

## Freedom & Patriotism

These two phrases are so closely linked that they represent not only the foundation of our nation, but the pinnacle of the Sons of the American Revolution.

233 years ago, a group of dedicated and courageous individuals met in Philadelphia to set forth an initiative that would rid them of the English crown and chart a course that would be stated through a unique publication – the Declaration of Independence. This document was far from being a guarantee of success for a new independent nation. The signers could easily have been tried and executed as traitors had England prevailed. Hardships, discomfort, and valor were the power behind the paper. This power eventually led to independence.

Norman Rockwell captured the essential Freedoms in his drawings of the Four (4) Freedoms - Freedom of Speech; Freedom of Worship; Freedom from Want; and, Freedom from Fear. It is interesting to note the way that Rockwell phrased these freedoms. His depiction was for Americans to save their freedoms of speech and worship, while fighting for freedoms from want and from fear. Battles have raged on our soil to preserve these freedoms. Some have come from within, others from outside our great land.

We celebrate numerous holidays commemorating the Patriotism that has occurred in our country. Here are two (2) special holidays that tie directly to Patriotism – Patriot's Day on April 19<sup>th</sup>, and Patriot Day on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The former occurred in 1775 in that we honor those who fought in our battle for independence; the later is a discretionary day of remembrance for those who died innocently at the hand of terrorists in 2001. There is truly a distinction between the events – the first of choosing freedom, and the other of freedom being challenged.

NSSAR was founded on the principal of seeking to maintain and extend: (1) the institutions of American Freedom, (2) the appreciation for true patriotism, (3) a respect for our national symbols, (4) the value of American citizenship, and (5) the unifying force of *e pluribus unum* that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation and one people.

In our struggle against tyranny, compatriots are called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions. Because of the political, economical and social challenges that our nation is experiencing today, compatriots of the George Washington Chapter must receive the baton passed to us from our ancestors, and seek to preserve our God-given Freedoms in order for our descendents to call us true patriots.

At the National Congress in July, our Chapter received the **Partners in Patriotism Certificate** for our efforts to work hand-in-hand with veterans groups in pursuit of common goals. I commend our compatriots involved, and encourage all of us to expand our efforts in Commitment, Connection and Community.