

SAR Sentinel - from the Oklahoma City Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

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Heading by Megan Sanford

February 2025

President's Message

Oklahoma City Chapter - February 2025



Greetings Fellow Compatriots

Here we are already a month into 2025. How are those New Year's Resolutions coming along?

During February we celebrate the birthdays of two historically significant Presidents. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln served our country in two of the most pivotal events that shaped not only our country but one might argue the whole world.

Things were not looking very good for the Continental Army in the winter and spring of 1783.

▪ For **membership** inquiries, contact Phil Cook, at 4cookinokc@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

The struggle for Independence had turned into a war of attrition, turned neighbor against neighbor and brother against brother. General Washington had competent staff officers but without a cohesive and motivated fighting force the cause would surely be lost.

George Washington's Newburgh Address was one of the most important speeches in his military career. The soldiers who gathered in Newburgh, New York, were tired, bloody, homesick, and unpaid. They were also on the brink of mutiny.

Prior to Washington's speech, the soldiers had circulated petitions criticizing the Continental Congress and contemplating widespread insubordination. When Washington heard of these mutinous rumblings, he was horrified. A large-scale mutiny by American soldiers would shatter the public's confidence in the military, vindicate Great Britain's skepticism about the American experiment, and tarnish the young nation in the eyes of the world. Explaining his decision to address the soldiers in Newburgh to Alexander Hamilton, Washington wrote, "I was obliged . . . to rescue them from plunging themselves into a gulf of civil horror from which there might be no receding." On March 15, 1783, Washington delivered this address to the senior officers of the Continental Army. In his speech, Washington emphasized many themes that he returned to throughout his career, including the importance of

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- 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 or Vette413@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.



public duty, honor, civilian control of the military, and civic republican virtue. At a key moment in the speech, Washington reached into his pocket and revealed for the first time that he had begun wearing glasses, saying: "Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for, I have grown not only gray, but almost blind in the service of my country." Many soldiers were moved to tears.

Compatriot Sean Drake will dive into this critical time in the USA's struggle for Independence in our program for the February meeting to be held on Monday February 10 at Johnnie's Charbroil Grill in Edmond. Meal and Social time is 6:00 -7:00 PM with the meeting starting promptly at 7:00 PM.

The Oklahoma Society will be holding the annual State Conference this year in Norman on April 12. The sign up sheet for this event was sent out by Society President Phillip Hunt to all Oklahoma Society members but I have included the information and sign up sheet in case you missed it. If you haven't yet attended this Society gathering I highly encourage you to do so and get to know your fellow Compatriots from the other State Chapters.

Our Chapter has seen significant membership growth the last year. I want to thank our Registrars, Chapter Officers, and Committee members for their diligence and commitment in sustaining this growth. There are many ways to serve in leadership and committees so if you are interested in learning more please contact me or any of our Chapter officers and we would be glad to help you find a place to serve. One of the things that got me more involved was the Color Guard. From posting the Colors at events, Patriot Grave markings,

musket solutes, parades, and many other activities this is a great way to get to know your Compatriot Brothers and form life-long relationships. Just as one quick example, last Friday was Continental Days at the Capitol. The Oklahoma State Capitol building was filled with 5th graders from local schools experiencing life in the 18th century and the struggle for American Independence. Our Honor Guard under the leadership of Captain Steve Miller did musket drills with the students and taught them what the Continental soldiers and Militia had to accomplish to win our Freedom.





Just as point of housekeeping, starting with this edition of the Sentinel I will be including a copy of the previous month's Chapter meeting minutes for you preview in case you have any questions, additions, or amplifications that need to be addressed.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

In Fraternity,

Mark Reichardt

Oklahoma City Chapter / NSSAR

OKC Chapter President

OKC Chapter Color Guard Commander

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Oklahoma Society SAR 119th State Conference Registration

January 2025 SAROKC Chapter Meeting Minutes



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