



The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

THE DAR STORY

The Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization with a deeply rich history while also being truly relevant in today's world. More than 1,000,000 women have joined the organization since it was founded over 125 years ago. They became members to honor their heritage as well as make a difference in their communities across the country and the world. Learn more about the amazing history of the DAR and what members are doing today to continue that legacy.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded on October 11, 1890, during a time that was marked by a revival in patriotism and intense interest in the beginnings of the United States of America. Women felt the desire to express their patriotic feelings and were frustrated by their exclusion from men's organizations formed to perpetuate the memory of ancestors who fought to make this country free and independent. As a result, a group of pioneering women in the nation's capital formed their own organization and the Daughters of the American Revolution has carried the torch of patriotism ever since.

The DAR was founded in 1890 by four women whose common bond was the fact that each had fathers or grandfathers who were patriots of the American Revolution. The founders of the Daughters of the American Revolution sought to create an organization that would "perpetuate the memory and spirit of the women and men who achieved American independence."

The objectives laid forth in the first meeting of the DAR have remained the same in 125 years of active service to the nation. Those objectives are: **Historical** - to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence; **Educational** - to carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, "to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge, thus developing an enlightened public opinion..."; and **Patriotic** - to cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

WHAT WE DO

For more than a century, the members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution have dedicated themselves to historical preservation, promotion of education, and encouragement of patriotic endeavor. These goals are as relevant in today's society as they were when the organization was founded in 1890.

Most of DAR's volunteer work is accomplished by the grassroots efforts of chapters on the local level which focus on the mission areas of DAR by encouraging members to become involved in these initiatives in their local communities.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DAR members participate in an array of projects to help preserve our cultural heritage, including:

- Restoring and maintaining historical sites
- Locating, restoring and marking Revolutionary War patriot gravesites and headstones
- Organizing and contributing to major restorations, commemorations and memorials
- Placing monuments around the world to memorialize people and events throughout American history
- Preserving genealogical records, artifacts and historical documents

EDUCATION

DAR members are passionate about educating the youth of America and contributing to schools and student:

- Supporting six schools through chapter and member donations of money as well as personal time:
- Providing scholarships and awards to students
- Promoting education and citizenship through youth programs such as Children of the American Revolution, DAR Good Citizens and Junior American Citizens
- Sponsoring American history essay contests for grades 5 through 8
- Offering educational summer camps and cultural programs through the DAR Museum

PATRIOTISM

DAR Members' love of country is evident in the multitude of patriotic endeavors they pursue, including:

- Providing more than 200,000 hours of volunteer time annually to veterans
- Offering support to America's service personnel abroad through care packages
- Sponsoring special programs promoting the Constitution during its official celebration week of September 17-23
- Participating in naturalization ceremonies
- Presenting patriotic awards to deserving individuals

THE FORT GREENE CHAPTER

In 1896, a group of prominent women met at the home of Mrs. Stephen Van Cullen White to form a Brooklyn chapter of the DAR. One of the objectives of this new chapter were to promote establishing a suitable memorial to the memory of martyrs – civilian, military, and naval – who perished in prison ships anchored in the Wallabout Bay during the Revolutionary War.

Soon after the founding of the Fort Greene Chapter NSDAR, the children of the members were organized into an enthusiastic, chapter of the Children of the American Revolution, called "Little Men and Women of '76." By 1900, those children had grown into young men and women and the young women formed a new chapter – the "Women of '76." In 1906, to accommodate businesswomen who could not attend during the week, a subsidiary Battle Pass Chapter NSDAR was formed. This new branch of our chapter met on Saturdays.

For the past 100+ years members of the Fort Greene Chapter have engaged in many charitable activities. During times of war the Fort Greene Chapter has supported our servicemen in a variety of ways, including moral support. The Chapter is dedicated to preserving and raising awareness of American history and public education. The Chapter maintains historic artifacts associated with American and Brooklyn history. Among these are several embroidered silk regimental-size flags were given by members as memorials to loved ones in WWI. Among these was Washington's Naval flag.

THE PRISON SHIP MARTYRS MONUMENT

Creation of a suitable memorial to the prison ship martyrs was an initial objective of the Fort Greene Chapter.

During the war, the British held thousands captive on prison ships anchored in Wallabout Bay. Over 11,500 men and women died of overcrowding, contaminated water, starvation, and disease aboard the ships. Bodies were hastily buried along the shore. In 1808, the remains of the prison ship martyrs were buried in a tomb on Jackson Street (now Hudson Avenue), near the Brooklyn Navy Yard. A fraction of these remains were moved to a vault in Fort Greene in 1873.

The founders of the Fort Greene Chapter sought to establish a permanent memorial to these brave patriots – from all thirteen colonies and representing at least thirteen different nationalities – who lost their lives for their support of American Independence.

Designed by McKim, Mead, and White the Martyrs Monument was erected on the hill up from the vault containing the remains of the prison ship martyrs. The memorial was dedicated by President William Howard Taft in 1908.

FORT GREENE CHAPTER ***
NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK