



Heading by Megan Sanford

December 2025

President's Message

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Greetings Fellow Compatriots!

It was nice to have some time off to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with family and friends. I hope that you had a great holiday.

Opening up this month's message with a reminder that the Annual Membership Dues deadline is December 15. After this date to continue you membership will require an additional \$15.00 re-instatement fee. Mail outs went out to all those that have not yet paid, and expect a separate email from Secretary - Treasurer Compatriot Terry Handley as an additional reminder. Compatriots can pay at the next chapter meeting or send payment via

▪ For **membership** inquiries, contact Phil Cook, at 4cooksinoke@cox.net, who can assist you in locating the necessary documents.

▪ For **website** (<http://okssar.com>) inquiries, contact Glenn Lee at 405.313.9947 or gleedmond@gmail.com.

▪ Like us on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/okcsar) which is monitored by Terry Handley at thandley1@me.com.

▪ Join the **Color Guard** by contacting Mark Reichardt at 405.850.0067

USPS per the instructions in the mail out.

or Vette413@gmail.com.

Scheduled events for December

December 6: We are scheduled to hand out Christmas Cards at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Oklahoma City. Our time slot is from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Color Guard please wear uniforms. The VA Hospital is located at 921 Northeast 13th Street. FYI: there is a lot of construction in the area around the VA complex.

December 8: Two Events Scheduled

Wreaths Across America event at the Veterans Memorial scheduled for 10:30 AM. Please arrive one hour early for instruction. Color Guard will present flags and musket salute. The Memorial is located at 2100 North Lincoln, OKC (near the Capitol Building).

OKC Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM (Social and meal time 6:00-7:00). Johnnie's Charbroil Hamburgers, 33rd Street, Edmond.

▪ Our **Chaplain** for the OKC Chapter is Tom Rupert at 405.213.5423 or ruperttom529@gmail.com.

▪ **SAR Sentinel** is published monthly except June, July, and August. Article suggestions should be sent to Mark Reichardt at 405.850.0067 or Vette413@gmail.com.

▪ Chapter **meetings** are held on the second Monday of every month except June, July, and August.



December 13: Two events scheduled for Wreaths Across America

Oklahoma Veterans/ Union Cemetery: Present Colors and musket salute

2132 NE 36th St, Oklahoma City. Arrive by 10:00am for 10:30 start time.

I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Arcadia: Present Colors and musket salute

2:00 PM Start time; arrive one hour early for instruction.

From the Oklahoma City area, take I-35 north to State Highway 66 {exit 141} and go right {east} for about 5.1 miles to N. Westminster Rd. Turn left {north} and go about 1.1 miles. The cemetery is on the right {east} side of the road.

Also, please refer to the attached Flyer for the SAR 250th Independence Day 2026 celebration in Philadelphia from July 2-6, 2026. This is the SAR's primary 250 signature event in 2026.

Compatriots, scheduled events for the Chapter are not just for the Color Guard; all are welcome and encouraged to attend.



At the November Canadian Valley Chapter meeting It was my honor and pleasure to present the Sgt. Joseph Plumb Martin Outstanding Young Member Medal to Eric Koonce. Compatriot Koonce was instrumental in the chartering of the new Canadian Valley chapter, and is serving as its first President for a two year term. The CV Chapter is active in community events and has a growing membership. Well done and congratulations Compatriot Koonce!

OKC and CV Chapters were busy in November. The Color Guard participated in two Veterans Day events with musket salutes at Stephenson Park in Edmond and the AQHA Championships at the OKC Fairgrounds. We also joined up with the DAR Capital Districts for a very successful Salvation Army Toy Drive. Kudos to the planners and participants that made these events a success!

We continue to honor the America 250 Celebration by remembering the events of December 1775, early in the American Revolutionary War.

Threatened by rebellion, Virginia's Royal Governor, John Murray, the Earl of Dunmore, ordered the Royal Marines of the *H.M.S. Magdalen* to seize the gunpowder stores of Williamsburg, Virginia, the colonial capital. Word of Murray's decision quickly spread, prompting militia companies from surrounding counties to converge on Williamsburg.

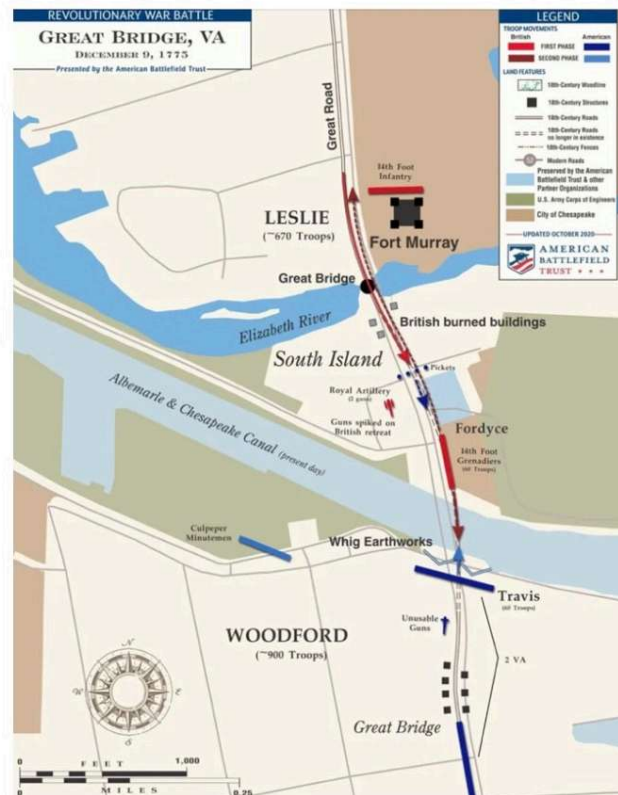
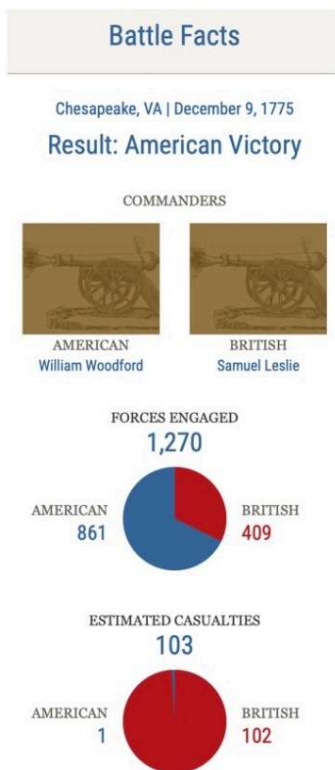
Murray travelled to Norfolk and began raising an army. Among his recruits were escaped slaves to whom he promised freedom in exchange for military service. Murray organized the freed people into the "Ethiopian Regiment" and tasked them with raiding Patriot militia camps. Murray was also reinforced by Tory militias and two companies from the 14th Regiment of Foot.

The primary approach to Norfolk was over Great Bridge which spanned the Elizabeth River. The bridge was surrounded on both sides by the Great Dismal Swamp and was accessible only by narrow causeways on both the north and south sides. Both the Patriots and the British recognized the bridge's importance. Murray ordered the construction of a stockade known as Fort Murray on the north side of the bridge.

On December 7, 1775, Patriot forces arrived on the bridge's south side. For the next several days, the Tories and Patriots skirmished amongst the region's bogs and swamps. By the night of the 8th, the Patriot force commanded by Colonel William Woodford had grown to roughly 900 men. Murray decided to drive Woodford back.

On the morning of the 9th, the Tories wheeled two cannons into place and opened fire, attempting to break apart the Whig breastworks. Thinking that this was simply the Tories attempting to disrupt their morning, few Whigs moved until one militia captain called his men to arms, seeing an approaching column in red. The men in red were the Light Infantry and Grenadiers of the 14th Foot, led by Captain Charles Fordice and Lieutenant John Batut. Further back, a large Tory reserve under the command of Captain Samuel Leslie stood ready to exploit any breakthrough.

As the British soldiers advanced up the causeway six men abreast, they fired by platoons. As one platoon fired, the other would reload. As the British got closer, the Whigs unleashed a withering volley. Both Batut and Fordice went down, and the causeway was scattered with the dead and dying.



Despite his wound, Fordice rose and exclaimed “the day is our own!” The British again charged. Several reached the Patriot works before being shot down. Among the dead was Fordice, who fell with no less than fourteen wounds. The Virginians then advanced and began firing on Leslie’s reserves. His position compromised, Leslie retreated to Fort Murray. That night, the Tories spiked their cannons and abandoned the fort.

The battle lasted less than an hour. By the time it was over, the British had lost more than 100 men killed and wounded. Only one Whig was wounded. Within the next few days, the Whigs entered Norfolk, and Murray fled Virginia.

If you have read this far; Thank You! Wishing you a safe and productive day.

“Liberty means responsibility. That is why most people dread it.”
~ George Bernard Shaw

In Fraternity,
Mark Reichardt
OKC Chapter President
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Phone: (405) 850-0067

Download the SAR Declaration 250 Flyer with Hotel



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