

MINNESOTA SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • AUTUMN 2025



New Members were presented with certificates and rosettes during the meeting.

MNSAR CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

Minneapolis, MN – On September 27, 2025, members of the Minnesota Society, along with spouses and guests, gathered for the Annual Constitution Day Luncheon held at Jax Cafe. Jeff Patton, on behalf of the Washingtonburg Chapter of the Pennsylvania SAR expressed greetings. Compatriot Patton was in attendance to hear his father, Col. Donald G. Patton, give the keynote presentation.

President Kevin Sullivan, with the help of Corresponding Secretary Stowe Kintzinger, presented new member certificates and rosettes to William Butler, Brian Ellingson, Grant Kruger, LeRoy Loomer, Scott Loomer, Mark Maxfield, Glen O'Meara and Alan Youel. The assemblage enjoyed luncheon, each ordering their own entree from Jax Cafe's menu.

**INSIDE THE
MNSAR SALUTE...**
2025 Constitution Day Luncheon
Minnesota's Involvement During
World War II
American Eagle
C.A.R. Presentation
Remembering Two Compatriots
Constitution Day Luncheon
Highlights

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



COL DONALD G. PATTON SPEAKS ON MINNESOTA'S INVOLVEMENT IN WWII

Former Army Operations Officer COL Don Patton presented a fascinating talk about Minnesota's roll during World War II.

Patton stated that the USS Ward, largely crewed by Naval Reservists from St. Paul, fired the first American shots at Pearl Harbor when she engaged and sank a Japanese midget submarine before Japanese aircraft arrived in the attack on Pearl Harbor, killing both crewmen on board. The gun from the USS Ward that fired the historic shot was later brought to Minnesota and has been a prominent landmark for decades on the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds in St. Paul. Plans are underway to move the gun to the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum in Little Falls for preservation.

Patton also told of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division - Minnesota National Guard whose World War II campaigns included Tunisia (Nov. 42 - May 43), Naples-Foggia (Sep. 43 - Jan 44), Anzio-Rome-Arno (Jan - Sep. 44), North Apennines (Sep. 44 - Apr. 45), ending the war at the Po Valley (Apr. - May 45).

The 194th Tank Battalion was a U.S. National Guard

unit that fought in the Battle of Bataan in 1942 and whose survivors were forced to endure the brutal Bataan Death March and years of Japanese imprisonment. Composed of citizen-soldiers from Brainerd, Minnesota and Salinas and Pajaro Valleys in California, the battalion fought valiantly but ultimately faced surrender, torture, and a staggering loss of life.

Forty to fifty percent of the members of Darby's Rangers were from Minnesota and Iowa. The battalion first saw action in Operation Torch in November 1942, where they landed and surprised enemy forces. They later captured El Guettar, Tunisia, in March 1943. The success in North Africa prompted the creation of the 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions in May 1943. The three battalions then participated in the amphibious assaults on Sicily in July 1943. The Rangers suffered heavy casualties during the disastrous attack on Cisterna, Italy, in January 1944. Following the Cisterna disaster, the three Ranger battalions were officially disbanded on October 26, 1944. Before their final disbandment, the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Ranger Battalions were temporarily combined

with other units to form the 6615th Ranger Force for the Anzio landings, with Darby in command.

For the Doolittle Raid, sixteen North American B-25 Mitchell bombers were significantly modified by removing lower gun turrets, reducing defensive armament, installing extra fuel tanks to increase range, replacing the secret Norden bombsight with a makeshift "Mark Twain" sight, and adding painted broomsticks in the tail to simulate guns. These modifications were crucial for the B-25s to be light enough for a short take-off from an aircraft carrier and have the fuel capacity to reach China after bombing Japan. The initial and most significant modifications took place at the Mid-Continent Airlines modification center at Wold-Chamberlain Field, now Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport.

Villaume Industries, formerly the Villaume Box and Lumber Company, was the second largest builder of gliders for World War II.

Patton pointed out people and companies that contributed to World War II including: Harold Stassen, administration officer for Admiral



William Halsey Jr. and signatory to the charter that formed the United Nations; John William "Jack" Vessey Jr. who rose from Buck Private to Chief of Staff for President Reagan; Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair was responsible for modernizing the ground forces as commander of the Army Ground Forces. He was tragically killed by friendly fire on July 25, 1944, during Operation Cobra in France; Kenneth Dahlberg was an American businessman and highly decorated World War II fighter ace.

Businesses involved include: Honeywell; General Mills; Arden Hills Arsenal; Hormel, maker of Spam feeding hungry soldiers and civilians overseas.



C.A.R. PRESENTATION



Minnesota Society of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) President Rebecca Roth shared that the C.A.R. national theme is "Revolutionary Valor," and the national project is to support the Dr. Joseph Warren Foundation. Funds raised for the national project will support the creation of a Dr. Joseph Warren documentary film.

President Roth's state theme is "Battle Buddies" and her state project is "Canine Companions." The project will raise money for Believet Canine Service Partners, which provides service dogs to veterans free of charge.

REMEMBERING TWO MNSAR COMPATRIOTS



DANIEL LATHAM – We regret to report that compatriot Daniel Latham, 76, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, 2024 following a 6-year struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Dan was an avid genealogist. He and his wife were both descendants of John Alden of the Mayflower. He was a member of the Mayflower Society and the Alden Kindred of America as well as the Minnesota SAR.

Dan was a man of the finest character, exceptionally hard-working and was truly a man of his word. Born in Minneapolis on Sept. 6, 1948, he was raised in Richfield where he graduated from Richfield High School in 1966. Dan received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota

in 1970. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany in 1971 and 1972. After the military, he worked as an engineer for Larson Boats then as an engineer for Medtronic. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management in 1978 and received a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1980. After law school, he worked for Quaker Oats in Chicago as a Patent Attorney. He then worked for Medtronic in Minneapolis. He met Dianne, a fellow Patent Attorney, while working at Medtronic and they married in the Fort Snelling Chapel on Aug. 21, 1998. He was a member of the Minnesota Intellectual Property Law Association. He retired from the Medtronic Patent Department as a Patent Counsel in April 2004.

He enjoyed gardening and took great pride in his espalier of five Honeycrisp apple trees. He especially enjoyed travel, with he and Dianne taking many photographs as they visited all continents except Antarctica.



LTCOL ALLEN "DEAN" SHEPERSKY – Long time MNSAR member, Allen "Dean" Shepersky, age 97, of Woodbury, went home to be with the Lord on June 20, 2025. He joined the MNSAR in 2009. Born May 3, 1928, he lived a life filled with great love and commitment to his family, strong faith, service to his country, and joy connecting with others. He is survived by his four beloved daughters, Judith (Alan) Stocker, Deborah (John) Bronk, Linda Millington, and Patricia (Chris) Hegarty. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Angela, Nathan, Adam, Michelle, Eric, David, Ryan, and Megan; as well as three great-grandchildren, Charlotte, Henry, and Evangeline. Dean was preceded in death by the love of his life, Doris "Dorie" (Meyer) Shepersky; his brother, Richard and his parents.



CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

VPG of the North Central District SAR, Reverend Dr. Jim Sly talked about the National SAR goals of raising the member retention rate by 1% per year, raising the number of new members by 1% per year, and increasing the number of Color Guard activities. During his two-year term in office, VPG Sly plans to hold monthly district Zoom meetings focused primarily on having members from the Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska societies give presentations.



LIVING HISTORY TEAM PRESENTATION

Living History Team Leader Rich Howey delivered a PowerPoint presentation about "Swords of the American Revolution."

He had many different kinds of swords on display for the group to see as he spoke. Following his presentation, Howey provided a quiz on the different swords owned by George Washington.

MNSAR AWARDS

President Sullivan presented several state level SAR awards. Compatriot Stowe Kintzinger received a State Outstanding Young Member medal and certificate, Compatriot Rick Smith received a State Meritorious Service medal and certificate, and Guy Kight and Chris Moberg received Silver Henry Knox Achievement medals and certificates.

Rick Smith, Secretary-Treasurer of the Saint Paul Chapter, presented Tim Harris with a Chapter Distinguished Service Medal and Certificated for his many years serving as the Saint Paul Chapter Secretary-Treasurer.

NSSAR CONGRESS REPORT

Trustee Rick Smith gave a report on the National Society SAR Congress held in Connecticut from July 12 – 18. Expenditures were approved for the Education

Center and Museum, which will open on July 4th 2026. The George Washington Endowment Fund removed its restriction of investing 50% of funds in government bonds. A few bylaw changes were passed. There will be a "sale" on the national portion of new membership application fees. In July of 2026, the fee will be \$76 in honor of the 250th Anniversary. The passing of SAR member and U.S. President Jimmy Carter was remembered. Finally, the 2026 NSSAR Congress will be in Greensboro, NC, the 2027 Congress will be in New Orleans, LA, and the 2028 Congress will be in Ohio.

UPCOMING 250TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Guy Kight spoke about Revolutionary War 250th Anniversary events. Compatriot Kight explained that the Mall of America wants to make its celebration of America's 250th Birthday the main event for Minnesotans in 2026. The Dakota County Historical Society is taking the lead in coordinating the events at the Mall of America. Dates for the celebration will be Friday, July 3rd through Sunday, July 5th, 2026. The Mall of

America is opening five of its areas for groups to use for display, crowd engagement, and presentations. The Minnesota SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. have committed to help. The groups will not be allowed to carry any Revolutionary War weapons, although having them in locked display cases might be allowed.

President Sullivan noted that he will work with the Color Guard and Living History team on the 250th Anniversary Wayzata granite bench dedication, which will take place on July 4th, 2026.

Next Meeting

The Minnesota SAR's annual meeting will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, January 17, 2026. This is a members-only event. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.



2025 MNSAR ROTC MEDAL PROGRAM

The Minnesota Society again invited each Minnesota ROTC unit (College level), each JROTC unit (high school level) and each Sea Cadet Unit to participate in the SAR ROTC/JROTC Awards Program. Silver Certificates and Medals were awarded to each ROTC cadet, Bronze Certificates and Medals were awarded to each JROTC cadet, and Sea Cadet Bronze Good Citizenship Medals and Certificates were awarded to each Sea Cadet. Winners of the awards were chosen by the senior military leadership of each unit. The SAR ROTC, JROTC, and Sea Cadet awards are awarded to a cadet, "in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence thus exemplifying the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors."

In 2025, six of seven ROTC units responded with names of cadets to be given the SAR Silver Certificates and Medals, eight of ten JROTC units responded with names of cadets to be given the SAR Bronze Certificates and Medals and two of three Sea Cadet Units responded with names of cadets to be given the SAR Sea Cadet Bronze Good Citizenship

Certificates and Medals. It should be noted that another high school dropped their JROTC unit in 2025, dropping the total JROTC units in Minnesota from eleven to ten.

All six ROTC units held in-person award ceremonies. At each of these ceremonies a compatriot from the Minnesota Society of the SAR made the presentations. ROTC Units that participated in 2025 were: Minnesota State University Army ROTC, St. John's University Army ROTC, St. Thomas University Air Force ROTC, University of Minnesota at Duluth Air Force ROTC, University of Minnesota Air Force ROTC, and University of Minnesota Navy ROTC.

All eight of the JROTC units also held in-person award ceremonies. All eight JROTC units' cadets were presented their awards by a compatriot from the Minnesota Society of the SAR. JROTC Units that participated in 2025 were: Como Park High School Marine JROTC, Cretin-Derham Hall High School Army JROTC, Harding High School Navy JROTC, North Branch High School Air Force JROTC, Powell Academy Army JROTC, St Paul Johnson Air Force JROTC, Washington Technical Navy JROTC, and

Woodbury High School Air Force JROTC.

The two Sea Cadet Units held in person award ceremonies. A compatriot from the Minnesota Society of the Sons of the American Revolution presented the awards at these ceremonies. The two Sea Cadet Units that participated in 2025 were: the Polaris Battalion (Isanti, MN) and the Twin Cities Squadron (Eden Prairie, MN).

Special thanks to SAR Minnesota Society Compatriots that took the time to present ROTC, JROTC, and Sea Cadet awards on behalf of the SAR Minnesota Society. Their names are: Michael R. Bradley; Dennis Croonquist; Scott Fredell; John Glendenning; James Hagen; Dr. Thomas Shaffer; and Dr. Richard Smith.

2026 SAR RENEWAL

We have not yet sent renewal notices this year due to technical problems with the Treasurer. 2026 dues are:

- \$67 for regular members
- \$5 for junior members (not yet 18)

New members registered after September 1, 2025 do not need to pay 2026 dues. All other members, except life members, must pay annual dues.

We rely heavily on electronic mail and online payments to collect dues. Every member who has a working email listed with the SAR receives renewal notices via email. Check your junk mail folder, too.

Members without an email address will receive announcements by mail in early November.

To pay online, visit the minnesotasar.org web site. To pay by mail, send a check to the Treasurer at:

Minnesota SAR
C/O Richard Smith
718 Vermillion St
Hastings, MN 55033
Email: pmt@minnesotasar.org

If you want to renew two or more members, please contact the Treasurer first.

Visit the web site – minnesotasar.org for further information about renewals.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Sunday, December 3, 1780

A HERO TAKES COMMAND

Charlotte, North Carolina – General Nathanael Greene arrived at Charlotte, North Carolina, assuming command of the Southern Department from the disgraced General Horatio Gates.

Who would replace Gates as commander of the Southern Department? Congress had first chosen Robert Howe, who was unsuited for theatre command and its political mine-fields; then Benjamin Lincoln, a good man badly placed; then Horatio Gates, a military bureaucrat self-deceived into fancying himself a warrior. Howe lost Savannah, Lincoln Charleston, Gates, South Carolina. One army had gone into captivity, another had been shattered. Congress decided it was time for another to make the critical choice and turned the matter over to General Washington.

On 14 October, the day after he received congressional authorization to appoint whom he wished, the great Virginian chose the man he had wanted instead of Gates, and because the situation in the South was so critical Nathanael Greene did not go home first to see his family and settle his affairs. He arrived in Philadelphia on 27 October to seek cavalry reinforcements and supplies from Congress. He received little of what he asked, and of clothing to cover half naked troops there was none, from either Congress or comfortable Philadelphia merchants. Before he continued his ride on 2 November word had come of the victory at King's Mountain, which gave

him breathing room. Baron von Steuben rode with him as far as Virginia, where the Baron stayed to forward reinforcements and supplies to Greene.

On the way south they stopped in Annapolis, where Greene begged for clothing. He repeated his pleas in Virginia to Governor Thomas Jefferson. What he received from Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia were protestations of poverty. Nathanael Greene and the army in the South could look to themselves for succor. He did, however, pick up in Virginia one of the unsung heroes of the Revolution. Lieutenant Colonel Edward Carrington.

For now, Greene ordered Carrington to continue the assignment Gates had given him. He was to survey the Roanoke River for safe passages and to expand the survey to include the Dan River, a tributary of the Roanoke just north of the Virginia-North Carolina line. When Greene reached Hillsborough on 27 November he dispatched two other officers on similar missions: the Polish volunteer Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko to the Catawba River and Brigadier General Edward Stevens of Virginia to the Yadkin. Greene wanted to know if these rivers as well as the Dan could be used for bringing supplies.

General Horatio Gates was in Charlotte with what passed for an army. Greene arrived on 2 December 1780. To describe the two men as not close would be a gross understatement. It could have been an awkward moment, but both carried it off

with aplomb. Greene behaved toward the beaten general with respect and kindness. Gates retained his dignity. Otho Holland Williams was there, and described their conduct as "an elegant lesson of propriety exhibited on a most delicate and interesting occasion." The following day Major General Horatio Gates issued his final order, handing over his command to Major General Nathanael Greene, and five days later the Hero of Saratoga turned his horse northward and began his long ride home.

On 3 December 1780 a living legend rode into Nathanael Greene's camp at Charlotte to report to his new commander. Rarely have two men of such common martial gifts had the opportunity to complement one another. Renowned from Quebec to the Carolinas, celebrated in one army and feared by another, his life a succession of dramas one of which would be enough for most men, Brigadier General Daniel Morgan of the Virginia Line was by far the Continental Army's finest battle captain. If one were to judge him by all who have led Americans into battle, he would have no superiors and few peers.

Morgan's physical condition prevented him from joining Gates until late September 1780, and by then Gates had suffered the debacle of Camden. When Morgan heard the terrible news he was still suffering from wracking pains, and Congress had not yet acted on his promotion. Nevertheless, in this time of peril to the cause he departed almost immediately on

the long ride to Hillsborough, North Carolina. He took along a spare horse to sell in order to meet his travel expenses. Congress also finally did the right and wise thing and promoted him to Brigadier General on 13 October 1780, although the members spent three months in study and debate before acting. He had been campaigning with the light troops between Charlotte and Camden when Nathanael Greene arrived.

The command to which Greene succeeded was in a pitiful state. On his arrival it numbered 2,307 men, of whom 1,482 were present and fit for duty. Absent were 547; of those 128 were on detached duty. Continentals from the crack Maryland and Delaware Lines numbered 949. They were the backbone of the army. But of the overall total, only 800 men were properly clothed and equipped. As small as his army was, there were not adequate provisions and forage for them in the immediate countryside and Greene therefore ordered General von Steuben in Virginia not to send him unarmed and unclothed men.

Source:

The Road to Guilford Courthouse,
by John Buchanan,
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Revolutionary War Almanac,
by John C. Fredriksen,
Infobase Publishing, 2006