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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GREG HILL  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Gold Country Chapter Compatriots,

May was a busy month for the Chapter. Our poster contest team has been visiting schools all over Placer county handing out awards and putting on the historic flag presentation, much to the delight of students. Thank you to that hard working team that is making such a profound impact on our nation's future right here at home.

We also had a successful Public Service and Community Awards Meeting on the 16th. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. We had visitors from Sacramento, and Mother Lode Chapters and new CASSAR VP North Derek Brown of Thomas Jefferson Chapter and his wife Janet. We awarded the Fire Safety Commendation to Retired Auburn Fire Chief Mike D'Ambrogio; the Law Enforcement Commendation to Auburn Police Detective Ian Ackard, and the Good Citizenship Medal to Del Oro High School student Jack Bell.

Due to low projected member turnout, we are not going to try to meet the month of June. That is normally a month when members are vacationing or traveling. The next big event will be the July 4th Parade. Please check the event calendar for more information on that. It will be taking place in Grass Valley, and since we are not meeting again before the event, I want to take the opportunity to encourage you to participate.

We plan to meet again the second Saturday in August, the 8th, at the Holiday Inn in Auburn. **Note the date.** This is not the usual third Saturday due to scheduling conflicts. This will be a normal plated breakfast that you order on your own. We continue to await the opening of Awful Annie's at the old Lou LaBonte location.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Table of Contents

President's Message	1&3
Officers, Calendar	2
Public Service Awards Breakfast	3
Chapter Minutes	4
July 4 & Constitution Day	4
Poster Contest	5
Essay by Sam Sublett	6-8
History of U S Flag	8-10
Call for Patriot Ancestor Bios	10

*The California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*

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**Calendar of Events****National**

125<sup>th</sup> National Congress  
 26 June-1 July 2015  
 Louisville, KY  
 NSSAR HQ

Sept 25-26, 2012 - Fall Leadership  
 Meeting, NSSAR HQ,  
 Louisville, KY

**State**

[www.CaliforniaSAR.org](http://www.CaliforniaSAR.org)  
 November 5-8, 2015  
 California Society  
 Fall Board of Managers Meeting  
 Mission Inn, Riverside

**Chapter**

July 4th Parade  
 11 am (meet at 9:30)  
 Grass Valley (See page 4)

August 8, 2015  
 Holiday Inn  
 120 Grass Valley Highway  
 Auburn, CA  
 (530) 887-8787

September 12-13  
 Constitution Day  
 Nevada City (See page 4)

**The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is**

**Saturday August 8**

**9:00 AM**

**Room in Bar Area**

**Holiday Inn in Auburn**

**120 Grass Valley Highway**

The location of 2015 monthly Gold County chapter regular meetings will vary until the opening of Awful Annie's at the former Lou La Bonte's location, expected some time this summer.

Visit our Chapter, State and National Websites  
[GoldCountrySAR.org](http://GoldCountrySAR.org) [CaliforniaSAR.org](http://CaliforniaSAR.org) [SAR.org](http://SAR.org)

There will be no July Issue of The Forty-Niner

The submission deadline for the August issue of The Forty-Niner is July 17, 2015



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**(Presidents Message Continued from front page)**

An important event that we need to plan for is the September Constitution Day Parade and Revolutionary War encampment. It will be a good opportunity to recruit for the chapter, and good publicity for the SAR and our programs with the general public. The August meeting will be our only meeting before that event, so please come and be a part of it, helping us plan for Constitution Day and the April 2016 CASSAR annual meeting that our chapter is hosting.

Yours in Service,

Greg Hill, Gold Country Chapter President

## CHAPTER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



Auburn Fire Chief (Ret.) Mike D'Ambrogi receives the Fire Safety Commendation Medal, presented by Gold Country Chapter President Greg Hill

Del Oro High School student Jack Bell receives the Good Citizenship Medal, presented by Gold Country Chapter President Greg Hill



Detective Ian Ackard of the Auburn Police Department was recommended for the Law Enforcement Award by the Auburn Police Chief, but was unable to attend the ceremony.

Our historic flags made an inspiring backdrop. Thank you to the Gold Country Chapter Color Guard and historic flag team for arranging it.





SECRETARY'S REPORT: There was no meeting in April because of the California Sons of the American Revolution Meeting in Irvine. Next Meeting August 8 at 9 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Auburn

### Grass Valley July 4th Parade

The Grass Valley July 4 parade begins at 11 a.m. The chapter staging area will be at Dale and Coreena's house at 403 Clark Street, Grass Valley, CA. 95945. Phone 530-274-1838, email: [cr7861@jps.net](mailto:cr7861@jps.net)

We will meet at their house at 9:30 a.m. and walk a few blocks to the starting point for the parade. You do not need a uniform to march with us in the parade. Do you have Patriotic Colors?

Dale & Coreena would like to host a barbecue/potluck after the parade. Please RSVP so they know how many will be coming.

### Gold Country SAR Plans for Constitution Day Weekend

The Gold Country Chapter has big plans for Nevada City's Constitution Day Weekend celebration September 12 & 13. We urge all of our members to mark your calendars now. We will also invite other SAR Chapters in Northern California to join us for the Annual Parade and Picnic, or for the entire weekend if they can make it. Here is a tentative schedule:

#### Saturday, Sept. 12

**10:00 AM** Revolutionary War Days at Pioneer Park, Nevada City, 10am to 5pm, an event of the Delaware Regiment in the American Revolution. We need volunteers to help staff our SAR Tent, where we will have information about the SAR and our activities.

**4:00 PM** Feel free to attend the Free Outdoor Concert performed by the Nevada County Concert Band & Watsonville Community Band on Pine Street, Downtown Nevada City.

#### Sunday, Sept. 13

**10:00 AM** Revolutionary War Days at Pioneer Park, 10am to noon. We need volunteers to help staff our SAR Tent, where we will have information about the SAR and our activities.

**2:00 PM** 49th Annual Constitution Day Parade on Broad Street, Historic Downtown Nevada City. We will be marching in this parade, a Gold Country SAR tradition for many years.

**Post Parade** SAR Picnic (location TBD) hosted by the Gold Country Chapter.

## ***Fifth Grade Flag Presentation and Award Ceremony 2015***



***Above, clockwise starting from top left:*** Compatriot Gilliard describing the various American Flags. First is the Sons of Liberty Flag, second the Bedford (Massachusetts) flag. Compatriot Barker distributes Tricorn hats to student Color Guard volunteers. Compatriot Gilliard announcing the prize winning posters. Later he also gave the winners checks in various amounts.



Dave Gilliard organizing the Color Guard to carry in the colors before the flag presentation

On May 26, Compatriots Gilliard, Barker, and Brook- ing, with assistance from Conni Barker, presented flag education and poster awards at Excelsior School in Roseville. A large contingent of parents also attended. Less than an hour after the program, Compatriot Gil- liard received the following note from teacher Steve Williams:

*“Excelsior School would like to thank your organization for the great assembly today and the generous awards. We are already looking forward to next year.”*

*Steve [Williams]*

## **PONDERING THE PATH TO LIBERTY —John Paul Jones, beginning of the U.S. Navy**

The American Revolutionary War of Independence - (1754 to 1788) *Compiled by Compatriot Sam Sublett*

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness: This well-known phrase in the Declaration of Independence gives three examples of the "unalienable/inalienable rights" which the Declaration says have been given to all human beings by their Creator, and which governments are created to protect.

Liberty: The state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.

Patriots: Persons who vigorously support their country & are prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors.

**John Paul Jones: b. July 6, 1747 Kirkcudbright, Scotland d. July 18, 1792 – Paris, France**

John Paul Jones finished his schooling at age 12, and determined to follow the sea, he was bound as an apprentice to a local ship owner. Jones' brothers had previously moved to the Virginia Colony. Sailing from Scotland at age 13, he made his first trip in the *Friendship* (1761) to Fredericksburg, Virginia; & a second voyage there in 1762. Each time, he visited his brother William in whose home he read books and studied navigation. He served for a period of time as an acting midshipman in the British Navy. It is known that he served on the slave ships *King George of Whitehaven* (third mate) and *Two Friends* (1766) (chief mate). Disgusted with this inhuman trafficking, he left this ship in the West Indies and for a time joined a travelling theatrical troupe in the islands, returning home in 1768 on the brigantine *John of Kirkcudbright*. Enroute the captain and chief mate died of fever. Jones therefore took the command and brought her safely home. The owners gratefully gave him command and made him supercargo (meaning second to the captain), when he was only 21. Then followed two voyages to the West Indies, but the then owners decided to go out of business.

Jones next obtained command of the *Betsy* and while lying off Tobago in the British West Indies in December 1773 trouble arose among the crew. In self-defense Jones had to kill one of the mutinous sailors who murderously attacked him. Reporting this to the local authorities ashore, Jones was advised to flee his ship and the island pending the next meeting of the admiralty commission, at which time he could return and stand trial.

From the time Jones left Tobago until midsummer in 1775, when he journeyed to Philadelphia to offer his services to a navy he visualized as forthcoming, little is known. On December 3, 1775, Jones began his Continental Navy career by hoisting, with his own hands, our first national flag (The Grand Union Flag) – the first time it was ever hoisted – on board the first ship of the Continental Navy, the *Alfred*, lying off Philadelphia in the Delaware River, to which ship he had been ordered as First Lieutenant. Jones hoisted this flag about a month before General Washington raised it over his Continental Army headquarters on January 2, 1776, at Prospect Hall, at the siege of Boston.

Jones took part in several gallant actions in the early stages of the war off the North American continent. On May 10, 1777, he was ordered to his first command, the *Providence*. Later he commanded a squadron with the *Alfred* as his flagship. On June 14, 1777, Congress appointed Jones to command the *Ranger*, which was being built at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. On November 1, he sailed for France, arriving at Nantes on December 2. He captured two ships enroute. The first recognition of the American flag by a foreign government occurred in Quiberon Bay, France, on February 14, 1778, when Vice Admiral La Motte Picquet, Commander of the French Fleet, returned the *Ranger's* salute of 13 guns with 9 guns. Following this Jones conceived the bold plan for an "invasion" [more of a hit-and-run raid on an important port] of England and raids on the coasts -- trying to bring the war home to the British.

*Continued on page 7*



### John Paul Jones *continued from page 6*

Jones hoped the British would withdraw their naval forces off the North American shores, relieving the pressure against Washington's sea supply lines. On April 11, the *Ranger* sailed from Brest, France and boldly headed for the Irish Sea, taking prizes en route. On April 22, Jones landed at Whitehaven, England, silenced the guns at the British fort and set fire to the its ships. The following day he made another surprise landing at St. Mary's Isle (Irish Sea), planning to seize the Earl of Selkirk as hostage & exchange him for American seamen imprisoned in England. Unfortunately for Jones, the Earl was absent. On the 24th the *Ranger* battled the British warship *Drake*. After a bloody fight lasting 1 hour & 4 minutes the *Drake* surrendered., becoming the first man-of-war to surrender to a Continental warship. Thus the Stars and Stripes had its baptism on the ocean with John Paul Jones. The *Ranger* returned to Brest with her prize and Jones became a hero to the French. Soon after, the *Ranger* was sent back to the colonies and Jones was promised a larger vessel, the USS *Bonhomme Richard*, named in honor of Benjamin Franklin.

King Louis XVI of France provided Jones with a squadron of seven ships that required refitting, and Jones went off to harass and attack the British, rising to distinction. Sighting the superior British frigate *Serapis* convoying a fleet of 40-odd merchant ships around Flamborough Head, a promontory off the east coast of England near Scotland; Jones aimed directly for her and engaged as soon as possible. It was not only the most brilliant sea fight of the war, but one of the most remarkable single ship actions in history. Although *Bonhomme Richard* was badly damaged during the fight, taking on water, guns out of action, decks shot away, and half the crew killed or wounded – Captain Pearson of the severely damaged *Serapis* hailed Jones: **“Do you surrender?”** Over the roar of the battle, Captain Pearson immediately heard Jones shout, as Jones and his men boarded the *Serapis* his immortal words: **“Surrender? I have not yet begun to fight!”** King Louis presented Jones a gold-hilted sword to commemorate his victory over the *H.M.S. Serapis*.



Defence of Capt'n Pearson in his Majesty's Ship *Serapis* and the Countess of Scarborough Arm'd Ship Capt'n Piercy, against Paul Jones's Squadron, 23 Sept 1779, by Robert Dodd

### Post War:

When the Revolution ended, so did our first Navy. Jones, his officers and valiant crews were honorably discharged; and their ships were broken up or sold. The men had to shift for themselves. We were never going to have any more wars, so why go to the expense of a Navy? Jones was never given the rank of rear admiral, which he thought he had earned. Intrigues and jealousy prevented it. After the peace, our government appointed Jones as its agent abroad to negotiate and settle our prize money claims - doing so he acted as a diplomat.

While in Paris he received a flattering invitation to enter the service of Catherine II of Russia, who was at war against the Turks (1788). He accepted with the permission of our government - but never, as he put it, "Can I renounce the glorious title of - Citizen of the United States." Going to Russia was the one great mistake of his life and hastened his death. Professionally, he was successful; but jealousies & intrigues forced him to leave Russia & return to Paris.

Broken in spirit and health, Jones died on July 18, 1792, age 45. No one was with him at the moment of death. When discovered a few hours later, he was found lying across the bed "with his feet on the floor." Frenchman M. Simonneau generously paid the funeral expenses and provided for the body to be preserved by being placed in a lead casket filled with alcohol, in case Jones' country cared to bring the remains to the United States. He was buried in the St. Louis cemetery, located in the outskirts of Paris.

*Continued on page 8*

### John Paul Jones, continued from page 7

In 1899, General Horace Porter, a graduate of West Point, and our ambassador to France, began a diligent and tireless search for Jones' lost and forgotten grave. The French government aided Porter, and in 1905 the undertaking ended in success. The body had been wonderfully preserved and positive identification was possible. A squadron of U. S. warships was sent to bring the hero to Annapolis, and on July 6, 1905, Jones' birthday, commemorative services were held in Dahlgren Hall, at the Naval Academy. President Theodore Roosevelt, the French Ambassador, other high civil and military representatives, and 12,000 people attended. John Paul Jones was awarded a gold medal – the only naval officer of our Continental Navy to be so honored.

**The following inscription is on the marble floor in the front of the sarcophagus:**

*John Paul Jones, 1747–1793. He Gave Our Navy Its Earliest Traditions Of Heroism and Victory.*

*Erected By The Congress, A.D. 1912.*

Reference:1. theamericanrevolution.org



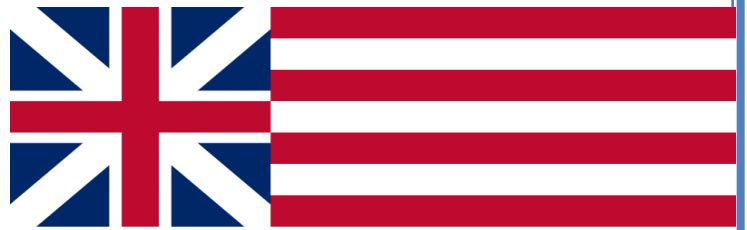
John Paul Jones gravesite, U S Naval Academy, Annapolis,

## History of the United States Flag & Flag Acts

Because June 14 is Flag Day, this article gives a history of the U.S. flag from independence to today.

### First flag

At the time the Declaration of Independence was adopted, the flag we now call “the Grand Union” was probably being used as the first national flag. The Continental Navy raised the Colors as the ensign of the fledgling nation in the American War for Independence – likely with the expedient of transforming their previous British red ensigns by adding white stripes – and would use this flag until 1777. The Continental Congress would not officially adopt the flag with "stars, white in a blue field" until 1777.



### The Flag Resolution of 1777

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution which stated:

***"Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that***

***the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."*** And that is why Flag Day is observed on June 14 of each year.



This Resolution did not specify any particular arrangement, number of points, nor orientation for the stars. One famous arrangement features 13 outwardly-oriented five-pointed stars arranged in a circle, what we call the “Betsy Ross” flag. Although the Betsy Ross legend is controversial, the design is among the earliest 13-star flags. Popular designs at the time were varied and most were individually crafted. Examples of 13-star arrangements can be found on other flags such as the Cowpens flag, and the Brandywine flag.

*(Continued on page 9)*



### History of the U.S. Flag (Continued from page 8)

Despite the 1777 Flag Resolution, a number of flags only loosely based on the prescribed design were used in the early years of American independence. One example may have been the Guilford Court House Flag, traditionally believed to have been carried by the American troops at the Battle of Guilford Court House in 1781. L

#### Later flag acts

In 1795, the of stars and stripes were each increased from 13 to 15 to reflect admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. For a time the flag was not changed as 5 more states were admitted, probably because it was thought that this would cause too much clutter. This 15-star, 15-stripe flag is the one that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem "*Defense of Fort McHenry*," in 1814, later set to music as "*The Star-Spangled Banner*". That flag is now on display in the exhibition, "*The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag That Inspired the National Anthem*" at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History.

On April 4, 1818, at the suggestion of U.S. Naval Captain Samuel C. Reid, a plan was passed by Congress in which the flag was changed to have 20 stars, with a new star to be added when each new state was admitted. The stripes was returned to 13 to honor the original colonies. The act also specified that new flag designs should become official on the first July 4 following admission of one or more new states. The most recent change, from 49 stars to 50, occurred in 1960 when the present design was chosen, after Hawaii gained statehood in August 1959.

Prior to the adoption of the 48-star flag in 1912, there was no official arrangement of the stars in the "field of blue". That year, President Taft issued an Executive Order standardizing the arrangement. . As of July 4, 2007, the 50-star flag became the longest-used version in U. S. history.

#### Other rules of interest

The U. S. Flag Code specifies guidelines for use, display, and disposal of the flag. For example, the flag should never be dipped to any person or thing, unless it is the ensign responding to a salute from a ship of a foreign nation. It should never be allowed to touch the ground and, if flown at night, must be illuminated. If the edges become tattered through wear, the flag should be repaired or replaced. When a flag is so tattered that it can no longer serve as a symbol of the United States, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning. SAR and other organizations regularly conduct flag retirement ceremonies, often around Flag Day, June 14. It is a common myth that if a flag touches the ground or becomes soiled, it must be burned as well. While a flag that is currently touching the ground and a soiled flag are unfit for display, neither situation is permanent, so the flag does not need to be burned if the unfit situation is remedied.

Section 8 of the Flag Code is one of its most commonly misunderstood provisions. "The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery." The Code does permit the use of flag designs in fashion etc., provided that the design was not formed using the actual design of the flag. The wearing of any article of clothing representing the flag is allowed, but the flag itself is not.

Although the Flag Code is U.S. federal law, it is only binding on government institutions displaying the flag. There is no penalty for a private citizen or group failing to comply —indeed, punitive enforcement would conflict with the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. Passage of the proposed Flag Desecration Amendment would overrule legal precedent that has been established.

#### Display on vehicles

When the flag is affixed to the side of a vehicle (land, sea or air), it should be oriented so that the union is towards the front, as if the flag were streaming backwards from its hoist as the vehicle moves forward.

*Continued on page 10*

## History of U S flag & Flag Acts *(Continued from page 9)*

### Display on uniforms

On U.S. military uniforms, flag patches are worn on the right shoulder, following the vehicle convention with the union toward the front. This rule dates back to the Army's early history, when both mounted cavalry and infantry units would designate a standard bearer, who carried the Colors into battle. As he charged, his forward motion caused the flag to stream back.

Other organizations that wear flag patches on their uniforms may have the flag facing in either direction. For example, the Boy Scout uniform has the stripes facing front, the reverse of the military style. Law enforcement officers often wear a small flag patch, either on a shoulder or above a shirt pocket.

### Postage stamps

The flag did not appear on U.S. postal stamp issues until 1926, when the Battle of White Plains Issue was released, depicting the flag with a circle of 13 stars. The 48-star flag first appeared on the General Casimir Pulaski issue of 1931. The first U.S. postage stamp to feature the flag as the sole subject was issued July 4, 1957.

### Folding for storage

Though not part of the official Flag Code, according to military custom, flags should be folded into a triangular shape when not in use. To properly fold the flag:

- 1) Begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.
- 2) Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.
- 3) Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside.
- 4) Make a rectangular fold then a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open top edge of the flag, starting the fold from the left side over to the right.
- 5) Turn the outer end point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.
- 6) The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner (usually thirteen triangular folds, as shown at right). On the final fold, any remnant that does not neatly fold into a triangle (or in the case of exactly even folds, the last triangle) is tucked into the previous fold.
- 7) When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.



## Patriot Biographies Requested

The NSSAR Patriot Ancestors Committee has been formed to perpetuate the memory of our Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestors by providing a medium for SAR members to submit biographies of their patriot ancestors. ' in each issue of The Forty-Niner. Send your submission, of not more than 500 words, to me in a Microsoft Word compatible form to md at [Ron0729con@comcast.net](mailto:Ron0729con@comcast.net) and/or to SAR at [patriotbios@sar.org](mailto:patriotbios@sar.org)

## *The Forty-Niner*

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California Sons of the American Revolution  
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*Return Service Requested*

