

July 2022

*Final*

# San Diego Chapter

## Sons of the American Revolution

### Monthly Digest



### July Birthdays

Santiago Albritto, 11th  
Terrence Boyll, 31st  
Ernest Bray, 28th  
George Brewster, 23rd  
Erin Campbell, 16th  
Weyman Cox II, 25th  
Frederic Hall, 21st  
Nicholas Hoffmann, 13th  
Wayne Jones, 18th  
Paul Kidd, 20th  
Charles Norris, 10th  
Frederic Rupert, 29th  
Michael Wadlington, 2nd  
Raymond Webb, 14th  
William White, 3rd



### USS Bennington Memorial



On July 21st, 1905 about 1030 AM, Boiler "B" exploded on the USS Bennington (PG-4) while at anchor in San Diego Harbor, causing the deaths of 66 sailors and injuring 40 others, more than half the crew of 197. The injured personnel were sent by train to Mare Island Naval Hospital near San Francisco in modified passenger cars to carry stretchers. Each casket was draped in a US Flag (donated by the townspeople of San Diego), and the caskets were taken in a procession followed by the townspeople of San Diego. The sailors remains were interned to the Army Cemetery located on Fort Rosecrans overlooking the bay. One of the exceptions was of John Barchus who's body was accompanied to Clarinda, Iowa by his brother Clarence, who was also stationed onboard the Bennington.



The San Diego chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has participated in the annual memorial of the tragedy of the USS Bennington since the one hundredth anniversary in 2005. We honored all the sailors who died in the explosion or of their wounds later, this year laying dirt from the gravesite of John Barchus onto the soil of his shipmates. bringing them together again.

*Top photo:* Wyatt Nicholson (age 6) laying flowers in front of the USS Bennington Memorial, located in the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.

*Left photo:* Color guardsmen Jim McAdory, Carolyn Campbell (Ladies Aux) and Color Guard Commander Duncan Campbell present the colors at the USS Bennington Memorial.

[Click here](#) to read an article on this event published by the *Clarinda (Iowa) Herald-Journal*.

## August Meeting Update

We had hoped to meet on the Star of India for our August 20th meeting however scheduling issues have arisen and we will relocate the meeting soon. Check the [Events](#) page on our website as it will be updated as soon as a firm location has been established.

## We Are Growing

We have had a lot of interest in joining SAR and our Chapter in the past 45 Days.

We have 4 Junior applications submitted (or soon will be) to CASSAR. In addition we have 3 Regular member applications that have been submitted to CASSAR. In addition we have one person that is ready to submit and will do so in early August. There are 3 more that have requested information.

## Grave Marking Ceremony

Our Color Guard Commander, Duncan Campbell, participated in a grave marking ceremony in Hamtramck, Michigan over Memorial Day weekend. Duncan is a dual member of the Michigan Society and was asked to participate in the event. The SAR marker was placed at the grave of [Col. Jean François Hamtramck](#). A SAR marker had been on his grave but was lost at some point (Col. Hamtramck's remains had been relocated on prior occasions). These are links to [newspaper photos](#) and a [TV news report](#).



**Jean-François Hamtramck** (sometimes called **John Francis Hamtramck**) (1756–1803) was a Canadian who served as an officer in the [US Army](#) during the [American Revolutionary War](#) and the [Northwest Indian War](#). In the Revolution, he participated in the [Invasion of Quebec](#), the [Sullivan Expedition](#), and the [Siege of Yorktown](#). In the history of United States expansion into the [Northwest Territory](#), Hamtramck is connected to 18th century forts at modern [Midwest](#) cities such as [Steubenville](#), [Vincennes](#), [Fort Wayne](#), and [Detroit](#). The town of [Hamtramck, Michigan](#) is named for him.

## Wreaths Across America



Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day we Remember, Honor and Teach by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. The fundraising drive begins every year in July to allow sufficient time to amass enough donations to meet our goals.

The San Diego Chapter is sponsoring wreaths at Miramar and Ft. Rosecrans National Cemeteries. For each \$15 wreath purchased, the Chapter receives \$5 which we use for our ongoing educational and community programs. Our Chapter coordinator is Kristine Reardon who the daughter of our late SDSAR Compatriot, Lawrence "Larry" Harden. Join us by donating for a veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering or donating to a local sponsorship group.

The funds raised in this program are a major portion of our Chapter's revenue. To purchase a wreath that is linked to our Chapter, please use one of the links below:

[Click here to sponsor a wreath\(s\) at Miramar](#)

[Click here to sponsor a wreath\(s\) at Ft. Rosecrans](#)



# July 4th Weekend in Balboa Park



Our displays at the House of Spain and the House of USA were well received and both attracted a steady flow of interested people. House of Spain indicated that over 500 visited the House on Saturday and it was felt that the House of USA had more people than the House of Spain. Reports are that the same size crowds were present Sunday and Monday.

three days of the long weekend and the House of Spain display was open Saturday and Sunday. Our new “rack” and business cards were a popular item for visitors to take with them. These contain a “QR” code that when scanned with a smart phone or tablet will open a new “Welcome” page on our website. We have noted a few people have scanned the code and opened the page.



Our next “Booth” display will be at the Clairmont Family Day on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## More Dates!

This is a *tentative* list of events that we plan to participate in this year in addition to normal SAR meetings.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>**, Meeting venue TBD

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**, Clairmont Family Day, Color Guard and possibly a booth.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**, Constitution Day Meeting in Balboa Park at Hall of Nations.

## September Meeting Speaker

We plan to have Jon Paul LaBruzzo, retired Capt., USN as our speaker at our September meeting in Balboa Park. We are working on this being a joint meeting with DAR.

Capt. LaBruzzo last service prior to retirement was with the U.S. Navy Tactical Training Group, Pacific which has a *mission to provide advanced tactical training to warriors in order to improve their proficiency in war fighting and joint operations and also to meet the unified commander's requirements*. This should be a fascinating presentation.



## America 250

The “250 Minute” refers to brief presentations given by members on topics related to the Revolutionary War Period. These are short, one to five minute presentations and can be longer if needed. Visual aids such as a PowerPoint presentation are not required. Members earn points for each presentation which are accumulated for America 250 medals and awards (see the link below for more information).

Here are some guidelines from CASSAR.

- Celebrate and draw attention to colonial ancestors.
- Increase awareness of challenges, struggles, sacrifices
- Revolutionary War Master List

We recently added a new “America 250” page on our website where we will post more details and recent activity. The link to the page now appears on the Main

### From our NSSAR President General, Davis Lee Wright:

“Other organizations are counting down to July 4, 2026. While July 4, 2026 will be an essential celebration for the SAR, celebrating that singular event is not our charge. Our charge is for a broader in scope and much longer in time. It is not a short term or one time project. Our mission is to plan – and execute – a celebration of our Patriot ancestors and the entirety of their contributions to the United States. Our Patriot ancestors struggled and rebelled for over a decade and actively engaged in open warfare for eight years – to guarantee our liberty.

We owe them nothing less. Our mission, therefore, is to celebrate and commemorate the entirety of the American Revolution period from the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party in 2023 to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the British Army’s departure from New York City in 2033.