



The Riverside Chapter's Rivulet



January 2025

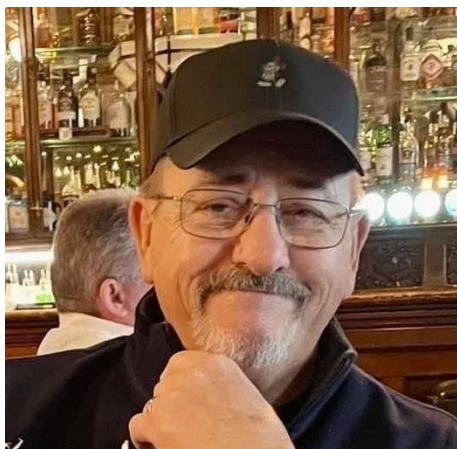
January Meeting

Date: January 15, 2025
11:30 AM

Location: Cactus Cantina
Mission Grove Center
151 E. Alessandro Blvd
Riverside, CA

Program: Induction of 2025 Officers
The Southern Campaign
Part 1
RSVP Not Required

The Riverside Chapter mourns the loss of Compatriot Ron D. Melton (1956-2024) Ron joined SAR in 1996 and served a term as VP Programs.



Your 2025 Chapter Officers

President: Michael Mann

1st Vice President: William Vining

2nd Vice President: Roger Cooper

Secretary: Gene Justin

Treasurer: John Matulich

Registrar: David Leonard

Appointed Positions

Chaplain: Wayne Rogers

Historian/Newsletter Editor: David Leonard

Color Guard Commander: Brian Stephens

Scout Coordinator: Mike Heckenlaible

JROTC/Sea Cadets Coord.: John Matulich



David Phillips	January 5
David Runnells	January 9
David Leonard	January 29
Gregg Rice	January 29

William H. "Bill" Vining III Returns to the SAR

The Riverside Chapter color guard has enjoyed much success over the years by promoting the history and principles of the SAR, while also serving as the primary income source for the chapter.



The person who spearheaded the formation of the color guard was Bill Vining. The uniform of Riverside's Mighty 4th Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line was selected by Bill in recognition of his Patriot Ancestor, Private Titus Hart of Connecticut.

David Leonard, Bill Vining, & Chuck Lampman 1997

After serving as Vice President Americanism in 1996, Bill became the first Color Guard Commander in 1997 as the Guard launched appearances all over southern California. The notion of each SAR Chapter having a color guard had not yet taken off, so existence of a colonial guard unit was still a novel concept in the region.

Bill proceeded to serve as President of the Riverside Chapter in 1997, and as Chapter Secretary in 1998. But Bill's leadership and participation in Chapter activities was quickly coming to an end. He was promoted to the position of Homicide Detective for the Orange County Sheriff Department and that required his full attention.

The years and the decades passed. In November 2024, a now retired Bill Vining appeared at our monthly chapter meeting. The members found a position for him on the Board at the December meeting nominating him to the VP American position he held in 1996. Despite the passage of time, Bill remains a stalwart in honoring his patriot ancestors and lending his time to the SAR. We welcome him back!



David Leonard and Bill Vining 2024

Recognitions

Five Year Pins

Mike Heckenlaible
Gene Justin

Salute to Veterans Parade & Expo

Certificates of Appreciation

David Leonard	Mike Mann	Brian Stephens
Diane Stephens	Hal Cardwell	Roger Cooper
John Matulich	Mike Heckenlaible	Gene Justin

A Salute to Veterans Parade 2024

The Riverside Chapter SAR has participated in the Salute to Veterans Parade in Riverside since the parade's inception in 2006. Our color guard is usually among the lead units in the parade, making a joyful noise with muskets blazing to the delight of parade spectators. The parade activities have expanded over the years to include an "EXPO" for patriotic organizations to promote themselves to parade spectators and participants. The 2024 Parade was held on November 11.

The Marching Unit

As the manpower of the Mighty 4th Connecticut of the Continental Line has dissipated over the years, the Chapter has reached out to color guards from other SAR chapters to join us in this patriotic event. As one of the last venues in southern California where live gun fire is allowed, we draw SAR color guards from the Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, and even Kern Counties. The entire unit posed for the photo below just before the parade. The Riverside Chapter was represented by VPG West Brian Stephens, his wife Diane, David Leonard, and Hal Cardwell.



VPG West Brian Stephens (r) demonstrates his expertise in musket firing in a news article that appeared in the Local Press Enterprise newspaper.



Sons of the American Revolution fire their muskets as they march along Market Street on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, during A Salute to Veterans Parade in Riverside. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

A Salute to Veterans Parade 2024 continued

The EXPO Display Table

While the marching unit captured the attention of the public, the EXPO table served as an important means to educate the public about the period of the Revolutionary War. The table, anchored among a display of flags, included civilian and military artifacts, weaponry, and information about the Sons of the American Revolution. The table was manned by Mike Mann, John Matulich, Gene Justin, Mike Heckenlaible, and Roger Cooper, who also served as drivers to return those marching in the parade back to their vehicles.



John Matulich speaking with Rep. Mark Takano (D) Riverside, who served as Grand Marshall of the parade.

Unknown female with Zack Earp and Rep. Mark Takano at the SAR Expo table. Mr. Earp is a distant descendant of the Wyatt Earp family. He sits on the Salute to Veterans Parade Committee, and can be seen on *Life Alert* TV commercials.



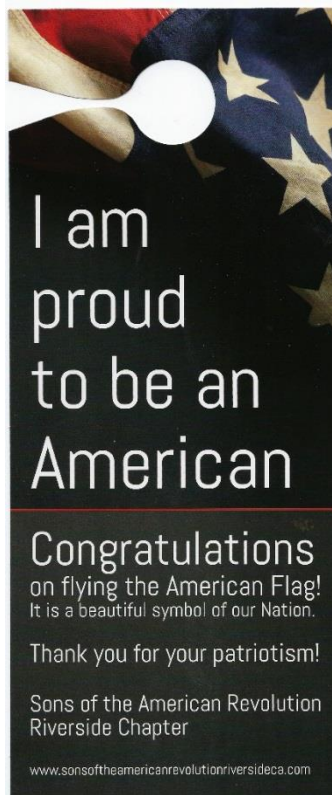
Given the growth in the regional significance of the Salute to Veterans Parade, particularly as one of the few remaining public events allowing live fire, this event is now considered among the notable annual events of the California Society SAR. All participants are eligible to receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Vice President General West Brian Stephens. The list of Riverside participants is provided under Recognitions on Page 2. Participation is open to all members and prospective members of the SAR.

Chapter Meeting Program Series Announced for 2025

Our 2025 program series will assess the Crown's attempt to divide the "Colonies" to break a stalemate in the war. Roger Cooper will guide us through videos that cover the invasion of the southern colonies. The invasion begins with the Battle of Charleston, as the Crown attempts to create support among the Loyalists to the Crown, whom the Crown perceived to be the vast majority of the Colonists. The series will reveal the gradual decline of the Crown's attempt to divide and conquer the Colonies. We urge all members and prospective members to attend.

Flag Recognition Notices Available

Do you know of a business or a neighbor who regularly and correctly posts the American flag? The Riverside Chapter has produced a limited supply of notices, in the form of door hangers, that can be left at a property displaying the flag. These notices should not be left at government buildings who are required to post the flag. Please contact VPG West Brian Stephens at briandi777@aol.com if you would like to have a supply to give out.



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Mission Statement

The Riverside Chapter was chartered by the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution in 1943 under the guidelines of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The Mission Statement of the National Society states that **The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.**

The Riverside Chapter's

Rivulet

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