



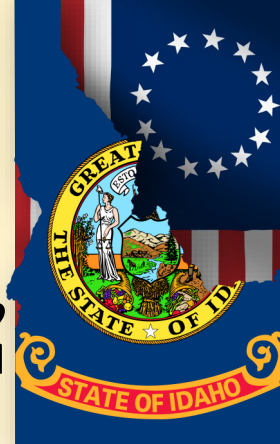
Idaho State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

250th Anniversary Edition

Revolutionary Times

Containing the latest news from our State Society

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution established the Idaho State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on April 8, 1909, to represent citizens of Idaho who are descendants of the patriots who fought in the American Revolutionary War to form what has become the United States of America.



July 2025

President's Message

Compatriots,

Each July, we commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence—an act of courage that forever changed the course of history. Our patriot ancestors risked everything to secure the freedoms we now enjoy. As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, it's our duty and privilege to honor that legacy.

Whether by attending a public event, sharing history with youth, presenting a flag certificate, or simply being present at chapter meetings, every effort matters. This is a time to ask ourselves: How can I do more to preserve the legacy I've inherited?

The SAR isn't just a lineage society—it's a call to action. Let's continue building on that foundation and become the premier men's organization in our communities—one that leads with principle, patriotism, and purpose.

I also encourage you to invite like-minded men to learn more about our mission. Many would welcome the chance to honor their own ancestors and serve their communities alongside us.

There's a place for everyone at the table.

Chris Chapman
President, IDSSAR

In This Edition

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Page 1 | ★ President's Message |
| Page 1 | ★ Fort Boise Chapter News |
| Page 2 | ★ Pictures of IDSSAR at the Boise 4th of July Parade |
| Page 2 | ★ Special Recognition: Those Who Made the Parade Outstanding for IDSSAR |
| Page 3 | ★ More Pictures From the Boise Parade |
| Page 4 | ★ Supporting Our State Society |
| Page 4 | ★ Think About Recruiting IDSSAR Members |
| Page 5 | ★ The First Flag of the Revolutionary War—The Grand Union Flag of 1775 |
| Page 6 | ★ Flag Certificates Awarded |
| Page 7 | ★ From Our State Education Outreach Chairman |
| Page 9 | ★ Are You Flying the American Flag? |
| Page 9 | ★ America 250 Medal Requirements: All Members Can Participate |
| Page 10 | ★ IDSSAR Upcoming Events |
| Page 10 | ★ Revolutionary Events, July 1775 |
| Page 10 | ★ July Compatriot Birthdays |

Fort Boise Chapter News

Save the Date: The next Ft. Boise Chapter meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at a Boise restaurant to be determined.



Pictures of IDSSAR at the Boise July 4th Parade

The Boise, Idaho, 4th of July Day Parade is one for the history books. Our Idaho State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (IDSSAR) participated in the parade in support of our forefathers, fellow Idahoans, and the nation we all love. Our theme was the Patriot Flags of the American Revolution.

Continued on page 4



Special Recognition: Those Who Made the Parade Outstanding for IDSSAR

Kudos to State Treasurer and Ft. Boise Chapter President Randy Hudspeth for his extraordinary efforts to settle the parade flag display dilemma and to Compatriot Joel Hudspeth (Randy's son) for their work to design and build a suitable IDSSAR float for our society to be recognized among the float entries. In addition, Ingrid Hudspeth (Randy's wife) provided her tailoring skills to sew and connect several of the float's designed pieces, which added to the professional appearance of our parade float.

Great Work Hudspeths !



Left—Right: Compatriots Joel Hudspeth and Randy Hudspeth

We thank those IDSSAR members who took the time to participate and represent our Society, in period clothing, at the Boise Parade:

State Treasurer/Ft. Boise Chapt. Pres. Randy Hudspeth,
State Secretary William Flink, Compatriot Jim Wellman,
Compatriot Joel Hudspeth, Compatriot Tim Marxer,
Photographs taken by Ingrid Hudspeth,
and our driver, pulling our float, Shantel Hudspeth.

Also, special thanks to the Idaho State Daughters of the American Revolution who marched in front of our float and gave us moral support.

View IDSSAR in the Boise July 4th Parade at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUKGF3_JjEY , at 29:58 into the video.

More Pictures From the Boise Parade



Clips from CBS Channel 2 Boise as the Idaho State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution drove past the television cameras in front of the Idaho State Capitol Building and Ingrid Hudspeth.

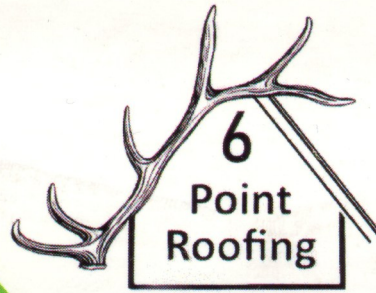


Supporting Our State Society

We would like to recognize our deep appreciation to Compatriot Joel Hudspeth for his material and financial contribution toward the Idaho State Society's 4th of July Parade Float. Joel donated the use of the truck and trailer for the float and paid for all the materials that were purchased to build and make the float a truly grand design. The float cost more than \$800 in design materials. All of the float materials are being stored in a storage building that Joel owns for future parade float use.

For Joel's contribution, we would like to share information about Joel's newest business enterprise, *6 Point Roofing*. He does excellent work, and we recommend considering him if you need a quote for a new roof for your home or business. He uses top-quality materials at a cost that will be hard to beat.

- **Fast Free Estimates**
- **Roof Repairs**
- **Full Roof Replacements**



Joel Hudspeth
208-908-9952

6pointRoofing@gmail.com
www.6pointRoofing.com



**A 4-year member of
the Idaho State
Society of the Sons
of the
American Revolution**

Think About Recruiting IDSSAR Members

Over the past few months, we've seen a significant amount of interest from those who wish to become members of the Idaho State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Several applications have been submitted to the National Society for approval, and additional applications are currently being completed. This flurry of applications has brought considerable excitement to our State Registrar and the members assisting with the recruitment process.

To maintain this progress, we encourage our members to consider their immediate and extended family members who may be eligible for SAR membership. That includes sons, nephews, grandsons, cousins, sons of cousins, and anyone else in your family who is not presently a SAR member.

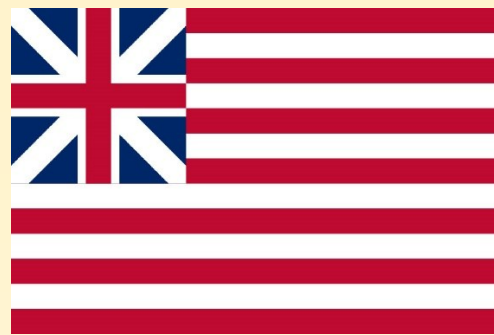
Hey, and don't forget anyone who joined the SAR and has left Idaho's membership! Reinstatement into the Idaho State Society is easy and straightforward, and should be encouraged by IDSSAR members who are familiar with these former members.

We have a variety of events and other exciting activities that have energized members' participation in the Idaho State Society. There is always something to work on to bring our ancestors' history alive, educate our youth or adult communities about Revolutionary history, or undertake a project with a community service angle.

For more information about recruitment or to provide a lead to someone interested in joining our IDSSAR, contact Alan Sommercorn at: (208) 284-1394, or any of the Idaho State Society's Board of Managers.

The First Flag of the American Revolutionary War— The Grand Union Flag of 1775

By Randall Hudspeth, PhD



Introduction

A part of the SAR Patriot Chest program and education programs for both youths and adults is education about America's historical flags that were used during the Revolutionary times. Common knowledge about the origins of these flags and their use in history varies greatly. At Patriot Chest presentations we have asked the audience to choose between the Grand Union Flag and the Betsy Ross Flag and identify which is the first American Flag. Commonly, the majority choose the Betsy Ross Flag. To help educate about the many flags that appeared during the Revolution and how some have evolved into other uses today, we will feature the different flags in the newsletter.

The American Revolutionary War, which began in 1775, was not only a battle for independence, but also a struggle to define identity and unity among the thirteen colonies. One of the earliest and most significant symbols of this burgeoning nation was its flag. While the story of the "Stars and Stripes" is widely celebrated, it is the Grand Union Flag, sometimes referred to as the "Continental Colors," that is considered the original American Revolutionary War flag.

Historical Context: The Need for a Flag

At the outset of the conflict, the American colonies were a distinct group of separate regions that each had their own militia and local banners. When the Continental Army came into being under George Washington's command in June 1775, the need for a unifying standard became evident. Flags were not merely decorative; they served as crucial symbols of allegiance on the battlefield and as rallying points for troops.

The early days of the war saw a patchwork of flags and insignias flown by different regiments and local groups. These ranged from pine trees to rattlesnakes to regional coats of arms. Though some of these banners would become legendary, none had the level of authority to rep-

resent the collective struggle of the colonies.

Introduction and Symbolism of the Grand Union Flag

The Grand Union Flag emerged as the first widely recognized flag of the united colonies. The exact origins of the flag remain a mystery, as is often the case with revolutionary symbols. However, most historians agree that it was first hoisted on December 3, 1775, aboard the Continental Navy ship *Alfred*, then again on January 1, 1776, on Prospect Hill in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Grand Union Flag is unmistakable in its design, with thirteen alternating red and white stripes signifying the unity and equality of the thirteen colonies, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The canton, or the upper left section of the flag, featured the British Union Jack.

At the onset of the Revolution, almost half of the colonists remained loyal to the British crown and viewed themselves as British subjects seeking recognition of their rights, not independence. Thus, including the Union Jack in the flag was felt to be a recognition and inclusion of loyalists. The Union Jack is a combination of the red cross of St. George (for England) and the white saltire of St. Andrew (for Scotland). This design was more broadly accepted because it reflected the political ambiguity of the early revolution, when the colonies were in open rebellion, but many Americans still hoped for reconciliation with Britain.

Early Use in Battle and Public Ceremonies

The Grand Union Flag saw its first known military use on board the *Alfred*, where it was saluted by Commodore Esek Hopkins and his men. It soon became the de facto standard of the Continental Army and Navy. George Washington is said to have ordered the flag raised on

Prospect Hill on New Year's Day, 1776, to celebrate the formation of the Continental Army, where soldiers and civilians alike gathered to watch as the flag was hoisted, accompanied by the firing of cannon and musket volleys.

Transition to the Stars and Stripes

As the war continued and the colonies moved toward independence, the continued presence of the Union Jack in the canton of the flag was seen as a problem. By mid-1777, the Second Continental Congress recognized the need for a fully independent national symbol.

On June 14, 1777, Congress passed the first Flag Act, resolving that "the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Thus, the familiar "Stars and Stripes" was born, and the Grand Union Flag was gradually retired from official use.

The Grand Union Flag's Place in American History

Today, the Grand Union Flag is often overshadowed by its more famous successor, known today as the Betsy Ross Flag, but the Grand Union Flag's impact remains significant. It played a crucial role in uniting the colonies and providing a visual emblem of their collective aspirations. Its stripes have lived on, incorporated into all subsequent national flags, while its canton was transformed into a new symbol of American independence.



First hoisted on 3rd December 1775 on the warship Alfred.

The flag appears in historical reenactments, colonial museums, and in the study of vexillology, the academic field devoted to the study of flags. For historians, the Grand Union Flag offers a window into the early mindset of the colonists during a time of uncertainty, hope, and evolving identity. It stands as a testament to the colonies' initial desire for unity, even as their ultimate path led to independence. ~

Flag Certificates Awarded

During the past month, the Ft. Boise Chapter of our State Society awarded three Flag Certificates to residents of Meridian, Idaho. Mr. Orrin Christianson, Mrs. Silvia Hirning, and Mr. Mike Bartley were all awarded Flag Certificates for flying the United States flag for patriotic purposes.

Not just a casual thing, these three residents have continuously flown the American Flag in their yards for years in a proper manner, with lights at nighttime, according to the U.S. Flag Code. It is with great honor that the Fort Boise Chapter of IDSSAR recognizes these three citizens with our Flag Certificate for their commitment toward American patriotism.

To the right and below are photographs of two of the recipients



who were honored with the flag certificates. ~

Above: Orrin Christianson

Below: Silvia Hirning



From Our State Education Outreach Program

By Rick Matkin, IDSSAR Education and Outreach Chair

The Educational Committee mission is to define and support the educational goals and programs of the SAR on the local, state, and national level.

Your Education Outreach Committee has begun work on two fronts, with preliminary efforts underway. Generally, summer is considered to be a slow time for outreach efforts, with many of the projects focusing on youth who are not in school and adults who are enjoying their time away. We have, however, maintained contact with one another and made some progress.

Most questions have focused on the scholarship award. This youth project, officially known as the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, is in place.

This year's committee compatriots are:

Jim Elie, Contest Judging Chairperson;
Chris Chapman, Teton Chapter Representative;
Phillip Bartlett;
Paul Calverley and
Dean Hattan.

The timeline in effect for this project is as follows:

- All entries must be in the hands of the National Society committee by February 15;
- Idaho will mail/transfer our candidate's work by February 6;
- State judging to have closed on February 3;
- Judging period to be January 30 to February 3;
- Each Chapter is to forward/transfer their candidate's work by January 28;
- Chapter judging to have taken place between January 20 and 27; and
- Individual candidate submissions will be gathered and distributed to the appropriate judges between January 16 and 20.

Please inform all candidates who may inquire that they need to submit their entire completed appli-

cation to a compatriot or committee person no later than January 15, 2026.

An additional project is seeing preliminary progress. The Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. It does not have as specific a timeline and may be started as soon as the teachers return from their summer vacation. The plan for this coming year is to have the award details listed on the State Department of Education teacher awards web page. Any teacher wishing to participate or seek this recognition may download all the information and the application directly from the website once the entry process has been approved and entered by the superintendent's staff.

Randy Hudspeth and Rick Matkin have completed one more presentation featuring the Patriot Chest. This presentation was once again in Kuna and was made possible through the efforts of Alan Sommercorn. Our SAR members were part of a program for the evening featuring Family Search, a computer-supported genealogical site. The evening was full of fun and surprises, with many of the presenters and audience finding common ancestors and sharing stories.

The Outreach Committee would like to send thanks and appreciation to all of those who were involved in the Fourth of July Parade. Any time one of our compatriots appears in public in period clothing or a Revolutionary War uniform, it generates visibility and questions. Those questions provide those of us in Outreach an opportunity to share and potentially generate presentations and membership. ~

Homer Deal: A Member of Our Society Who Made A Difference

Homer Deal was a Compatriot of the Idaho State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, who made a significant difference to people. He will be remembered by our Society for years to come because of his belief that our mission was important and the education of the nation's citizens about our Revolutionary beginnings was critical to the future of our nation. Every member of the Idaho Society should know Homer's story.

Homer was born on August 10, 1905 in Weiser, Idaho, to Willard Wallace (1872-1942) and Flora Lucy Hart Deal (1873-1933), who moved from Michigan to Idaho in 1902. His father was a Methodist minister, and his mother was a registered nurse. He grew up in Weiser and married Nellie Margaret Matthews on 3 June 1934. They had two sons, William Wallace and Homer Steeves Jr., and a daughter, Margaret Louise. In 1932, Homer opened the Deal Insurance Company in Nampa. In 1934, he sold the company to his brother, and Homer became the regional manager for Farmers Insurance Exchange. He remained active in the insurance industry until his retirement.



Homer believed in strong family relationships. He was close to his older brother, Edson Hart Deal, who had served as an Idaho state senator, Lt. Governor of Idaho (1951-1955), and was the Idaho Secretary of State when he died in 1967. Both of Homer's sons, Homer S. Deal Jr (SAR# 109190) and William W. Deal (SAR# 109191), joined IDSSAR in 1979.

Homer was very committed to the SAR. Compatriots who knew him state that Homer was very civic-minded and was a faithful SAR member, held almost all of the offices over the years, and rarely missed a meeting.

The IDSSAR established an education fund in 1993 that focuses on providing learning experiences for both school-age and adult Idahoans. The objective of establishing the fund was to

have specifically allocated money that was separate from dues and from the operating and administrative budget. The money was designated as a part of the educational charity funding in the 501(c)3 IRS determination. Because it is separate from dues, it is a 100% federally tax-deductible contribution. Over the years, this money has been used to fund education activities such as the Patriot Chest Program, Constitution Education, and programs for both SAR members and the general public.

Initial funding for the education fund came from IDSSAR members. Homer, who was an active SAR member and a highly successful Treasure Valley businessman, made a large initial contribution that served as seed money for what became a long-term investment for the IDSSAR education fund. In recognition of Homer's contribution, the membership named the educational fund in his honor, the **Homer S. Deal Education Fund**.

His wife, Nellie, died in 1996, and Homer died in 2002. Both of them are buried in Morris Hill Cemetery in Boise.

Today the initial fund balance of \$10,000 donated by Compatriot Deal has grown to \$13,533 and is deposited in a high interest certificate of deposit. This seed money cannot be spent, but the Fund does allow us to spend the income of the previous year on education projects including interest and contributions. Compatriots contributed \$1,046 last year to the fund and we had nearly \$400 in interest. In 2024-2025 we used these funds to expand the Patriot Chest content, purchased a chest for North Idaho, purchased historical flags from Revolutionary times and supported the Naval Cadet award. We also have some funds designated for education programs between July and December 2025.

Donations can be made by using the QR Code (right) or by direct contributions through our State Society Treasurer.

We wish to thank Compatriots Rev. Eugene C. Hill, Ronald C. Jennings, Jim Wellman, and

Randy Hudspeth for their contributions of memories about Homer Deal and this Fund. ~





Left—Right: Bronze, Silver and Gold America 250 Medals

America 250 Medal Requirements: All Members Can Participate

Every member of the Idaho State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is eligible to earn the America 250 medals. There are three (3) medals that can be earned: Bronze (Chapter Award), Silver (State Award), and the Gold (National Award). The Idaho State Society has established parameters for the Chapter and State medals, which can be viewed on our IDSSAR website: <https://www.idahosar.org/general-5>. The National Medal can only be approved through the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

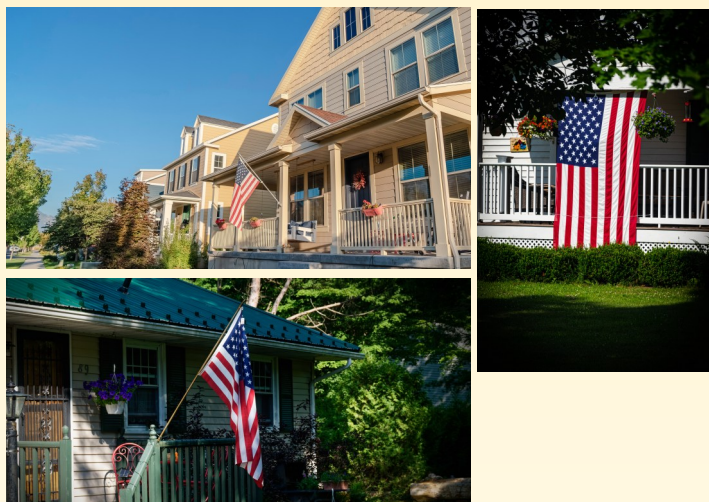
A medal application form is required from the Compatriot that lists the events the Compatriot participated in or attended related to the America 250 Campaign. Application forms must be approved by either the State Society (for Bronze and Silver medals) or the National Society (for the Gold medal). Those Compatriots applying for the National medal must have their application reviewed and approved by the State Society prior to being sent to the National Society for review and approval for the Gold medal.

All three medals can be worn by a person who is eligible for the medals. Those compatriots who are approved to wear the Bronze and/or Silver medals must pay for the medals themselves through our State Treasurer. A compatriot does not have to purchase all three medals if they only want to wear one medal. The medals will be acquired through the state national society, as appropriate. Payment for a medal is to be submitted to the State Society or National Society when the medal application is submitted for approval.

Medal forms can be downloaded through the IDSSAR America 250 website <https://www.idahosar.org/points-and-medals> or through the NSSAR website <https://america250sar.org/>.

Events eligible for medal points are listed on the IDSSAR website: <https://www.idahosar.org/about-1-1..>

For more information about the America 250 Campaign medals, refer to our June 2025 Newsletter, pages 8-9, for information about the medal points system. ~



Are You Flying the American Flag?

Our past IDSSAR President, Jack Currier, was a strong advocate for giving citizens and businesses our Flag Certificates. But how about you as a member of our Society? Are you flying the American Flag at your residence or business? We ask these questions to encourage you to take on the effort to display your patriotism and heritage as a Son of the American Revolution by raising the American Flag for your neighbors and customers to see what you stand for. ~



July 4th Fireworks over Boise

IDSSAR UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17—Constitution Day

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day are an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all IDSSAR members to observe this important day in our nation's history by attending, if possible, the Naturalization Ceremony in Boise on September 17th or the ceremony in Pocatello on October 21st. It would be an important gesture for our Society members to attend the swearing-in of U.S. citizens to demonstrate our celebration of their accomplishments and to welcome them into the American family.

October 13—Birth of the U.S. Navy

On Friday, October 13, 1775, in a meeting in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress voted to fit out two sailing vessels, armed with ten carriage guns, as well as swivel guns, and manned by crews of eighty. Their job was to intercept transports carrying munitions and stores to the British army in America. This legislation is deemed to be the birth certificate of our United States Navy. It's a great day to write the crew of the USS IDAHO SSN 799 and share your support for them. More information will be sent to you in the future about this activity.

November 11—Veterans Day

Ride on our IDSSAR float or march in the Boise Veterans Day Parade or your hometown parade to show that our Society of Sons of the American Revolution is here to honor our nation's military veterans alive today and our Revolutionary War ancestors.

IDSSAR State Board of Managers

President Chris Chapman	Chaplain Paul Fullmer
Vice President James Elie	Historian Vacant
Secretary William Flink	National Trustee Greg Lucas
Treasurer Randy Hudspeth	Alt. Nat. Trustee Ellis Rail
Registrar Alan Sommercorn	Teton Chapt. Pres. Joel Mills



Revolutionary Events, July 1775

- July 3** George Washington assumes command of the army outside Boston
- July 5** The *Olive Branch Petition* signed by Congress, to avoid war with Britain



July's Compatriot Birthdays

Compatriot Matt Brechwald
Compatriot Joel Hudspeth
Compatriot Ronald Jennings
Compatriot Jim McClain
Compatriot Ellis Rail
Compatriot Edward Wellman
Compatriot Kevin Wheeler

Contact IDSSAR Revolutionary Times

IDSSAR Revolutionary Times is an official publication of the Idaho State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. For information about submitting an article for this publication, contact William Flink, State Secretary at: idssarrevolutionarytimes@yahoo.com.

