



The President's Message

By Chapter President Keith L. Bigbee

The attendance at the last few chapter meetings has been less than hoped for. As a result, the Executive Committee has decided to return the meeting format to what we used to follow in hopes of getting more members to attend and participate in the chapter. We will now have a short business meeting with reports from all chapter officers and committee chairs, followed by a presentation. First Vice President Mike Holmes will be the speaker at our July 17th meeting. He will be speaking on the Battle of Midway, a topic he has significant researched. The meetings will continue to start at 9:30 A.M. on the third Saturday of the month at Lou LaBonte's.

In addition, we are looking into other options that involve holding off on some of the monthly chapter meetings; many chapters throughout the state do not hold meetings during the summer months or meet every other month. While I enjoy getting together once a month, it hardly seems worth the work when so few are participating. We will be discussing these options and any other suggestions for improving meeting attendance at the July meeting.

We have continuing need for more parade participants. Recently, several members became unable to march and, therefore, we have some uniforms available. If you are willing and able to march with us, it would be a great help to fill in our ranks for these interesting activities.

Thanks to all the members who helped with the election precincts. I know it is a really long day but it has been a great way to earn income for the chapter. Speaking of chapter income, later this month I will be sending out the Voluntary Pledge Letters. Please consider responding quickly with whatever extra support you can offer the chapter so that we can continue our educational goals. Thank you also to the small but dedicated group that provided a successful bar-b-que for the Cub Scouts at Camp Beckworth in beautiful Nevada City.

While we are celebrating the 234th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, let's take a few minutes and consider how the great men, who put forth these ideas, were able to set aside their differences for the common good of all. As descendants of those patriots, every day we can follow their example by setting aside our personal differences for the common good.

Hope to see you on the 17th,

Keith L. Bigbee

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Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 4th
Independence Day - Fly the Flag!**Sunday, July 4th**
Independence Day Parade, Auburn.**Saturday, July 17th**
Regular Meeting, Lou LaBonte's
Restaurant, Auburn.**July 25-26**
NSSAR 119th Annual Congress,
Renaissance Cleveland, Ohio Hotel.**Tuesday, July 27th**
National Korean War Veterans'
Armistice Day - Fly the Flag half staff
until sunset!Happy Birthday wishes to the following
who will celebrate birthdays in July:Cheryl Anderson, Keith Bigbee,
Barbara Chinn, James Chinn, Jeanette
Choate, Tina Cilurso, Brent Cleaver,
Harlen Cleaver, Wayne Griswold,
Yoncie Griswold, Jennifer Hill, Paula
King, Jake Lawson, Matthew Lawson,
Stephen Longbotham, Ernie
McPherson, Sean Murphy, Susan
Ringwald, Coreena Ross, Betsy
Spitler, and Jeanette
Welch.

The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is
Saturday, July 17th at 9:30 A.M.
Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn

The Gold Country Chapter's 2010 regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month except in May, September, and December. During these months special meeting dates occur in order to accommodate other Chapter or California Society activities. All regular meetings are held in the banquet room of Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, 13460 Lincoln Way, Auburn, (530) 885-9193, at 9:30AM. See you there!

Visit our Chapter, State and National Websites
GoldCountrySAR.org ♦ CaliforniaSAR.org ♦ SAR.org

The submission deadline for the August edition of
The Forty-Niner is Friday, July 23, 2010.



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Compromising to Forge a Nation

By Michael G. Lucas

We typically believe that our Founding Fathers must have been perfect men who possessed almost god-like qualities. We often hear “they just don’t make men like that anymore.” Our founders, so it would appear, were impeccable men who had a flawless vision for our nation. However, in reality if any of our founders were placed under a microscope, the result would probably be like viewing a gemstone, full of quality but with flaws.

One example is Thomas Paine who played a crucial role in preparing the American mindset for revolution. Through his *Common Sense*, Americans came to realize how far they had already come in their struggle for independence. He helped convince them that they could never return to their former relationship with the British Crown. In powerful and compelling terms he was able to clearly lay out for them that “reconciliation is now a fallacious dream” and that “Tis time to part.” No other person in America had such an ability to lead the nation down the pathway towards independence. However, Paine had his faults. Up until the publication of his pamphlet, he had failed in everything he had ever attempted. He failed in his father’s occupation as a corset maker. He failed at teaching. He failed as a tax collector. He failed as a shopkeeper. He failed at marriage. He even failed at a clerical job. He died an alcoholic with only six mourners attending his funeral. In spite of all his faults, America benefited greatly from this very talented man. America was able to capitalize upon his unique ability.

Another example would be Patrick Henry. He had few rivals as an orator. His “give me liberty or give me death” speech had the riveted crowd responding, “To Arms! To Arms!” He became one of America’s most influential advocates for independence. But, like Thomas Paine, he had failures. He worked as a shopkeeper but failed. He tried




farming but failed. He gave shop keeping another try and again he failed. Patrick Henry’s vision for America was far too narrow. As Virginia governor, he led the opposition to ratification of the Constitution. In spite of his errors, Henry played a crucial role in the creation of America.

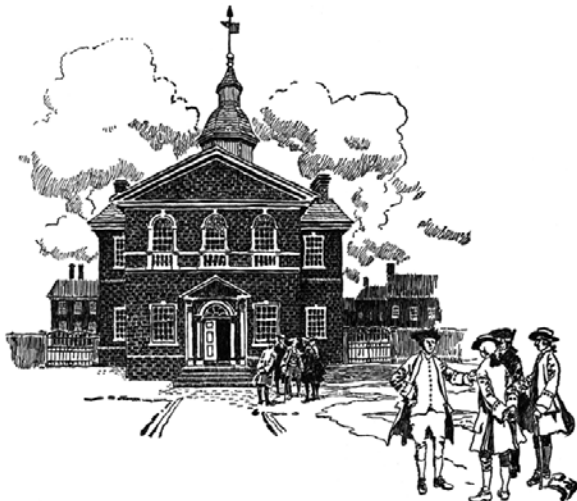
If any founder was a dichotomy, it was Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton was the genius behind *The Federalist Papers* and he single-handedly created American capitalism. He was the father of our government; unlike most other founders, he had a real vision for America as a great commercialized nation. His accomplishments were absolutely breathtaking. But Hamilton was a flawed individual. He had a hair-trigger temper; he was high-strung and arrogant. He was naïve about human nature and seemed eager to use military power to advance his agenda. He catered to the wealthy and he opposed lending to farmers and small businessmen. In spite of his weaknesses, which eventually led to his own downfall, he was the founder who conceived modern America.

Such cases could be made with each and every founder. James Madison, the brilliant “Father of our Constitution,” was inconsistent. Early on, Madison was a fervent nationalist who mistrusted state governments and wanted them under the control of a federal government. But later on he came to fear the same federal government he helped establish and he tried to undermine it by using state autonomy. Thomas Jefferson, the extremely gifted author of the Declaration of Independence and champion of democracy, may have been shortsighted in his vision of America. He envisioned only an agrarian society and opposed industrialization. Independence may not have been achieved without the accomplishments of Benjamin Franklin, yet he was strongly opposed to a presidency. Regardless of any shortsightedness, the contributions of these great men were invaluable in the founding of our nation.

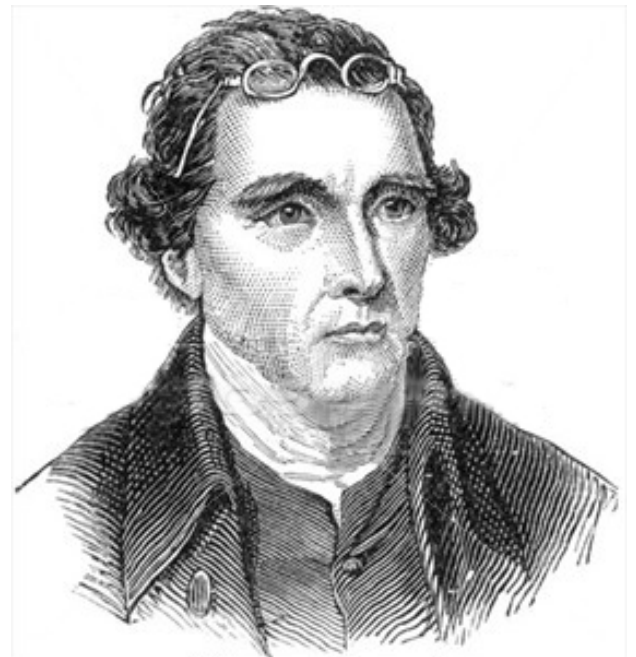
America contrasts sharply with other nations centered on “a strong man” with a contingent of “yes men.” Such examples fill world history – Hitler, Castro, Idi Amin, Mussolini, and Saddam Hussein. There wasn’t much room for disagreement with these leaders; dissent led to death. The miracle that occurred at America’s inception was that men were willing to compromise. No one individual founder had a perfect vision for our nation. Each founder had strong opinions, yet held biases, prejudices, and flawed views. Not one of our founders would have been the perfect dictator, because none of them possessed a complete package of wisdom and abilities. However, willingness to compromise resulted in an optimization of their positive contributions and a check upon their short-sightedness. The writer of Proverbs tells us that “in the multitude of counselors, there is safety.” Indeed there was safety because our founders were willing to debate, listen, disagree, ponder, change, and negotiate. As a group, they got it nearly perfect. Collectively, they accomplished what no one man could have ever done alone.

America came into existence through compromise. A group of imperfect men were willing to struggle together to forge a nation. Those who had known failure were determined this time not to quit and not to fail. Their proceedings were held behind closed doors; there would be no grandstanding for personal benefit. They were able to successfully bridge the gaps between divergent personalities and views. None of the founders were completely satisfied with the result but it was the best that they could all agree upon. It’s quite a testimony to their collective wisdom that their republican experiment has become the oldest and most successful in world history. Because they were willing to cooperate, they were able to ignite a firestorm that created a nation and changed a world. Our Founding Fathers put the nation’s interests first, rather than dogmatically pushing their own agendas. Gratefully, these truly dedicated men were determined to cooperate, and learned to compromise in order to forge a nation.

Not for sale or republication. *A Patriot’s Perspective* series is published solely for the benefit of the members of Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. 



Alexander Hamilton



Patrick Henry



IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been

the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of

Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.


He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.—And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor. 

Politicians, Then and Now

By Michael G. Lucas



Last month, we went to the polls (or mailed in our ballots) to exercise our privilege and responsibility as citizens. In November we'll be returning to the polls to elect our political leaders just as Americans have done for over 200 years. There are a lot of differences and some similarities between our Founding Fathers and the leaders that we will be electing this year.

Obviously, our Founding Fathers faced a huge risk unlike politicians today. Our early leaders were guilty of treason in the eyes of Britain and became marked men. Fortunately today those running for office don't have to do so at the risk of their lives.

It was often a big financial sacrifice to have served the new nation. Many revolutionary leaders who served in the Continental Congress continually complained of the burdens of office and begged to be relieved so they could pursue their languishing financial interests. Because of financial reasons, Alexander Hamilton had to resign and return to his law practice. George Washington had to liquidate personal assets in order to afford his presidency. Our Founders never envisioned the career political profession of today with its reasonable compensation.

Our Founding Fathers experienced a keener sense of obligation to serve than modern day politicians. Public office became the obligation of certain eighteenth century gentlemen who were talented and had social standing. It was almost a requirement that men of prominent families serve in government and promote the public good. Granted, many politicians today feel a duty to serve but there's a difference. In that day, there was a distinction between gentlemen and commoners, somewhat like officers and the enlisted in the military. Being a gentleman, which comprised 5-10% of the population, was a prerequisite to becoming a political leader. It was accepted that only gentlemen should represent them in government.

The ideal early politician served the country in a "disinterested" manner. This was the term used to describe their self-sacrifice and ability to rise above a financial interest. There was one founder, Aaron Burr, who was the exception and chose not to portray an image of "disinterestedness." He appeared to promote his own selfish interests over the public good; as a result, his fellow politicians challenged him. Today, we expect our political leaders to temporarily separate their financial interests from potential influence while in office. Today, if a politician uses his influence for financial gain, he risks investigation and removal from office. However, the Founding Fathers never envisioned lucrative consulting contracts and book deals after leaving office.

Modern politicians are expected to reveal more of their private lives than did our first leaders. These early politicians were primarily concerned with the public image that was portrayed. We know little about the personal lives of most. Martha Washington destroyed the letters between her and her husband since this area was considered off limits. The voters of today feel that in order to judge character they have a right to know almost all aspects of their elected officials.

Our early leaders required a thick skin just as today. Many today think that politics has only recently gotten dirty but it has been vicious from the very beginning. In fact, early American politics was probably dirtier than it is now. You probably won't hear a politician today calling his competitor a "bastard brat of a Scotch pedlar (sic)" like John Adams called Alexander Hamilton. Thin-skinned and sensitive men should always avoid politics.

Our Founding Fathers comprised a unique generation that will never be duplicated. As SAR members we honor them for achieving our independence and form of government. But we also owe political leaders, down through the years, a debt of gratitude for maintaining the institutions created by our Founders. Many of our politicians have sacrificed and struggled in a very difficult arena. 🌀



THE Forty-Niner

Newsletter of the Gold Country Chapter

California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
PO Box 408 • Meadow Vista, CA 95722-0408



First Class

Address Correction Requested

Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?

1. Which of these rights are given by the Constitution and Bill of Rights?
 - a. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom to redress of grievances against the government, and freedom of assembly
 - b. The freedom to bear arms and own property
 - c. All of the above rights are provided by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
 - d. None of these. The Constitution and Bill of Rights do not provide rights.
2. The Declaration of Independence was signed by Congress on:
 - a. July 4, 1776
 - b. July 5, 1776
 - c. July 30, 1776
 - d. August 2, 1776
3. The longest period of time that any one person can serve as U.S. president is:
 - a. 12 Years
 - b. 10 Years
 - c. 9 Years
 - d. 8 Years
4. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the states:
 - a. Freedom to trade among themselves
 - b. A republican form of government
 - c. The spread of democracy
 - d. The right to make any laws it deems necessary

Answers:
d, d, b, b