



THE SPIRIT OF '76

PUBLISHED BY THE DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

VOLUME 59 NO. 2 SPRING 2025

DSDI with the Declaration of Independence



DSDI members and guests in Rotunda of the National Archives, see pages 3-5.

DSDI gathers in our nation's capital

The Society had a magnificent weekend in Washington, D.C., visiting the National Archives, Congressional Cemetery, the Library of Congress and more. Read about the events on page 5.



Honoring the wives of the Signers

It has been an interesting process of discovery to find where the wives are buried. Read about DSDI's efforts to find the gravesites and commemorate the women. Pages 9-10.



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Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

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Stephanie Nelson

Chaplain-General

The Rev. W.P. Daphne Hawkes

Assistant Historian-General

Donald C. Ward, Jr.

Immediate Past

President-General

Lucy Duke Tonacci

Board of Governors

New Hampshire	Lt. Col. Erin P. Hayde, USAF
Massachusetts	Ellen Brinker
Rhode Island	Elizabeth "Beth" Di Censo
Connecticut	Henry "Duke" Beecher
New York	Elaine Livingston
New Jersey	Gregory "Greg" Munro
Pennsylvania	Stacie Pagano
Delaware	Morgan Shank
Maryland	Madelyn Sturgeon
Virginia	Stephanie Nelson
North Carolina	Sheryll Pope Albert
South Carolina	Robin L. Rawl
Georgia	Weston Croft
District of Columbia	Laura Belman



How to submit to The Spirit of '76

We welcome submissions from members. Have you visited your Signer's gravesite? Do you have mementoes of your Signer? Do you participate in events related to the Declaration of Independence? If so, send us a photo and a brief description. We'd love to hear from you. Please address any emails to Hunter George at htgeorge@gmail.com.

From the President-General



Dear Descendants,

It has truly been an honor for the past three terms to serve as the DSDI President General. It seems impossible that this is my last message in the Spirit as the President General, and that the next message will come from the new President General who will have my friendship and support moving forward. My third term ends at the annual meeting in Philly this July where it all started in 2022 with the President General's Insignia being placed around my neck and the gavel passed to me. To stand in Independence

Hall, in the room where all 56 Signers once held meetings, was a very moving moment for both my husband Ray and me. I find it difficult to believe how quickly these three years have passed, and I deeply appreciate the trust you have all placed in me to lead our society from 2022-2025. I will keep the memories of trips to our meetings and, most importantly, all the friendships I have made close to my heart. My hope is by serving as the President General with an excellent board and many chairs I was able to represent the society we all love in a manner that honors our Signers.

My first meeting as your President General took place in Solomon Island, Maryland, hosted by our wonderful Brinker sisters. At my first board meeting, I established some new committees with the board's approval to further conduct the business of DSDI. These new committees were the 250 Committee chaired by Barbara Greeley, Signers Wives' Plaque Committee co-chaired by Dr. Shirley Hunter Smith, Ellen Brinker, and Sheryll Albert, and the Wreath Committee chaired by Stephanie Nelson. We are fortunate that wonderful chairs agreed to lead these committees. These have all proven to be helpful to our Society, and I personally thank each of the chairs and those who have served on these committees over the past three years. Later, after the Dressler Trust was settled, another committee was formed—the John Hart Memorial Committee. Greg Munro has been a true blessing to this committee. The purpose of this committee is to see that the funds left in the Linda Dressler Trust are used to honor John Hart, which is what her trust directs. The first task we undertook was to restore John Hart's gravesite to something worthy of his great sacrifice, landscaping both hard and soft were replaced or restored, and the gate was restored by Greg Munro to its original condition and it no longer needed a bungie cord to hold it closed.

Our recent Spring meeting in Washington, D.C., hosted by our Washington, D.C., Governor Laura Belman, was fantastic and filled with many firsts. You can read her report in this issue of the Spirit. We had a reading of the Declaration and our roll call while in the National Archives Rotunda in the room with the Declaration of Independence. This meeting has seen our attendance numbers coming back up with over 75 attendees. Please join us at our upcoming meetings, which you can read about on our website, on Facebook and in the President General's eblasts.

The President General has the honor to present the Patriot Award to those who have served our Society well, and there is an article in this Spirit sharing more details about the most recent recipient. My choice during my term was to honor two that I thought more than met the criteria to receive this recognition—the first was Past President

General Bruce Laubach, and the second was Past President General Hope Wood. Our Society is truly blessed to have their leadership and friendship.

Serving as the President General gives me the opportunity to interact with many on the board and members in general, and I always enjoy that aspect of this position. I hope over the past three years you have enjoyed the monthly President General eblasts. The goal is to share information from our chairs and officers, which give updates on the upcoming meetings and what our chairs are working on. But most important, to recognize our Signers and their wives' birthdates to continue to keep their memories alive. We use many methods to communicate with our members—the monthly eblasts, *Spirit of '76* magazine, website, and Facebook.

I wish to recognize our wonderful webmaster Stacey Bohning who continues to add content to the website and make updates when needed. She also manages our meeting online registration; she has gone above and beyond in her service to our society. Another vital person I want to thank for all he has done and continues to do is Hunter George, who is the editor of the *Spirit* magazine, which is absolutely fantastic! I must also mention Jill Haines, who serves as the chair of the Scholarship committee. Jill and her committee of judges take on the responsibilities of awarding scholarships to those who meet our criteria. She devotes considerable time to this committee, and we are all grateful to her, and I know those receiving scholarships appreciate all she does.

There are many other officers and chairs I would also like to recognize, and they know who they are, but at some point, our Editor Hunter will cut me off due to space in the magazine.

You will see in this edition of the *Spirit* the slate of officers who will serve for the upcoming year. We will vote to approve them at the annual meeting in July. We will be in good hands as our Society continues to keep the memory of our Signers in the forefront for decades to come. I thank our Nominating Committee—Hope Wood, Bruce Laubach, and Stacey Bohning—for their work setting up an excellent board to go forward.

In closing, I want to thank those who mentored and encouraged me. There are many, and I express my humble thanks to each and every one of you for your support and kindness. We are an all-volunteer board, and we all do what we can to support our beloved society.

In DSDI service,

Nancy McBride Wark

Nancy McBride Wark

President-General

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

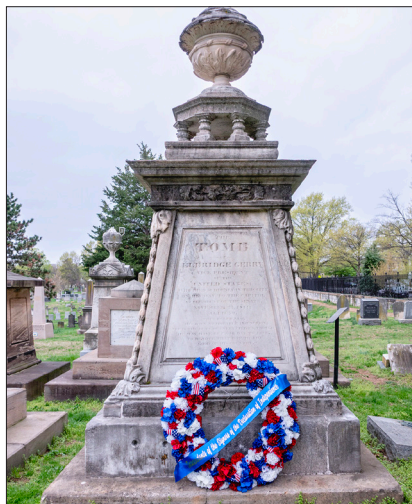
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Spring Meeting Photos

Special thanks to Adrienne Elliot, Stacey Bohning, Mary McBride and Andy Keller for providing photographs of our Washington events to The Spirit of '76 and to our Facebook and DSDI website.



President General Nancy McBride Wark and Washington D.C. Governor and meeting host Laura Belman offer the traditional toasts of the Society.



DSDI wreath at Elbridge Gerry tomb



Past President General and Patriot Award Recipient Hope Middleton Wood, President General Nancy McBride Wark, Past President General and Patriot Award Recipient Bruce Laubach

Spring Meeting Photos



DSDI Officers: From left, Assistant Secretary General Sara Nelson, Secretary General Marianne Brinker, Treasurer General Scott Lewis, First Vice President General Andy Keller, President General Nancy McBride Wark, Registrar General Wendy Davis-Bushey, Historian General Stephanie Nelson, Assistant Registrar General Jamie Singer, Assistant Treasurer General Mid Ramsey.



DSDI Governors: From left, Georgia Governor Weston Croft, Delaware Governor Morgan Shank, Maryland Governor Madelyn Sturgeon, President General Nancy McBride Wark, Virginia Governor Stephanie Nelson, Massachusetts Governor Ellen Brinker, Connecticut Governor Duke Beecher, North Carolina Governor Sheryll Albert, Washington D.C. Governor Laura Belman, Governor At Large Stacey Bohning.



Dinner speaker Matthew Costello, from the White House Historical Association, details the founding of the association and its history



DSDI member Sheryll Albert points at her signer William Hooper's signature at the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial



During the Saturday night Gala dinner, these members were recognized for attending their first DSDI meeting. From left, Jean Sprietsma, Paisley Palmer, Jenny White, Kim Simpson, Lori Franklin, John DeBell, Sr., Kriss Papendick, John DeBell, Jr



Paisley Palmer interprets the Pledge of Allegiance at Saturday night dinner



DSDI Member Stacey Bohning poses in front of a statue of her signer, John Witherspoon



DSDI Gathers in Our Nation's Capital

- ▶ Seventy-seven DSDI members and family gathered in Washington, D.C. the first weekend in April.

Saturday morning, we went to the National Archives. We were photographed in front of the Declaration of Independence and the Belman family read the Declaration aloud. Marin Bentley of the Archives Foundation explained the techniques used to preserve the document. She also showed us the famous David Rubenstein gift: the 1295 Magna Carta, on which many of the Declaration's rights are based.

We went on to the Congressional Cemetery, established very early when the city had no other burial facilities. There was our Signer, Elbridge Gerry, the first member of Congress to die in office in the city. He had gone on to serve as Vice President. The 1849 funeral procession for Dolly Madison was the largest such tribute ever paid in the young nation's history. She was buried at Congressional several years until she could be moved to Montpelier to lie alongside her late husband James. We admired the two handsome benches DSDI had donated, inscribed with the names of Signers whose graves DSDI had been unable to mark (despite eight years of work by Grace Staller).

The final stop was the Library of Congress. The tour included the Gutenberg Bible (dating from 1453, one of only four perfect copies extant); the Treasures exhibit, displaying the contents of Lincoln's pockets the night he was assassinated; and the newly opened "Two Georges." Although George III and George Washington never met, the two leaders shared many life features: both had aggravating mothers, a good private education, and great interest in war, commerce, and crops.

The day's climax was the Gala Dinner at the Georgetown Marriott. Paisley Palmer, Nancy Wark's great niece, interpreted the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language. A speaker from the White House Historical Society Association traced the evolution of the furnishings from frumpy and second-hand during the administration of President Harrison, to priceless under the inspired direction of Jaqueline Kennedy, Ladybird Johnson, and Pat Nixon.

Following a benediction delivered by Stacey Bohning, President Nancy McBride Wark concluded the evening.

-Laura Belman, host



DSDI members Anne Randolph and Owen Belman



The Belmans take turns reading the Declaration of Independence in the National Archives Rotunda

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating committee consists of Stacey Bohning, Hope Middleton Wood, and Bruce Laubach.

The Nominating Committee presents the following
Slate for 2025-2026

Officers

President General Leroy Anderson "Andy" Keller
First Vice President General Arthur "Mid" Ramsey
Second Vice President General Barbara Greeley
Registrar General Wendy Davis-Bushey
Assistant Registrar General Jamie Singer
Historian General Stephanie Nelson
Assistant Historian General Donald Ward Jr
Treasurer General Scott Lewis
Assistant Treasurer General Reginald William "Bill" Nelson
Secretary General Marianne Brinker
Assistant Secretary General Sara Nelson
Chancellor General James Bainbridge
Chaplain General Stacey Bohning

Governors

New Hampshire Col. Erin P. Hayde, USAF
Massachusetts Ellen Brinker
Rhode Island Elizabeth "Beth" Di Censo
Connecticut Henry "Duke" Beecher
New York Elaine Livingston
New Jersey Gregory "Greg" Munro
Pennsylvania Stacie Pagano
Delaware Luther Dreher "Morgan" Shank, IV
Maryland Madelyn Sturgeon
Virginia Stephanie Nelson
North Carolina Sheryll Albert
South Carolina Robin Rawl
Georgia Weston Croft
District of Columbia Laura Belman

Join us for Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

- ▶ Please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting and Let Freedom Ring Ceremony in Philadelphia, held July 3-4, 2025.

This year's event will feature a special evening at Carpenters' Hall, host of the First Continental Congress and home to Franklin's Library Company, a breakfast honoring the 10 Junior Members serving as this year's Bell Tappers, the annual meeting held in the Long Room of Independence Hall and a fun picnic dinner to cap it all off! Registration for events will be available on the website in May. Bookings can be made at the Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District using the DSDI group reservation link.

We hope you are able to join us in the Birthplace of America this July 4th. Please contact Stacie Pagano, stacie.pagano@gmail.com or 717-330-7458, with any questions.



Dues notices

Dues notices for fiscal year 2026 were sent out to all annual members May 1 and are due by July 3, 2026.

Make plans for Fall meeting in New Bern Sept 26-28

- Our Fall meeting in North Carolina is coming together nicely.

Our hotel is The DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront, New Bern, NC for Sept. 26-28, at \$249 plus taxes. The hotel is adjacent to a lovely marina. Accessible rooms. Pet-friendly rooms (conditions apply, call the hotel.) Free parking. Coastal Carolina Regional Airport is three miles from the hotel and Amtrak offers service to New Bern.

New Bern was established in October 1710. New Bern is the second-oldest European-settled colonial town in North Carolina, after Bath. Royal Governor William Tryon commissioned the construction of Tryon Palace built between 1767 and 1770 as the first permanent capital of North Carolina and a home for the Royal Governor and his family. It served as the capital from 1770 to 1792. Governor Tryon only lived in Tryon Palace for a year. After the American Revolution (1775-1783), New Bern became wealthy and quickly developed a rich cultural life. At one time New Bern was called "the Athens of the South," renowned for its Masonic Temple and Athens Theater. These are both still very active today.

Friday, Sept. 26 we will gather early evening to begin a tour of the Masonic Temple (now known as the St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 3) and Athens Theater (now known as the Rivertowne Players). The Masonic Temple was chartered on Jan. 10, 1772, by Joseph Montfort, Provincial Grand Master of Masons for the United States. Experience the unique Masonic symbolism in the frescoes painted in the mid-1800s and restored in 2000.



The main lodge room features trompe l'oeil paintings that date to 1860. If time allows, we can visit the Masonic Theater and learn about its storied past as one of America's oldest theaters. The tour will be led by the Master of St. John's Lodge No. 3, Arthur Romans. You can view George Washington memorabilia. A Toast to The Flag, and Old Glory Speaks will be recited by Dr. Robert Mull. We have an outstanding Guest Speaker, Mark Pace, for a presentation titled: *A Malcontented People/Armed Insurrection in NC 1677 - 1775*. Historian Pace will give an overview of the tumultuous, confusing, comical, and sometimes tragic attempts by early citizens to address their grievances, which led to more stable governance. Following the presentation, we will enjoy a buffet dinner.

Saturday, Sept. 27 we will begin our morning with an informative 1.5-hour ride on the New Bern Historic Trolley Tour highlighting the history and architecture of the former royal capital of North Carolina and a famous duel between political rivals. The trolley will drop us off at The Chelsea where we will have a box lunch at 12:35 p.m. After lunch, we will walk to Tryon Palace (.4 mile). Unfortunately, the historic houses are closed for tours, but their

beautiful gardens are open to explore. At the conclusion of the Palace Tour the grounds are open to explore. A short walk back to the hotel and refresh for dinner at The Chelsea (.3 mile). A guest speaker to be announced.

For those who want to extend their stay, I recommend a stroll in New Bern to do the Bear Scavenger Hunt. There are 105 bears located throughout town. We will have a prize for the person who finds the most bears! Participants will have the opportunity to spend their free time in the charming downtown area of New Bern. If you can come a day or two earlier, I also recommend a one-hour drive which will take you to the historic town of Beaufort (BOE-furt), established in 1723. Stroll around the 12-block historic district where centuries-old homes are. The marina has long been a popular destination for boaters traveling on the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway. It is so quaint and right out of a romance novel. Beaufort and Edenton are my personal favorite places to visit. It may be small but is big in charm.

Sheryll Albert and Nancy Wark, co-hosts.

Hope Middleton Wood receives Patriot Award



► This year at our Washington, DC meeting I was honored to present DSDI's Patriot Award to our Past President General Hope Middleton Wood.

Hope joined DSDI on May 15, 1971. She has been a mentor and friend to me since the Princeton, NJ meeting and I value her guidance. She is willing to help out anytime she is asked and her knowledge is a great asset to the board.

Hope is truly a treasure to our Society; she was the Hostess of the Charleston meetings in 2006 and in 2014 and South Carolina State Governor Robin Rawls and I were delighted to have her help at the Charleston meeting in April 2024. Hope also served as Chairman of the Annual Giving drive from 2009 until 2013. She was the first Chairman of the 1776 Legacy Club and one of the first members. Hope served as 1st Vice President General from 2012 - 2015, then as our President General 2015 - 2017. I know there are countless other things Hope has contributed to our beloved society

that are too numerous to mention in this article. We thank Hope for all she has done and continues to do.

The Patriot Award is presented for many years of service given to the DSDI and for unselfish devotion that inspired our patriot ancestors in their quest for freedom. Each recipient receives a personalized pewter bowl with the DSDI insignia and DSDI Patriot Award engraved upon it.

This award was initiated by Phil Pyne, a past President-General, and the first one was awarded at the 2000 meeting.

Previous award recipients are;

William Ward IV - July 4, 2000

Barbara Ann Megill Kalbfleisch - October 27, 2001

Grace Keiper Staller - July 4, 2004

Rieman McNamara, Jr. - July 4, 2006

Fred Pyne - July 4, 2007

Thomas Guillard Heyward - March 15, 2008

Jim Alexander - July 4, 2010

Thorny Lockwood - October 7, 2011

Laurie Croft - July 4, 2015

Johnny Alexander - July 4, 2020

Shirley Smith - May 27, 2022

Gene Mayhew - July 4, 2022

Bruce Laubach - October 19, 2024

*Nancy McBride Wark
President General*



DSDI Yearbook discontinued

For many years our Society published a printed Yearbook every five years. This book included a list of all members and sometimes a breakdown of members by Signer for all members since our founding in 1907. This was a very expensive project, so the last Yearbook to be issued was on a CD. This version is now on our website but it was still costly and time-consuming to produce.

The membership approved a change to the bylaws in July 2023 to allow the Yearbook to be published electronically and posted on our website with the next edition to be posted this year. In the meantime, the Society spent a substantial amount of money to improve our website, www.DSDI1776.com. One of the most useful features

of the new website is that it allows members to update their personal information such as addresses and phone numbers themselves.

It also allows each of you to search for other members by name, state, or Signer, but this is only a very small sample of what is available there. The point is that once this became available it negated the purpose of producing a Yearbook. As a result, the membership voted at the Spring meeting in Washington to eliminate the Yearbook requirement from the bylaws and thus there will not be one produced this year. Please go to our website and explore to see what you can learn about the Society.



Signers' Wives' recognition committee update

- ▶ A few years ago, President-General Nancy Wark proposed a project to recognize the wives of the Signers with plaques similar to those placed for the Signers years ago by Grace Staller. The goal was to complete the plaque placements before the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

It has been an interesting process of discovery to find where the wives are buried. Some lie beside their husbands in well-marked graves, in private cemeteries, in burial grounds separate from their husbands, while others lie in unmarked graves lost to history. This project was crucial to the memory and history of our ancestor grandmothers as time is not on the side of finding burials so long ago.

Shirley Smith, Sheryll Albert, Ellen Brinker, and Jeff Ward wrote letters to cemeteries, historical organizations, and family groups. Nancy often helped us in our search. Over time, it was determined that of the 70 first and second wives, 48 did not need DSDI plaques. Some requests were denied by cemeteries, stating "additional memorials not allowed" or "no markers permitted." But more often the requests were approved by town historical societies, family organizations and descendants, historical cemetery committees, and church groups - even a probate judge - happy for the recognition of a Founding Mother in their communities, even if it took months to get permission.

Some extra sleuthing has been necessary to track down second wives who remarried and took their next husband's name. The location of John Witherspoon's second wife, Ann, presented a particular challenge and is a great example of a Signer's wife who remarried. Ann Marshall Dill Witherspoon Walker is buried by her third husband, David Walker. Two of her descendants whom we all know today are Johnny and Jim Alexander.

Substantial proof of the burial site of Anne Clark Hooper, William Hooper's wife, was provided to the city of Hillsborough, North Carolina; however, no additional

plaques are allowed. A church in Delaware will not agree to a plaque, but the Signer's wife, Mary Borden McKean, has been more prominently placed on the churchyard website of notable burials.

Due to our research, corrections were made to various sites, such as Find-a-Grave, by providing documentation indicating the correct burial, or non-burial, as stated for a Signer's wife. An example: Annis Boudinot Stockton, wife of New Jersey Signer Richard Stockton, is one that Shirley will not let go long after this project has been completed. Find-a-Grave stated that Annis was buried at Christ Church Cemetery in the Rush plot beside Benjamin and Julia Rush, which was verified as incorrect. Mrs. Stockton's Find-a-Grave file now states "presumed to be buried at White Hill Mansion, Fieldsboro, New Jersey" where she died on Feb. 6, 1801. Former President General John Glynn, Jr. provided a copy of an original letter which shows Annis at White Hill Mansion days before her death. Yet her gravesite is unknown on the property, and the folks at White Hill Mansion are skeptical she is buried there, though they acknowledge she died on the property on the date above. Therefore, they will not accept a 'presumed to be buried' plaque for Annis.

We were impressed with cemetery staff members in New York who dug up the old gravestone of Philip Livingston's wife's sister, Sarah, to see if Christina Livingston's remains were there. Her remains were not found, but the staff verified her burial from records from when, in the mid-1800s, several city churches moved their graves to separate plots in the new 400-acre Albany Rural Cemetery.

It has been interesting to learn about different people who occupy the same graveyard - for instance: Abigail Burr Hall, a cousin of Aaron Burr, was the first wife of Lyman Hall (who was born in Connecticut but signed the Declaration for Georgia). She is buried in the Old Burying Ground in Fairfield, CT. Near her lies her brother, Thaddeus Burr, who was an early patriot and friend of George Washington, John

Adams, Ben Franklin, Marquis de Lafayette, James Otis, and Jonathan Trumbull, to name a few. Thaddeus welcomed guests with “princely hospitality” to his home located along the major post road in Fairfield. And, in August 1775, after the Battles of Lexington & Concord and Bunker Hill in Massachusetts, John Hancock married Dorothy Quincy in the Burr home in Connecticut. In the Old Burying Ground, not far from the Burr graves, is the tombstone of Caleb Brewster – he was a member of the New York Culper Spy Ring. Another example is the second wife of James Wilson (who signed for Pennsylvania) who remarried and is buried with her second husband in Boston; their tomb is down the path from where Gilbert Stuart, the painter, is buried.

We have appreciated the assistance of various DAR chapters, and cemetery superintendents have been very helpful and were honored to learn that a Signer’s Wife is in their graveyard. Several monument companies have even donated granite for DSDI plaques.

As of the DSDI meeting in Washington, D.C., plaques for 11 wives have been dedicated in **New Hampshire** (Whipple), **Connecticut** (Sherman and Gerry), **New Jersey** (Hart), **North Carolina** (Penn), and **South Carolina** (Middleton) – and a multi-wife plaque placed in **Philadelphia** (Franklin, Rush, Paca, Wilson, and Morris). Ten more dedications in **Virginia** (Lees), **Pennsylvania** (Heyward, McKean, and Witherspoon Walker), **Connecticut** (Sherman and Hall), **New York** (Livingston), **Massachusetts** (Ellery), and **New Hampshire** (Thornton) are in process.

Some cemetery staff who previously rejected our requests may reconsider as we get closer to the semiquincentennial, so these numbers may change. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Signers’ Wives and are delighted to remember and honor our Founding Mothers. We thank Nancy for proposing this project which has brought awareness of the Signers and their wives to various communities within the original 13 colonies.

Sheryll Albert and Ellen Brinker, Co-Chairs

In Memoriam

Thornton
“Thorny”
Lockwood



Thornton “Thorny” Calef Lockwood, longtime DSDI member and a recipient of DSDI’s Patriot Award, passed away Dec. 20, 2024 in Brunswick, Maine at the age of 93.

Born March 17, 1931 in Mansfield, Ohio, he was the second son of Edwin Hoyt Lockwood II and Margaret Coe Lockwood. Thorny was a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, the New Hampshire Signer of the Declaration of Independence, and was a first cousin of Benjamin Franklin, eight times removed. His family tree included a number of the first settlers in New England.

Thorny received a BA in psychology from Yale University and an MBA in marketing from Columbia University in 1955. In the Army he was stationed for two years at Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth, Maine and there formed a lifetime affinity for the lighthouses and forts on the Maine coast.

For 40 years, Thorny worked in marketing and advertising, becoming head of research and a VP at Benton & Bowles in London and New York; at Chemical Bank; at J. Walter Thompson in Detroit; and at AT&T. During his career he

pioneered the development of leading-edge technologies for measuring the effectiveness of television commercials and advertising campaigns.

He was an active leader in research associations, serving as Chairman of the Conference Board’s Market Research Council, President of the Detroit Chapter of the American Marketing Association, and a Director of the Advertising Research Foundation. He was Chairman of the ARF’s Creative Development and Evaluation Council for more than 10 years. In 1997, he joined DSDI and served as Secretary, Chairman of the Biography Project, and Chairman of the Brochure Committee. He gave numerous presentations on the Legacy of the Declaration of Independence. In 2011, he received the Society’s highest honor, the Patriot Award.

He is survived by a daughter, Carolyn Lockwood, of Bath, Maine; a son, Thornton Lockwood, Jr., and his wife, Deanne Moore, of Cheshire, CT; and grandchildren Nicholas, Bartlett and Paxson. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 67 years, Lenora McGinn Lockwood; his parents, Margaret Coe and Edwin H. Lockwood II; and his brother Edwin H. Lockwood III.



New series of Challenge Coins coming

- ▶ In January of 2025, the DSDI challenge coin went on sale. The initial order was for 200 coins. By the close of the Spring meeting in Washington, 164 coins had been sold, collecting \$3,280 for the society. This has been a very successful campaign. Thank you to all of you who contributed to this success.

The challenge coin is unique because unlike other merchandise it can be always carried with you. It can be used to show your pride in being a descendant of one of the Signers. It can be used and presented with pride.

On the success of the challenge coin the Board has approved a new series of challenge coins that will further one's pride in being a descendant. This series will feature the signatures of the Signers from each of the original 13 states. Collect a coin with your ancestor's signature or collect the whole set for a unique collection.

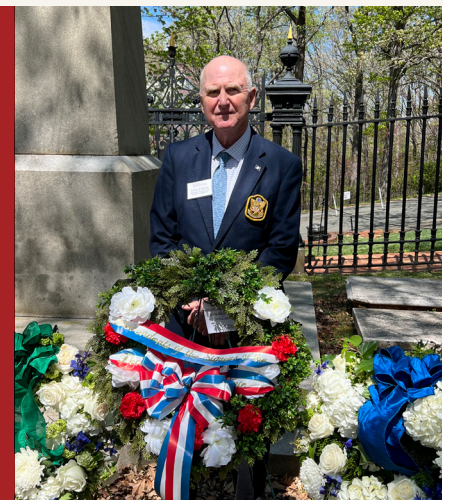
It may take several months to complete the design and proofing process. The expected release date is July 2025. An announcement will be made in the Spirit newsletter, the monthly presidential email, on our Facebook page and on the DSDI website. The cost of the new coins will be \$20 plus postage.

Bruce Laubach



Jefferson's Birthday

1st Vice President General Andy Keller at the commemoration of Thomas Jefferson's birthday. Each year a number of local and national groups, such as the DSDI, gather to place wreaths at the grave of President Jefferson on his birthday at his family cemetery behind Monticello. This is the only time non-family members are allowed in the cemetery. In addition to Andy Keller, past Virginia Governor Angus Lamond also presented a wreath.



Use our website to explore the past, present, and future of DSDI

Our website serves as a platform to promote the mission and story of our Society. It provides detailed information on membership requirements and offers opportunities for junior members to apply for scholarships. The website also facilitates email inquiries and promotes the Society's meetings and activities. Additionally, members can update their contact information and subscribe to the President General's monthly eblasts.

Did you know that if you don't inform the Society of changes to your contact information, you may lose your access to the members' only areas of the website? Most of the time when members have trouble logging in, it is because their email address changed, and they did not update their contact information, so the site is not able to recognize their new email address. This is just one reason why it is so important to update your contact information whenever it changes.

- Are you interested in the beginnings of our Society? You can take a step back in time and explore the first minutes of the Society and its incorporation papers.

- Do you want to know how our Society celebrated its 100th Anniversary? You can explore the 100th anniversary book that has those details.
- You can explore past issues of The Spirit of '76 magazine to revisit any meeting location and almost every era of the Society.
- Are you curious about future meeting locations? You can find a list of dates and locations of upcoming meetings for this year and next and beyond.
- Would you like to show off some DSDI merch? Visit the merchandise page to see what is available, including our new challenge coin.

Our website is the digital archive of our Society, and our Society has chosen to invest in it. Please visit it often to make it an important part of your membership.

How to order DSDI merchandise

- ▶ Want a DSDI brooch, a ring, a pendant? How about a Christmas ornament, rosette, wine glass, tie or blazer crest? These and other items reflecting your membership in DSDI are available to order. It's easy.

Go to <https://www.dsd1776.com/member-resources/merchandise/>
Or email: dsdimerchandise@gmail.com.



Future DSDI meetings will use a waiting list after registration ends

► We are making some changes to our meeting registration to keep things simple. Hotel reservation deadlines and registration deadlines for DSDI meetings are determined by the host hotel and the various vendors and venues. Once the meeting host finalizes these dates, the deadlines are announced on our website, posted on our official Facebook group, published in the Spirit, and included in the President General's eblast. We announce meetings well in advance to streamline the process and enable all to register and to book their hotel using our room block code.

Once this deadline occurs, it will be final. If you try to register after that deadline, and find registration is closed, but you would still like to attend, you can choose to be added to a waiting list. You will only be able to attend if there is a cancellation. If a spot becomes available, you will be notified and given the opportunity to take that spot. Payment will be due immediately before your attendance at the meeting can be confirmed. Missing these deadlines can lead to complications, such as not being able to participate in planned activities or facing higher costs for late hotel bookings, since once the hotel closes our room block, you will then pay the going rate.

Stacey Bohning, Registration Chair

TREASURER-GENERAL'S REPORT

ASSETS

The market value of our assets on March 31, 2025, was \$1,976,968 and represents a \$149,429 increase in market value since April 30, 2024.

OPERATING REVENUES

Our operating revenue represents income associated with contributions, membership dues and amounts received from members to cover the cost of their attendance at DSDI meetings. Fiscal year 2025 started May 1, 2024 and revenues totaled \$102,726 for the eleven months ended March 31, 2025.

OPERATING EXPENSES

DSDI operating expenses for the eleven months ended March 31, 2025 were \$102,635, resulting in operating income of \$91. Together with net investment income and gains/losses on investments, net income was \$150,652 for the period.

Assets as of March 31, 2025



■ Scholarship Fund	\$587,983	29%
■ Life Dues Fund	\$924,622	47%
■ Sustaining Fund	\$429,858	22%
■ Wells Fargo	\$34,505	2%

Operating Revenues for 11 Months Ended March 31, 2025



■ Contributions	\$25,838	25%
■ Misc Revenue	\$3,419	3%
■ Dues & Applications	\$41,835	41%
■ Meeting Receipts	\$31,634	31%

Operating Expenses for 11 Months Ended March 31, 2025



■ Program Service	\$51,109	50%
■ Meeting Expenses	\$26,385	26%
■ Membership	\$14,026	14%
■ General & Administrative	\$9,865	9%
□ Merchandise	\$1,250	1%

DSDI REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT

WASHINGTON, DC MEETING April 4, 2025

25 New Senior Members:		
3888	Christopher Reiss Palmquist Placerville CA	Francis Lewis - 9
3889	Matthew Lenox Palmquist Placerville CA	Francis Lewis - 9
3890	David Crenshaw Barrow* Winchester MA	Arthur Middleton - 9
3891LM	Nancy Kathleen Thomas Cumming GA	Carter Braxton - 8
3892LM	Clara Rose Felton Miller* New York NY	Carter Braxton - 9
3893LM	Kollen Drew Burke* Provo UT	Thomas Nelson Jr. - 9
3894	Elizabeth Allison Thomas Los Angeles CA	Carter Braxton - 8
3895	Aidan Preston Hunt* Plano TX	John Hart - 11
3896LM	Isaiah Ron Bainbridge* Plymouth Meeting PA	John Hart - 10
3897	Jackson Lee Turner* Centennial CO	John Penn - 8
3898	Julie Ann Godwin Mountain Brook AL	John Hart - 9
3899	Michelle Hogan Sterling VA	Francis Lewis - 9
3900	John Landsdale Etchison Chesapeake Beach MD	John Hart - 8
3901LM	Diane Marie Edwards Annapolis MD	John Hart - 9
3902	Etta Teone Goyette* Worcester MA	Benjamin Franklin - 9
3903LM	Kooper Raymond Zdimal* Morgantown PA	Philip Livingston - 10
3904	Joseph Theodore Schmitt* New Albany OH	John Hart - 10
3905	Thomas Carroll Poage Duncan OK	George Read - 8
3906	Dustin Jay Papendick Nashville TN	John Morton - 9
3907	Emily Marie Nelson Boise ID	Thomas Nelson Jr. - 7
3908	Jeffrey Todd Roberts Remsen NY	Roger Sherman - 9
3909	Deborah Livingston Brayton Southern Pines NC	Philip Livingston - 9
3910	Brandon Thomas Rankin West Bloomfield MI	Samuel Adams - 10
3911	Emily Elizabeth Rankin West Bloomfield MI	Samuel Adams - 10

3912	Michael Miller Andover MA	William Williams - 8	
* Junior Upgrade			
12 New Junior Members:			
J1726LM	Elliot Raymond Wood Flagstaff AZ	John Witherspoon - 10	
J1727	Joseph Stephen Godwin Mountain Brook AL	John Hart - 10	
J1728	John Hart Godwin Mountain Brook AL	John Hart - 10	
J1729LM	Jacob James Carson Newburgh NY	Philip Livingston - 10	
J1730	Weston William Ward Shippensburg PA	John Morton - 11	
J1731	Emmett Rivers Forward Centennial CO	William Ellery - 10	
J1732	Isabelle Harlow Forward Centennial CO	William Ellery - 10	
J1733	Lola Kate Nelson Burley ID	Thomas Nelson Jr. - 9	
J1734	Hugh Alan Nelson Burley ID	Thomas Nelson Jr. - 9	
J1735	Rose Caroline Nelson Burley ID	Thomas Nelson Jr. - 9	
J1736	Andrew Jay Papendick Nashville TN	John Morton - 10	
J1737	Natalie Grace Papendick Nashville TN	John Morton - 10	
Additional Membership Changes:			
1 Reinstatements:			
#	Name	Date	Signer
3422	Laura Spence Leech	4 Dec 2024	John Hart
2 recent Deaths reported this period:			
#	Name	Birth	Signer
2831	Adele Denise Favier	24 Apr 2024	John Hart
2483	Thornton C. Lockwood	20 Dec 2024	Josiah Bartlett
New Senior Member Applications by Signer:			
Samuel Adams	2	John Morton	1
Carter Braxton	3	Thomas Nelson, Jr	2
Benjamin Franklin	1	John Penn	1
John Hart	6	George Read	1
Francis Lewis	3	Roger Sherman	1
Philip Livingston	2	William Williams	1
Arthur Middleton	1		

7 Junior Members Inactivated (over 21 years of age without transfer to Senior Membership)			
#	Name	Birth	Signer
J1532	Garrett Anthony Peterson	May 2003	George Ross
J1535	Stephen William Adair	Aug 2003	Benjamin Harrison, V
J1483	James Braxton Keith	Sept 2003	Carter Braxton
J1416	Ayerial Jean Webb	Oct 2003	John Hart
J1286	Andrew Michael Devlin	Mar 2003	John Hart
J1494	Laura Westray Bache	Jan 2004	Benjamin Franklin
J1579	William Stiles Thacher	Mar 2004	Roger Sherman
7 Junior members pending inactivation in Spring 2026 (cannot contact and have not yet upgraded to Senior Membership)			
#	Name	Birth	Signer
J1438	Amelia Rose Bullington	May 2004	Robert Morris
J1368	Jessica Norma Northrup	Oct 2004	Matthew Thornton
J1531	Austin Thomas Quillinan	Nov 2004	George Ross
J1407	Lacey Lynn Lafferty	Jan 2005	John Morton
J1587LM	Isabel Taylor Ellis	Feb 2005	Benjamin Franklin
J1533	Tucker Jacob Peterson	Apr 2005	George Ross
J1365	John Dennis Wells	Apr 2005	Carter Braxton
Seniors			Juniors
1260	Total Active Membership, Last Report		241
16	New Members (does not include Junior upgrades)		12
0	New Supplements (does not increase # of Members)		0
9	Junior Transfer to Senior		-9
0	Converted to Inactive		-7
1	Reinstatement		0
-2	Deaths		0
24	Total Net Added this Report		-4
1284	Total Membership, this Report		237

From the Registrar

One returned Spirit of '76 in the mail is too many. We don't want to lose contact with you! Please log in to the DSDI website to update your address in the database when you move, or select the option for "electronic spirit only" delivered to your email address. We appreciate your help.



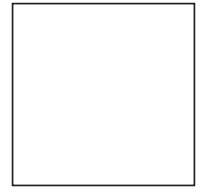
Wives Biography Project

Currently, there are 14 volunteers to author a biography of a Signer's wife. Two biographies will be posted soon; Susana Lyne Penn, and Ann Marshall Dill Witherspoon Walker. Volunteers, please send rough drafts of the biography you have been writing, along with where the information was found in order for us to format accurate citations. Please know that it is necessary to write the biography in your own words. We are still in need of additional volunteer authors. Please contact Shirley Hunter Smith at shirley1776@yahoo.com for more information.

D.S.D.I.

Jamie Singer
9417 View Point Ln
Knoxville, TN 37922-6544

Address Service Requested



To kick off the 250th anniversary year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our spring meeting in 2026 will be held in Savannah on Monday-Wednesday, March 9-11. Our hotel will be the elegant Planters Inn located in the center of the beautiful historic district on Reynolds Square. Our banquet dinner will be held at 45 Bistro, a lovely restaurant located in The Marshall House, which dates back to 1851 and was the first hotel built in Savannah.

Savannah is uniquely walkable and our anticipated schedule will provide time for self-exploration along the River Front and other historic venues within easy walking distance. With luck, we'll be greeted by the first azaleas of spring! So mark your calendar to save the date and watch for updates during the year.

Weston Croft, host.