



The California Compatriot

The Official Newsletter of the California Society Sons of the American Revolution

MAY 2022

Presidents Message

I am honored to have been selected to lead the CA society for the next 12 months; I thank you for the opportunity, and I will do my best to deserve your trust. The last couple of years has been tough for our SAR programs with the COVID shutdowns and school closures. But, through the great work by our SAR leadership, 2020-2021 President Don Littlefield and 2021-2022 President Brian Stephens, elected officers, committee, and program chairmen, we have weathered the storm, and I'm looking forward to working with you all over the next year to help keep these programs strong.



This is an exciting time to be a member of the SAR. We have begun celebrations that will lead up to the 250th anniversary of our country on July 4th, 2026. Our vision with this 5-year program is to become a major recognized voice of the American Revolution by 2026 by educating America about our patriotic and historical past. Many of our chapters have been conducting America 250 events during their chapter meetings, and have begun reaching out within our communities, and partnering with veteran's groups and other community organizations. If California's Assembly Bill 1600 is passed, we along with the DAR will have a seat at the table of California's America 250 Commission and play an active role in planning statewide events.

However, to make our America 250 and other youth programs successful, we need the help of all of our members; we need to engage our existing members who in the past have not been active in our programs to join us with us, and just as importantly, we need to actively engage our new members and provide immediate avenues for them to help us with our programs and encourage them to assume future leadership roles within our chapters and state society.

Libertas et Patria
Craig Anderson

California Society SAR 147th Annual Meeting

The 147th Annual Meeting of the membership of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (CASSAR) was held April 22-23, 2022 in Sacramento, California. President Brian Stephens welcomed all members and guests, including representatives from 17 of our 24 Chapters. CASSAR officers Chapter Presidents and committee chairmen presented their reports of activities for the past year, and many awards were given for outstanding accomplishments at the Public Service and Youth Awards Luncheons.

Public Service Luncheon

At the Public Service luncheon on Friday, four members of the Woodland Police Department were awarded the SAR Life Saving Medal for their quick actions in saving the life of a citizen of Woodland: Corporal Evan Black, Officer Brandon Swonger, Officer Sergio Jacobo, and Officer Joseph Nott. They were introduced by Compatriot Del Hanson of the Sacramento Chapter.



Youth Awards Luncheon

The Youth Awards luncheon was held on Saturday, and the following students received awards:

- Outstanding Eagle Scout Award – John McPhie sponsored by the Orange County Chapter
- Outstanding JROTC Award – Cadet Daniela Gonzales sponsored by the Orange County Chapter
- Joseph R. Rumbaugh Orations Contest – Julia Abbott sponsored by the Sons of Liberty Chapter
- Knight Essay Contest – Neha Vijay sponsored by the Redlands Chapter
- Middle School Brochure Contest – Sinclair Smith sponsored by the Orange County Chapter
- Elementary School Poster Contest – Aubrey Davis sponsored by the Gold Country Chapter
- Spirit of America Youth Leadership Award – Christopher Franco sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter
- Outstanding Naval Sea Cadet Award – PO2 Lina Vo sponsored by the San Diego Chapter

Naval Sea Cadet Award

Naval Sea Cadet PO2 Lina Vo was introduced by SAR Sea Cadet Committee Chairman, William Nay, and read her winning essay. PO2 Vo was accompanied by Commanding Officer Lt JG Devin Rodriguez, Executive Officer Laura Lopez, Regional Director Lt Cdr Valencia Jones, and Sr. Lt Cdr. Pete Wright.



Young American Patriots

Entertainment for the Youth Awards Luncheon was provided by the Young American Patriots Drum and Fife Corps.

America 250 Awards

President Brian Stephens presented

America250 awards to members who earned points for the participation in America250 events. John Ferris and Louis Carlson are Co-Chairmen of the CASSAR America250 Committee. A complete list of Chapters and individuals receiving awards will be posted on the CASSAR website.



The Annual Meeting concluded with the Gala Banquet on Saturday evening. The guest speaker was David Harmer, CEO of Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, who gave examples from General George Washington's life that are relevant today. President Brian Stephens awarded the Patriot Medal to John Ferris and the Distinguished Service Medal to Dr. Kent Gregory. John Ferris also was named Color Guardsman of the Year. The newly elected officers of CASSAR were installed by the Vice President General of the Western District, Charles Smith. They are listed below.



SAR-NRA Black Powder Course

Following the Annual meeting, an SAR-NRA official course on the firing and handling of black powder firearms was taught by Compatriots Russ Kaiser, Mark Kramer and Brandon Villardi. Ten CASSAR members participated in the course: Dennis Deck, Randy, Dhindsa, Brian Guthrie, James Klingler, Michael Miller, William Nay, Jeffrey Nibert, John Richardson, James Riley, and Jon Russell.

Compatriot Gene Bell Sounds Taps at Veterans' Funeral

Doug Drake, President of the Mother Lode Chapter, spoke at the California Society's Community Awards Luncheon at the Spring Meeting in Sacramento, particularly addressing the many veterans in our Society:



"One of our own California Compatriots learned of the shortage of live Buglers at the funerals of veterans and he wanted to help. He dusted off his trumpet from high school; got his lip back in shape and joined the Bugles Across America almost 10 years ago."

Bugles Across America (BAA) was founded in 2000 as a result of P.L. 106-65 that states that every qualified veteran has a right to Military Funeral Honors. As a minimum, this calls for two people to fold and present the flag and to provide a sounding of Taps. A shortage of available military buglers was then addressed by allowing this sounding of Taps to be

done by way of a recording. With this in mind, Bugles Across America was formed to provide live buglers to fill this need.

Gene is a Navy Veteran where he served as a Radioman in M.A.T.S. (military transport service). Gene has always felt a kinship and fondness for his fellow veterans. In 2018, aware of the passing of many veterans, Gene stepped up his service and began regularly sounding taps at veterans' funerals and memorials. He has now performed well over twenty services. He has sounded taps at Dixon Veteran Cemetery, and numerous cemeteries in Sacramento and El Dorado County.

Interested families in this service should contact BAA and the BAA will contact Gene and he will then call the family to make arrangements. Beside sounding taps at funerals, Gene has also performed at Memorial Day ceremonies, DAR ceremonies, and private memorials for veterans.

This bugle service is free to the family. All BAA buglers donate their services. Without a bugle, these services are performed by the military, and they often use a recorded bugle which is placed inside the bugle. BAA provides the real thing.

To request a bugler, go to the BAA website <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/> and click on the revolving picture to bring up the request form.

As an aside, Gene also sounds taps every night at 7 pm – with few exceptions, no matter where he is. All the buglers in BAA do this all across the country in honor of those veterans who have died that day and were not with family at their side because of government imposed restrictions during the covid pandemic.

Compatriot Gene Bell received the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his selfless service to our Nation's veterans through the Bugles Across America.



America 250 SAR



Click the image to play the America 250 SAR Video

Welcome New Members

Congratulations! Welcome to the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. We are honored that you have elected to join our society of descendants of those patriots and heroes who gave us our freedoms. The California Society conducts many patriotic, historical, and educational programs in our communities, and we rely heavily on our member volunteers to keep them strong and vibrant.

If you haven't yet been, you will shortly be contacted by a representative of your chapter; I urge you to meet your fellow compatriots, join them in their chapter programs, and become an active member of your chapter and state society. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

<u>NSSAR</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Date</u>
222077	Matthew James Bacon	Gen George Patton	04/01/2022
222125	James Scott <u>Sypult</u>	San Francisco	04/08/2022
222124	Robert Picard <u>Sypult</u>	San Francisco	04/08/2022
222123	Herbert Victor Abrams	South Coast	04/08/2022
222171	Kyle R. Puro Esq	Harbor	04/15/2022
222169	Steven Charles Belden	Mother Lode	04/15/2022
222168	Michael Earl <u>Macko</u>	South Coast	04/15/2022
222170	Gary Alan Johnson Sr	Yosemite	04/15/2022
222225	Shane Patrick O'Halloran	Harbor	04/22/2022
222224	Tommy Ray Bolton	Yosemite	04/22/2022

IN MEMORIUM

<u>NSSAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
199987	Lorenza Chase Farwell	Coachella Valley	03/30/2022
222076	Allison Gale James	Harbor	04/01/2022

Upcoming Events

2022 EVENT	DATE
Memorial Day	May 30th
Flag Day	June 14th
Independence Day	July 4th
NSSAR Annual Congress	July 10 th – 15th
Constitution Day	September 11th
NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting	September 29 th – October 1 st
147 th CASSAR BOM Meeting	November 4 th and 5th
Veterans Day	November 11 th
Wreaths Across America	December 17 th

Youth Protection Training

The National Society, requires that all members who participate in SAR youth and education programs that interface with students under the age of 18, successfully complete SAR Youth Protection Training. We had formerly utilized the training offered by the Boy Scouts of America, but subsequently, the SAR has developed its own training program that is geared specifically to the programs that we conduct. The process is very simple; the training can be taken on-line in about 20 minutes, and the certificate is valid for three years.

Please forward your certificate of completion to Dan McKelvie at mckelvie@sbcglobal.net.

[CLICK HERE TO BEGIN YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING](#)

From the Editors Desk

RELEASE FORMS

As a reminder to all compatriots, if you submit photos or materials (e.g. youth program winners) for publication in the Compatriot, you must include a signed release form.

[Click To Download the Release Form](#)

News From Around the California Society

EAGLE CHAPTER



Eagle Chapter Celebration and recognition of Past President Stephen Wright by President and Past President Wayne Rogers and Past President Jerry Sayre, April 2nd Fallbrook California.

Important Links

[Click to Access SAR Dues and Transaction Fees](#)

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Cyber Scams

If you receive an email from a purported Compatriot in need of help that is unsigned, with no personal contact information seeking contributions to any type of fundraising site; or an email addressing you by name from another member of your Chapter requesting the expenditure of funds or the purchase of gift cards, **consider it a hoax**. These messages are getting more sophisticated and may even include the unauthorized use of the SAR logo and/or a pseudo SAR email address.

The California Compatriot is the official newsletter of the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Unless explicitly stated, the opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the California Society SAR

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