



# The Husker Patriot



Issue 54

1st Qtr 2024

## COLOR GUARD SEASON HAS BEGUN! WE NEED RECRUITS!!

TO ALL BRAVE, HEALTHY, ABLE BODIED, AND WELL DISPOSED YOUNG MEN,  
IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHO HAVE ANY INCLINATION TO JOIN THE TROOPS, NOW RAISING UNDER  
GENERAL WASHINGTON,  
FOR THE DEFENCE OF  
THE LIBERTIES AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES  
Against the hostile designs of foreign enemies,

### TAKE NOTICE,

The *Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday* at the County Courthouse, attendance will be given by Lieutenant Reading with his music and recruiting party of Captain Zachary Barthol of the 1<sup>st</sup> company in Major Shutes Battalion, of the 11th regiment of infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Ogden for the purpose of recruiting the enrollment of such youth of SPLEET, as may be willing to enter into this HONOURABLE service. The ENCOURAGEMENT at this time, to enlist, is truly liberal and generous, namely, a bounty of TWELVE dollars, an annual and full sufficient supply of good and handsome clothing, a daily allowance of a large and ample ration of provisions, together with SIXTY dollars a year in GOLD and SILVER money on account of pay, the whole of which the soldier may lay up for himself and friends, as all articles proper for his subsistence and comfort are provided by law, without any expense to him.

Those who may favour this recruiting party with their attendance as above, will have an opportunity of hearing and seeing in a more particular manner, the great advantages which these brave men will have, who shall embrace this opportunity of spending a few happy years in viewing the different parts of this beautiful continent, in the honourable and truly respectable character of a soldier, after which, he may, if he pleases return home to his friends, with his pockets FULL of money and his head COVERED with laurels.

GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES

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## DO YOUR DUTY AND COME HAVE FUN! JOIN US TODAY!

# From the Desk of the President

## Presidents Message

Compatriots, Ladies, and Friends,

I want to begin with a sincere expression of gratitude to the Nebraska SAR State and Chapter Officers for their outstanding support and actions during these past two years. Their efforts, and the efforts of our State and Chapter Committee Men, have propelled our membership into the 130's. That is the highest number of members we have had in recent memory. Our membership rosters and data have been reconciled with our financial data, and perhaps more significantly, we have grown and increased our active presence and participation within our respective communities.



On a more personal note, I also want to thank them, and especially our Past Presidents and State Officers, for their advice and counsel over the last two years. They have been of immense value in helping to guide the decisions that have helped us grow and thrive.

Congratulations to our newly elected Officers. I feel confident that Compatriot President John Braisted and his team will continue to nurture and grow the Society. Please take time to review the various committees described in the By-Laws, and consider one of them to help with. Our personal involvement is what drives growth and effectiveness of our Society. It is also the thing that brings us together as a community.

As a reminder, the April 2024 Spring State Meeting will soon be here. Not only will we be installing new Officers, but we will also be revisiting our By-Laws, offering some recognition, and hearing about the upcoming National Congress happening this July in Lancaster, PA.

I hope to see many of you at our Spring Meeting!

### **Thomas Upton**

President, Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



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## **NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN**

**2022-2023**

<b>President:</b>	Thomas L. Upton
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	John C. Braisted
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	Paul H. Burrright
<b>Secretary:</b>	Stanley Dale Wostrel
<b>Treasurer:</b>	William Webb
<b>Registrar:</b>	Paul H. Burrright
<b>Trustee:</b>	Fred Walden
<b>Alt. Trustee:</b>	LaVerne Stetson
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Dr. James Sly
<b>Historian:</b>	John Reinert
<b>Const/ByLaws Chairman—</b>	John Braisted
<b>Membership Chairman—</b>	Paul Burrright
<b>Budget &amp; Finance Chairman—</b>	Bill Webb
<b>Audit Committee Chairman—</b>	Paul Burrright
<b>Publicity Chairman—</b>	Dale Wostrel
<b>Eagle Scout Chairman—</b>	Ryan Fuller
<b>Awards &amp; Medals Chairman—</b>	Ron Stites
<b>Flag Chairman—</b>	Drew Whittler
<b>Color Guard Commander—</b>	Chad Sherrets
<b>First Responders Chairman—</b>	Open
<b>ROTC Awards Chairman—</b>	Open
<b>America 250 Chairman—</b>	Mark Byars
<b>Americanism Chairman—</b>	Paul Burrright

## **BOARD OF MANAGERS**

**2022-2023**

<b>President:</b>	Thomas L. Upton
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	John C. Braisted
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	Paul H. Burrright
<b>Secretary:</b>	Stanley Dale Wostrel
<b>Treasurer:</b>	William Webb
<b>Registrar:</b>	Paul H. Burrright
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Dr. James Sly
<b>Historian:</b>	John Reinert
<b>Omaha Chapter Rep:</b>	Mark Byars
<b>Lincoln Chapter Rep:</b>	Jim Hoke
<b>Member At Large Rep:</b>	Open
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Merle T. McAlevy
<b>Past State President:</b>	Open
<b>Past State President:</b>	Open

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# State Society News



## 2024 Patriot Chest Presentations

Compatriot Mark Byars and his wife Nicki donned their Revolutionary period attire and presented the Patriot Chest to more than 600 fifth graders in eastern Nebraska early this year.

The Patriot Chest is a box filled with items that would have been used by colonists living during the American Revolution - from powder horn and musket balls to colonial currency and British tea! Each 40 minute presentation covers key events and people of the Revolutionary War.

Nebraska fifth graders study the American Revolution during the spring semester, so February and March are the ideal time to bring the SAR's youth education mission into the classroom. This year, Mark and Nicki - who is a DAR member - made 15 presentations to 32 classes of 5th graders in ten different elementary schools in Beatrice, Bennington, Elkhorn and Millard.

Their classroom visits were featured in the Bennington District Newsletter and on the front page of the Beatrice Daily Sun.

### Welcome New Members!

James Carey Creigh #229098  
Patriot John Creigh (PA)  
Omaha Chapter

Thomas O'Connor Creigh #229099  
Patriot John Creigh (PA)  
Omaha Chapter

James Cue Creigh #229100  
Patriot John Creigh (PA)  
Omaha Chapter

William Baker Ruoff #229342  
Patriot Isaac Sadler (PA)  
Omaha Chapter

Austyn Richard Ruoff #229343  
Patriot Isaac Sadler (PA)  
Omaha Chapter

Sean David Whitler #229530  
Patriot George Davidson (VA)  
Omaha Chapter

### Approved Supplementals

Andrew Sullivan #217936  
Patriot George Dixon (VA)  
Omaha Chapter

Congratulations to all of our new members in the Nebraska SAR. We look forward to you all being active, participating members of the Society.

Thursday, March 14, 2024 WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

## FIFTH GRADERS PART OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION PRESENTATION

**CHRISTINA LYONS, DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER**

Nicki and Mark Byars talk about the flag during the presentation on the American Revolution on Monday. Fifth graders at Stoddard and Paddock Lane Elementaries participated in the presentation.

Mark and Nicki Byars present The Patriot Chest

**CHRISTINA LYONS**  
Daily Sun staff writer

Mark and Nicki Byars of Beatrice dressed as early American Patriots as they presented to Stoddard and Paddock Lane Elementary fifth graders on Monday.

Mark said his mom, Janet, has always interested in genealogy.

"When I was a kid, we would picnic in cemeteries and go to the library to gather information," he said. "As time passed it became easier to get information online and explore family history. I always thought I had a German ancestry and most of my family had immigrated after the Revolution but found that I had seven Patriot ancestors that fought in the Revolutionary War."

Mark belongs to the Sons of the American Revolution and Nicki is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Nicki is a Mayflower Descendant and has around 17 Patriot ancestors.

"If you have an ancestor that was born in the United States prior to the Civil War, there is a strong likelihood that there is a connection with a Patriot as well," Mark said.

The SAR and the DAR are service organizations with a mission to promote patriotism in the community, to preserve history and to educate youth about the American Revolution.

"Some folks think history is boring, but I like history because it is an explanation of why things are the way they are today. The founding of Beatrice, Nebraska and the West in general was this pioneer spirit that those American Patriot children had, and they carried those principles and values of community with them," he said.

Every fifth grader in Nebraska studies the American Revolution and Mark said

Please see PRESENTATION, Page A2

## REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY—250 YEARS

### The Intolerable Acts Begin to be Enacted

The aftermath of the Boston Tea Party had sweeping consequences across the colonies, but most especially in Boston and the Massachusetts Colony.

In London, news that the colonies had again defied Parliament, and had also destroyed British property was astonishing. Lord North's government undertook measures to punish Boston, as center of American resistance, and to strengthen British control and authority in Massachusetts.

Without any way to proceed against the disguised perpetrators of the tea destruction, the King's advisors hit upon the device of inflicting penalty on a city for the behavior of its citizens. The result was the passing of The Boston Port Act in March 1774, to go into effect in June. This Act essentially closed Boston Harbor until the restitution could be made for the destroyed tea and until its citizens started to show respect for British authority in the colony.

This also led to the Massachusetts

Government Act, which would make Massachusetts a standard royal province, which violated its original charter of 1691. This essentially changed its government to one appointed by the King, as opposed to elected officials, as the original charter specified. This gave the military leaders more control over the colony, as its Royal Governor was now appointed by, and was an ally of, the King. More and more colonies began to take notice of what Parliament was doing.

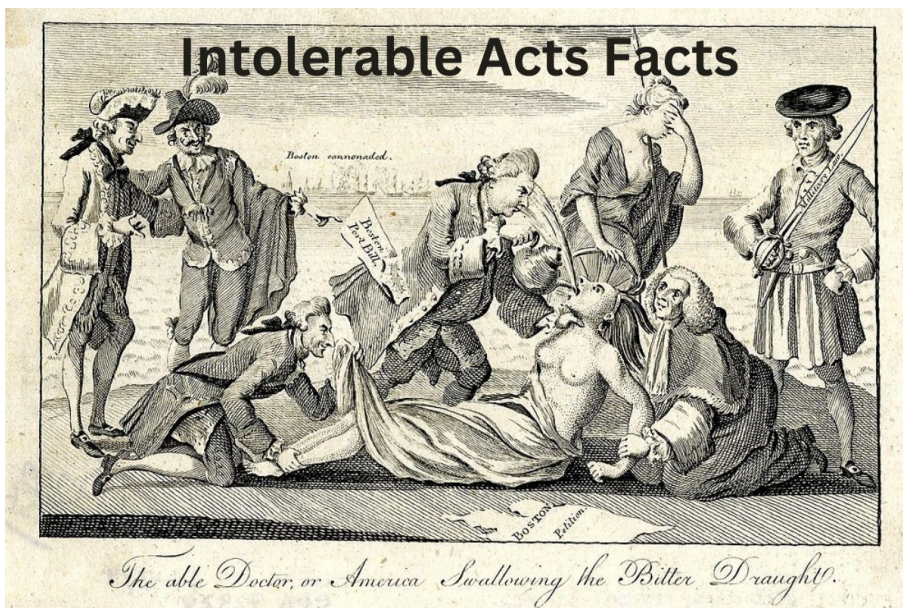
More Intolerable Acts were passed. The Administration of Justice Act was passed to allow British officials charged with a crime, to change the venue of their trial to another colony, or even back to England. This hindered local law enforcement and the ability to do their jobs properly.

The next Act passed was the Quartering Act. The original Quartering Act was left to expire in 1770, but this new Act was passed for all of British America and gave colonial governors the right to requisition unoccupied buildings to house British Troops. Britain was beginning to send large amounts of troops to America to help stamp out the rebellion. As a result of this Act being passed, British

Troops in Boston were forced to camp on Boston Common until November 1774, because Boston patriots would not let workmen repair the unoccupied buildings the troops were requisitioning for housing.

The final Act to be passed was the Quebec Act. This Act removed all the territory and fur trade between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from colonial jurisdiction and gave it to Quebec. They also allowed French Civil Law, and Roman Catholicism to take effect in Quebec, as well. This frustrated the American colonies further, as the Americans colonies were vastly Protestant and did not want Catholicism to creep south into their territory. While Britain was clamping down on the American colonies, it was acting very liberal with the Province of Quebec.

The Intolerable Acts were an attempt by the British government to reimpose strict British control over the American colonies, but after ten years of sometimes violent pushback of their policies by Americans, the decision to be firm came too little, too late. Rather than cowing Massachusetts and separating them from the other twelve colonies, their harsh measures became the justification for convening the First Continental Congress later in 1774.



"If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude than the animated contest of freedom—go home from us in peace. We ask not your councils or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands that feed you. May your chains sit lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen!"

- Samuel Adams

## MEET MY PATRIOT



### Stephen Stow/Stowe (P-299182)

By Compatriot Jim Gansemer  
#221676

Stephen Stow was born May 22, 1726 to Samuel and Esther (Mould) Stowe in Middletown, CT, and died Feb 8, 1777 in Milford, CT. He married Freelove Baldwin of Milford, CT about 1752. She was born Dec 5 1728 and died Dec 11, 1805 in Milford, CT.

This marriage produced 7 children: Stephen Stow, Jr. (1754-1819), married Mary Beardsley; Jedediah Stow (1756-1843), married Sally Clark; Capt. Samuel Stowe (1756-1830), married Sally Green; Sgt. John Stow (1760-1839), married Sarah B. Gillett; William Stowe (1763-1792), married Elizabeth Baldwin; Phineas Stowe (1771-1811), married Mary Platt; Esther Stowe (1769-1847), married John Stone.

Stephen and his wife, Freelove, purchased what is today known as the Eells-Stow House, a colonial house that is well preserved to this day. The DAR Chapter of Milford is named for Freelove Baldwin Stowe, in recognition of her efforts and sacrifices during the Revolutionary War.

Stow was a Colonial American Sea Captain and merchant in Milford. He is best known for his civilian service during the American Revolutionary War that lead to his nickname, "The Martyr".

During the night of Dec 31, 1776 or early morning of Jan 1, 1777, as many as 200 sick American prisoners of war were left on Milford Beach by the British. The Stow House is located in view of the beach, and family legends tell us that some of these sick soldiers were feebly able to approach his home. Some in the group were found to be so desperately sick that they were unable to travel, and these were

brought to the town hall so they could be given medical attention. Few in the small community were willing to help. Despite the dangers, Stow wrote his will and stayed with the sick. Although it is unlikely that he was the only one who helped, he is the best remembered because he died as a result of the service. Stow's support of the Revolutionary cause is clear. Four of his sons eventually fought for the patriot cause.

Stephen died on February 8, 1777 of smallpox. He was buried in a mass grave with 46 others, nearly a quarter of those who had been left on Milford Beach. In 1852, a brownstone Soldier's Monument was erected in the Milford Cemetery to remember those who died in the Revolution. The east face of the obelisk bears an inscription memorializing Stephen Stow for his service.



The inscription reads:

"In Memory of Capt. Stephen Stow of Milford, who died Feb 8, 1777, aged 51 Years.

To administer to the wants and soothe the miseries of these sick and dying soldiers, was a work of extreme self denial and danger, as many of them were suffering from loathsome and contagious maladies. Stephen Stow voluntarily left his family to relieve these suffering men, he contracted disease from them, and died, and was buried with them. He had already given four sons to serve in the War for Independence.

To commemorate his self sacrificing devotion to his country, and to humanity, the Legislature of Connecticut resolved that his name should be inscribed up this monument."



### Patriot Biographies

Compatriots,

We are still in need of your patriot biographies!

As some of my other leadership duties are beginning to wind down, I will be devoting the next couple of years to sourcing and researching the patriots of our Nebraska members, over our entire 133+ year history as a State Society. I want to compile all the biographies into a book to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

This will not be an easy project and I need your help!

If you have not yet sent me a biography of your patriot, please do so ASAP! I will be sending out specific emails/letters to you, if I don't have your biography.

If anyone would like to help me research and write any bio for our past member's patriots, please let me know, as I need the help. Thank you!

- Paul Burreight, America 250 committee member

## Chapter Chatter

### Omaha Chapter

The Omaha Chapter installed its new officers at the February Chapter meeting. The January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

New Compatriot, Greg Dasenbrock, gave the members an informative presentation on his patriot ancestor, Squire Boone.

In March, the Omaha Chapter inducted two new members into the Chapter, Anthony Lang, Jr. and James Creigh. Congratulations to both of our new members!

On March 1, Omaha Chapter President Jim Sly spoke to the attendees of the 1st Annual Nebraska Heritage Alliance Conference, hosted by the Nebraska DAR. He spoke about the SAR and the opportunities for membership. Omaha member Chuck Real also spoke to the group about the General Society, War of 1812, of which he is also a member.



L-R:

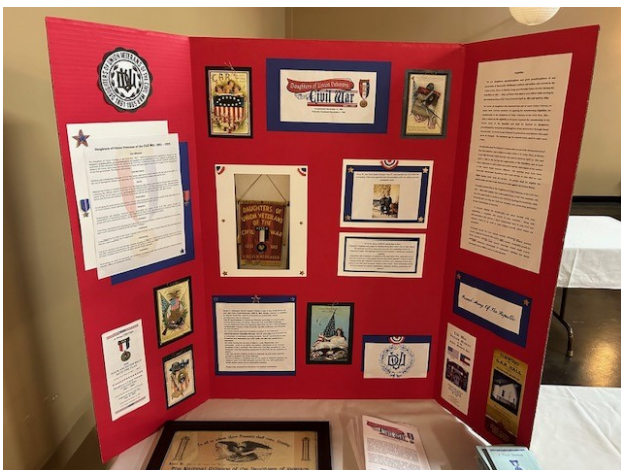
Omaha President Jim Sly, Jim Creigh, Anthony Lang, Jr. and Omaha VP Mark Byars

### Lincoln Chapter

The Lincoln Chapter hosted the 11th Annual SAR Patriotic Luncheon on Feb 23, 2024, at the Havelock Social Hall in Lincoln, NE. The luncheon brought together members of 29 patriotic organizations from across Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa. Many members displayed memorabilia and information displays about their respective organizations and were available to answer questions about membership.

Of special note was Nebraska SAR President Elect John Braisted, who displayed his considerable collection of Revolutionary War memorabilia. The luncheon program was Joan Wells, "Cattle Trails & Songs of the West".

Joan Wells came to us through Humanities Nebraska, which provides speakers for cultural events. The SAR color guard, comprised of members from both the Omaha and Lincoln Chapters, posted the colors. The luncheon is an annual event. For more information, contact James Hoke at [chaphoke@hotmail.com](mailto:chaphoke@hotmail.com).



Example of one of the Organization Information displays by the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War



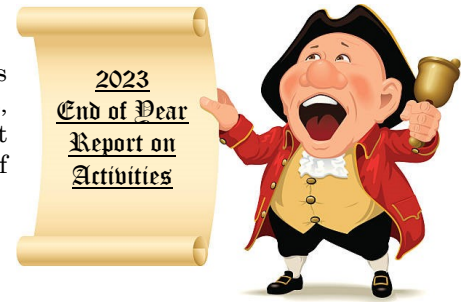
President Elect John Braisted's display of Revolutionary War memorabilia and artifacts.

## Americanism Report 2023

Compatriots,

We made gigantic strides in improving our scores this past year, which means our committees have worked hard at planning and executing some great events, and our participation numbers have risen at our events across the board. Great job to those of you that helped move us forward, and a big Thank You to those of you that contributed in any way to help us in any of these areas that are scored.

I look forward to a big 2024!!



**Section 1—Media Publicity                      Americanism 2023 Score: 290 points                      2022 Score: 280 points**

**President Generals 2023 Score: N/A                      2022 Score: NA**

- A slight improvement over our score in 2022. We have already gotten some media publicity through some of our Patriot Chest presentations, and we have some big events planned for 2024, so this should improve even more.

**Section 2—Speakers Bureau                      Americanism 2023 Score: 420 points                      2022 Score: 60 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: N/A                      2022 Score: N/A**

- This section was heavily improved by our members giving presentation during the District Zoom meetings, as well as a much improved schedule of Patriot Chest Presentations.

**Section 3—DAR/CAR Support                      Americanism 2023 Score: N/A                      2022 Score: N/A**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: 60 points                      2022 Score: 530 points**

- This section fell a little, even though we gave more support at DAR events, in 2022 we had a significant monetary donation to the CAR project in western Nebraska that we did not have in 2023.

**Section 4—Youth Programs                      Americanism 2023 Score: 1085 points                      2022 Score: 1080 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: N/A                      2022 Score: N/A**

- This section was flat YOY, but can be much improved if we can be sure to get all the names of ROTC award recipients that we present medals to at our local schools. Without a name, we can't list it for points.

**Section 5—Public Service Programs                      Americanism 2023 Score: 265 points                      2022 Score: 155 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: N/A                      2022 Score: N/A**

- This section improved slightly. We participated in more parades, which was the only points we received. We can garner more points in this area by ensuring we have a First Responder Committee Chairman, to ensure we are recognizing our First Responders, and by participating in the Stark Memorial Award Report, which is our service to veterans. We have not typically filled out the Stark Report and this would be a great way to gain more points for this section.

**Section 6—Historic Sites                      Americanism 2023 Score: 180 points                      2022 Score: 0 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: N/A                      2022 Score: N/A**

- This section was changed recently and it helped us to be able to realize a score in this area, even though we have no Revolutionary Historic Sites to have events at. Hopefully we can continue to improve this area.

[Continued on Page 8—](#)

## Americanism Report 2023

### Continued from Page 7—

**Section 7—Grave Markings**      **Americanism 2023 Score: 855 points**      **2022 Score: 480 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: N/A**      **2022 Score: N/A**

- This area was nearly doubled by the participation in not only our own grave marking ceremony, but also Patriot and Compatriot grave markings that took place out of state. Let's keep this score moving up!

**Section 8—Color Guard**      **Americanism 2023 Score: 630 points**      **2022 Score: 320 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: N/A**      **2022 Score: N/A**

- This area again was doubled by our ever increasing event schedule and participation at said events. Please consider joining the Color Guard and help us continue to improve the face of our Society!

**Section 9—Medals and Awards**      **Americanism 2023 Score: 120 points**      **2022 Score: 105 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: 435 points**      **2022 Score: 270 points**

- A nice improvement over 2022. We can continue to improve by recognizing non-SAR members for their contributions to our cause and mission, be it by Flag certificates or other awards, as well as recognizing our own members for contributing to the success and growth of the Society.

**Section 10—National SAR Service**      **Americanism 2023 Score: N/A**      **2022 Score: N/A**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: 6788 points**      **2022 Score: 290 points**

- A very nice improvement in score, mostly made by generous donations of our members to the National SAR Programs and Funds.

**Section 11—Membership**      **Americanism 2023 Score: N/A**      **2022 Score: N/A**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: 2190 points**      **2022 Score: 1595**

- We had a very nice increase in membership in 2023, as well as some dropped members being reinstated and numerous supplemental applications being approved for current members. Let's keep this going!!

**Section 12—Meeting Attendance**      **Americanism 2023 Score: N/A**      **2022 Score: N/A**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: 1200 points**      **2022 Score: 865 points**

- Once again, another nice increase based on the number of Compatriots attending the District Zoom meetings, the Spring and Fall State Meetings, and we also have members attending National Leadership and Congress once again.

**Total Score**      **Americanism 2023 Score: 3845 points**      **2022 Score: 2480 points**

**President Gen. 2023 Score: 10, 673 points**      **2022 Score: 3550 points**

Overall, a major improvement in our President General Award Score (for internal/SAR related activities) and a nice improvement in our Americanism Score (for external/community driven events).

In 2022, Nebraska won the Americanism Award from National for a Society of our size. We came in 2nd place for the President General's Award. We shall see how the scoring plays out at this next upcoming Congress.

Remember, we can't improve if we don't have your participation. If there is something that you can give back to the Society, no matter how small, please reach out to a State or Chapter Officer to let them know. We need you to be active, participating members of our growing Society. Huzzah!

Submitted by Paul H. Burright—2023 Americanism Chairman





# DISPATCHES FROM THE COLOR GUARD



February 23, 2024

The Nebraska SAR Color Guard posted the colors at the 11th Annual American Heritage Banquet, hosted by the Lincoln Chapter.

Captain Jim Sly commanded the unit which was also formed by Allyn Sheldon, Ron Stites, John Braisted, and Terry Springer.



March 1, 2024

The Nebraska SAR Color Guard posted the colors at the 1st Annual Nebraska Heritage Alliance held in Omaha.

Captain Jim Sly once again commanded the unit which consisted of Allyn Sheldon, Andrew Sullivan, and Ron Stites. This event was a coming together of the lineage and heritage societies of Nebraska, to give people some information on the various organizations that were available for them to join.





## DISPATCHES FROM THE COLOR GUARD



March 9, 2024

The Nebraska SAR Color Guard participated in the Ancient Order of Hibernians' St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Omaha. This was the 2nd year we have participated in this parade.

The unit was commanded by Commander Paul Burright. He was joined by Captain Jim Sly, Allyn Sheldon, and Andrew Sullivan. It is a relatively short and flat parade route, running for about 7-8 blocks, down Harney Street and back up Howard Street in downtown. We hope to be able to participate in this parade for many years to come.



## Color Guard Nebraska SAR

### The Color Guard is Recruiting!!

The Color Guard has been growing in recent years, but our event calendar has almost been outpacing our ability to man events and have enough members able to participate. **This is where we need you!!**

The Color Guard is the face of our organization. When people see us in uniform, with our muskets, accoutrements, and flags, we always get reactions and people coming up to talk with us. Join the color guard and help us grow our organization, while having a great time with your fellow Compatriots and guardsmen.

We know that the initial cost start up, for uniforms, weapons, etc., can be a bit pricey. Do not worry about any of that to start with. We have uniform parts that you can use so you can participate with us. If you are worried that there will be too much on your schedule, you don't need to worry about that. You can participate in as many events as you are able within your own personal schedule. You don't have to make it to every event!!



If you want to join us and participate in events with us, please let Commander Paul Burright know, so that he can add you to the color guard contact list, so you can be contacted for muster calls for events and know when they are. Commander Burright can be reached at [pburright72@gmail.com](mailto:pburright72@gmail.com).

If you have been thinking of joining up and still have questions, please talk with one of the color guard officers or other members. They will be able to answer any of your questions regarding participating in this great group from our organization! We hope to see you in uniform soon!  
- Paul Burright, Commander—Nebraska SAR Color Guard

## Spring Leadership Meeting Updates

Compatriot Mark Byars attended on behalf of the Nebraska SAR.

On Friday, Byars attended committee meetings for Budget/Finance/Investment, America 250, Genealogy, Color Guard, and Information Technology/Patriot Research System. Friday's dinner featured a former SAR grant awardee speaking on the political policies of William Fitzmaurice, Earl of Shelbourne, who was Prime Minister during the signing of the Treaty of Paris. On Saturday, Byars observed the Trustees Meeting and the meeting of the Council of State Presidents. Saturday's dinner featured the museum director at The Hermitage, who spoke on the American Revolution's influence on the early life of Andrew Jackson.



The following items are of note and relevant to the members of the Nebraska SAR:

1. Budget—The SAR borrowed about \$400,000 at the end of last year to make ends meet. This was due to an overly optimistic estimate of the number of members we would have in 2023. Because the SAR will be paying down debt over the next few years, they are tightening their belt in several areas, including staffing. The 2024 budget was again revised to achieve a balanced budget. Membership numbers were pared back further to realistic levels (no growth). The budget contemplates retiring about \$100,000 of debt annually.
2. Membership—Upon reviewing membership renewals following reconciliation, the consensus from the Membership and Budget committees is that increasing dues had no measurable impact on renewals (that is, non-renewals were not larger than the recent annual average). That said, the drop rate (about 12% nationally) is still considered too high and is a focus of several committees and the VPGs.
3. National Billing—The SAR is testing a national automatic billing system. About 20% of SAR members in large states are already on this billing system. Each state may decide whether or not to use the system.
4. Digitization—The digitization of records has been stalled out since December 8 due to a broken part in the equipment (resolved in January) and the staff hired to operate the machine being unexpectedly out due to a medical issue (January and still ongoing). They are still working alphabetically by patriot and are currently in the B's. About 250,000 of an estimated 3.3 million documents have been scanned. Completion of the B's will put the project at 15% complete.
5. Application processing—At 12/31/23, new application approvals take 8 weeks, down from 13 weeks at 12/31/22, but up from 4 weeks at 8/21/23. At 12/31/23, supplemental approvals take 33 weeks, up from 26 weeks at 12/31/22 and up from 23 weeks at 8/21/23. The reduction of 1 person on the genealogy staff in the fall and the disruption caused by renovations at headquarters were the cause of these delays. Last year, National received about 3700 new applications and 1100 supplementals. Time to review these applications remains about 2.5 hours for each application. New and supplemental applications are approved at rates of 93% and 78%, respectively.
6. Color Guard—the handbook is being updated. Medal requirements conflict between the SAR Member Handbook and the Color Guard manual—the SAR Handbook governs. Any Color Guard firing muskets must have black powder insurance. The National Color Guard deems firing muskets in parades to be unsafe and has banned the practice at the National level. It recommends chapter and state Color Guards institute similar bans. Compatriot Byars cast Nebraska's ballot for National Colorguardman of the Year.
7. Museum—the Trustees approved about \$3 million in construction funding for the first phase of the Museum and Education Center during a special meeting in late February. Trustees also approved the Investment Committee's revised investment policy to move funds committed to construction from equities into cash and treasuries to protect those dollars from the stock market volatility that typically accompanies an election year.

Just a quick reminder that any Compatriot is welcome to attend the Spring or Fall Leadership meetings, held in Louisville, KY, as well as National Congress, which will be held this year in July in Lancaster, PA.

By: Compatriot Mark Byars

## SOCIETY INFORMATION



### Contact Information Update

If you, as a Nebraska SAR Member, have recently had a change of address, telephone number, or email contact information, please inform State Secretary, Dale Wostrel at [dwestrel43@gmail.com](mailto:dwestrel43@gmail.com).

Help us keep our records up to date!



### SAR Applications

Please submit all applications through the online application system at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org). If you have any questions, contact the State Registrar, Paul Burright.

Contact information for Compatriot Burright:

Paul H. Burright

1311 N. 208th St

Elkhorn, NE 68022-6940

Email: [pburright72@gmail.com](mailto:pburright72@gmail.com)

### **2nd Quarter 2024 Meetings and Events**

**Saturday, Apr 6—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am,  
Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE**

**Tuesday, Apr 9—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm,  
Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE**

**Saturday, Apr 13—BOM Meeting, 11am,  
Sean O'Casey's—Omaha**

**Sunday, Apr 21—Spring State Meeting, 2pm,  
Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE  
-Installation of New Officers**

**Fri/Sat, Apr 26-27—Nebraska State Genealogical  
Society Annual Conference, Columbus, NE  
-Nebraska SAR will have a booth at event**

**Saturday, May 3—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am,  
Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE**

**Tuesday, May 14—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm,  
Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE**

**Saturday, May 25—Memorial Day Parade, 11am,  
Downtown Omaha**

**Monday, May 27—Memorial Day**

**Saturday, Jun 1—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am,  
Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE**

**Saturday, Jun 8—DAR America 250 Marker Dedic-  
ation, Des Moines, IA**

**Saturday, Jun 22—Compatriot Grave Marking for  
Gilbert Cole & Parade, Beatrice, NE**

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**From the editors—***The Husker Patriot* will be published on the first week of following quarter. For example, the 2nd quarter ends on June 30. The 2nd quarter newsletter will be published the first week of July.

Please be sure to submit any content and photos that you would like to see in the newsletter, on time!

### Social Media and Online Presence



**Nebraska SAR is online! Visit the Nebraska SAR website at [www.nessar.org](http://www.nessar.org).**

**Nebraska SAR Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR)**

**Omaha SAR Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR](http://www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR)**

If anyone needs a template to write your Patriot's biography, you can follow this example.



\_\_\_\_\_ was born \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and died \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. He married \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Birth year-death year) on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. This marriage produced \_\_ children; \_\_\_\_\_ (full name year of birth and death i.e. John Smith 1745-1803). He married second, \_\_\_\_\_ (in format for first wife, children if any).

List anything that is known of his life; occupation, family life, anything of interest.

List Revolutionary War service information and list source.

This does not have to be long and detailed. A short bio of 200 to 500 words is all that is requested. Below is a sample biography.

#### SAMPLE BIO

Nathaniel Phelps Sr was one of 2 Nathaniels that participated in the American Revolution. They were father and son from Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts. Nathaniel Sr was actually the 4<sup>th</sup> in an unbroken line of 7 Nathaniels who lived and died in Northampton.

Nathaniel Sr was born 13 Dec 1721 to Nathaniel Phelps and Abigail Burnham in Northampton and died 29 Oct 1789 in Northampton. He married Elizabeth Childs of Deerfield, MA (1724-1769) on 19 Mar 1750 in Northampton. This marriage produced 8 children; Burnham Phelps 1752-1772, Elizabeth Phelps 1753-1767, Abigail Phelps 1755-1756, Nathaniel Phelps 1757-1833, Elijah Phelps 1759-1760, Elijah Phelps 1761-1837, Anna Hannah Phelps 1763-1819 and Rufus Phelps 1766-1826. He married second, Rebecca Child.

Nathaniel was a talented and renowned mason, brick layer and stone carver. There are a large number of extant tomb stones in the Northampton and Deerfield cemeteries as well as others in the area. "Phelps was married to a member of the Childs family of Deerfield, which may explain why the Albany Road Burying Ground (Deerfield) has a number of stoners from his shop, identifiable by their simple design, circular face, stylized headgear and wings carved on pink to beige sandstone." Nathaniel was the dominant stonecutter of the area from the 1750-1770's; he went bankrupt in the 1770's but continued his craft until his death, passing his talent and business to his son Elijah. Historic Deerfield Magazine, Autumn 2002 p. 5.

Nathaniel Sr served as a minute man in Captain Ebenezer Strong's (the future father of his son Nathaniel) company of volunteers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire Company regiment; service against the insurgents at Northampton May 6, June , 15, 16 and 17, 1782, 4 days, by order of Elisha Porter, Sheriff; company marched for support of the government at Springfield, Northampton and Hadley. Interestingly he is listed in the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War as Nathaniel Phelps Jr! Also note his advanced age of 61, he obviously thought there was something worth fighting for the true embodiment of the Patriot spirit.