



South Coast Patriots

Volume 40 Number 8 October 2026
Newsletter of the South Coast Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution



October 2026 Chapter Dinner Meeting – Mimi's Café, Irvine

Please join us for our next in-person dinner meeting, which as always will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, October 20 from 7:00 PM. The address for Mimi's Café is:

Mimi's Café

4030 Barranca Pkwy.

Irvine, CA 92604

949.559.8840

<https://www.mimiscafe.com/locations/irvine/>

Mimi's Café in Irvine is our dinner meeting location and is located near the intersection of Barranca Parkway and Culver Drive. We will be ordering off of the regular menu. Mimi's also offers All Day Breakfast and a 3-course dinner special for \$32 which includes soup or salad, entrée and dessert. The 3 course entrée options are pot roast, parmesan chicken, grilled salmon, Tuscan style grilled chicken, roast turkey and jambalaya.

Reservations are preferred. To make your reservation, please e-mail Leon Smith at leonbuny@pacbell.net or call him at (949) 472-8046. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

Dinner Meeting Program: Discover the Stories Behind Your Patriot Ancestors

Plan to attend the October 20th Chapter meeting for an engaging look at how disciplined research can bring family history to life. Chapter Compatriot Al Rattan will share practical approaches to tracing patriot ancestors and introduce his newest Patriot Ancestor book, The Fighting Catheys.

Drawing on years in law enforcement, Al brings an investigator's eye to genealogy. Using careful research and proven investigative techniques, he traced his family lineage from Scottish tribes to present-day California. At the meeting, he will show how that same disciplined approach can help reveal the people, places, and events that shape your own family story.

Al's search uncovered ancestors woven into pivotal chapters of American history—from the Revolutionary War and the western North Carolina frontier to the Civil War, the California Gold Rush, the founding of communities, and service in both World Wars. Join us to hear these remarkable discoveries and leave inspired to uncover the stories waiting in your own family tree.

President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

It was great seeing you again at our September dinner meeting. It was nice to see so many new members inducted that evening and I'm pleased to report our chapter membership has grown to more than 125 as of

that dinner. It is heartwarming to interact with new members as they honor their patriot ancestors.

Please remember all are invited to attend the 151st California SAR Board of Managers meeting in San Francisco this coming

November. Kevin Forrest, Scott Whitman and I will attend and we'd love to have you join us. The meetings are striving to add more "fun" time going forward. If you join us you will have the opportunity to enjoy a historic tour of Alcatraz as well as an evening dinner cruise around the bay.

Reflecting on significant Revolutionary War events, October 7th marks the 161st anniversary of the second Battle of Saratoga. The battles were significant in that they were a turning point in the American Revolution. The victories convinced France that the Americans could hold their own against the British Army, leading to the alliance between America and France. Moreover, the victories persuaded Spain and the Netherlands to support the American cause against Britain. The financial and military support of those countries were a critical hinge in our ultimate success in establishing independence from Britain. Several patriot ancestors of our chapter membership fought in those battles.

Please join us at our October dinner meeting.

In patriotism,

Barry Michaels

Chapter Activities

New Applicants

This month we welcome the following new applicants:

- Michael Balchunas of Irvine, descendant of Patriot Ancestor William Coas, Jr.
- Jeffrey Dotson of Rancho Mission Viejo, descendant of Patriot Ancestor Richard Dotson
- Ryan Mills of Newport Beach, descendant of Patriot Ancestor Justinian Mills
- Julian Devillier, Jr. of Dana Point, descendant of Patriot Ancestor Louis Coulon Devillier/de Villiers
- David Beresford of Irvine, descendant of Patriot Ancestor Thomas Atchley

Birthdays

The following members have their birthdays in October - Happy Birthday to you all!

Kevin Donohue - October 11
Christopher Duplanty - October 21
Lake Duplanty - October 21
George Franklin, Jr. - October 29
Richard Martin - October 3
Jeffrey Self - October 7
Fred Smith - October 3
Nathan Smith - October 8
Kelley Stone - October 16
Robert Van Auken - October 27

Upcoming Dates and Events

U.S. Navy Birthday - Sunday, October 13:

The United States Navy traces its origins to the Continental Congress Navy, which the Continental Congress established on 13 October 1775.

October Dinner Meeting - Tuesday, October 20: Meet at Mimi's Cafe in Irvine at 7pm

Historical Newsletter Database

Check out all available copies of our chapter's historical newsletters, which chronicle the activities and contributions of the many people who have supported our success through the years, via [this link](#).

Our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/SARSouthCoastChapter>

You can also use the link on the [South Coast SAR Website](#) – scroll any page to the bottom, hover over the Facebook icon and click the "Visit Us" link that pops up.

Feel free to email me with any comments, suggestions, or items for the newsletter.

Bruce Deaner – South Coast Chapter
Newsletter Editor
editor.southcoastsar@gmail.com

Notice



Volunteers sought for the following posts:

- *Youth Program Committee Member*
- *Chapter Newsletter Editor*
- *PRS Data Entry Backup Volunteer*
- *Wreaths Across America Program Chair*

Speak with any chapter officer to learn more

We are still looking for someone to take over the **Newsletter Editor** role - please help us. This role only requires a few hours a month and can be done by anyone who uses Word. It also is fun to coordinate with chapter officers and learn about all of the activities we are engaged in.

We are also looking for a **PRS Data Entry backup volunteer**. Scott Whitman is currently carrying out this role, and needs a backup to assist him. The PRS data entry task entails entering the membership or supplemental application names, dates and locations into the PRS database. The typical volume of data entry work is 4 to 5 entries per month, with each one requiring about 30 minutes to complete. Volunteers will receive training and the gratitude of our chapter.

We also need a volunteer to take up the role of **Wreaths Across America Program Chair** to help our chapter be as effective as possible in supporting this worthy cause.

Our chapter is steadily growing, and we rely on the support of our members to enable continued successful operations. If you are in a position to volunteer some time, energy, and creativity to support the mission of the SAR, please contact any chapter officer to discuss how you can help. We are currently looking to identify candidates to take on the above roles, but there are other opportunities as well. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Highlights of our September Meeting

Our guest speaker was noted author and cartographer Charles Frye, who created the maps for Ken Burns's documentary series *The American Revolution*. Charles led a fascinating presentation and discussion, using maps and other materials to bring to life the challenges and struggles of our forefathers. Below is a photo of Charles leading the presentation:



Our September meeting also included the induction of eight new members, as well as the awarding of supplemental awards to several existing members. Leon Smith, Chapter Registrar/Genealogist, inducted the following eight new Chapter Compatriot Members:

- Lawrence John Mann, whose Patriot Ancestor was Edward Pedigo, who served as a Private in the 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 11th VA Regiments. He also furnished supplies.
- James Marcus Marietta, whose Patriot Ancestor was Peter Stillwagon, who was a Private in the NJ Militia and a prisoner of war.
- Frank Stephen Masek, whose Patriot Ancestor was James Skaggs, who was a Private in the Montgomery Co., VA Militia and signed the Oath of Allegiance.
- Shane Conley Mills, whose Patriot Ancestor was Benjamin Mills, who served as a Worcester Co., MD 2LT and LT.
- Christopher Patrick Nesmith, whose Patriot Ancestor was Hezekiah Lockwood, who was a CT Private.
- William Richard Pevehouse, whose Patriot Ancestor was Christian Nestlerode, who was a Private in the 4th Battalion, Lancaster Co., PA Militia. He also paid supply taxes.
- Eric Brian Ramey, whose Patriot Ancestor was John Wallace, who was an Ensign in the Rockbridge Co., VA Militia.
- Justin Jay Welch, whose Patriot Ancestor was Isaac Hollister, who served as a Private in the Ulster Co., NY Militia.

Below are photos of our newest members:



L to R: William Pevehouse, Eric Ramey, Justin Welch



L to R: Shane Mills, Stephen Masek, Larry Mann, James Marietta, Christopher Nesmith

Chapter Registrar/Genealogist Leon Smith also awarded supplemental certificates to the following five Chapter Members:

- Christopher Duplanty, whose Patriot Ancestor was Peleg Heath, who served as a Major in the 3rd Regiment of the CT Continental Line and Ensign at the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.
- Robert Maples, whose Patriot Ancestor was William Dyer, who was a Private in the 5th and 15th VA Regiments. He also signed the Oath of Allegiance.
- Leon Smith, whose Patriot Ancestor was William Kirk, who paid supply taxes in PA.
- Kelly Stone, whose Patriot Ancestor was George Michael Wilfong, who paid supply taxes in VA.
- Eric Ward, whose Patriot Ancestor was Hugh Hall, who furnished supplies in NC.



L to R: Eric Ward, Kelly Stone, Christopher Duplanty, Robert Maples, Leon Smith

Color Guard Events - October ~ December

As we enter the final months of 2026, the Color Guard is getting busy after a quiet August and September... Events are always being added; here are some of the upcoming events. Events marked (P) are open to the public. Please contact Kevin Forrest with any questions.

October:

3rd: DAR District XII Color Presentation

17th: Massing of the Colors - San Diego Chapter (P) - Spreckels Organ Pavillion

20th: South Coast Chapter Meeting (P)

November:

5th - 7th: CASSAR Board of Managers Meeting (P) - San Francisco

11th: Veterans Day (P) Color Presentation - El Toro Memorial Park

13th: Page Academy Color Presentation

14th: Riverside Salute to Veterans Day Parade (P) - Riverside, CA

14th: Liberty Tree Dedication (P) - Heroes Hall OC Fair Grounds

17th: South Coast Chapter Meeting (P)

29th: Hollywood Christmas Parade (Televised in December) - Info TBD

December:

No events planned

Wreaths Across America

On December 19, 2026 at 9:00am, the South Coast Chapter Color Guard will be marching in the colors at El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest. After the opening ceremony we will help to remember and honor our veterans by laying wreaths on the graves of the veterans buried there.

Wreaths Across America is a year-round fundraiser for a December event! In the holiday season of November and December, finding spending money can be a challenge. You, your family and your friends can donate NOW and your wreath(s) will be placed at a veteran's grave in December!

Please help us honor and remember as many veterans as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on WAA Day and inviting friends and family to attend with you. It is a moving experience.

You can sponsor a wreath(s) by clicking on this link which directs you to the chapter Wreaths Across America page: <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/pages/165755/Overview/?relatedId=47009>



**NATIONAL WREATHS
ACROSS AMERICA DAY**

Remember★Honor★Teach

Join us in our mission. Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. It's the mission of Wreaths Across America. You can join us by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering or partnering with us on National Wreaths Across America Day and every day.

December 19, 2026
9:00 AM
El Toro Memorial Park
25751 Trabuco Rd.
Lake Forest, CA 92630

 Help South Coast Chapter SAR
Remember and Honor our Veterans!
[Sponsor a Wreath](#)
Click on the hot link or scan the QR Code

 **WREATHS
ACROSS
AMERICA**

Importantly, we are seeking a volunteer to chair our chapter's Wreaths Across America program. Let us know if you are interested! We can put you in touch with our Mission Viejo DAR partners for tips on how to improve and get the word out!

Mark your calendar and join us at El Toro Memorial Park, 25751 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630 on Saturday, December 19th at 9:00am.

Revolutionary War Events - This Month in History (October)

The following is a list of major events relating to the American Revolution which happened in the current month. Historical events from this period include:

- **Battle of Point Pleasant:** The Battle of Point Pleasant was fought on October 10, 1774, between the Virginia militia and Shawnee and Mingo warriors. Along the Ohio River near modern-day Point Pleasant, West Virginia, forces under the Shawnee chief Cornstalk attacked Virginia militiamen under Colonel Andrew Lewis, hoping to halt Lewis's advance into the Ohio Valley. After a long and furious battle, Cornstalk retreated. After the battle, the Virginians, along with a second force led by Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, marched into the Ohio Valley and compelled Cornstalk to agree to a treaty, which ended the war.
- **Burning of Falmouth:** In 1775, relations between Britain and the American Colonies had already been bad for a while. After a series of rebellious acts, including the capture of the HMS *Margaretta*, protests, harassment of British tax officials and demonstrations of sympathy for rebels in Boston painted Falmouth as a rebel town. On October 16, British warships HMS *Canceaux* and HMS *Halifax*, under Capt. Henry Mowat, dropped anchor off Falmouth (Portland, Maine), Massachusetts. He sent an ultimatum ashore, demanding the town's surrender. When the town refused, Mowat bombarded the waterfront for 9 hours. Landing parties went ashore to complete the destruction. Ultimately, fire engulfed 400 buildings and 15 vessels. The extent of destruction outraged New Englanders and fanned the flames of resentment against Great Britain.
- **Battle of Valcour Island:** The naval Battle of Valcour Island, also known as the Battle of Valcour Bay, took place on October 11, 1776, on Lake Champlain. The main action took place in Valcour Bay, a narrow strait between the New York mainland and Valcour Island. The battle is generally regarded as one of the first naval battles of the American Revolutionary War, and one of the first fought by the United States Navy. Most of the ships in the American fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold were captured or destroyed by a British force under the overall direction of General Guy Carleton. Despite losing 11 ships and nearly 200 sailors to capture or casualty, the American defense of Lake Champlain stalled British plans to reach the upper Hudson River valley.
- **Battle of Pell's Point:** On October 12, 1776, British forces landed at Throgs Neck in order to execute a flanking maneuver that would trap General George Washington and the main body of the Continental Army on the island of Manhattan. The Americans thwarted the landing, and General William Howe looked for another location along Long Island Sound to disembark his troops. On October 18, Howe landed 4,000 men at Pelham, three miles north of Throgs Neck. Inland, there were 750 men under the command of Colonel John Glover. He positioned his troops behind a series of stone walls and attacked the British advance units. As the British overran each position, the American troops fell back and reorganized behind the next wall. After several such attacks, the British broke off, and the Americans retreated. The battle delayed British movements long enough for Washington to move the main army to White Plains and avoid being surrounded on Manhattan.
- **Battle of White Plains:** On the morning of October 28, 1776 the British, led by General William Howe and supported by Hessian auxiliaries, moved to attack General Washington and his troops at their base of supplies at White Plains, New York. A sharp firefight erupted as American skirmishers tried to disrupt the British advance. Howe arranged his army for a flank attack, a tactic that had worked again and again against the poorly trained Americans. The British and Hessians were met by determined musketry as they climbed the slopes of Chatterton Hill. Despite

the fierce resistance, however, a Hessian force was able to dislodge the militia that protected the American right flank. The line began to unravel as more Hessians poured into the breakthrough. Washington ordered a fighting withdrawal with the 1st Delaware Regiment guarding the rear. The Continentals continued their retreat to North Castle, New York. General Howe declined to pursue that far, returning to Manhattan to focus on Fort Washington and Fort Lee.

- **Battle of Germantown:** This major battle was fought on October 4, 1777, at Germantown, Pennsylvania, between the British Army led by Sir William Howe, and the American Continental Army under George Washington. After defeating the Continental Army at the Battle of Brandywine and the Battle of Paoli, Howe outmaneuvered Washington, seizing Philadelphia, the capital of the United States, on September 26. Howe left a garrison of some 3,000 troops in Philadelphia, while moving the bulk of his force to Germantown, then an outlying community to the city. Learning of the division, Washington determined to engage the British. His plan called for four separate columns to converge on the British position at Germantown. The two flanking columns were composed of 3,000 militia, while the center-left, under Nathanael Greene, the center-right under John Sullivan, and the reserve under Lord Stirling were made up of regular troops. However, a heavy fog caused a great deal of confusion among the approaching Americans. Despite initial progress by Sullivan's forces, further attacks by the Americans were not successful and resulted in heavy casualties. Their effort did impress the French, who decided to increase their aid to the American cause as a result.
- **Battle of Forts Montgomery and Clinton:** The Battle of Forts Clinton and Montgomery was fought on October 16, 1777 in the highlands of the Hudson River valley, not far from West Point. About 600 Continental Army troops under the command of two brothers, Brigadier Generals (and Governor of New York) George Clinton and James Clinton were garrisoned in the forts. More than 2,000 British forces under the command of General Henry Clinton assaulted the forts, captured them, and then destroyed them. More than half of the defenders were killed, wounded, or captured.
- **Battles of Saratoga:** The Battles of Saratoga (Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights) marked the climax of the Saratoga Campaign, giving a decisive victory to the Americans over the British in the Revolutionary War. British Lieutenant General John Burgoyne led a large invasion army southward from Canada in the Champlain Valley, hoping to meet a similar British force marching northward from New York City and another British force marching eastward from Lake Ontario. The southern and western forces never arrived, and Burgoyne was surrounded by American forces in upstate New York, 9 miles south of Saratoga. He fought two battles in an attempt to break out; they both failed. Burgoyne found himself trapped by superior American forces with no relief in sight, so he retreated to Saratoga (now Schuylerville) and surrendered his entire army there on October 17, 1777. His surrender, says historian Edmund Morgan, "was a great turning point of the war because it won for Americans the foreign assistance which was the last element needed for victory."
- **Battle of Red Bank (Siege of Fort Mercer):** After the capture of Philadelphia and of the failure of the American surprise attack against the British at the Battle of Germantown, the Americans tried to deny the British use of the city by blockading the Delaware River. To that end, two forts were constructed commanding the river - Fort Mercer and Fort Mifflin - and as long as the Americans held both forts, the British army in Philadelphia could not communicate with the outside world or be resupplied. On October 19, 1777, General William Howe, the commander of the British army, evacuated his camp at Germantown and pulled his forces inside the city of Philadelphia. He sent a part of his force to capture the two American forts denying him use of the Delaware River. On October 22nd, large forces of British and Hessian soldiers attacked fort Mercer, which was defended by 14 cannon and 400 Rhode Island troops led by Colonel Christopher Greene. After

initially gaining control of the northern part of the fort, the Hessian's attack was stymied by a 10 foot wall and abatis of sharpened tree trunks and branches. Greene ordered his men to open fire with both musket fire and cannon fire. They fired on the Germans at point blank range, butchering them mercilessly. Their leader, Colonel Von Donop was struck with in the leg, a wound that would later prove to be fatal. The Germans withdrew and reformed for a second attack on the south side of the redoubt. They were again stopped by musket fire from the fort and also from the American galley ships on the river.

- **Second Battle of Savannah (Siege of Savannah):** In 1778, the city of Savannah, Georgia, had been captured by a British expeditionary corps under Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell. The Siege was a joint Franco-American attempt to retake Savannah from September 16 to October 18, 1779, which ultimately failed. Of great significance is the fact that more than 500 recruits from Saint-Domingue (the French colony which later became Haiti), under the overall command of French nobleman Charles Hector, Comte d'Estaing, fought alongside American colonial troops during the siege. This was one of the most significant foreign contributions to the Revolutionary War.
- **Battle of Kings Mountain:** The Battle of Kings Mountain was a military engagement between Patriot and Loyalist militias in South Carolina during the Southern Campaign, resulting in a decisive victory for the Patriots. The battle took place on October 7, 1780, in a location 9 miles south of the present-day town of Kings Mountain, North Carolina. The Loyalist militia was commanded by Major Patrick Ferguson, who had arrived in North Carolina in early September 1780 to recruit troops for the Loyalist militia and protect the flank of Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis' main force. Ferguson issued a challenge to the American militias to lay down their arms or suffer the consequences. In response, the Patriot militias led by Benjamin Cleveland, James Johnston, William Campbell, John Sevier, Joseph McDowell and Isaac Shelby rallied for an attack on Ferguson. Receiving intelligence on the oncoming attack, Ferguson decided to retreat to the safety of Cornwallis' army. However, the Patriots caught up with the Loyalists at Kings Mountain near the border with South Carolina. Achieving a complete surprise, the Patriot militiamen attacked and surrounded the Loyalists, inflicting heavy casualties. After an hour of battle, Ferguson was fatally shot while trying to break the American line, after which his men surrendered. The battle was a pivotal moment in the Southern campaign. The surprising victory of the American patriot militia over the Loyalists came after a string of American defeats at the hands of Cornwallis, and greatly raised the Patriots' morale. With Ferguson dead and his Loyalist militia destroyed, Cornwallis was forced to abandon his plan to invade North Carolina and retreated into South Carolina.
- **Surrender of Cornwallis's Army at Yorktown:** The Battle of Yorktown (Sep 28 - Oct 19, 1781) proved to be the decisive engagement of the American Revolution. It ended as an outright American victory over British forces led by General Cornwallis who were garrisoned and defended by a series of redoubts on the outskirts of Yorktown. 19,900 American and French troops led by General George Washington and French Lt. General Comte de Rochambeau, defeated the 9,000 British troops over the course of a brutal 3-week campaign, ending in surrender by Cornwallis's Army. When news of Cornwallis's surrender reaches London, the Prime Minister, Lord North, declared, "Oh God. It is all over. It is all over." On March 5, 1782, Parliament passed a bill authorizing the government to make peace with America.