



# LAFAYETTE CHAPTER NEWS

*Sons of the American Revolution*

*"It is the pride of my heart to have been one of the earliest adopted sons of America." - Marquis de Lafayette*



## President's Point of View

*Patrick Wesolosky, Chapter President*



Happy New Year!!!

As I reflect on the past year. I am filled with a mixture of emotions that cover the spectrum.

Our meetings were well attended, and we had fun and interesting presentations. The Board of Managers' goal was to keep food costs down while still providing a delicious meal for the meetings. Based on the feedback we received, we more than met this goal. Currently, the plan is to follow the same format for 2024.

I look forward to working with the newly elected Board of Managers. I think they will continue to lead the chapter forward.

Our youth award participants expanded across some new contests. And it was exciting to see some of the participants excel at both the state and national level. We hope to continue with this success and expand to some other youth award contests this year.

It has been said that the Color Guard is the face of the SAR. And our Color Guard helped prove this to be true in Central Kentucky. Our Color Guard was involved in local, state, and national events every month of last year. From something as simple as

## Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT - PATRICK WESOLOSKY  
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PRESIDENT-ELECT - STEVE GAHAFAER  
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GENEALOGIST - DOUG TATTERSHALL  
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SURGEON - DR. JAMIE AKIN  
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CHANCELLOR - SAM BURCHETT  
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CHAPLAIN - NICK BLEVINS  
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## Revolutionary Art

*The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775*  
by John Trumbull



Here Trumbull memorializes the death of a hero of the American campaign against the British in Canada. The diagonal composition, contrasts of light and dark, use of blazing colors, and depiction of action close to the picture surface all heighten the drama. Major General Richard Montgomery had tried to enter Quebec during a blizzard, but after part of his army deserted, British and Canadian troops ambushed the Americans. Wounded by a cannon blast, Montgomery dies in the arms of Matthias Ogden. The snow-covered earth, trees stripped bare of their foliage, and gloom of night underscore the American soldiers' grief and shock.

*Art and description by Yale University Art Gallery*

## President's Point of View (cont.)

carrying in the colors at a heath insurance conference to leading Lexington's Independence Day Parade. And a representative of the Governor and Lexington's mayor attended a couple of our events. This was huge in spreading the word about the mission of the SAR and Lafayette Chapter.

Sadly, we lost some Compatriot brothers and a spouse. Let us continue to keep these families in our prayers as we move into 2024. We added new members, which is important for the survival of our chapter. And three of our new additions are Junior Member are between the ages of 7 and 15. This is exciting for the future of our chapter.

I want to finish by thanking Steve Gahafer and Ameila Wisner (wife of Vice President Wisner) for their hard work and dedication to our first Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Lexington National Cemetery. I enjoyed working with them to bring an idea to completion. In 2023, thanks to the support of many of you and the Lexington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, we were able to place a wreath on every other grave in the National Cemetery and all the patriot graves in Lexington Cemetery. We now have the chance to honor every veteran next year. Now through Jan 16, 2024, any wreaths purchased will be matched by Wreaths Across America in 2024. So, I ask you to take advantage of this limited two for one deal.

I wish all of you and your families a happy and prosperous new year.

With patriotism,

*Patrick*



### The Facts:

Technically there were only 12 colonies that rebelled against British rule in 1775. Delaware was never its own colony, but rather a part of the Pennsylvania colony until declaring itself an independent state on June 15th, 1776. Then known as the lower counties, Delaware did have a separate Assembly, but was under Pennsylvania governorship.

### The Myth:

There were 13 original colonies.



## Chapter Meeting

The Lafayette Chapter held its final meeting of the year on December 2nd. The meeting was held at Pax Christi church in Lexington.

The special guest speaker for the meeting was Mike Dittoe, who serves as a staff genealogist for the National Society of the SAR. Mike had a presentation related to his father who was stationed at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on December 7th, 1941. His father kept a journal of what all took place that day. It had to be rewritten twice due to damage, but it was an amazing firsthand account of what that day was like for those who lived it.

Immediate Past President Dale Henley also offered remarks about his trip to France earlier this year on behalf of The American Friends of Lafayette. Dale was able to honor General Lafayette and also took a tube of local soil to lay at the gravesite in honor of the namesake of both our chapter and Fayette County.

The meeting also included the election of officers for the upcoming year. Those elected were President - Patrick Wesolosky, President Elect - Steve Gahafer, Vice-President - Tim Wisner, Secretary - Tommy Druen, Treasurer - Dennis Wells, Registrar - Thomas Hayden, Historian - Kevin Tudor, Genealogist - Doug Tattersall, Surgeon - Dr. Jamie Akin, Chaplain - Nick Blevins.



*Members of the Lafayette Chapter in attendance*



*L-R: President Elect Steve Gahafer and Vice-President Tim Wisner present the colors, as Treasurer Dennis Wells and Chaplain Nick Blevins recite the Pledge of Allegiance*



*President Wesolosky (I) presents Mike Dittoe with a token of appreciation for his presentation*

## Chapter Meeting

### Awards



#### SAR Medals

Service to Veterans – Mike Flynn (Medal & six Oak Leaf Clusters)

Service to Veterans – Steve Gahafer

Bronze Good Citizenship – Kevin Tudor

Law Enforcement – Kevin Cockrell

Henry Knox – Steve Gahafer

Henry Knox – Joe Clancy

250th Bronze – Tim Brown

250th Bronze – Jerry Brown

250th Bronze – Leonard Beverly

Youth Color Guard Award – Leonard Beverly

Special Law Enforcement – Shannon Gahafer

#### State Society Certificates

One Patriot Grave Marking Medal – Jerry Brown

Four Patriot Grave Marking Medal – Tim Brown

Two Patriot Grave Marking Medal – Tim Wisner

Two Patriot Grave Marking Medal – Steve Gahafer

Two Patriot Grave Marking Medal – Patrick Wesolosky

#### National Society Certificates

SAR Lifetime Member – Joe Clancy

SAR Lifetime Member – Steve Gahafer

SAR Lifetime Member – Patrick Wesolosky

#### Chapter Certificates of Appreciation

President – Patrick Wesolosky

President Elect – Steve Gahafer

Vice President – Tim Wisner

Secretary – Tommy Druen

Treasurer – Dennis Wells

Registrar – Mike Sullivan

Historian – Kevin Tudor

Genealogist – Joe Clancy

Surgeon – Dr. Jamie Akin

Chancellor – Sam Burchett

Chaplin – Nick Blevins

Essay Contest – Dale Henley

Brochure Contest – Tommy Druen

Oration Contest – Tommy Druen

JROTC – Mike Sullivan

Newsletter Editor – Tommy Druen

Color Guard Commander – Patrick Wesolosky

## Wreaths Across America



This past year, the Lafayette Chapter decided to take on a new project by being the lead organization for the Wreaths Across America program at the Lexington National Cemetery.

For the past several years, the chapter had volunteered at the Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Jessamine County. However, seeing as Camp Nelson had a good amount of volunteers and how the 1500 veterans interred at the Lexington National Cemetery had never been honored this way, the Lafayette Chapter decided we could be of better service this way.

On December 16th, volunteers placed over 800 wreaths at the Lexington National Cemetery. The program was highlighted by remarks from Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton and Brigadier General (Ret) Steven P. Bullard, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs.

Special thanks goes to President Elect Steve Gahafer for spearheading the project!



*Volunteers pose with Mayor Linda Gorton (center)*



*Members of the SAR and Henry Clay JROTC jointly present the colors*



*General Bullard speaking*



*Some of the 800+ graves marked with a wreath*



*JROTC members placing wreaths while speaking the veterans' names*

## Wreaths Across America



# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA SALE

While the wreaths at Lexington National Cemetery have not even been removed yet, it's not too early to start thinking about and planning for the Wreaths Across America ceremony next December. In fact, until January 15th, Wreaths Across America is having a special where you can buy one wreath and get another free. Essentially, we can double our efforts by purchasing the wreaths this far in advance.

Additionally, please remember that the Lafayette Chapter receives \$5 back for every wreath that we purchase. So not only will we be honoring the veterans at Lexington National Cemetery this way, but we will also be adding to our funds to spend on other ways of honoring veterans and promoting patriotism.

If you are so inclined, you can either scan the QR code to the right or visit this website:

[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166604/Overview](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166604/Overview)



**Overview - Wreaths  
Across America**

[www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)

## Happenings



Several members of the Lafayette Chapter traveled to the community of Cadiz in West Kentucky this past November 5th.

The Colonel Stephen Trigg Chapter had a dedication ceremony for a 250th Anniversary bench they installed on the courthouse square.

The bench is nearly identical to the one our chapter will be placing and dedicating at McConnell Springs Park in Lexington later this year.

*Photo courtesy of Marika Wesolosky*



Hundreds of people turned out this past Veterans Day for a ceremony in Frankfort.

Members of the Lafayette Chapter joined together with our compatriots in the Daniel Boone Chapter to participate in the ceremony.

To the immediate left is President Wesolosky carrying in the colors, with the far right showing the crowd in front of the stage.



Immediately preceding the Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 16th, our newest compatriot was pinned.

Zach Manley joined through descent from his patriot ancestor, John Strode. John Strode was the builder and defender of Strode's Station, near present day Winchester, Kentucky.

Zach has been a member of the C.A.R. and active in the Color Guard.

Pictured to the left is President Wesolosky administering the oath to compatriot Manley.

## Revolutionary Kentuckians

As history is written, certain figures are typically unsung heroes, their contributions overshadowed by the feats and exploits of more prominent names. However, that does not make their contributions any less.

A prime example of this type of person is John James Floyd, a pioneer whose life epitomized the indomitable spirit that fueled the American Revolution and the westward expansion. Floyd was a man whose courage, resilience, and patriotism left an indelible mark on the soil of Kentucky.

Born in 1750 in Amherst County, Virginia, John Floyd grew up amidst the turbulence of pre-revolutionary America. His formative years coincided with the growing fervor for independence, and it was this fiery spirit that would come to define his life. Floyd's early experiences forged a character that was unyielding in the face of adversity, a quality that would prove instrumental in the challenges he would later confront on the western frontier.

When he was 20, Floyd relocated to Botetourt County, in western Virginia. There he took a position as a teacher, and lived with Colonel William Preston and his family. Col. Preston served as a surveyor in the frontier areas of Virginia, including the land that would become Kentucky. Floyd soon found himself serving as a deputy surveyor under Preston. In 1774 Floyd was selected to lead a group of surveyors into what is now West Virginia and Kentucky.



*Colonel John James Floyd*

Traveling via the Kanawha and Ohio rivers, Floyd's party made their way into Kentucky, eventually disembarking at the Falls of the Ohio, at present day Louisville. Liking the area they were surveying, Floyd purchased 2,000 acres for himself near present day Saint Matthews.

While there surveying, the party was attacked by Shawnees. Two of the surveyors were killed, while the rest of the party escaped down the Ohio River to New Orleans. However, Floyd was separated from the party when the attack happened. For the next 16 days, he traversed the wilderness himself until he reached Clinch Mountain, Virginia, over 300 miles away.

In April of 1775, Floyd returned to Kentucky. This time he led a group of 32 men through the Cumberland Gap and settled on the Dix River, approximately twenty miles from Fort Boonesborough. Floyd was an active participant in Kentucky, taking part in efforts to establish a colony named Transylvania, surveying for Judge Richard Henderson and taking part in the rescue of Jemima Boone.

In September, 1776, Floyd left Kentucky and returned to Virginia where he signed on to the crew of the privateering schooner named *Phoenix*. The *Phoenix* left Chesapeake Bay in January, 1777 and returned to Boston in April, without Floyd. During the journey, Floyd had been captured by the British and sent to Forton Prison, near Portsmouth, England. In October, he managed to escape prison and found his way to Paris. Through assistance from Silas Deane and Benjamin Franklin, he was able sail back to Virginia.

In 1779, Floyd returned to present day Louisville, this time accompanied by his wife, Jane, young son William, three of his brothers and two of his sisters. He became the first permanent settler in Jefferson County. They would soon be joined by ten other families and the community of Floyd's Station began thriving. In 1781, General George Rogers Clark convinced Governor Thomas Jefferson to appoint Floyd as Colonel of the Kentucky Militia.

In September 1781, Floyd led 27 men in a rescue and burial mission as a result of the previous day's Long Run Massacre, further east in Jefferson County. When they reached the site, Floyd's detachment was ambushed. Several of his men were killed, but Floyd narrowly managed to escape. This became known as Floyds Defeat.

Floyd participated in the Battle of Blue Licks. Afterwards, in response, General George Rogers Clark led raids of several Shawnee villages along the Great Miami River. Floyd also took part in these raids. On November 4, 1782, it was reported during the raids by Clark that Colonel Floyd took 300 men to approach a village of Indians but was discovered too early causing the group to flee and most of them escaped.



## Revolutionary Kentuckians

In 1783, Virginia began organizing Kentucky County. Floyd was appointed to be one of the first two judges for the new county. That March he would write Colonel William Preston informing him of his brother-in-law, Billy Buchanan being killed by the Shawnees. Floyd worried he would meet a similar fate.

On April 8, Floyd, his brother Charles and several others traveled together to the saltworks at Bullitt's Lick, located approximately three miles west of present day Shepherdsville. The party was not expecting any trouble. That was evidenced by the fact that Floyd was wearing a bright scarlet cloak, making him an easy target for anyone planning an attack.

About a mile south of Brooks Spring, where the Wilderness Road crossed a branch of Brooks Run, gunfire began. One shot dropped Charles Floyd's horse and another struck John Floyd. Charles, seeing his brother in trouble, sprang up behind him and fled the scene. According to one report, the two brothers made it back to the Fishpools where Colonel Moore had a cabin. However, John Floyd's wound was fatal, and he died two days later.

Colonel John Floyd was buried on his property at what is now known as the Floyd-Breckinridge Cemetery. The cemetery is located in the Broad Fields neighborhood of Jefferson County, off of Breckinridge Lane.



*Colonel John Floyd's final resting place.*



*The Parklands, part of the park system of Louisville at Floyd's Fork, a waterway named for John Floyd.*

### TRIVIA!

Invisible ink was invented for use during the American Revolution!

James Jay was a New York State Senator and the older brother of the more famous John Jay. In 1782, James set up a plan to be arrested so that he could communicate with British government officials. Thought to be a spy, he was given the choice of prison or relocation to England, with James choosing the latter.

While living in England, James was able to pick up on certain information that he felt vital to pass along to his brother and other patriots. Knowing the mail was often checked, he developed an invisible ink that could only be read with the application of another chemical.

Among the information he passed along was advanced warning that General John Burgoyne intended to invade the colonies from Canada.

## In Memoriam

### Chandler Rexford Layne *July 21, 1924 - October 2, 2023*



L-R: President Patrick Wesolosky, Compatriot Chandler Rex Layne and President Elect Steve Gahafer on Layne's 98th birthday.

Chandler Rexford Layne, 99, of Berea died Monday, October 2, 2023 at the Compassionate Care Center in Richmond. He was a Brodhead, KY native born July 21, 1924, son of the late Raymond and Rilda Chandler Layn, retired Hawaii Department of Education employee, U.S. Army WWII Veteran, and member of Westside Baptist Church and resident of Berea since 2007, moving here after retirement.

Survivors include his children Richard Michael Lane (Connie Redhead), Beverly Read (Barry), Kathi Layne; sister Ramona Stylos; grandchildren Matthew Layne, Alexa Metteri, Elizabeth Brownsen, David Barakat, Conor Bidelspach, Lukas Bidelspach, Lukas Bidelspach, Tess Bidelspach, Christopher Michael Lane; 9 great-grandchildren; as well as numerous relatives, friends and church family. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by son Christopher Douglas Layne; sister Risse McDuffy Ramsey; and a special friend Gracie Huff.

In 2022, members of the Lafayette Chapter surprised compatriot Layne for his 98th birthday. The chapter recognized him by giving the veteran a 40 year service pin for the SAR, a war service medal for World War II, and a veterans pin. The Berea Police Department and the Richmond Police Department also gave Layne a certificate of service.

Compatriot Layne's final resting place is the Berea Cemetery. Our condolences are offered to his friends and family.



### Barry Gibson Powell *March 16, 1947 - November 28, 2023*



Barry Gibson Powell, 76, of Richmond, passed away Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at home surrounded by family. He was born March 16, 1947 in Richmond, Kentucky; son of the late Wesley A. Powell & Ada Azbill Powell. Barry was a member of Red House Methodist Church.

Throughout his career, he was involved in Habitat for Humanity, the local chapter of American Red Cross, Rotary Club, Elks Club, and MACED. Barry was also a member of the National and State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

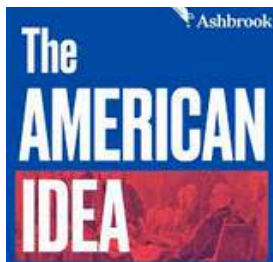
He is survived by two sons, Jason (Tammy) Powell of Richmond and Jarrod Powell of Richmond; three grandchildren, Dylan Powell, Luc (Kleine) Powell, & Dayne Powell; and his twin brother, Larry (Gail) Powell of Richmond. Barry retired from Chase Bank as Market President for Madison, Garrard, and Boyle Counties. He enjoyed fishing, spending time with family, and the special times spending Mondays together with Larry.

Compatriot Powell's final resting place is at the Madison Memorial Gardens in Richmond. Our condolences are offered to his friends and family.



*Almighty God, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer, and in particular for your servant, Carl. Grant them, O God, your peace. Let light perpetually shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will. Amen*

## Podcast

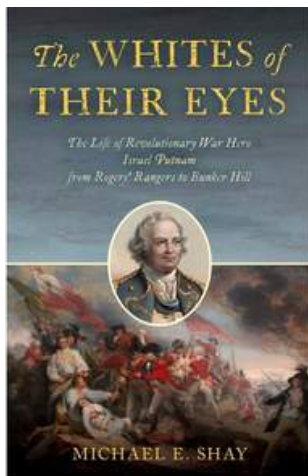


*The American Idea* is a podcast presented by The Ashbrook Center that explores America's Founding principles and their effect on American history and government. Through lively and thoughtful conversations with renowned academics and public figures, the podcast examines the history and political thought behind our country's

greatest documents and debates, as well as American popular culture and political statesmanship.

## Recommended Reading

Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes" remains one of the enduring, and most stirring, quotations of the Revolutionary War, and it was very likely uttered at the Battle of Bunker Hill by General Israel Putnam. Despite this, and Putnam's renown as a battlefield commander and his colorful military service far and wide, Putnam has never received his due from modern historians. In *The Whites of Their Eyes*, Michael E. Shay tells the exciting life of Israel Putnam.



*The Whites of Their Eyes* recounts the life and times of Israel Putnam, a larger-than-life general, a gregarious tavern keeper and farmer, who was a folk hero in Connecticut and the probable source of legendary words during the Revolutionary War—and whose exploits make him one of the most interesting officers in American military history.

*The Whites of Their Eyes* is available at Joseph-Beth, Barnes and Noble or online at amazon.com.

## Did you know?

For years there has been a debate about who the true creator of bourbon was. Historians typically fall in one of two camps: Elijah Craig or Jacob Spears. Either way, we know the creator was definitely a patriot.



*Elijah Craig*



*Jacob Spears*

Craig was a Baptist minister from Virginia. In 1782, he followed his brother and moved to Kentucky. He purchased 1,000 acres in then Fayette County and proceeded to plan and found the community that would become Georgetown. An entrepreneur in many fields, he established a distillery in 1789. While Craig did not actively serve in the military, he did serve as chaplain for the Virginia militia.

Spears was a farmer who moved to Kentucky in the 1780s. He settled in what is present day Bourbon County. He was a farmer, distiller, dealer in bluegrass seed, and breeder of fine horses. During the Revolution, he served under Colonel William Crawford in the Sandusky Expedition.

So the next time you raise a glass, rest comfortably knowing that bourbon has a patriotic lineage!

## From the Archives



"President General Edward Butler, Sr. points to the name of his ancestor, Thomas McClanahan, on the Fort Boonesboro (KY) monument. Fort Boonesboro was the first settlement in what is now Kentucky."

- SAR Magazine, Winter 2010

## Calendar of Events

### January 27

Color Guard Training  
Time: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM EST  
TBD  
TBD  
Lexington, Kentucky

### February 29-March 2

NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting  
Time: All Day  
Brown Hotel  
335 West Broadway  
Louisville, Kentucky

### March 9

Kentucky Society Spring Meeting  
Time: TBA  
Old Boone County Courthouse  
2988 Washington Street  
Burlington, Kentucky

### June 8

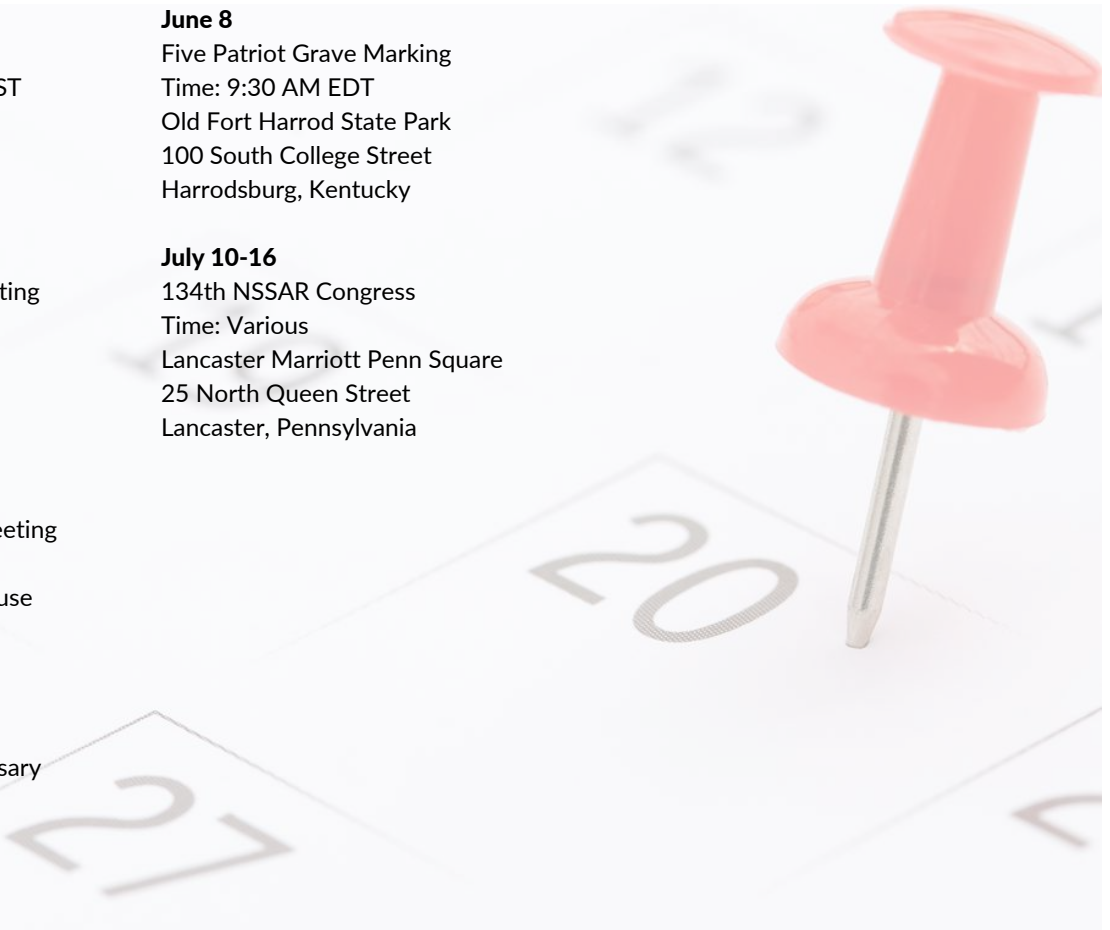
Harrodsburg 250th Anniversary  
8:00 AM EDT  
Old Fort Harrod State Park  
100 South College Street  
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

### June 8

Five Patriot Grave Marking  
Time: 9:30 AM EDT  
Old Fort Harrod State Park  
100 South College Street  
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

### July 10-16

134th NSSAR Congress  
Time: Various  
Lancaster Marriott Penn Square  
25 North Queen Street  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania



# Happy SAR Anniversary!

January 2nd - Roger M. Bean

January 4th - Ronald T. Vance

January 14th - Everett W. Bussell  
Billy A. Forbess

January 19th - Patrick J. A. Wesolosky

January 21st - Douglas T. Tattershall

January 27th - Alexander C. Gahafer  
Roland B. Gahafer

January 29th - James C. White  
George M. Woolwine

February 6th - Howard G. Miller

February 9th - Cameron C. Poe

February 10th - George B. Wieman

February 11th - William W. Redmond

February 13th - Noel H. Kaylor

February 18th - Jamie E. A. Jacobs

February 22nd - Lucien H. Rice

February 24th - David L. Wagers

February 25th - Richard L. Botkin

February 26th - Kent A. McClanahan  
J. Kevin Tudor

February 28th - Michael R. Krause