



Heading by Megan Sanford

**March 2026**

## President's Message

March 2026



### Greetings fellow Compatriots!

As I compose this month's message, Winter and Spring are still in a battle for weather dominance. Seems like we were just planning for the Holiday Season and now Easter is upon us!

### Leading off this March message with a few reminders.

- Please bring donations of sweatshirts for the Veterans Hospital to the next Chapter meeting on Monday March 9. Terry Handley, John Schaller, and I will make sure they are delivered.
- The Oklahoma State Conference and Business Meeting is approaching quickly. April 25 is the date. If you have not received your invitation and registration form please let me or one of

▪ For **membership** inquiries, contact Phil Cook, at [4cooksinoke@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:gleedmond@gmail.com).

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

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

the Planning Committee members know so we can get them to you.

- Elections of officers for the next two year term are coming up in May. In April we will be nominating individuals for Chapter Officers. The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar(s), and Genealogist. Elections will be held at the May meeting to select the new slate of Officers.

## February Activities

Our Chapter Members participated in several events in February. Please keep in mind that you don't have to be in the Color Guard to attend most of these activities. We encourage all members to get involved!

or [Vette413@gmail.com](mailto:Vette413@gmail.com).

- Our **Chaplain** for the OKC Chapter is Tom Rupert at 405.213.5423 or [ruperttom529@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Vette413@gmail.com).

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



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- **February 7:** the CV Chapter and Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a "Stop the Bleed" first aid class instructed by Dr. Travis Vernier.
  - **February 11:** members of the OKC and CV chapters attended a "Visit the Veteran Patients Day" at the VA Hospital in OKC. The event was well attended, and well received by the Veterans and staff. Plans are being made to do this event once a quarter.
  - **February 13:** Flag Certificate Presented to Mission BBQ in OKC for properly flying the American Flag; they even play the National Anthem at noon every day!
  - **February 14:** The Color Guard Presented Colors at the DAR George Washington Luncheon.
  - **February 17:** The Color Guard Presented Colors at a Wounded Warrior event at the Norman VA Center.

- **February 27:** CV and OKC Color Guard attended the U.S. Citizen Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Courthouse in OKC. This is always a very rewarding event to attend.

## Upcoming Activities

- **March 5-8:** NSSAR Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY.
- **March 7:** Color Guard will be Presenting Colors and doing a musket salute at the Lazy E Arena as part of the Cinch Timed Event Championship. This is a nationally televised event!
- **April 18:** Liberty Tree and Bench Dedication at the Veteran Cemetery in OKC. Please mark your calendars for this event....we need good attendance for this! Final planning is still underway so stayed tuned for details.
- **April 25:** Oklahoma Society Annual Conference. Please get those registrations in ASAP! Color Guard has been given permission by city officials to perform a musket salute to open the Conference.

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*As we continue in our celebration of America 250, we continue in our review of the significant events leading up to American Independence.*

March 1776 was a watershed moment for the American Revolution, marked by the first major strategic victory for the Continental Army and the first amphibious assault in U.S. military history.



**1. The Siege and Evacuation of Boston.** The most significant event of the month was the end of the nearly year-long Siege of Boston.

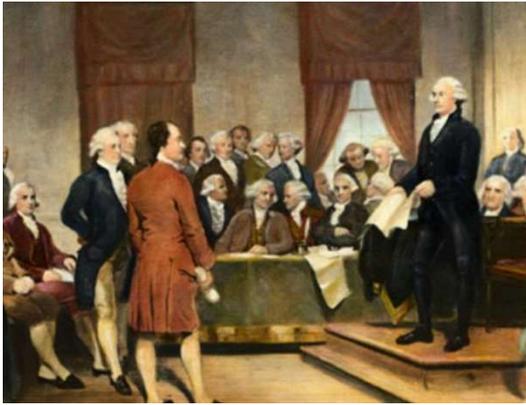
- **March 4–5 (Dorchester Heights):** Under the cover of darkness and a diversionary bombardment, General George Washington moved 2,000 troops and heavy artillery—hailed from Fort Ticonderoga by Henry Knox—onto **Dorchester Heights**. When the sun rose on March 5 (the anniversary of the Boston Massacre), British General William Howe realized his fleet in the harbor was defenseless against the elevated American cannons.
- **March 17 (Evacuation Day):** Unable to dislodge the Americans due to a sudden storm and the strength of the fortifications, the British abandoned the city. Roughly 11,000 British troops and 1,000 Loyalists boarded ships for Halifax, Nova Scotia. This ended the eight-year British occupation of Boston and remains a holiday in Suffolk County, Massachusetts.



## 2. The Raid of Nassau (The Bahamas)

While the siege ended in the north, the newly formed Continental Navy and Marines launched their first overseas operation.

- **March 3–4:** A fleet commanded by Esek Hopkins arrived at **Nassau** in the Bahamas to seize much-needed gunpowder and munitions.
- **First Amphibious Landing:** Approximately 200 Continental Marines and 50 sailors landed at Fort Montagu, marking the **first amphibious landing** in U.S. history. While they captured the forts and seized 88 cannons and 15 mortars, the British governor managed to spirit away most of the gunpowder before the Americans secured the town.



### 3. Political Escalation in Philadelphia

In the Second Continental Congress, the momentum toward total independence accelerated.

- **March 14:** Congress passed a resolution disarming all Loyalists (those "notoriously disaffected to the cause of America").
- **March 23 (Privateering Resolution):** Congress authorized "Letters of Marque," effectively legalizing privateering. This allowed American merchant ships to arm themselves and attack British vessels, a move John Adams noted was "independent in Spight of all our supplications."
- **Preparation for New York:** Anticipating that the British would strike New York City next, Congress and Washington began shifting troops and resources toward Manhattan and Long Island.

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If you have read this far, thanks! I really appreciate it. We'll close out with this quote:



**"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader."**

– Samuel Adams

***That is all, Carry On!***

**Mark Reichardt**

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