



# OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

## VOLUME VII: SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE SAR

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## PREFACE

The *NSSAR Handbook* contains the governing documents and official policies, procedures and protocol of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. It provides official guidance to all Compatriots at the National, State Society and Chapter levels on the operations, programs and activities of the Sons of the American Revolution. Compatriots should regularly review the *NSSAR Handbook*.

The development and publication of the *NSSAR Handbook* is the responsibility of the Handbook Committee, whose members are appointed by the President General pursuant to Bylaw No. 19, Section 1(f). The Handbook Committee is currently composed of the following individuals.

EDWARD P. RIGEL, JR., *Chair*..... Georgia Society ..... *Term Expires 2025*  
CRAIG M. LAWSON..... Washington Society ..... *Term Expires 2023*  
PETER M. DAVENPORT..... Virginia Society ..... *Term Expires 2024*

The table of contents for each volume of the *Handbook* details the contents of that volume. The *Handbook* consists of eight volumes, titled as follows: VOLUME I: *Governing Documents*; VOLUME II: *Organization*; VOLUME III: *Membership, Compliance & Other Policies*; VOLUME IV: *Insignia, Protocol, Ceremonies & Rituals*; VOLUME V: *Individual Medals & Awards*; VOLUME VI: *Youth Programs, State Society & Chapter Awards*; VOLUME VII: *Summary History of the SAR*; and VOLUME VIII: *Historical Roster of SAR General Officers*.

The *NSSAR Handbook's* content is established by the: (1) Annual Congress, (2) Board of Trustees, (3) Executive Committee, (4) National Headquarters staff and (5) Standing, Special Advisory and Program Committees. Revisions to the *NSSAR Handbook* may be made as follows:

- The *NSSAR Charter* may be modified only by the United States Congress;
- The *NSSAR Constitution & Bylaws* may be modified only as provided in those documents;
- An Annual Congress, the Board of Trustees, or the Executive Committee may implement, amend or abolish a policy by voting on such changes and submitting the policy to the Handbook Committee for inclusion in the next edition of the *NSSAR Handbook*.
- Program Committees retain responsibility for developing, implementing, amending or abolishing policies within their purview. Any such updates should be provided to the Handbook Committee for inclusion in the next edition of the *NSSAR Handbook*. These changes must be approved by the Executive Committee prior to publication.
- Changes to existing SAR medals or awards are generally processed and approved by the responsible Program Committee; *provided* that major changes to design or criteria must be approved by the Medals & Awards Committee.
- New National Society or State Society medals or awards must be processed according to the Medals & Awards Committee's procedures.

Questions on *Handbook* interpretation or application should be directed to the Handbook Committee Chair or the responsible Program Committee Chair.

Each volume of the *NSSAR Handbook* is reviewed annually, typically after the Annual Congress, to ensure the content found in that volume reflects current SAR practices. The Executive Committee annually approves publication of the *NSSAR Handbook* at the Fall Leadership Meeting. Volumes may be updated several times throughout the year to reflect changes provided following the Fall and Spring Leadership meetings. The *NSSAR Handbook* and its periodic revisions are maintained in

electronic format only, available at: [http://www.sar.org/SAR\\_Handbook](http://www.sar.org/SAR_Handbook). Paper copies may be purchased from SAR Merchandise, although such copies are not regularly updated. The electronic version of the *NSSAR Handbook*, as published on the above website, supersedes all prior electronic and paper versions. Each volume of the *NSSAR Handbook* identifies its effective date. Compatriots are encouraged to download the latest editions of the *NSSAR Handbook*. The last two years of the revision history for this volume, if available, is provided below.

The *NSSAR Handbook* reflects hundreds of hours of work and could not have been realized without the valuable assistance of the general officers, committees and Compatriots of the NSSAR. The Handbook Committee greatly appreciates the assistance provided.

## REVISION NOTES

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
01 June 2023	Updated list of Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients
28 Sept 2018	Moved historical roster of Presidents General to Volume II; moved Complete Listing of General Officers to new Volume VIII; added scans of 1906 Charter in Appendix A
15 July 2017	Updated list of General Officers and Vice Presidents General.
01 Oct 2016	Updated list of General Officers and Vice Presidents General.
27 Sept 2014	Updated list of General Officers and Vice Presidents General.
07 Mar 2014	List of General Officers and Vice Presidents General substantially complete.
30 Jan 2014	Created new volume from existing information. Expanded organizational history; corrected misstatements regarding organization history. Expanded volume to include list of general officers and vice presidents general since NSSAR's formation.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### **Formation of the National Society SAR**

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In 1876 there were many celebrations to commemorate the centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. As part of this patriotic fervor, individuals formed several organizations of Revolutionary War descendants whose purpose was to honor those men and women who gave their “lives, fortunes, and sacred honor” to securing independence from Great Britain. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is an outgrowth of these Revolutionary War inspired lineage organizations.

#### *Society of the Cincinnati*

To understand much of the formation of later societies of Revolutionary War descendants, one must acknowledge the formation and membership requirements of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Society of the Cincinnati, formed in 1783, was open to (1) an officer of the Continental Army or Navy who (a) served to the end of the war as an officer with a Line (not Militia or State) regiment, (b) resigned with honor after a minimum of three years’ service, or (c) was rendered supernumerary or was honorably discharged after three years of service; or (2) an officer who served with the French forces under Rochambeau or DeGrasse. The Cincinnati provided for hereditary membership following the line of the eldest male in each generation, using the rule of primogeniture, for descendants of these Original Members.

In 1854, the Cincinnati expanded its membership to include those descendants of officers who could have, but did not, become Original Members. Hereditary membership for this class also follows the line of the eldest male in each generation, using the rule of primogeniture.

If a direct male descendant is lacking, a collateral male descendant may be eligible for membership, if properly qualified and approved by the Cincinnati. Only one male descendant may represent an eligible officer at any time.

#### *The Sons of Revolutionary Sires*

Instituted October 22, 1875, the Sons of Revolutionary Sires appears to be the first organization that actively encouraged membership by descendants of all Revolutionary War patriots. For years following the American Revolution, surviving veterans would participate in Independence Day parades; by 1876, none of these veterans remained. James P. Dameron, of San Francisco, conceived the idea of a group of Revolutionary patriot descendants participating in the Centennial Fourth of July celebrations in honor of these departed veterans. On June 29, 1876, the *Alta California* published the following notice:

1776

1876

ATTENTION! DESCENDANTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTS.

Headquarters Centennial Committee  
212 Kearney Street  
San Francisco, June 28, 1876

You are hereby requested to meet at the Headquarters of the Grand Marshal, No. 212 Kearney street, at 8 o'clock p.m., on Thursday, June 29, for the purpose of making arrangements to participate in the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Nation's Independence.

CHAS. L. WIGGIN,  
Chief of Staff to the Grand Marshal.

As requested in the notice, about twenty-five descendants of Revolutionary War patriots met on the evening of June 29, 1876 for the purpose of organizing themselves to participate in the Centennial Fourth of July celebrations. The assembled group resolved to call themselves the Sons of Revolutionary Sires ("SRS") for participation in the celebration and elected General Adolphus M. Winn – the first Mayor of San Francisco in 1849 and 1850 – as chairman.

On July 1, 1876, the SRS met at the Palace Hotel to accept an official invitation to march in the Fourth of July parade. After accepting an additional thirty-one members, the SRS adjourned until July 4, 1876. At 9:30 in the morning on the Fourth of July, the members of the SRS – now totaling about eighty – gathered at the Palace Hotel to participate in the parade. Following the parade, the SRS returned to the Palace Hotel where Mr. Dameron delivered an address and congratulated the assembly on the success of their effort to commemorate their ancestors' deeds. It was at this meeting that the assembled members unanimously resolved to officially organize the Sons of Revolutionary Sires. The SRS met on July 9, 1876 to elect officers (including electing General Winn as the first SRS president) and again on August 2, 1876 to approve a constitution, bylaws and articles of incorporation.

Following its formation, the SRS endeavored to publicize its formation and establish other branches throughout the United States with the cooperation of other Revolutionary War descendants. Although generally unsuccessful in establishing societies outside California, the SRS provided copies of their formation documents and annual bulletins to several prominent individuals, including Major Asa Bird Gardiner of the New York Society of the Cincinnati. Instead of forming a SRS society in New York, Major Gardiner opted to assist in the organization of the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution.

Shortly after the organization of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the SRS began reorganizing itself in strict conformance with the new SAR Constitution and Bylaws. On March 22, 1890, the SRS officially renamed itself the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

### *The New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution*

The formation of the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution stems from the membership criteria of the Society of the Cincinnati. On June 16, 1873, Horatio Gates Stevens, Vice President of the New York Society of the Cincinnati, died. His eldest son, John Rhinelanders Stevens was admitted into the New York society in his father's place. The next year John Austin Stevens, half cousin of John Rhinelanders Stevens, petitioned the society for membership, proposing that the Cincinnati accept junior lines and multiple descendants per officer. The New York Society of the Cincinnati rejected the proposal.

In December 1875, John Austin Stevens informally organized the Sons of the Revolution in New York City and held a meeting on January 15, 1876 at the New York Historical Society for the purpose of organizing descendants "of officers or soldiers of the Revolutionary Army" to participate in the Philadelphia Centennial Independence ceremonies. The group saw little growth until 1883, when Major Gardner assisted with the formation of the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution. On December 4, 1883, the New York Society held a dinner in the "Long Room" of Fraunces Tavern commemorating George Washington's farewell dinner to his officers, which was held in the same room of Fraunces Tavern in 1783. The New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution met on April 19, 1884 to adopt a constitution and bylaws. The society incorporated in New York on May 3, 1884.

The April 19, 1884 constitution contained two provisions that would later result in the formation of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The first was a provision that seven individuals living outside the state of New York could petition the New York Society to create an "auxiliary branch" of the society in their respective state. The second provision at issue deemed those individuals who had an office in New York to be residents of New York for membership purposes. A third provision of the Society's constitution, adopted on April 11, 1889, required an "auxiliary branch" to be bound by the provisions of the New York Society's April 11, 1889 constitution, "without power to alter or amend the same."

By April 2, 1889, there were societies of the "Sons of the Revolution" in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont. Only the Pennsylvania Society, which was formed in March 1888, was officially recognized by the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution. Both the New Jersey and Connecticut societies' charters had been rejected.

### *The Society of the Sons of the Revolution of New Jersey*

Several members of the New York Society of Sons of the Revolution resided in New Jersey. In February 1889, some of these individuals called upon all New Jersey-resident members of the New York Society to meet on March 7, 1889 in Newark, NJ for the purpose of organizing a New Jersey branch of the New York Society. Josiah C. Pumpelly, Alexander Wilder and William O. McDowell attended the March 7, 1889 meeting and organized the New Jersey Society of the Sons of the Revolution, including adopting a constitution and electing certain officers (although they postponed the election of a President). The members also adopted the following resolution:

*Whereas*, There are now organized Societies of the Sons of the Revolution in the States of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and

*Whereas*, It is desirable, in view of the approaching one-hundredth anniversary of the Inauguration of George Washington as first President of the United States, that there shall be sister societies organized in every State and Territory in the Union, particularly in the thirteen original States, that their members may participate in this Centennial Celebration;

*Resolved*, that the President of this Society, when elected, and the two Delegates to the National Society are hereby appointed a Committee to invite the appointment of a like Committee from the New York and Pennsylvania Societies, to co-operate with them and to meet with the descendants of Revolutionary ancestors in the different States and Territories, and assist in organizing Societies whose membership shall be composed exclusively of descendants of Revolutionary Statesmen, Soldiers and Sailors.

Immediately following the meeting, five more individuals joined the New Jersey Society. On March 8, 1889, having satisfied the New York Society's requirement of seven individuals residing outside of New York, J.C. Pumpelly, Secretary of the New Jersey Society, forwarded a notice of formation to the New York Society, request for issuance of a charter and copies of the above resolution. On March 21, 1889, the members elected General William Scudder Stryker, Adjutant-General of the State of New Jersey, President of the New Jersey Society.

The New York Society declined the New Jersey Society's application, asserting that the application did not conform to the requirements of the New York Society's constitution. The primary objections from the New York Society were that not all of the New Jersey members were members of the New York Society and the New York Society and the Pennsylvania Society were sufficiently close to New Jersey such that the formation of a separate New Jersey Society was not necessary.

The New Jersey Society did not agree with the action of the New York Society, but continued to reach out to the New York Society and offered to reorganize the New Jersey Society in such a way as to be satisfactory to the New York Society. The New Jersey Society also requested that the New York Society, as the first society of the Sons of the Revolution, call a convention of other state societies for the purpose of forming a national society of co-equal state societies of the Sons of the Revolution. On April 16, 1889, the New York Society again rejected the New Jersey Society's request for a charter and declined to organize a national society.

At a meeting on April 20, 1889, the New Jersey Society changed its name to ally itself with the Sons of Revolutionary Sires because the New York Society objected to the use of "Sons of the Revolution" by the "unauthorized" New Jersey Society. The members of the New Jersey Society reiterated their resolve to form an independent national society and crafted a statement to be sent to other state societies of the Sons of the Revolution regarding their grievances with the New York Society.



Because of the New York Society's reluctance, the New Jersey Society spearheaded the formation of a national society and issued the following "Call for a Convention to Organize a National Society of the Sons of the Revolution" on April 10, 1889:

*The special committee of the "SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION of New Jersey," to whom was referred the duty of inviting the organizing of a co-equal sister Society in every State and Territory in the Union and in France, each Society electing delegates to organize a National Society, made up of the president, one delegate-at-large, and one delegate for each one hundred or fraction of one hundred, exceeding fifty, members; every Society to be entitled to at least three representatives, hereby calls a meeting of such delegates to the National Society, elected or to be elected, to take place at 9 A. M., April 30, 1889, the one hundredth anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as first President of the United States, in Fraunces's Tavern, New York, corner of Pearl and Broad streets, in the room where General Washington made his farewell address to the officers of the Revolutionary Army (which has kindly been placed at our disposal by the proprietor for that purpose). It is hoped that every Society will be fully represented.*

WM. O. MCDOWELL, Chairman.  
WM. S. STRYKER,  
W. C. PUMPELLY,  
Special Committee.

The Special Committee sent the above notice to each of the thirteen state societies in existence by April 30, 1889, including California, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Maryland, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, and New Hampshire. In addition, the Special Committee forwarded the following message to the Governors of those states who did not have a society of the Sons of the Revolution.

*National Organization of the "Sons of the Revolution,"  
No. 20 Spruce Street, Newark, N. J., April 19th, 1889.*

*In the organizing of the National Society of the Sons of the Revolution, April 30th, 1889, the Centennial day of our government, it is, in the opinion of this committee, very desirable that every State and Territory in the Union, and the French Society, shall be represented at the meeting called for 9 o'clock a. m., that day, at Fraunces's Tavern, on the corner of Pearl and Broad Streets, N. Y., in the room where General Washington made his farewell address to the officers of the Revolutionary Army; and, in view of the fact that the time is too short in which to complete the organizing of a Society of "Sons of the Revolution" in every State and Territory in time, so that they can elect delegates to this meeting, it has been decided by this committee, to request the Governor of every State and Territory in which a Society of the "Sons of the Revolution" shall not have been organized on the date of the receipt of this, to appoint three delegates, descendants of a*

*Revolutionary ancestry, by either the male or female line, to represent those in their State entitled to membership at the organization of the National Society, and after the adjournment to take charge of organizing their State Societies. It has been further decided to invite the Centennial President, Governor of every State and Territory, and President of each of the great American Colleges, in so far as they are eligible to membership, to participate in this meeting, as special delegates. Governors will please telegraph the names and addresses of the gentlemen they appoint as soon as possible to our Chairman. If they cannot name residents of their State that can arrive in time, if they will telegraph authorizing this committee to appoint representatives for them, we will select descendants of distinguished Revolutionary Soldiers and Statesmen to represent them. The meeting after organizing will adjourn until after May 1st to complete its work. Successful Societies have already been formed, or are forming, in the States of California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, South Carolina, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Maryland, Missouri and New Hampshire.*

WM. O. McDOWELL, Chairman.

WM. S. STRYKER,

J. C. PUMPELLY.

Special Committee of the Sons of the Revolution of New Jersey,  
appointed for this purpose.

In response to these messages, every existing society of the Sons of the Revolution, except the New York Society, sent delegates to the April 30, 1889 meeting at Fraunces Tavern. In addition, the following states also sent delegates to Fraunces Tavern: Indiana, Delaware, West Virginia, Arkansas, Alabama and Illinois.

#### *Formation of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*

At the call of the New Jersey Society for a national convention, the assembled delegates met at 9:00 a.m. on April 30, 1889 in the “Long Room” of Fraunces Tavern. The date marked the centennial of George Washington’s inauguration as the first President of the United States.

After calling the meeting to order, William O. McDowell was nominated to chair the meeting and the assembled delegates resolved to organize a national society of the Sons of the Revolution. Based on comments received from a Pennsylvania Society delegate, Mr. McDowell recommended that the convention organize a national society on a temporary basis and then adjourn to a more convenient date. The Pennsylvania Society delegation advocated this course of action as well as the wholesale adoption of the New York Society’s Constitution, which would have required the assembled state societies to become “auxiliary branches” of the New York Society. During the ensuing debate, the delegates from Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maryland and South Carolina opposed any delay stating that: delegates had come to New York to form a national organization; that attending an adjourned meeting would be inconvenient for many of the current delegates; and that adoption of the New York Society constitution was unacceptable.

The delegates appointed a Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and a Committee on Nomination of Permanent Officers and then adjourned until the following day.

On May 1, 1889, the delegates assembled at 9:30 a.m. at the Produce Exchange. The proposed Constitution and Bylaws of the National Society were read, section by section, and unanimously adopted by the delegates. The delegates also elected officers and instructed the officers to incorporate the national society in Connecticut.

The delegates also debated as to the appropriate name for the National Society. The New Jersey Society and the California Society of the Sons of Revolutionary Sires advocated for the adoption of a National Society of the Sons of Revolutionary Sires. The assembled delegates instead chose “The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.” While “Sons of the Revolution” would have been the most obvious choice (given its use by all of the assembled state societies with the exception of California), the New York Society had demonstrated its reluctance to allow the New Jersey Society to use the name. Further, the delegates felt that adopting a completely different name would be burdensome to the majority of organized state societies and would operate as a barrier to an ultimate unification with the New York Society. Despite these concerns, the delegates believed that the difference between the New York Society and the new national society needed to be formally indicated. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was born.

### **Important Milestones in the History of the SAR**

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The first social meeting of the SAR was held at Delmonico’s Restaurant in New York City on March 1, 1890, with 110 compatriots present from throughout the United States.

The first SAR National Congress was held in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 30, 1890. A refined Constitution and other major issues were decided. Membership required lineal descent from a Revolutionary Patriot. At the end of the first year, the membership of the SAR was 2,500 in 28 Societies. The first membership certificate, National Number 1 was assigned to William Osborne McDowell of the New Jersey Society. Annual dues were set at 25 cents.

In 1893, the Elizabethtown Chapter, the first chapter in the Sons of the American Revolution, was formed by the New Jersey Society.

During the term of President General Edward S. Barrett of the Massachusetts, the French Society was formed in September 1897. In 1918 it became the custom, inaugurated by the French Society, of flying the American flag continuously over the grave of the Marquis de Lafayette in the Picpus Cemetery in Paris. During World War II, German forces respected the tradition and the American flag flew over Lafayette’s grave every day. In May 1945 the French Society was reorganized and every year since has participated in a ceremony at the grave of Lafayette.

An early SAR resolution resulted in the United States Congress passing a law directing the War Department to collect and properly store Revolutionary War Records.

The Massachusetts Society initiated a program to suitably mark the graves of Patriots. In 1894, a marker was placed on the grave of Marquis General de Lafayette in Paris, France, and in 1896, a marker was also placed on Benjamin Franklin's grave in Philadelphia. The decade of 1900 to 1910 was a period when the SAR erected hundreds of tablets and monuments to commemorate the deeds and memories of Revolutionary War events and patriots. Many of these memorials were imposing tributes. Today, SAR members seek out Patriot graves to place the SAR marker. Other chapters and societies conduct wreath-laying ceremonies at Patriot graves.

In 1926, during the 37th SAR Annual Congress, an action was initiated to secure a national Headquarters in the nation's capital. Fifty-three years later our National Headquarters was moved to 1000 South Fourth Street, in Louisville, Kentucky. At the Trustees/Leadership meeting in the spring of 2008, the SAR voted to purchase a building in the museum district of Louisville to be the new headquarters and SAR Education Center and Museum.

Harold Putnam and Harold Marshall wrote the SAR Pledge that is said at the beginning of each meeting. It was first adopted by the California Society in 1939 and later adopted by the Trustees of the National Society at Washington, DC, in 1954.

### **Distinguished Members of the SAR**

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Today, SAR membership rolls are approaching 200,000 Compatriots. Many men from all walks of life have joined the SAR.

#### ***Presidents of the United States***

The following United States Presidents have been or are members of the Sons of the American Revolution:

Rutherford B. Hayes	Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Benjamin Harrison	Harry S. Truman
William McKinley	Dwight David Eisenhower
Theodore Roosevelt	Lyndon Baines Johnson
William Howard Taft	Gerald R. Ford
Warren G. Harding	James E. Carter, Jr.
Calvin Coolidge	George Herbert Walker Bush
Herbert Clark Hoover	George Walker Bush

In addition, President Ulysses S. Grant, who died before the founding of the Sons of the American Revolution, was a member of the Society of Sons of Revolutionary Sires.

Presidents Grover Cleveland, Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama had or have qualifying lineage but did not join the Sons of the American Revolution. Presidents Woodrow Wilson, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Donald Trump did not have qualifying lineage. All U.S. Presidents not mentioned above died prior to the founding of the SAR in 1889.

### ***Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients<sup>1</sup>***

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government. It is generally presented by the President of the United States in the name of Congress and thus is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor. There are 27 known compatriots who have received the nation's highest military award.

<i>Civil War 1861-1865</i>	<i>Philippine Insurrection</i>
2nd Lt George Greenville Benedict	Captain Bernard Abert Byrne
Captain George Washington Brush	Major John Alexander Logan, Jr.
Captain Clinton Albert Cilley	
Major Ira Hobart Evans	<i>Non-Combat Gallantry 1881-1890</i>
Colonel Lewis Addison Grant	Lieutenant William Lowell Hill
Brigadier General Horatio Collins King	
Major Byron MacCutcheon	<i>Non-Combat Gallantry 1901-1910</i>
Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles	Major General Adolphus Washington Greely
Major General Theodore S. Peck	
Captain Horace Porter	<i>Mexican Campaign (Vera Cruz 1914)</i>
Colonel Philip Sidney Post	Rear Admiral Frank Friday Fletcher
Brigadier General Edmund Rice	
Brigadier General Rufus Saxton	<i>Non-Combat Gallantry 1921-1930</i>
Major General William R. Shafter	Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Jr.
Captain David Sloane Stanley	
Captain Edward Washburn Whitaker	<i>World War II</i>
Colonel Orlando Bolivar Willcox	Technical Sergeant Charles H. Coolidge
	Captain Robert Hugo Dunlap
<i>Indian Campaigns</i>	Captain Joseph Jacob Foss
1st Lt John Breckinridge Babcock	Sergeant John Druse "Bud" Hawk
2nd Lt Powhatan Henry Clarke	General of the Army Douglas MacArthur
1st Lt John Chowning Gresham	Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.
2nd Lt Charles Heath Heyl	General Jonathan Wainwright
2nd Lt Oscar Fitzalan Long	Sergeant Hershel Woodrow Williams
Surgeon John O. Skinner	
	<i>Vietnam</i>
<i>War with Spain</i>	Major General Patrick Henry Brady
Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt	Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, USN

### ***Military and Public Figures***

In addition to the individuals identified above, the following other prominent members of the military have been or are members of the Sons of the American Revolution: General of the Armies John J. Pershing; General Darius N. Couch, Union Army (Civil War); Admiral of the

<sup>1</sup> The information for this section comes primarily from research done by President General Stephen A. Leishman. In turn, he received assistance from Paul Hayes (DCSSAR President 2007-2009) and Mrs. Wilma "Sunni" Bond, widow of Thomas J. Bond, Jr. (Registrar General 1994-1996).

Navy George Dewey, hero of the Battle of Manila Bay; Fleet Admiral William F. “Bull” Halsey; General of the Air Force Henry “Hap” H. Arnold; and Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr.

Numerous Senators, Representatives, State Governors and other public figures may also be counted among the list of Compatriots. They include Vice Presidents of the United States Levi P. Morton, Charles G. Dawes, and Nelson A. Rockefeller; Thomas F. Bayard, Jr., Secretary of State; Elihu Root, Secretary of War and Secretary of State; Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War; Elisha Dyer, Jr., Governor of Rhode Island; and Professor Henry L. Gates, Jr., chair of Harvard University’s African American Studies Program.

In addition, SAR rosters have also included such international members as Sir Winston Churchill of England, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, and King Felipe VI of Spain.

### **SAR Programs & Outreach**

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Throughout the years the SAR has conducted a number of youth programs and awarded its medals to recognize conspicuous public service and achievement of young adults of high school and college age. The emphasis in recent times has been to make these presentations at the local level in an effort to let the public know about our organization and goals. Bronze Good Citizenship medals and JROTC medals are awarded in the high schools. Silver ROTC medals are awarded at the college level. Oration contests are conducted at the local level giving high school students the opportunity to present a prepared talk on a patriotic theme. The national competition concludes at Congress each year. National winners in the Eagle Scout Program and the Essay Contest are also recognized at Congress at the Youth Luncheon.

Recently, the American History Teacher of the Year Award program was created to recognize extraordinary educators at private, public, and parochial institutions for actively addressing the history of the American Revolutionary era in their classes. This program is to recognize those who teach our children in middle or high school. The teacher selected for this award receives a trip to Freedoms Foundation Summer Teacher Graduate Workshop at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. This award, valued at \$1,400.00, includes tuition, room, and board provided through the Freedoms Foundation.

The Sons of the American Revolution recognizes people in public service at the local and state level. In the past SAR has honored judges, fire department personnel, law enforcement personnel, U.S. Senators and Representatives, Presidents, Corporations, community councils, churches, and individuals from all walks of life with such awards at the Silver and Gold Good Citizenship Medals, SAR Distinguished Patriot Award and SAR Distinguished Community Service Award.

Compatriot members in colonial attire have performed civic services and in ceremonies since the beginning of the National Society. In the 1980s, State Societies began forming Color Guard units wearing Continental uniforms. In 1989 President General James R. Westlake called for a National Color Guard to be formed. Today, we see SAR Color Guard units across the country participating in parades on patriotic occasions, naturalization ceremonies, wreath laying and other commemorative services, and at burials of SAR members.

As the SAR prepares to go to press with this new edition of the SAR Handbook, the national organization is becoming more than just a genealogical society. Within the past couple of years the Society has employed an Educational Director to oversee the creation of educational outreach programs to communities and schools, and for the development of resource materials for Society members and other patrons to take back to their hometowns.

In October 2002, the National Society created an SAR Foundation. The Foundation has employed a Development Director who collaborates with the President General and Foundation Board of Directors to strengthen the fundraising arm which provides support for the mission of the SAR Education Center and Museum and other Society goals and endeavors. The Foundation has also employed a person skilled at writing proposals for grants that will provide funds to expand the Center and our educational outreach programs.

Today, there is growing interest in the history of the American Revolution. It should be remembered that the strength and power of this nation rests not so much in the material resources as in the spirit of the people. It was this spirit that inspired the creation of our Great Nation by our patriotic ancestors. The growth of the SAR has been steady and since inception the public-spirited members have given generously of their time, labor, and means in promoting the objectives. The SAR is a story of work in progress. Let us continue this enthusiasm into the 22nd Century for the benefit of America's future generations.

## **HISTORY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

### **Early Corporate Organization of the NSSAR**

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During the second day of the initial organization meeting, May 1, 1889, the organizing members of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution voted to incorporate the National Society and, for convenience, recommended incorporation in State of Connecticut. On January 18, 1890, Judge Lucius P. Deming, President General, and Lt. James C. Cresap, USN, Secretary General, filed a certificate of incorporation with the Secretary of State for the State of Connecticut.

During the December 4, 1904 meeting of the National Society's General Board of Managers at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, the Board of Managers questioned the propriety and legality of the Connecticut incorporation. A Committee on Incorporation of the National Society reported at the May 1, 1905 General Board of Managers meeting – held in Independence Hall, Philadelphia – reported that “the so-called incorporation in Connecticut is not sufficient for the purposes of this Society.” Proceedings of the Meetings, p.3. Essentially, Connecticut law did not permit incorporation of societies such as the Sons of the American Revolution. *Id.*

On May 2, 1905, the Committee on Incorporation further reported to the delegates of the 16th Annual Congress – also held in Independence Hall in Philadelphia – that the Connecticut incorporation did not follow the correct procedures, resulting in the Society becoming a voluntary association rather than a corporation. The Congress voted to form a second special

committee, consisting of Compatriots Judge Morris B. Beardsley (CTSSAR) and John P. Earnest (DCSSAR), instructing the committee to secure incorporation under the laws of the District of Columbia and secure “a special charter” from the United States Congress. 1905 National Society Yearbook, pp. 166-67.

As directed by the Philadelphia Congress, the committee reported to the General Board of Managers at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on Saturday, November 26, 1905. Judge Beardsley “reported that it seemed inexpedient to secure incorporation under the laws of the District of Columbia because of certain local requirements.” 1906 National Yearbook, p. 88. Judge Beardsley recommended that incorporation be secured by action of the United States Congress. The Board of Managers accepted this report and directed the special committee to proceed with seeking a charter from the United States Congress.

### **Obtaining a Congressional Charter**

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Following the November 26, 1905 Board of Managers meeting, Compatriot Beardsley and his committee drafted a bill chartering the National Society. Compatriot Congressman Ebenezer J. Hill (CTSSAR) introduced House of Representatives Bill #15332 – An Act to Incorporate the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution – on January 26, 1906. After review and approval by the House Committee on the District of Columbia, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 15332 on February 26, 1906. H.R. #15332 was transmitted to the United States Senate and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

On April 30, 1906, delegates to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress – held in Boston, Massachusetts – received the report of the Committee on Incorporation, indicating that passage of the Act of Incorporation had been delayed. Compatriot Beardsley also reported that the Committee on Incorporation did not seek an initial temporary incorporation in the District of Columbia because “the laws of the District of Columbia provided that a majority of the incorporators should be residents of the District.” 1906 Yearbook, p. 93. The Committee considered this to be impracticable because the incorporators of the new National Society would be the National Officers, living former Presidents General, the Board of Management and the Presidents of the State Societies in 1906. *Id.* The delegates to the Boston Congress approved the report and ratified the actions of the Committee.

Following the Boston Congress (May 23, 1906), the Act of Incorporation passed the Senate with a minor amendment and returned back to the House of Representatives. PG Bessent article. The bill passed the House of Representatives, as amended, on June 5, 1906. *Id.*

On June 9, 1906, the President of the United States (and fellow Compatriot), Theodore Roosevelt, signed “An Act to Incorporate the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution,” now designated Public Law No. 59-214 [34 Stat. 227-228], into law. An original copy of the Act of Incorporation is preserved by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



**The 1906 Congressional Charter**

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[Public Law No. 214.]

H. R. 15332.  
FIFTY-NINTH CONGRESS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the First Session,  
Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fourth day of December, one  
thousand nine hundred and five.

AN ACT

To Incorporate the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Francis Henry Appleton, of Massachusetts; Lucius P. Deming, of Connecticut; William Seward Webb, of Vermont; Horace Porter, of New York; Joseph C. Breckinridge, of Washington, District of Columbia; Franklin Murphy, of New Jersey; Walter S. Logan, of New York; Edwin Warfield, of Maryland; Edwin S. Greeley, of Connecticut; James D. Hancock, of Pennsylvania; Morris B. Beardsley, of Connecticut; John C. Lewis, of Kentucky; Henry Stockbridge, of Maryland; Nelson A. McClary, of Illinois; A. Howard Clark, of Washington, District of Columbia; Isaac W. Birdseye, of Connecticut; William K. Wickes, of New York; J. W. Atwood, of Ohio; J. W. Whiting, of Alabama; Ricardo E. Miner, of Arizona; Joseph M. Hill, of Arkansas; Alexander G. Eells, of California; Clarkson N. Guyer, of Colorado; Jonathan Trumbull, of Connecticut; Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; William H. Bayly, of Washington, District of Columbia; William S. Keyser, of Florida; Charles M. Cooke, of Hawaii; Inman H. Fowler, of Indiana ; Eugene Secor, of Iowa; John M. Meade, of Kansas; Peter F. Pescud, of Louisiana; Waldo Pettengill, of Maine; James D. Iglehart, of Maryland; Moses G. Parker, of Massachusetts; Rufus W. Clark, of Michigan; James C. Haynes, of Minnesota; Ashley Cabell, of Missouri; Ogden A. Southmayd, of Montana; Amos Field, of Nebraska; Daniel C. Roberts, of New Hampshire; J. Franklin Fort, of New Jersey; William A. Marble, of New York; Isaac F. Mack, of Ohio; Henry H. Edwards, of Oklahoma; Thomas M. Anderson, of Oregon; William L. Jones, of Pennsylvania; John E. Studley, of Rhode Island; Theodore G. Carter, of South Dakota; J. A. Cartwright, of Tennessee; I. M. Standifer, of Texas; Fred A. Hale, of Utah; Henry D. Holton, of Vermont; Lunsford L. Lewis, of Virginia; Cornelius H. Hanford, of Washington; J. Franklin Pierce, of Wisconsin; Trueman G. Avery, of New York; William W. J. Warren, of New York; Henry V. A. Joslin, of Rhode Island; John Paul Earnest, of Washington, District of Columbia; A. S. Hubbard, of California, and all such other persons as may from time to time be associated with them, and their successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, in the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, by the name of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

SEC. 2. That the purposes and objects of said corporation are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the Government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

SEC. 3. That said corporation shall have power to receive, purchase, hold, sell, and convey real and personal estate, so far only as may be necessary or convenient for its lawful purposes, to an amount not exceeding at any one time in the aggregate five hundred thousand dollars; to sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court; to adopt a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure; to make and adopt a constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations for admission, government, suspension, and expulsion of its members, and from time to time to alter and repeal such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations, and to adopt others in their places; to provide for the election of its officers and to define their duties; to provide for State Societies or Chapters with rules for their conduct, and to regulate and provide for the management, safe-keeping, and protection of its property and funds; Provided always, That such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations be not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any of the States thereof.

SEC. 4. That the property and affairs of said corporation shall be managed by not more than sixty nor less than forty trustees, who shall be elected annually at such time as shall be fixed in the by-laws, and at least one trustee shall be elected annually from a list of nominees to be made by each of the State Societies and submitted to this Society at least thirty days before the annual meeting, in accordance with general provisions regulating such nominations as may be adopted by this Society.

SEC. 5. That the first meeting of this corporation shall be held on a call issued by any fifteen of the above-named corporators by a written notice signed by them, stating the time and place of meeting, addressed to each of the corporators personally named herein and deposited in the post-office at least five days before the day of meeting.

SEC. 6. That this charter shall take effect upon its being accepted by a majority vote of the corporators named herein who shall be present at said meeting, or at any other meeting specially called for that purpose; and notice of such acceptance shall be given by said corporation by causing a certificate to that effect signed by its President and Secretary to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

SEC. 7. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this act.

J. G. CANNON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

CHAS. W. FAIRBANKS,  
*Vice-President of the United States  
and President of the Senate.*

Approved, June 9, 1906.  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

### **Accepting the Congressional Charter**

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Anticipating receipt of a congressional charter, the Boston Congress created a special committee to revise the Constitution and Bylaws and President General James Hancock appointed the following Compatriots to the committee: Judge Morris B. Beardsley (CTSSAR), Chairman; Nelson A. McClary (ILSSAR); John Paul Earnest (DCSSAR); and Judge Henry Stockbridge (MDSSAR).

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Congressional Charter, the first meeting of the new corporation, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, was held at the New Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. on November 17, 1906. At this meeting, the incorporators formally accepted the Congressional Charter and communicated their certificate of acceptance to the Secretary of State. The incorporators also adopted a temporary Constitution and Bylaws and elected officers to serve until the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress, held in Denver, Colorado on June 2-4, 1907. 1907 Yearbook, pp. 104-105.

Accepting the Congressional Charter required revisions to the National Society's Constitution and Bylaws. While the original Constitution was not radically changed (for example, "Board of Trustees" replaced "Board of Managers"), the main business of the Denver Congress was revision of the Constitution. Significant topics included the number of Congress delegates, the timing of Annual Congresses and national dues. A new SAR Constitution and Bylaws consistent with the new Charter was approved, and the new Society incorporated by the United States Congress came into existence. 1907 Yearbook, pp. 102-141.

### **Amendments to the 1906 Congressional Charter**

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Congress has amended the original Act of Incorporation on two occasions:

- On February 6, 1925, President (and Compatriot) Calvin Coolidge approved Public Law No. 68-362, which amended Section 4 of the 1906 Act of Incorporation by striking the following text: "more than sixty nor". This amendment allowed the Board of Trustees to have more than sixty trustees.
- On September 8, 1961, President John F. Kennedy approved Public Law No. 87-214, which amended Section 3 of the 1906 Act of Incorporation by striking out the following text: ", to an amount not exceeding at any one time in the aggregate \$500,000". The Society was now able to buy, hold or sell property without regard to dollar amounts.

## **The Post-1961 Amended Congressional Charter**

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Congress codified the 1906 Act of Incorporation and the 1925 and 1961 amendments into Title 36 of the United States Code, §§ 20a-20g. From 1961 until 1998 (when superseded by 36 U.S.C. §§ 153301, *et seq.*), the Congressional Charter read:

### **§ 20a. Corporation created**

Francis Henry Appleton, of Massachusetts; Lucius P. Deming, of Connecticut; William Seward Webb, of Vermont; Horace Porter, of New York; Joseph C. Breckinridge, of Washington, District of Columbia; Franklin Murphy, of New Jersey; Walter S. Logan, of New York; Edwin Warfield, of Maryland; Edwin S. Greeley, of Connecticut; James D. Hancock, of Pennsylvania; Morris B. Beardsley, of Connecticut; John C. Lewis, of Kentucky; Henry Stockbridge, of Maryland; Nelson A. McClary, of Illinois; A. Howard Clark, of Washington, District of Columbia; Isaac W. Birdseye, of Connecticut; William K. Wickes, of New York; J. W. Atwood, of Ohio; J. W. Whiting, of Alabama; Ricardo E. Miner, of Arizona; Joseph M. Hill, of Arkansas; Alexander G. Eells, of California; Clarkson N. Guyer, of Colorado; Jonathan Trumbull, of Connecticut; Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; William H. Bayly, of Washington, District of Columbia; William S. Keyser, of Florida; Charles M. Cook, of Hawaii; Inman H. Fowler, of Indiana; Eugene Secor, of Iowa; John M. Meade, of Kansas; Peter F. Pescud, of Louisiana; Waldo Pettengill, of Maine; James D. Iglehart, of Maryland; Moses G. Parker, of Massachusetts; Rufus W. Clark, of Michigan; James C. Haynes, of Minnesota; Ashley Cabell, of Missouri; Ogden A. Southmayd, of Montana; Amos Field, of Nebraska; Daniel C. Roberts, of New Hampshire; J. Franklin Fort, of New Jersey; William A. Marble, of New York; Isaac F. Mack, of Ohio; Henry H. Edwards, of Oklahoma; Thomas M. Anderson, of Oregon; William L. Jones, of Pennsylvania; John E. Studely, of Rhode Island; Theodore G. Carter, of South Dakota; J. A. Cartwright, of Tennessee; I. M. Standifer, of Texas; Fred A. Hale, of Utah; Henry D. Holton, of Vermont; Lunsford L. Lewis, of Virginia; Cornelius H. Hanford, of Washington; J. Franklin Pierce, of Wisconsin; Truman G. Avery, of New York; William W. J. Warren, of New York; Henry V. A. Joslin, of Rhode Island; John Paul Earnest, of Washington, District of Columbia; A. S. Hubbard, of California, and all such other persons as may from time to time be associated with them, and their successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, in the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, by the name of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

### **§ 20b. Purposes of corporation**

The purposes and objects of corporation are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the Government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

**§ 20c. Powers of corporation; restriction**

The corporation shall have power to receive, purchase, hold, sell, and convey real and personal estate, so far only as may be necessary or convenient for its lawful purposes; to sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court; to adopt a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure; to make and adopt a constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations for admission, government, suspension, and expulsion of its members, and from time to time to alter and repeal such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations, and to adopt others in their places; to provide for the election of its officers and to define their duties; to provide for State societies or chapters with rules for their conduct, and to regulate and provide for the management, safe-keeping, and protection of its property and funds: *Provided always*, That such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations be not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any of the States thereof.

**§ 20d. Trustees**

The property and affairs of said corporation shall be managed by not less than forty trustees, who shall be elected annually at such time as shall be fixed in the by-laws, and at least one trustee shall be elected annually from a list of nominees to be made by each of the State societies and submitted to this society at least thirty days before the annual meeting, in accordance with general provisions regulating such nominations as may be adopted by this society.

**§ 20e. First meeting**

The first meeting of this corporation shall be held on a call issued by any fifteen of the above-named corporators by a written notice signed by them, stating the time and place of meeting, addressed to each of the corporators personally named herein and deposited in the post-office at least five days before the day of meeting.

**§ 20f. Charter**

This charter shall take effect upon its being accepted by a majority vote of the corporators named herein who shall be present at said meeting, or at any other meeting specially called for that purpose; and notice of such acceptance shall be given by said corporation by causing a certificate to that effect signed by its president and secretary to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

**§ 20g. Reservation of right to amend or repeal chapter**

Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this chapter.

**1998 Revision and Recodification of the Congressional Charter**

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On August 12, 1998, the President Bill Clinton signed Public Law No. 105-225 (“An Act to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations, as title 36, United States Code, Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations”). P.L. 105-225 made technical, conforming, and consolidating changes to the Charter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The revised and restated Charter is now codified in Chapter 1533, Title 36, United States Code. In connection with the 1998 revisions to the Charter, Congress provided the following interpretive comments to P.L. 105-225:

SECTION 153301

This section is substituted for 36:20a for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary and executed words. The text of 36:20e and 20f is omitted as obsolete.

SECTION 153302

Before clause (1), the words “objects” and “declared to be” are omitted as unnecessary.

SECTION 153303

In clause (1), the words “make and” and “rules” are omitted as unnecessary. The word “amend” is substituted for “and from time to time to alter and repeal such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations, and to adopt others in their places” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “*Provided always*, That such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations be not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any of the States thereof” are omitted as unnecessary.

Clause (2) is substituted for “to adopt a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In clause (4), the word “regulations” is substituted for “rules” for consistency. The word “their” is substituted for “its” for clarity.

Clause (5) is substituted for “receive, purchase, hold, sell, and convey real and personal estate, so far only as may be necessary or convenient for its lawful purposes” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In clause (6), the words “complain and defend in any court” are omitted as unnecessary.

SECTION 153304

The word “corporation” is substituted for “society” for consistency.

*See* H.R. Rep. No. 105-326, at 186-187 (1997).

**The Current Congressional Charter (Post-1998 Version)**

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The current, official text of Congressional Charter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, 36 U.S.C. Chap. 1533 (1998), is contained on page 1, Volume I of the *NSSAR Handbook*.

THIS VERSION OF THE SAR'S CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER WAS SUPERSEDED BY STATUTE.  
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HISTORICAL PURPOSES.

APPENDIX A: IMAGES OF 1906 SAR CHARTER

[Public - No. 214]

H. R. 15332.

Fifty-ninth Congress  
of the  
United States of America,  
At the First Session,

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the  
fourth day of December, one thousand nine hundred  
and five*

---

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

---

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives  
of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That  
Francis Henry Appleton, of Massachusetts; Lucius P. Deming,  
of Connecticut; William Seward Webb, of Vermont; Horace  
Porter, of New York; Joseph C. Breckinridge, of Washing-  
ton, District of Columbia; Franklin Murphy, of New Jersey;  
Walter F. Logan, of New York; Edwin Warfield, of Mary-*



land; Edwin S. Greeley, of Connecticut; James D. Hancock, of Pennsylvania; Morris B. Beardsley, of Connecticut; John C. Lewis, of Kentucky; Henry Rockbridge, of Maryland; Nelson A. M. Clary, of Illinois; A. Howard Clark, of Washington, District of Columbia; Isaac W. Birdseye, of Connecticut; William K. Wickes, of New York; J. W. Atwood, of Ohio; J. W. Whiting, of Alabama; Ricardo E. Miner, of Arizona; Joseph M. Hill, of Arkansas; Alexander G. Eells, of California; Clarkson N. Guyer, of Colorado; Jonathan Trumbull, of Connecticut; Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; William H. Bayly, of Washington, District of Columbia; William S. Keyser, of Florida; Charles M. Cook, of Hawaii; Inman H. Fowler, of Indiana; Eugene Lecer, of Iowa; John M. Meade, of Kansas; Peter F. Pescud, of Louisiana; Waldo Pettengill, of Maine; James D. Iglehart, of Maryland; Moses D. Parker, of Massachusetts; Rufus W. Clark, of Michigan; James C. Haynes, of Minnesota; Ashley Cabell, of Missouri; Ogden A. Southmayd, of Montana; Amos Field, of Nebraska; Daniel C. Roberts, of New Hampshire; J. Franklin Fort, of New Jersey; William A. Marble, of New York; Isaac F. Mack, of Ohio; Henry H. Edwards, of Oklahoma; Thomas M. Anderson, of Oregon; William L. Jones, of Pennsylvania; John E. Studely, of Rhode Island; Theodore G. Carter, of South Dakota;



*J. A. Cartwright, of Tennessee; J. M. Standifer, of Texas; Fred A. Hale, of Utah; Henry D. Kelton, of Vermont; Lunsford L. Lewis, of Virginia; Cornelius H. Hanford, of Washington; J. Franklin Pierce, of Wisconsin; Truman G. Avery, of New York; William W. J. Warren, of New York; Henry V. A. Joslin, of Rhode Island; John Paul Earnest, of Washington, District of Columbia; A. S. Hubbard, of California, and all such other persons as may from time to time be associated with them, and their successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, in the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, by the name of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.*

*Sec. 2. That the purposes and objects of said corporation are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the Government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve*



*the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.*

**Sec. 3.** *That said corporation shall have power to receive, purchase, hold, sell, and convey real and personal estate, so far only as may be necessary or convenient for its lawful purposes, to an amount not exceeding at any one time in the aggregate five hundred thousand dollars; to sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court; to adopt a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure; to make and adopt a constitution, by laws, rules, and regulations for admission, government, suspension, and expulsion of its members, and from time to time to alter and repeal such constitution, by laws, rules, and regulations, and to adopt others in their places; to provide for the election of its officers and to define their duties; to provide for State societies or chapters with*



rules for their conduct, and to regulate and provide for the management, safe-keeping, and protection of its property and funds: Provided always, That such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations be not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any of the States thereof.

**Sec. 4.** That the property and affairs of said corporation shall be managed by not more than sixty nor less than forty trustees, who shall be elected annually at such time as shall be fixed in the by-laws, and at least one trustee shall be elected annually from a list of nominees to be made by each of the State societies and submitted to this society at least thirty days before the annual meeting, in accordance with general provisions regulating such nominations as may be adopted by this society.

**Sec. 5.** That the first meeting of this corporation shall be held on a call issued by any fifteen of the above-named corporators by a written notice signed by them, stating the time and place of meeting, addressed to each of the corporators personally named herein and deposited in the post-office at least five days before the day of meeting.

**Sec. 6.** That this charter shall take effect upon its being accepted by a majority vote of the corporators named herein who shall be present at said meeting, or at any other meeting specially called for that purpose; and

THIS VERSION OF THE SAR'S CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER WAS SUPERSEDED BY STATUTE.  
THESE IMAGES ARE NOT THE OPERATIVE CHARTER AND APPEAR HERE ONLY FOR  
HISTORICAL PURPOSES.

*notice of such acceptance shall be given by said corporation by causing a certificate to that effect signed by its president and secretary to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.*

*Sec. 7. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act.*

*J. G. Cannon*  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

*Charles W. Fairbanks*  
*Vice President of the United States and*  
*President of the Senate.*

*Approved, June 9, 1906.*

*Theodore Roosevelt*



THIS VERSION OF THE SAR'S CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER WAS SUPERSEDED BY STATUTE.  
THESE IMAGES ARE NOT THE OPERATIVE CHARTER AND APPEAR HERE ONLY FOR  
HISTORICAL PURPOSES.

No. 5181.

# United States of America.

Department of State.

*To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:*

*I Certify That hereto annexed is a true copy of an Act of Congress, approved June 9, 1906, the original of which is on file in this Department, entitled "An Act To incorporate the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution."*

*In testimony whereof I, Elihu Root, Secretary of State, have herewith set my hand and caused the Seal of the Department of State to be affixed at the City of Washington, this tenth day of May, 1907.*



*Elihu Root*