



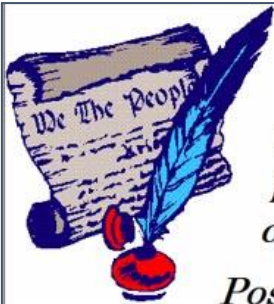
J.H. 'Scratch' Thompson Editor  
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# The Prescottonian Prescott Chapter Newsletter Spring 2024 Edition

Lunch Meetings Calendar  
and Guest Speakers



All Lunch Meetings held at  
Hassayampa Inn at noon  
122 E Gurley St, Prescott



## **PRESCOTT CHAPTER** *Sons of the American Revolution*

*We have openings on the Board and need able body patriots to step up and volunteer to help guide this chapter in the next couple of years.*

*Positions available: President, Vice-President, Secretary  
Genealogists, Color Guard Captain and others.  
if interested contact: Ron Castle or Jack Berry.*

### **Here Yee Here Yee!!**



The annual Prescott Rodeo Fund raising event is coming Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> 2024.

We are asking all Prescott Chapter members, families and friends to come and participate in serving beverages at one of the four bars.

All tip proceeds will be for the benefit of the Chapter. This funds all of our yearly costs and some towards our annual charities.

***Please signup to today by contacting Jack Berry.***



## ***President's Corner by Jack Berry***



### ***Fellow compatriots:***

It is hard to believe spring has arrived and that I am in my fourth year as president of the Prescott Chapter. It has truly been rewarding, challenging, and an honor to lead the chapter. During my tenure, I have been very pleased with the increased membership and with those members who have supported the chapter by stepping forward to serve on the board, a committee or help with the annual rodeo fundraising. Due to such member involvement, the Prescott Chapter is recognized as a very active state chapter.

With sincere gratitude,  
Jack Berry

## **Save the Date for the 250th Anniversary celebration**

In May 2023, members of the SAR Prescott Chapter and the DAR Yavapai Chapter formed a non-profit titled “American 250 – Prescott.” The sole purpose of this non-profit is to organize a celebration of our country's 250th birthday. Prescott Chapter member Alan Fitch is the president of this non-profit. The 250th Anniversary celebration will be held in the ballroom of the Prescott Resort on September 19, 2026. Invitations to this event will be mailed or handed to people upon request. Seating is limited and we expect this event will sell out. The deadline for payment will be on the invitation, however seating may be filled prior to the deadline. More information will be available in the future.

## **Revolutionary Trivia**

Which Treaty officially ended the Revolutionary War?

Answer pg.13

**May 11<sup>th</sup>. Speaker Manuel Lucero, Executive Director, Smoki Museum of Indigenous People.**  
Topic: Native American Participation in the American Revolution.



Manuel's included stories like one about an Indian woman Polly Cooper along with others Oneida natives that walked hundreds of miles carrying bushels of corn to save George Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in the winter of 1777/78.

Many tribes didn't take sides, they thought of the Revolutionary War as a family fight between a father and son.



**Hal Reniger** spoke to briefly to: The "**shot heard round the world**" is a phrase that refers to the opening shot of the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, which sparked the Revolutionary War.

Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>



**Steve Monez** Gives a presentation on upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026



*left to right* Rocky Mountain District VP General Bill Baran, Arizona SAR Immediate Past President Bob Hoover, AZSAR President Rick Spargo and AZSAR VP /Prescott Chapter President Jack Berry. AZSAR President Rick Spargo presided over the Zoom AZSAR BoM Meeting in Prescott.



**Combined Chapters Color Guard**

*Back row left to right:* Don Dedrich Saguaro, Alan Fitch Prescott, Prescott Chapter Color Guard Captain Steve Monez, Rob Berryman Prescott, Bill Walters Prescott, George White Barry Goldwater, and Rob Welch Barry Goldwater.

*Front row left to right:* Robert Filler Prescott, Mark Seifert Barry Goldwater, State Color Guard Commander Stan Marks, Stephen Miller Phoenix, Ron Castle Prescott and Steve Bigelow Prescott.

April

# 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Tim Prater for Dick Melick

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>



Members of the Barry Goldwater and Prescott Chapters of the Sons of the American gathered at the Chino Valley residence of Tim Prater on April 20, 2024, to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dick Melick. Left to right is Steve Bigelow, Leo Scott, Robert Filler, Willard Stalcup, Dick Melick, Tom Chittenden, Dennis DeAtley, Jim Cates, David Swanson, Wayne Hood, David Moore, Tim Prater and Jack Berry.

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

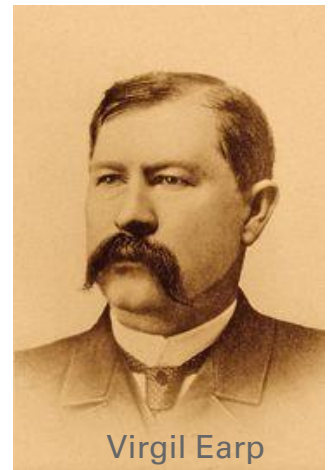


**Bill Oden** awards **Embry Riddle Cadet Nicholai Moody**, **Dick Melick** awards **Bradshaw Mtn High ROTC Cadet Ball**, **Army ROTC Cadet Jacob Heusuk** and **Prescott High Air Force JROTC Cadet Alyssa Koscak** April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> Prescott Constable Ron Williams, ‘Virgil Earp’s first shooting in Prescott’



Ron Williams has been in law-enforcement officer for roughly 30 years. In 2014 Ron was elected to the Office of Constable for the Prescott Justice Precinct. He is proud to hold the same elected office as Virgil Earp. Ron gave an historical account of that famous "Virgil Earp’s First Shootout in 1871 in downtown Prescott.



## Awards



Alan Fitch(left) presenting a Flag Certificate to Mark and Cassie DeDio.

# Flags Awards



Flag Certificate to Pat Callahan, Tom Callaghan and Mike Breedlove.



Flag Certificate to Bob Steiner and Phil Brooks.

## Speaker Dennis DeAtley:

Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

Dennis gave rousing rendition Patrick Henry's of 'Give me Liberty or Give me Death' speech on its 249<sup>th</sup> Anniversary unaided.



We can all recall those immortal words, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" As we approach the 250th anniversary of the birth of our Nation, let us learn more about these words that helped to ignite the fire of revolution and begin the journey towards freedom.

## New Members sworn in:



Left to right: Alan White and his wife, Jack Berry, Francis Williams and Roland Barber not pictured.



# Jack Berry attended the Saguaro Chapter Meeting

Sunday, March 23rd

Prescott Chapter President Jack Berry attended the Saguaro Chapter meeting on March 23, 2024, in his new position as Arizona Society Vice President. Also attending the meeting was Past Prescott Chapter President Robert "Bob" Walter Wixon who is a dual member of Prescott Chapter with the Saguaro Chapter as primary. Bob is also the last known original charter member of the Prescott Chapter



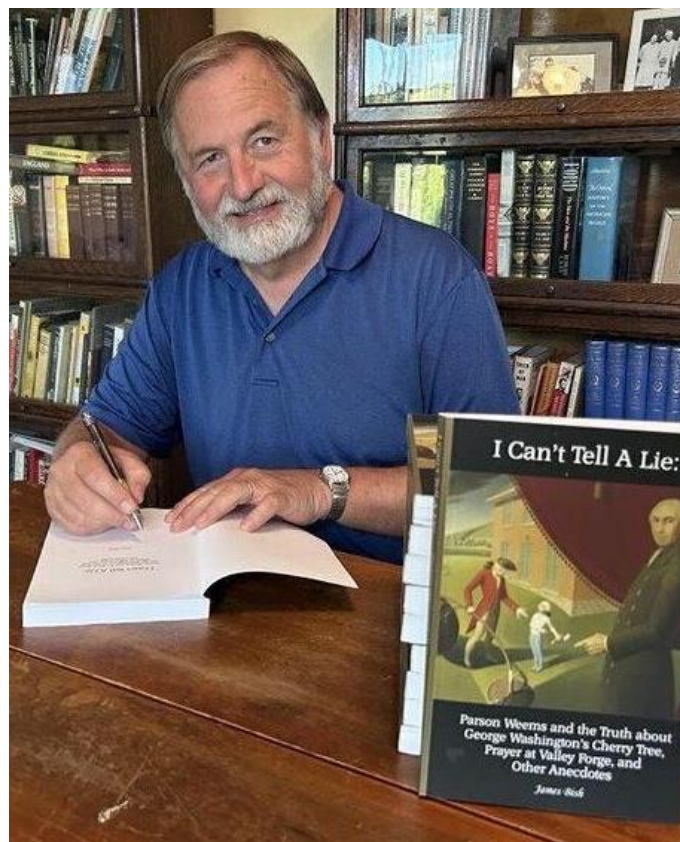
Jack Berry with Saguaro Member Bob Wixon



Jack Berry with Saguaro Member Stan Hughes

## Saguaro Guest Speaker Jim Bish

Culpeper Minutemen Chapter President Jim Bish of the Virginia Society. He is a dual member of Saguaro Chapter with the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter as primary. He received the 2023 National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Stephen Taylor Award as the author of his book titled "I Can't Tell A Lie: Parson Weems and The Truth About George Washington's Cherry Tree, Prayer at Valley Forge, and Other Anecdotes." Although Jack was unable to obtain a photo with Jim due to a long line of people wanting to purchase an autograph copy of his book, Jim agreed to be a guest speaker at one of the Prescott Chapter meetings in 2025.



# Awards



Bill Oden receiving his Military Corps Certificate



Roger Williams receiving his Vietnam Military Corps Certificate



Steve Monez receiving his Liberty Cluster and Certificate



Wayne Hood receiving his Silver Henry Knox Medal and Certificate

# Prescott Frontier Days(PFD) Thursday, February 15th

For the third straight year, Prescott Frontier Days has continued sponsoring the Prescott Chapter Youth and Veterans program with a \$500 donation.



*left to right is PFD board member Neal Nabb, PFD President Kym Lopez, SAR Chapter President Jack Berry and PFD General Manager Jim Dewey Brown.*

# Stuart Rosebrook: Arizona – Standing strong for freedom since 1846

Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

Editor, writer and historian of the American West **Stuart Rosebrook** spoke about Arizona’s important role serving our country as a major contributor of military installations from territorial days to the present.



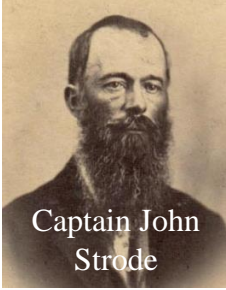
## New Members and Military Awards



Jack Berry swearing in new members Rob Naeckel on the left and Steven White



Scratch Thompson accepts Service Award for himself and son Charles Thompson



Captain John  
Strode

Captain John Strode - 1776 -1778 , my 5th grandfather and  
Captain James Strode 1725-1795 (Berkley County Militia).

The ancestry of Captain James Strode was traced back to  
Sir Warin del la Strode (Guarin du l 'Strode), a Norman knight who  
accompanied William 'the Conqueror' in 1066 in the conquest of England.



Strode  
coat of arms



Being a youth from Culpeper County, Virginia Colony, John Strode followed General George Washington and neighbors into the Revolutionary War. He wintered at Valley Forge, crossed the Delaware, took part in the attack at Trenton, and fought at Monmouth

In early 1776, John Strode came into the Kentucky wilderness, marked, and improved a piece land before he returned to Virginia to fight in the Revolutionary War. He served under Washington in the winter of 1776 when they limped into Pennsylvania. The boys had to build their own shelters to create Valley Forge. Roofs leaked and there wasn't enough food nor clothing to keep warm. Many of the boys died.

December 1776, Washington planned a surprise attack on Trenton, New Jersey. They left the banks of the Pennsylvania side on Christmas Eve. The Delaware River was full of ice chunks. The boys were in their early 20s and late teens. They didn't have enough warm clothing. By the time everyone made it across, it was daylight on Christmas morning.

Washington's boys feared the German Hessians more than the British or Indians. The Germans had hangovers from great celebrating way into the night. After a brief battle, nearly the entire Hessian force was captured, with negligible losses to the Americans. The battle significantly boosted the Continental Army's flagging morale, and inspired re-enlistments.

In 1778, at the Battle of Monmouth, Captain John Strode met Molly Hayes "Pitcher". Years later, he took his daughter Letitia, by horseback, to visit Molly "Pitcher". Letitia had asked many questions about the American Rev War heroine. Being very young and being tired from the journey, Molly "Pitcher" put Letitia in her bed to nap. Letitia Strode, slept in Molly Hayes "Pitcher's" bed. (This is a family story passed down by Letitia herself. 1775-1855)

The deeds in the story of Molly Pitcher are generally attributed to Mary Ludwig Hays, who was married to William Hays, an artilleryman in the Continental Army. She joined him at the Army's winter camp at Valley Forge in 1777, and was present at the Battle of Monmouth, where she served as a water-carrier. Her husband fell and she took his place swabbing and loading the cannon, and was later commended by George Washington. The incident was recorded by Joseph Plumb Martin in his memoir published in 1830.

By 1779, Strode was back in Kentucky, living at Fort Boonesboro. He built his cabin on the waters of Strode's Creek, Clark County. Here he encouraged others to settle around him. By the year 1781, his station included 25 cabin homes.

On March 1, 1781, Strode's Station was attacked by Indians. Two pioneers (Jacob Shpar and Patrick Donaldson) were killed and John Judy was wounded. Most of the livestock was destroyed. The first school in Clark County was taught at Strode's Station. John Filson, Thomas Parvin, and Colonel William Sudduth acted as teachers. The stockade was attacked again in 1783 with no casualties in the fort.

Captain John Strode was one of the first trustees for the town of Winchester. In 1793, by commission of Governor Isaac Shelby, he was named coroner for the new town. When Strode died in 1805, he was buried on a hill, overlooking the station.



## Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

### Young Patriots

The British established militias in the colonies after the French and Indian War to alleviate the need to garrison expensive regular soldiers in the colonies. All military aged males, aged 16 to 45, were required to serve in the militia and maintain the necessary arms and equipment for military service.

Although citizen militias played an important role in the conflict, the fledgling nation fielded a formal military force known as the Continental Army.

Most men who served in the Continental Army were between the ages of 15 and 30.

Over 230,000 soldiers served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, although no more than 48,000 at any one time. The largest number of troops gathered in a single place for battle was 13,000.

The Continental Army was mustered out of service by early 1784. Only a small token of 80 soldiers remained on active duty. The following year, the First American Infantry Regiment was created. It consisted of eight infantry companies and two artillery batteries. This unit was enlarged a decade later.

The army accepted volunteers as young as 16. A 15-year-old could join with a parent's permission. Some notable younger Patriots (age at the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776):

#### Boys:

Andrew Jackson (age 9) - When he was 13 years old, the future 7<sup>th</sup> President of the United States served as a patriot courier.

Ebenezer Fox (age 12) ran away from home and was hired as a sailor on an American ship.

Joseph Plumb Martin (age 15) persuaded his grand-parents to let him join the army. He fought for the duration of the war.

James Armistead (age 15) was born a slave but worked as a spy under Marquis de Lafayette.

William Diamond (age 15) signed up as drummer in the Lexington and beat "to arms", bringing 70 militiamen against the approaching Red Coats.

Peter Salem, (age 16) was a Massachusetts slave who was freed in order to serve in the local militia, then the Army, and was named a hero in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

James Monroe was 18 and dropped out of college to join the Continental Army; he later became 5th President of the US.

Charles Pinckney (age 18) fought in the American Revolution and was captured. After regaining his freedom, Pinkney practiced law, served in the Continental Congress, signed the US Constitution, and became governor of South Carolina.

Marquis de Lafayette (age 18) traveled from France to America to join the Revolution. He was commissioned as a Major General at age 19.

#### Girls:

Deborah Sampson (age 15) disguised herself as a man so she could join the Massachusetts military. She kept her true identity hidden for two years.

Sybil Ludington (age 15) rode her horse for 40 miles to warn American soldiers of an impending British attack.

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This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

**Presented by: The Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution**  
<https://hawaiisar.org/> For more:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yn36t86t>

# Prescott SAR Sponsors



Prescott Evening  
Lions Club



## Obits:

### Anthony Tucker Beaudry

Sadly we share news that Prescott SAR Member Anthony Tucker Beaudry passed away December 5, 2023. He was born in Cortland, New York, on March 4, 1938.



### Marion Prater

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of Marion Prater. For those of you who do not know, Marion is the wife of our past Vice President, humble servant and dear friend Tim Prater. Tim and Marion are very dear to our hearts.

Fraternally,  
Rob Berryman

Trivia answer: **Treaty of Paris**



# America's 250th Anniversary

**The 250th Anniversary** is a celebration of our fight for Independence from the end of the French and Indian War in 1763 to the Final Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783. This is highlighted by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. As members of the Sons of the American Revolution it is our responsibility to tell the stories about those times our patriots fought to gain freedom from British control over the 13 colonies, later called the United States of America.

This link takes you to a valuable tool that will help you set up your events and programs. Share these events with your chapter, DAR, Service Clubs, and the community. Share our story with as many groups as you can:

[https://america250sar.org/\\_static/75c32156ec6f9e02ed1a7c913743f264/america-250-sarprogramtoolkitmar-23\\_22.pdf?dl=1](https://america250sar.org/_static/75c32156ec6f9e02ed1a7c913743f264/america-250-sarprogramtoolkitmar-23_22.pdf?dl=1).

This tool kit has a road map for our members to get the message to the people who may have never heard the story of our beginning. There are many ways you can participate. The color guard can participate, members can use the Patriot Chest with children in the schools. Members can dress in uniform if possible.

Schedule events in the community and invite all that would like to take part. Send out announcements in the newspaper. Make your event special. Hold it at a special venue.

The Declaration of Independence and Constitution can be given to each person. Make a handout that the community can take with them. You can pick a patriot and tell their story.

The National organization has examples of forms, letterhead, news releases, cards, and certificates to help each chapter.

## **Awards are based on activity and the awarding of points for each type of activity:**

- a. Directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event or sub-committee for the duration of the event. (20 points)
- b. Participation in the planning, financing, promotion or conduct of an event other than directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event. Those that do direct, chair or co-chair an event and also serve as a regular member of a committee or sub-committee in a non-leadership role, may also earn points. (10 points)
- c. Attending an Event (3 points)
- d. Attending an event in Colonial Attire (5 points)

## **SAR Members may be awarded the Medals for achieving the following levels:**

- a. Bronze Medal: 25 promotion points as certified by his chapter, state, district, or national society.
- b. Silver Medal: Compatriots who earn 60 promotion points as certified by his chapter, state, district or national society.
- c. Gold Medal: Compatriots who earn 150 promotion points as certified by his chapter, state, district, and national society. They will receive a letter authorized by Gary Gift Chairman 250th Gold Medal

Committee to purchase the medal. Steve Monez and Jack Berry have qualified for the Gold. Paul Kerper has qualified for the Bronze.