



Heading by Megan Sanford

April 2025

President's Message

Oklahoma City Chapter - April 2025



Greetings Fellow Compatriots!

As we celebrate our nation's Semiquincentennial, April brings us remembrances of Paul Revere's Ride and the skirmish at Lexington, "The shot heard 'round the World."

Paul Revere's midnight ride on April 18, 1775 is a legendary event in American history that has been immortalized in literature and folklore. This iconic ride was a pivotal moment in the lead-up to the American Revolutionary War, signaling the approaching British troops' movements to the colonial militias. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," published in 1861, further popularized and romanticized the story, turning Revere into a national hero. However, historical accounts suggest that Revere was not the only rider that night.

The poem by Longfellow depicts Paul Revere as a lone hero riding through the countryside, warning

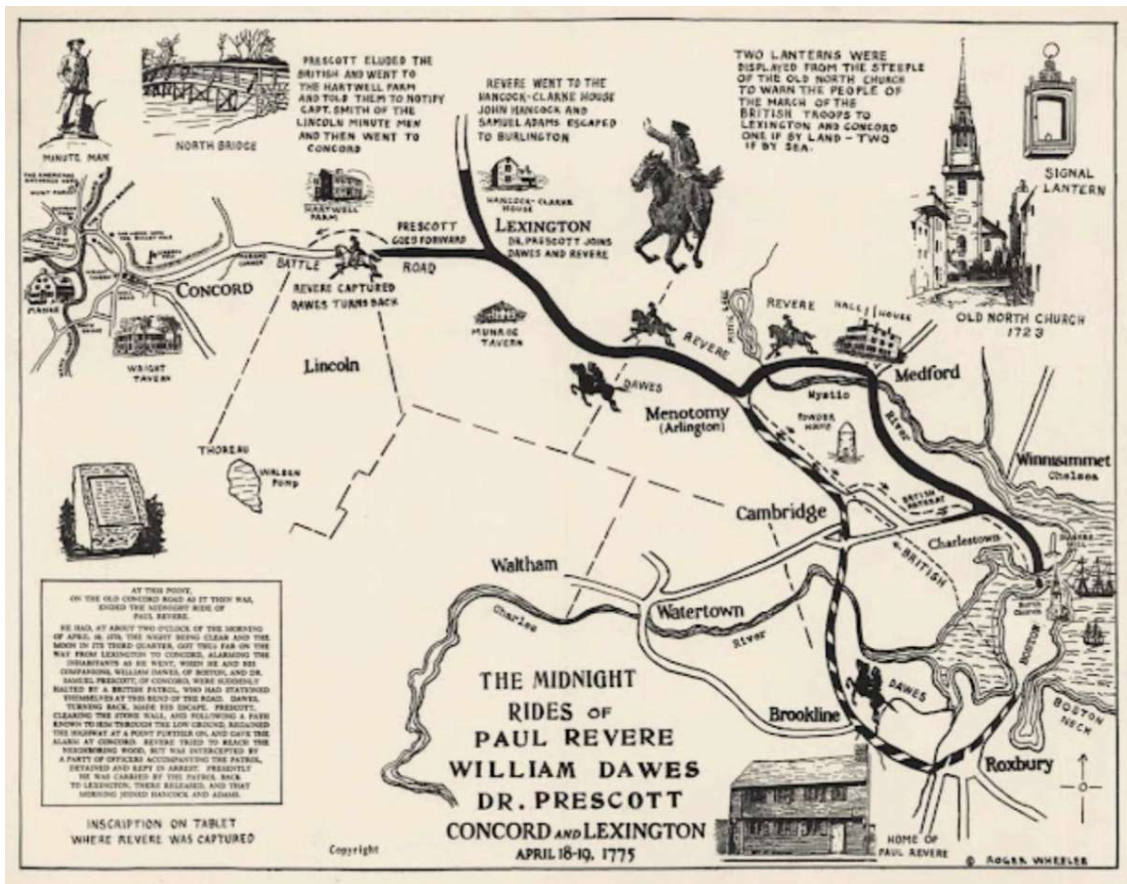
- For **membership** inquiries, contact Phil Cook, at 4cooksinoke@cox.net, who can assist you in locating the necessary documents.
- For **website** (<http://okssar.com>) inquiries, contact Glenn Lee at 405.313.9947 or gleedmond@gmail.com.
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- Join the **Color Guard** by contacting Mark Reichardt at 405.850.0067

the colonists of the impending British attack. Longfellow's vivid imagery and dramatic storytelling style captured the imagination of readers and cemented Revere's place in American folklore. The poem's famous opening lines, "Listen, my children, and you shall hear / Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere," have become ingrained in the collective memory of the nation, perpetuating Revere as a solitary rider bravely facing the dangers of the night.

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- **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.



Despite the poem's romanticized portrayal, historical records suggest that Paul Revere was part of a network of riders that night, including William Dawes and

Samuel Prescott. Revere was tasked with warning the towns of Lexington and Concord, but he was captured by British soldiers before reaching Concord. It was Prescott who successfully completed the ride and delivered the warning. While Revere's efforts were undoubtedly important, Longfellow's poem oversimplified the events of that night, focusing solely on Revere's role and omitting the contributions of other riders.

In conclusion, Paul Revere's midnight ride remains a symbol of American patriotism and the spirit of resistance against tyranny. Longfellow's poem immortalized Revere as a legendary figure in American history, despite some historical inaccuracies. While Revere's ride was a crucial moment in the lead-up to the Revolutionary War, it is essential to recognize the collective effort of all the riders involved that night. The legacy of Paul Revere's ride continues to inspire generations of Americans, reminding us of the power of individual courage and collective action in the face of adversity.

The Color Guard Units of the Oklahoma City and Canadian Valley Chapters will be commemorating this famous event at the OKC Comets Baseball game the evening of April 18 with a Flag Presentation and Musket salute. Come on out to the ball game to support our Color Guard and the OKC Comets and enjoy some post-game fireworks. First pitch at 7:05 PM at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in downtown OKC.

April 12 is the date for the 119th Annual Oklahoma Society Conference to be held in Norman. Thanks to all who have registered and volunteered to make this a historical event. The Oklahoma SAR Ladies Auxiliary has completed their Registration & By-Laws and will be fully sanctioned and officers sworn in at the Conference. This is Society President Phil Hunt's last Society Conference as our Society President. Please wish him well in his new position as South Central VPG. He will be sworn in at the National Congress in Massachusetts in July.

Compatriot Sean Drake, Program Committee Chair, reminds us that this November we will be hosting our 4th Annual Salvation Toy Drive. We will be needing the Color Guard to present and retire the colors like last year. Please see the attached Save the Date Flyer for more information. Cost to attend is one Toy for boy or girl or both. We need to beat last year with toys for boys and girls!

Our next Chapter meeting is Monday April 14 at Johnnie's Charbroil Grill Edmond. Meal and Social time is 6:00 - 7:00 PM with the meeting starting promptly at 7:00 PM. Our scheduled speaker is Maggie Sharum, Tulsa Field Office Director and VA/Military Constituent Services Representative for Senator James Lankford.

The March Meeting Minutes have also been attached for your review prior to our next Chapter meeting.

In Fraternity,

Mark Reichardt

Oklahoma City Chapter / NSSAR

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March 2025 SAROKC Chapter Meeting Minutes

**SAVE THE
DATE!
Saturday,
November 8,
2025, from 6-9
P.M.**



**Please join the OKC Chapter, SAR for their
4th Annual Salvation Army Toy Drive.**

**It will be held at Oklahoma Council of
Public Affairs Event Center.**

More Information to come.



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