



The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



EDITORS: PAUL BURRIGHT, BILL WEBB



OMAHA LEADERSHIP 2018-19

- Thomas Upton—President
- Benjamin Harvey—Vice President
- Paul Burright—Secretary
- John Parsons—Treasurer
- Robert Knott—Deputy State Registrar
- Merle McAlevy—Past President

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OMAHA INDUCTS 4 NEW MEMBERS

Your Omaha Chapter had the honor of inducting four new members into the SAR family, at our November meeting.

Our 1st new Compatriot is Aaron Nehls, son of Compatriot Hugh Nehls. He was approved on 12 Jul 2019. He is descended from James McLean (PA).

Our 2nd Compatriot is Andrew Nehls, son of Compatriot Hugh Nehls, and he was also approved on 12 Jul 2019. He is also descended from James McLean (PA).

Our 3rd Compatriot is Jaden Nehls, son of Andrew Nehls and grandson of Hugh Nehls. He was approved on 12 Jul 2019 and is descended from Charles Campbell (PA).

Compatriot Hugh Nehls sponsored all 3 of his family's new applications. Even though they were approved in July, the family wanted to be inducted together, and some scheduling conflicts resulted in their induction now in November.

Our 4th new Compatriot is Eric Willard. He was approved on

27 Sep 2019. He is descended from Elias Willard (MA). He was sponsored by Compatriot Paul Burright.

The ceremony saw the sponsors of these new Compatriots pinning on their Rosettes and presenting them with their SAR Member Certificates and Nebraska SAR Member Medals.

At the end of the meeting, all four new members, mustered in their respective Patriots into the Omaha Chapter, Patriot Muster Roll. Compatriot Hugh Nehls also mustered in his 2 Patriots, in conjunction with his family members and President Tom Upton mustered in his newly approved Supplemental Patriot, Johann Lechlieter (MD).

Welcome new Compatriots!!



THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

November 29, 1775, The Continental Congress creates the Secret Committee of Correspondence.

The Continental Congress established the Committee of Secret Correspondence to communicate with sympathetic Britons and other Europeans early in the American Revolution. The committee coordinated diplomatic functions for the Continental Congress and directed transatlantic communication and public relations.

Congress initially established the Committee of Correspondence on November 29, 1775, to communicate with colonial agents in Britain and "friends in ... other parts of the world." On the committee were Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Johnson, John Dickinson, and John Jay. Robert Morris, revolutionary financier, soon joined them. Congress granted the committee extensive authority to conduct international diplomacy, including the negotiation of clandestine shipments of arms and other similar activities. Owing to the nature of the correspondence, the members began to add the word "secret" to the committee's title, and soon it was known as the Committee of Secret Correspondence. The Committee's diplomatic duties grew, and Congress renamed it the Committee for Foreign Affairs on April 17, 1777.

Of the initial members of the committee, Benjamin Franklin was the most active. Drawing on

his extensive European contacts, he began a campaign to rally international support of the American cause. On December 12, 1775, Franklin wrote to Don Gabriel de Bourbon, a prince of the Spanish royal family and one of Franklin's scholarly associates. In his letter, Franklin strongly hinted at the advantages of a Spanish alliance with the American revolutionaries. Franklin dispatched similar letters to American sympathizers in France.



Arthur Lee, a Virginian living in London, also aided the Committee. Congress would later officially appoint Lee as a commissioner for the Committee. Lee had come into contact with the French playwright Beaumarchais, who was then working as a secret French agent investigating British troubles in the colonies. Lee provided Beaumarchais with information about American successes that influenced the French Foreign Minister Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes, to provide the colonies with clandestine shipments of gunpowder and war materiel.

The Committee of Correspondence also worked on American soil. In late 1775, a mysterious French traveler named Achard de Bonvouloir appeared in Philadelphia. He had been dispatched by the French Government

to contact the Continental Congress, but publicly disavowed any such mission. The committee made contact with him, and Franklin convinced Bonvouloir that the colonies were seeking independence and were unlikely to reconcile with Britain. Franklin encouraged this representative of the French Government to report to his government that France should seek an alliance with the colonies once they declared their independence, and in the meantime provide the colonies with secret assistance.

Thereafter, the Committee continued to correspond with Lee in London, and, after Congress appointed them in the fall of 1776, also with the commissioners in France. As the British Navy tightened its blockade, however, communication became increasingly difficult, especially after British forces seized Philadelphia in 1777. Once France formally signed an alliance with the United States in 1778, communications improved. With the alliance also came more duties for the Committee and the appointment of French Minister to the United States, Conrad-Alexandre Gérard de Rayneval.

The Committee continued to coordinate communication between Congress and diplomats in Europe, and sent more representatives to other European courts to encourage their assistance to the American cause. However, by 1780, many members had begun to neglect their duties, due to other responsibilities of foreign diplomacy. On August 10, 1781, the new Confederation Congress elected Robert Livingston as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replacing the need for a committee.

COMPATRIOT AWARDED

Compatriot Jim Sly is an Omaha Chapter member, who was honored with our first presentation, as a Chapter, of the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. The award was presented by Chapter President, Tom Upton and Secretary Paul Burright.

This medal is a multi-purpose award designed to recognize individuals whose community achievements are noteworthy. It can be presented to adults and minors, Compatriots and non-Compatriots, alike.

In the case of a Compatriot awardee, the criteria, to be uniform, are: the member must have served in leadership capacity in at minimum of 4 community categories; Church, School, Scouting, Fraternal, Business Associations, Government, Patriot, Military, Veterans, Conservation, Hereditary, Genealogical, Historical, or organized sports (little league, peewee football, etc.) The medal is not awarded for service to the SAR.

Some of Compatriot Sly's community accomplishments, in recognition of this award, include: Director of Juvenile

Home Ministries, Spring Evangelism Director, and Student Council Evangelism Coordinator at GRBC; Youth Pastor at Bethany Baptist, Three Rivers, MI; Court appointed Special Advocate for Clark County Juvenile Court System, 20 years, US Air Force; Big Brothers of Southern Nevada; Pastor of American Bible Church, Piano, Italy; Cubmaster and Webelos Leader, BSA, Boulder Dam Council; and Excel Program, Bible and Theology instructor for Grace University.

In addition, he won the R. T. Ketchum Award for Distinguished Christian Service, while at GRBC, and was nominated as one of the Air Force's Twelve Outstanding Airmen, during his 20 year career as Security Policeman/Security Forces member. He currently serves the community in his role as Special Agent with U.S. Office of Personnel Management's National Background Investigations Bureau.

Congratulations to Compatriot Jim Sly on receiving this award. We as fellow Compatriots, applaud your accomplishments and dedication to our community!



President Tom Upton, Compatriot Jim Sly, Secretary Paul Burright



AMAZON SMILE

Compatriots,
As we come up on the holidays and the end of the year, if you buy any Christmas gifts through Amazon, remember to use AmazonSmile and choose our Chapter as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate a portion of every sale, through AmazonSmile, back to the Omaha Chapter.

The link to make Omaha Chapter your charity of choice is:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-6027779>

You can copy and paste this link in your web browser, and it will take you right to where you can choose us as your charity to give back. As you shop on Ama-

zon, for your Christmas gifts this year, remember to help out your Omaha Chapter at the same time, by going to this link, and choosing us. It doesn't cost anything to use this program.

Tell all of your friends and family about the program, as well!



NOV MEETING PROGRAM & NOTES

Our program for our November meeting, was given by Nancy and Roger Utman. Their presentation was on Operation Mulberry during the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Operation Mulberry was the mission to build modular harbors, to be constructed on the beaches of Normandy, to allow supplies to be dropped and shipped to France for the invading troops.

There were 2 harbors constructed. Mulberry A was constructed outside of Saint Laurent, at Omaha Beach, and Mulberry B was constructed off of Arromanches at Gold Beach, in the British Sector. These portable harbors were built in the UK, then shipped and assembled at the beaches. They were designed to float and provide bridges from the offload sites to the beaches. This allowed rapid offloading of equipment and supplies to the allied troops invading Normandy, and with their floating design, could be used in high or low tide. Each harbor, when fully operational,

would have the capacity to move over 7000 tons of vehicles and supplies from ship to shore, daily.

Mulberry A, at Omaha Beach, was destroyed in bad weather, but remnants of Mulberry B, at Gold Beach, can still be seen today.



Also, during the meeting, we handed out some awards and medals, and the Chapter was presented a couple of certificates for our patriotic endeavors from 2018.

Compatriot Hugh Nehls was presented with his Military Veterans Corps certificate, for his service in the U.S. Air Force, as well as his Military Service Medal and certificate. State Secretary John Reinert, presented the Omaha Chapter with their 2018 Partners in Patriotism, and 2018

Wreaths Across America certificates, from National. Also, as previously reported in this edition, Compatriot Jim Sly was awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his outstanding contributions to the community, and we inducted 4 new Compatriots into the Omaha SAR family. With the induction of Aaron, Andrew, and Jaden Nehls, this now gives us our 3rd currently active 3 generation family in the Omaha SAR. Compatriots that are part of 3 generations, as current members of the Omaha SAR include, the Walden's, the Burright's, and now the Nehls'. Congratulations to our new Compatriots!

Secretary Burright also discussed the 250th Anniversary SAR flag, and it was approved to make an inquiry into desire to purchase one and acquiring more information on pricing, etc.

We also talked about Wreaths Across America, and decided as a Chapter, to donate \$300 toward the project, as we have in the past. We are also looking for volunteers to be part of the crew for the ceremony, as we had last year.

We hope to see everyone in December!



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Nov Birthdays

Bob Knott—Nov 15
Jaden Nehls—Nov 16
David KentSmith—Nov 17
Tom Jones—Nov 23
Michael Reynolds—Nov 24
Ben Harvey—Nov 27
Ward Reesman III—Nov 28
Chad Sherrets—Nov 30

Nov Anniversaries

Fred A. Walden—21 Nov 2002
Bill Webb—30 Nov 2004
Brian Walden—20 Nov 2013
Fred J. Walden—20 Nov 2013
David Conley—03 Nov 2014

Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for November!

To those Compatriots with membership anniversaries in November, thank you for your membership and service to the SAR!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Check out our website at:

www.nessar.org/omaha-chapter/

We are updating the Omaha Chapter link on the State website and adding more pages and content. Check back often to see what updates we have installed.

Also, check out, like, and follow our new **Omaha SAR** Facebook page.

Don't forget to sign up with **Amazon Smile** and support your Omaha Chapter! Here is the link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-6027779>



The Omaha Color Guard is recruiting! If you are interested in participating and joining our ranks, please contact Compatriot Chad Sherrets, Nebraska Color Guard Commander, at OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com or Paul Burrig, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at pburrig72@gmail.com.

Show your support for the Society and your Chapter and State Color Guards!

U P C O M I N G M E E T I N G S A N D E V E N T S

- 10 Dec 2019—Next Chapter Meeting—6:30pm
Gorat's Steakhouse—Year End Celebration, Chapter Elections
- 14 Dec 2019—Wreaths Across America—Omaha National Cemetery
We need volunteers for the crew, and attendees to place wreaths!
- 25 Dec 2019—Christmas Day
- 01 Jan 2020—Happy New Year!

Planning ahead

- 14 Jan 2020—Chapter meeting—6:30pm—Chapter Officer Installation
- 15 Feb 2020—American Heritage Dinner—Lincoln



“TO COMPEL A MAN TO FURNISH FUNDS FOR THE PROPAGATION OF IDEAS HE DISBELIEVES AND ABHORS, IS SINFUL AND TYRANNICAL.”

- THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1779

Chapter Meeting Minutes – 12 Nov 2019

12 Nov 2019

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 08 Oct 2019. Members and guests attending: Paul Burrigh (Paula), Fred Walden (Jan), Mel Burrigh (Sandra), David Kentsmith (Kitty), Merle McAlevy, Shade Jones (A. Wallace), Hugh Nehls (Kathy), Aaron Nehls, Jaden Nehls, Andrew Nehls (Lori, Hannah), Jim Sly, Dick Galusha (Pat), Ben Harvey, Tom Upton (Jane), Steve Bigelow, John Reinert, Eric Willard, Drew Whitler (Cheryl) – Prospective Member, Nancy and Roger Utman – Speakers.

President Tom Upton opened the meeting at 1855 hours.

All stood and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. Members remained standing and repeated the Pledge to the SAR. The members introduced guests in attendance.

The minutes of the 08 Oct 2019 meeting were accepted by member vote.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – N/A
- Registrar, Paul Burrigh – 12 apps in preparation, 1 Supplemental awaiting approval for Chapter, 4 apps pended, 7 new apps and 3 supplementals approved this year.

Old Business:

- Secretary Burrigh and President Upton discussed the DAR Monument dedication and Lincoln Veterans Day Parade.

New Business:

- Compatriot Jim Sly awarded Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, Hugh Nehls was presented Military Service Veterans Corps Certificate and Military Service Medal and Certificate, Chapter was presented Certificates for Partners in Patriotism and Wreaths Across America.
- New Compatriots Aaron, Andrew, and Jaden Nehls, and Eric Willard, were all inducted and presented Nebraska Member Medals. They mustered in their Patriots at end of meeting.
- Program – Nancy and Roger Utman – Operation Mulberry, 75th Anniversary of D-Day.
- Secretary Burrigh commented on need for volunteers for Wreaths Across America. Chapter voted to donate \$300 to WAA and to coordinate presentation of check to Omaha WAA leadership.
- Membership OK'd inquiry into purchasing 250th U.S. Anniversary SAR Flag.
- Nominating committee presented recommendations for 2020-21 Officers; President Ben Harvey, VP Paul Burrigh, Secretary Jim Sly, Treasurer John Parsons, Registrar Paul Burrigh. Elections at December meeting, next month.

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 10 Dec 2019. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh

Secretary Omaha Chapter