guard Commander-Robbie Robinson  
Newsletter Editor- James Grayshaw

### In this issue

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Our Inspiration is from the Past,  
Our Duty is in the Present,  
Our Hope is in the Future.



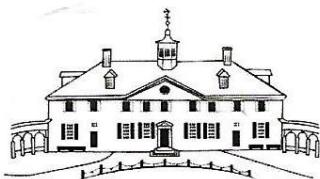
# From the President



## SAR Mission Statement

*The Sons of the American Revolution honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.*

### George Washington's Christmas Camel



George Washington was fond of exotic animals and plants. In 1787, he paid 18 shillings for a camel to spend the Christmas holidays at Mount Vernon to entertain the Washingtons and their guests.

### Compatriots,

What a busy period this month will be - parades, programs, etc. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, [it](#) is a time for reflection and thankfulness. Thankful for the great country we live in, the blessings we have from our beliefs, and membership in this great organization. Dr. Bob Cundiff and I appeared on the Kelly Kelly radio show and were able to talk about the SAR for almost one hour. We discussed the many attributes of the SAR and the Clearwater Chapter. Our Color Guard will be marching at many parades and dedications. The Color Guard [is](#) looking for some additional members – please consider joining. You do not have to have the fancy colonial uniform; a militia uniform is acceptable. See Robbie Robinson, any member of the Color Guard or [me](#).

Whatever your faith, Christmas was originally to celebrate the birth of Christ. As wiki states it, "The traditional Christmas narrative recounted in the New Testament, known as the Nativity of Jesus, says that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in accordance with messianic prophecies. When Joseph and Mary arrived in the city, the inn had no room, and so they were offered a stable where the Christ Child was soon born, with angels proclaiming this news to shepherds, who then spread the word." It is also interesting that this is not a new celebration. Again, quoting wiki, "In the 2nd century, the "earliest church records" indicate that "Christians were remembering and celebrating the birth of the Lord", an "observance [that] sprang up organically from the authentic devotion of ordinary believers"; although "they did not agree upon a set date. "The earliest document to place Jesus's birthday on December 25 is the Chronograph of 354."

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Speaking of the New Year. We will be participating in the American Battlefield Trust and the DAR's traveling Revolutionary War Exhibit at the Clearwater Historical Society (January 16-27) and the Dunedin Historical Museum (Jan 29 – Feb. 10).

Dwight McEntire, Col. USAF (Ret.)  
President, Clearwater Chapter  
Member of FLSSAR Financial Review Committee  
Sons of the American Revolution

<b>Date and Time:</b>	11/19/2025 11:30 AM
<b>Location:</b>	Regency Oaks Conference Center
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Dwight McEntire
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Warren Wilson
<b>Attendees:</b>	Chapter members
<b>Absent:</b>	

Points Discussed		
Number	Topic	Highlights
1	Call to Order	President McEntire called the assembly to order at 12:00 Noon followed by the invocation by Dr. Robert Cundiff, the Pledge of Allegiance and SAR pledge and singing of God Bless America. He then introduced our guest for the meeting, Jonathan Hunt, Florida Society Executive Vice President. Mr. Hunt awarded Compatriot Walter Arnold the Liberty Medal with two oak clusters for his service to SAR on a local and state level. Mr. Hunt also presided over the induction of a new member to the Clearwater chapter and SAR, Mr. Kurt Klotz.
2	Awards and birthdays	President McEntire noted all the November birthdays and presented Bronze Meritorious Service medals to Compatriots Robert Cundiff, James

		Grayshaw, Robbie Robinson, Walter Arnold, Robert Anderson and Rob Moore for their service and contributions to the chapter. Meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:15 PM.		will be in Clearwater and Dunedin during the month of January 2026 and he asked for volunteers to spend time answering questions for visitors to the exhibit. A sign- up sheet was developed and uploaded to the chapter website for people to volunteer. Robbie Robinson then spoke on the status of donations and progress of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Assault Landing Memorial for the Marine Landing in the Bahamas, which will be dedicated early in 2026. President McEntire also reminded all members that the Youth Protection course available on the SAR National website must be taken if they have any contact with members of the public under 18. All Board members are required to complete the course and submit their certificate of completion to the chapter Secretary to be kept on file.
3	Chapter business	Meeting was reconvened at 12:55 PM by President McEntire who introduced the Board of Governors and other attendees from DAR. Mr. Hunt then spoke to the assembly on several topics of business the State Society is working on including an update to the State website. He called for any member with website design experience to contact the State Society if interested in helping in the effort to update that site.		
4	250 moment	Compatriot Tim Shaner spoke on the history of the American Flag noting the different iterations and designs as our country added new states.		
5	Traveling Exhibit	President McEntire addressed the assembly on the upcoming American History traveling exhibit sponsored by the Clearwater DAR chapter. The exhibit	6	Speaker Father Robert Zwick spoke on various Veterans programs available to Vets in the area.
			7	Nominating Committee Tim Shaner headed up the nominating

		<p>committee for the 2026 slate of chapter officers. He announced the candidates and called for any floor nominations. Compatriot Kurt Spehr volunteered to accept the role of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. A motion was made by Rob Moore to accept the slate put forward, seconded by Bob Anderson. A vote of members was called for and the full slate of chapter officers was approved by acclamation.</p>
8	Award	President McEntire presented Fr. Zwick a certificate of appreciation from the chapter acknowledging his service to Veterans in the community.
9	50/50	50/50 and gift basket drawings were held
10	Adjournment	Dr. Cundiff recited the closing benediction, the closing SAR pledge was recited by members and the meeting adjourned at 1:12 PM

Next Meeting			
Date	Location	Time	Objectives
12/17/2025	Regency Oaks Conference Center	11:30 AM	

## Photographs from November's Meeting



President McEntire presented Bronze Meritorious Service medals to Compatriots Robert Cundiff, James Grayshaw, Robbie Robinson, Walter Arnold, Robert Anderson and Rob Moore for their service and contributions to the chapter.



FLSSAR VP Hunt presided over the induction of a new member to the Clearwater Chapter and SAR, Mr. Kurt Klotz

## Attendees



Walter Arnold places the SAR rosette on Kurt Klotz



Father Robert Zwick



L to R- Dwight McEntire, Walter Arnold, Kurt Klotz, and Jonathan Hunt



Jonathan Hunt, Florida Society Executive Vice President



**Kurt Klotz**



**Warren Wilson**



**Bob Anderson**



**Art Hays**



**Dean Chatlain**



**Charles and Marjorie Wetherbee**



**Mark Santoro**



**Eugene Girardi**



**Terry Delano**



**Tim Shaner**



**Russell Pebworth**



**Dwight McEntire**



**Robbie Robinson**



**Marcy and Rob Moore**



**Don Leamy**

**Marilyn (Micky) Halstead and Parks Honeywell**



**Connie Rogers and Jim Grayshaw**



**Tom and Jean Hancher**



**Dan Griffith**



**Bob Cundiff**



**Walter Arnold**



**Kurt Spehr**



**Nick Conrad**

## **Links & Resources:**

**Our Chapter website:**

<http://clearwatersar.com/>

**Our Chapter Facebook page**

<https://www.facebook.com/SARClearwater/>

**SAR National website :**

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

**SAR Florida website:**

<http://www.flssar.org/FLSSAR/Tabs.asp>

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On November 24, 2025 President Dwight McEntire and Chaplain Dr. Bob Cundiff of the Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) appeared on the Kelly Kelly radio show, the TanTalk Radio Network (WTAN). They discussed numerous aspects of the SAR, including purpose of the SAR, membership, the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, the Liberty Tree Project and the upcoming American Battlefield Trust and DAR Revolutionary War Exhibit. They also talked about interesting aspects of their Patriot ancestors from Virginia and North Carolina. They did a great job promoting the SAR! Well done, gentlemen!



L to R : Kelly Kelly, Dr. Bob Cundiff and Dwight McEntire

# OUR DAR PARTNERS

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L to R -Rob Moore, Warren Wilson, Clearwater Chapter DAR Regent Sharon Jank, Robert Anderson, and James Grayshaw. November 21<sup>st</sup> at the DAR meeting in the Bellaire Country Club



L to R- Rob Moore, Robert Anderson, Clearwater Chapter DAR Regent Sharon Jank, James Grayshaw and Warren Wilson

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The DAR Caladesi Chapter is pleased to invite our SAR Clearwater Chapter guests and HoDARs to our popular salad bar. The DAR meeting and luncheon event will be on Monday, January 19 at 11:30 at North Dunedin Baptist Church. The DAR members provide a variety of salads and desserts for the event.

Tiffany Dodge will be speaking about Valor for Dogs, a program of The Battle Within, a non-profit which helps retired veterans and first responders regain independence through partnerships with trained canines. (see image)



Let me know if you have any questions! Looking forward to seeing your cohorts there!

Thanks!

Lori Coffey  
813-404-4597

Regent

*Daughters of the American Revolution  
Caladesi Chapter*

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## **Death of a Member's Wife**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Lillian Ferencz, wife of Compatriot Jim Koontz. Lillian was a frequent attendee at our monthly meetings. Our prayers are with Jim and his family.

Lillian Ferencz was born on April 13, 1938 in Buffalo, New York.

She passed away at the age of 87,  
on September 18, 2025.

She will be missed.



## **Bob Anderson 1st Vice President**



Speakers for coming months are

**January 2026**- Jim Grayshaw Part 2  
Generals of the American Revolution

**February** David Bramley, Author of  
"Washington's Guns".

**March** Debbie Smyth, DAR Caladesi  
Chapter Registrar, Women in the Revolution

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### *Schedule of SAR Meetings*

**2025**

*December 17*

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The Wreaths Across America event in Dunedin, Florida, will take place at the Dunedin Municipal Cemetery on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 11:00 AM. The ceremony honors local veterans, and the wreath-laying ceremony follows immediately after. You can help by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering to place them, or by carpooling

due to limited parking, according to the [City of Dunedin, FL official event page](#).

## Art Hays 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

### Event details

- **Date:** Saturday, December 13, 2025
- **Time:** 11:00 AM (ceremony)
- **Location:** Dunedin Municipal Cemetery, 2400 Keene Rd, Dunedin, FL 34698
- **Goal:** To lay a wreath on every veteran's grave at the cemetery and at other local, non-WAA affiliated cemeteries

### How to help

- **Sponsor a wreath:**

You can sponsor a wreath for \$17 by visiting the official Wreaths Across America website. For the Dunedin location, you can also email [kamariscal@gmail.com](mailto:kamariscal@gmail.com).

- **Volunteer:**

Sign up to volunteer for the wreath-laying ceremony on the Wreaths Across America event page for Dunedin.

- **Attend:**

Participate in the event to remember, honor, and teach the value of freedom.

### Important information

- **Parking:**

Parking will be very limited, so carpooling or using a ride-share service is highly recommended.

- **Traffic:**

When you arrive, traffic will be one-way inside the cemetery. Follow the signs and direct staff to help with traffic flow.



## Tom Hancher Treasurer



If you have not paid your dues for

2026, I encourage you to do so by December 15th. Your membership has value to you. I would suggest that the SAR and membership in the SAR can benefit you by

- honoring your Patriot ancestor(s) who fought to win our nation's independence
- keeping your personal family history alive and stored in the records of the NSSAR and accessible to future generations.
- offering an opportunity to meet with a community of men who share interests such as history and patriotism, and possibly developing lifelong friendships
- delivering an environment which has the potential for learning and developing new skills, and serving the community through the various SAR programs.

**If we do not receive your payment by the end of December, we are required to drop you from the rolls as a member. Please don't let that happen.**

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## **Walter Arnold Registrar/Genealogist**



## **Robbie Robinson Color Guard Commander**





Veterans Day event at the Seminole Middle School where Rob Moore spoke about military legacy, the SAR and the Semi quincentennial to school kids and Veterans. From left to right: Naomi Moore, Tammy Falls, Rob Moore and Alex Moore (Rob's daughter and grandchildren).

## Report of the Election

### Slate for Officer of the Clearwater Chapter for 2026

**President- Dwight McEntire**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President- Art Hays**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Kurt Spehr**

**Treasurer- Dean Chatlain**

**Secretary- Warren Wilson**  
**Genealogist/Registrar- Walter Arnold**

**Sergeant-at-Arms- Russell Pebworth**

**Chaplain- Dr. Bob Cundiff**

**The election of Officers took place at the November membership meeting.**

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## Book about the American Revolution

**Angelica: For Love and Country in a Time of Revolution**  
by Molly Beer

- Publisher : W. W. Norton & Company
- Publication date : July 1, 2025
- Print length : 336 pages

Few women of the American Revolution have come through 250 years of US history with such clarity and color as Angelica Schuyler Church. She was Alexander Hamilton's "saucy" sister-in-law, and the heart of Thomas Jefferson's "charming coterie" of artists and *salonnieres* in Paris. Her transatlantic network of important friends spanned the political spectrum of her time and place, and her astute eye and brilliant letters kept them well informed.

A woman of great influence in a time of influential women (Catherine the Great and Marie-Antoinette were contemporaries), Angelica was at the red-hot center of American history at its birth: in Boston, when General Burgoyne surrendered to the revolutionaries; in Newport, receiving French troops under the command of her soon-to-be dear friend Marquis de Lafayette; in Yorktown, just after the decisive battle; in Paris and London, helping to determine the standing of the new nation on the world stage.

She was born as Engeltje, a Dutch-speaking, slave-owning colonial girl who witnessed the Stamp Act riots in the Royal British Province of New York. She came of age under English rule as Angelica, the eldest daughter of the most important family on the northern part of Hudson's River, raised to be a domestic diplomat responsible for hosting indigenous chiefs and enemy British generals at dinner. She was Madame Church, wife of a privateer turned merchant banker, whose London house was a refuge for veterans of the American war fleeing the guillotine in France. Across nationalities, languages, and cultures, across the divides of war, grievance, and geography, Angelica wove a web of soft-power connections that spanned

the War for Independence, the post-war years of tenuous peace, and the turbulent politics and rival ideologies that threatened to tear apart the nascent United States

In this enthralling and revealing woman's-eye view of a revolutionary era, Molly Beer breathes vibrant new life into a period usually dominated by masculine themes and often dulled by familiarity. In telling Angelica's story, she illuminates how American women have always plied influence and networks for political ends, including the making of a new nation.

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## **Live Free or Die: The Life and Times of John Stark**

by William R. Baker, Jr.

- **Publisher :** Page Publishing
- **Publication date :** May 6, 2025
- **Print length :** 796 pages
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Live Free or Die: The Life and Times of John Stark is the story of how the American Revolution's best battlefield commander (the author's assertion) triumphed over the self-interest of others to play a major role in securing victory for the new republic.

Most often referred to as the "Hero of the Battle of Bennington," John Stark also played pivotal roles in the Battle

of Bunker Hill and the Battle of Trenton.

In the French and Indian War, he saw continuous action along the Richelieu River-Lake Champlain corridor as a member of Rogers's Rangers. In the end, he became the conscience of the rangers when he voiced his disapproval of the motives and tactics of group leader Robert Rogers.

Stark's actions at Bunker Hill, when his militia troops repeatedly repulsed British advances, avoided a disaster that would have snuffed out the rebellion. He was a modest man whose actions always spoke louder than words, and his incomparable leadership that day was all but ignored by New Hampshire's rebel governing authority.

At Trenton, Stark was in the vanguard of Washington's right flank along the River Road. It is likely that he also had a major role during both the Battle of Princeton and the Springfield Raid, though it is difficult to know for certain as most contemporary accounts are offered by those seeking self-glorification, a quality unknown to Stark.

His reward for his well-proven ability to lead troops in combat was to be repeatedly spurned when Congress appointed general officers. Not one of those officers could challenge Stark's record on the battlefield. Completely frustrated, he quit the army and

returned to his farm and sawmill in New Hampshire.

Three months later, with the British under John Burgoyne threatening to overrun New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York, he was persuaded to return. He did so on the condition that he would take no orders from any officer of the Continental Army.

What happened next is where John Stark's story becomes even more interesting.

In *Live Free or Die: The Life and Times of John Stark*, William R. Baker Jr. has deftly interwoven the remarkable story of one of this country's most self-reliant and original personalities with a lively and informative account of the early America he helped to create.



# 250 Years Ago

1775

**2 December:** First of General Montgomery's troops joined Arnold's at Point aux Trembles and combined patriot force of 800 effectives began siege of Quebec, a well-fortified city defended by 1,800 British regulars and British and French-Canadian militia.

**9 December:** Lord Dunsmore sent force of 400 or so, half British regulars, to intercept patriot force advancing on Norfolk, Virginia. In rashly attacking instead of defending crossing at Great Bridge, Virginia, British forces suffered 62 casualties as against one patriot slightly wounded, and were completely routed in this first military action of the war in Virginia.

**10 December:** Connecticut men in Washington's Army, enlisted only until this date, departed for home, emphasizing Washington's

problem in enlisting an adequate army.

**13 December:** After action at Great Bridge, Norfolk, Virginia, was occupied by patriots. Also, on this day Congress authorized the construction of thirteen ships- five 32's, five 28's and three 24's- for the Continental Navy.

**22 December:** Parliament passed the Prohibitory Act, interdicting foreign trade and intercourse with the thirteen revolting colonies.

**31 December:** With enlistments expiring, Montgomery and Arnold led 800 patriots in a desperate and unsuccessful attack on Quebec, Canada. (Quebec Campaign), during a blinding snowstorm in the early hours of the next year. Montgomery was killed and Arnold was wounded among 60 patriots killed and wounded, and 426 captured. British lost 5 killed and 13 wounded.

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## **Honoring America's Veterans**

### **November 11, 2025**

For over 100 years, Americans have paused on November 11 to remember the sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of our country. We are honored to have more than 15 million living veterans with us today.

In 1953, President and Compatriot Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first Veterans Day Proclamation and called on us to “solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.”

The members of the Sons of the American Revolution have always remembered and honored those sacrifices in a variety of ways. This year, we have joined the Face the Fight coalition. Led by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and USAA, Face the Fight is a

coalition of corporations, foundations, nonprofit and veteran-focused organizations joined together to raise awareness and support for veteran suicide prevention.

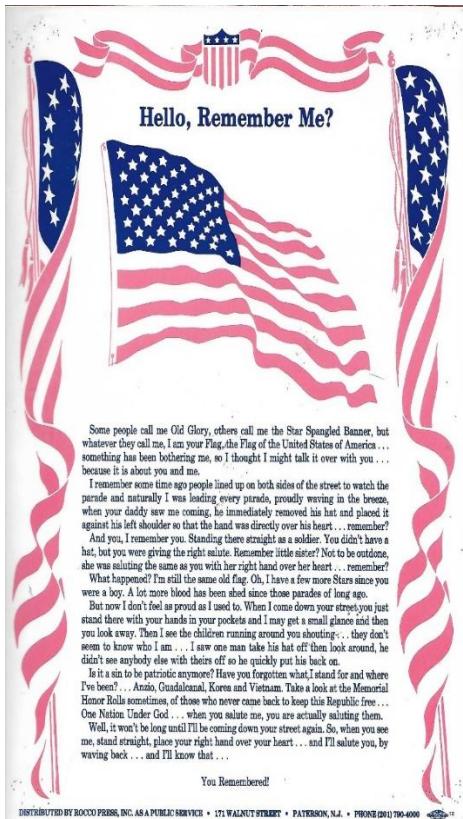
Here are the difficult facts we must face: The veteran suicide rate is 60% higher than the national average. Over 125,000 veterans have died by suicide since 2001. Nearly 40% of veterans who died by suicide did not have diagnoses of mental health or substance abuse disorders. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among veterans under 45 years old. Suicide rates for male veterans between 18 and 34 years old nearly doubled since 2006.

As the descendants of America's first veterans, we honor their sacrifices by supporting today's veterans. Our support for and involvement with Face the Fight will help the coalition's efforts to break the stigmas surrounding veteran suicide and save the lives of men and women who have served our country. I hope you will join our efforts to address the national tragedy of

veteran suicide. I believe that our Patriot ancestors would approve.

Therefore, this Veterans Day, I ask you to pause not only to remember the past sacrifices of America's living veterans but to consider the ongoing struggles they face following their service to our country.

Michael J. Elston  
President General



CLEARWATER CHAPTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IS IN NEED OF:



TO SERVE IN OUR COLOR GUARD.  
Although we admire our present Color Guard who dress in period uniform, we welcome members who wish to participate wearing a class B uniform. The requirements are as follows:

A Tricorn hat (Black trim)  
SAR striped tie  
Blue blazer

The color guard presents the colors at parades, SAR and patriotic organization meetings.

The Tricorned hat may be purchased by a member from one of several vendors at a cost of less than \$100

If you wish to be a member of the COLOR GUARD, please contact Robbie Robinson.

# Birthdays

## December

<b>4</b>	Gibson	James	Allen
<b>6</b>	Vick	Robert	Allen
<b>7</b>	Bizzell	Michael	David
<b>10</b>	Mandigo	Gregg	Wilson
<b>25</b>	Nugent	David	Andrew
<b>26</b>	Wilson	Warren	Michael
<b>31</b>	Mandigo	Raymond	Lawrence
<b>31</b>	Brannon	Charles	Everett

# OUR NEXT MEETING

When: Wednesday December 17, 2025

Where: at The Regency Oaks, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, 2751 Regency Oaks Blvd., Clearwater, Florida 33759.

Time: 11:30 A.M. for in person dining only.

Menu: TBA; Accompaniments: Rolls/ Iced Tea/coffee- Regular and Decaf

Note: If you have any dietary restrictions (such as gluten free, vegan, vegetarian, etc.), or questions, be sure to mention them when you make your reservation

Cost: \$25

Program: Installation of  
Officers and Awards

For reservations contact Tom  
Hancher at 678-683-8121 or  
Bob Anderson at 727-221-4701  
or [Randerson2441@gmail.com](mailto:Randerson2441@gmail.com).

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a historical, educational and patriotic non-profit, United States 501 (c) 3 corporation that seeks to maintain and extend (1) the institution of American freedom, (2) an appreciation for true patriotism, (3) a respect for our national symbols, (4) the value of American citizenship, and (5) the unifying force of e pluribus unum that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation, and one people. We do this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedom on the battlefield and in our public institutions.