

## **Sacramento Chapter 1776 Book Challenge Project Progress Report**

In 2023, SAR members became concerned with the low reading proficiency scores in our schools and the lack of knowledge around American patriotism and our American Heritage in general. Our teachers operate on very low budgets and are unable to afford to purchase reading resources, and school districts typically do not provide money for resources such as classroom libraries.

In the fall of 2023, the Sacramento Chapter implemented a 1776 book project to donate classroom libraries of historical fiction books about the American Revolution that would provide each student with a book that they can read and discuss in class. We also hoped that these resources would encourage them to develop a love of reading benefiting their future studies.

While our original goal was to raise \$17,760 and purchase 1776 books for elementary classrooms that teach the American Revolution, interest in this program has far exceeded our original goal and as of January 1, 2026, we have raised nearly \$33,000 and donated 4,600 books to 51 schools in the California counties of Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, San Joaquin, and Kern.

### **What Our Teachers are Saying:**

- “Thank you so much for the wonderful American Revolution books. We are so excited to use them with our classes. We really appreciate your generosity.” - John Adams Academy
- “Thanks for the class set of books. History seems to be falling further and further behind the core academics. I really like how this book goes over the major points of the Revolutionary War and helps me reinforce key concepts. Our school would have never funded this purchase.” - Sinsheimer Elementary School
- “The books that were donated bring value to our classrooms to help bring history to life in their imagination. We are reading “George Washington's Spies” as a class, and the students are engaged with the characters and historical events they are witnessing.” - Ridgeview Elementary School
- “Thank you again, so very much, for the amazing books! Our students are buzzing and so excited to read them! Each one of us is really going to be able to offer so much more to our students for years to come. Especially now that we have so many wonderful stories to bring to life the history of our country. Thanks again.” - Rio Del Oro Elementary.
- “We, like the other schools, are super happy to benefit from your project. Reading is the most important skill a student can acquire, and what better way to practice this skill than by reading about our shared history. Thank you for all you do.” - Sandra J Gallardo Elementary
- “We deeply appreciate that you honored our school with this visit. I’m sure Melissa shared with you, but I posted out on our school page about your presentation. The children and staff simply loved this presentation. I visited Mrs. Sanocki’s room on Friday and the class was doing a book read of the book your group so graciously donated.” – Principal, Lone Tree Elementary, Beale AFB

As donors to this program, you have made a huge impact. Follow-up visits by SAR and DAR members doing historical interpretations in school assemblies have detected increased classroom participation and historical knowledge in classrooms where books have been donated. We calculate that these books will impact over 32,000 students over the life of the books.

**SAR Members, DAR Members, and Friends of the SAR - thank you for making this project a huge success!**