**Preparing for America’s 250th Birthday Celebrations**

The United States stands on the eve of a grand anniversary – and DAR is preparing to celebrate in a big way! The National Society has established the **America 250! Special Committee** to plan DAR’s involvement and maximize its visibility during our nation’s upcoming 250th birthday.

Much like the 1976 Bicentennial celebration, this observance provides an exceptional opportunity for community involvement, positive public relations and membership growth. DAR can raise the visibility of our Patriots and create interest in who they were and enthusiasm for what they accomplished.

Through the efforts of our chapters, we can have a significant impact in our communities by re-discovering, restoring, and re-dedicating Revolutionary War-related monuments, plaques, gravesites, and other memorials in our cities and towns. A great way to increase public visibility of the American Revolution– we may even find some new DAR members along the way!

This is a multi-year project. Preparation extends through 2023 and plans include celebrating the 250th anniversary of all events associated with our nation’s quest for independence from the Boston Tea Party of 1773 (e.g., 2023) through the Treaty of Paris in 1783 (e.g., 2033).

The **Chapter Master Report** now includes an **Our Patriots** section. Be ready for that section by:

1. Appointing an America 250! Chair.
2. Collecting highlights from chapter members about their Patriot ancestors to share in short “Our Patriots” minutes at each chapter meeting. A template is found in the *Our Patriots* section of the *America 250! NSDAR Committee* page.
3. Enhancing “Our Patriots” minutes with a selection from “Revolutionary Flashbacks”. A template is found in the *Revolutionary Flashbacks* section of the *America 250! NSDAR Committee* page.
4. Celebrating and sharing the stories of our Patriots in order to increase public awareness of the men and women who achieved American independence. Daughters are encouraged to use social media besides traditional media. A template is found in the *Our Patriots* section of the *America 250! NSDAR Committee* page.
	1. Chapters are cautioned to be certain that all information published about the Patriot and his/her family has been verified by the NSDAR Genealogy department and is not currently from a closed line. It is very important that the Chapter Registrar reviews and approves the content of the Patriot information before it is published by the chapter.
	2. Under no circumstances shall DAR national numbers or Genealogical Research System information be shared with the public. This is NSDAR proprietary information.
5. Developing projects to inspire their members to find and feature Revolutionary War-related memorials in their community. These can be posted on the chapter website and social media pages and/or featured regularly in the local newspaper to encourage members of the community to visit them. Here are a few ideas for raising awareness of “Our Patriots” which may attract interest in their stories:
	1. create a list of Revolutionary War Patriot graves in the area
	2. make a list of streets in your town that are named for a Revolutionary War patriot
	3. compile a list of counties in your state named for a Revolutionary War patriot
	4. highlight sites of interest from the period of the Revolution & host an event there.

All the information presented in this handout is on the NSDAR Members website within the Committee Section for America 250! Check it out!

Through our DAR activities and service, we can inspire our members and our communities by discovering, remembering, and sharing the stories of our Patriot ancestors as we celebrate America 250! Please join with us as we *Rise and Shine for America!*