

# Stephen Holston Chapter

THE TENNESSEE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The past four months have been a season of meaningful activity and patriotic service for the Stephen Holston Chapter.

May began with exciting news: our Knight Essay Contest participant, Jillian Pedone, earned



second place nationally from the NSSAR for her essay, "Some Gave All: The Forgotten Signers of the Declaration." Her work captivated judges with its historical accuracy, clarity, and insightful analysis. Her passion for history and commitment to civic values exemplify the ideals that the SAR upholds.

At our May chapter meeting, Compatriot John Peterson presented a compelling talk on the relationships between Conrad Weiser, Shikellamy, and Chief Logan—a cautionary tale leading up to Lord Dunmore's War and the American Revolution. We also welcomed two new members, conducted one induction, and presented three supplemental certificates.

Continuing the momentum in May, we held a five-Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at the New Providence Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Maryville, TN. It was a warm and sunny day, fitting for the occasion. We were honored to have representatives from the SAR, DAR, and CAR, including Victoria Lamkey, President of the Tennessee CAR, to bring greetings. The TNSSAR Color Guard was well represented and added dignity to the ceremony.



Compatriots Green and DeNicola initiated exploration of projects on behalf of the TNSSAR to honor the life of John Sevier. A presentation and recommendations were shared at the TNSSAR Board of Governors meeting in June. The project continues to be refined, and the application for a grant is ready to be submitted to TN250.



June began with a rousing presentation at the Chapter meeting by Compatriot Tim Dake, who shared his experience commemorating Paul Revere's Ride, Lexington Green, and Concord in Massachusetts. The NSSAR conscripted him to march with the NSSAR contingent in the parade.

Later in June, our Chapter supported the dedication of the “Patriot Legacies of Blount County” exhibit in the Blount County Historical Museum. This exhibit was the result of a multi-year research collaboration between the DAR, Compatriots of the Stephen Holston Chapter, and local historians. It documents the biographies and grave locations of Blount County patriots.



On July 4th, our Chapter sponsored “A Reading and Reflection of the Declaration of Independence” at James White’s Fort in Knoxville, TN. Greetings were brought by Carol Teeters, newly inducted Regent of the TSDAR, and Victoria Lamkey, President of the TNCAR, among others. Members of the SAR, DAR, and CAR read the Declaration to an audience of approximately 150. Local CBS and ABC affiliates covered the event.

August’s main event was a five-Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at the historic Ramsey House. We were honored to receive greetings from:

- The Honorable Dave Wright, Tennessee State Representative, District 19
- The Honorable Andy Fox, Knox County, TN, Commissioner
- The Honorable Larsen Jay, Knox County, TN, Commissioner. He also read a proclamation on behalf of Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs.



Also in August, we debuted our new program, *Our Patriots’ Legacies*, airing on Knoxville Community Media and the Stephen Holston Chapter YouTube channel. The program’s goals are to educate the public, celebrate civic engagement, inspire future leaders and citizens, and support the America 250 initiative with meaningful local content.