



San Francisco Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



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Libertas et Patria
INSTITUTED JULY 4, 1876

E PLURIBUS UNUM

NEXT MEETING **Thursday, April 23, 2015**

SINBAD'S RESTAURANT, PIER 2, FISHERMAN'S WHARF
11.30 AM SOCIAL, 12.00 PM LUNCHEON MEETING.

GUEST SPEAKER: Professor Jesse Choper, UC Berkeley
Constitutional Scholar and Professor

TOPIC: Differences between Conservative
and Liberal Supreme Court Justices

A Message from the President



Greetings Compatriots,

We live in complex and challenging times.

The California drought, police conduct under the microscope, ISIS, a lingering war overseas, climate change, gang violence, and on and on. Somehow it seems that the more convenient and comfortable our lives have become, the more complicated our world seems to be. One would think the opposite would be the case.

The struggle to make America the best it can be, better than it ever has been before, goes on.

Skeptics believe that we are a nation in decline, but I do not believe that to be so. We are a nation in the midst of profound change in many quarters. But we have always been a land and a people in transition.

The patriots that we honor and remember as members of the Sons of the American Revolution knew a great deal about change. They invented it, at least on these shores. The risks that they were willing to bear and the sacrifices they were ready to make to break British rule and found a new na-

tion are hard to even comprehend today. They put their lives and their livelihoods at enormous peril in order that we may enjoy the manner in which we live today, in freedom and prosperity. Incredible.

While we wrestle with the challenges of today, we would be wise to remember the challenges they faced then without the benefit of the safety nets we have in place in our lives now. They scratched and clawed their way to a new government without social security, medical care, 401-K investments, or even basic cable to entertain them after a day of fighting a revolution.

Yes, we live in complex times, but we've been there before.

We persevered then and we shall do so again... and again... and again.

All the best,

Dan

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**LOWELL STUDENT, WINNING S.F.S.A.R. ORATION CONTEST,
APPLIES NATION'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES TO THE INTERNET**



Champion orator: Amina Zaidi, a senior at Lowell High School, is the San Francisco winner of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oratorical Contest on the American Revolution.

A thoughtful look at the issue of Internet regulation is presented in Amina Zaidi's speech which won first place in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest in San Francisco. Just as "colonists faced curtailment of their freedoms, the modern world is facing a new threat to freedom of speech," the Lowell High School senior said. "The Bill of Rights and the values within it ultimately should dictate the restrictions we place on the Internet," she urged. "In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was written, inspired by John Locke's philosophy regarding people's natural rights, this document articulated...the

will of the colonists, that they did not desire to be complicit with the evils and usurpation of individual freedoms that the British monarchy imposed upon them."

Ms. Zaidi cited the 1997 Supreme Court case of *Reno v. ACLU*, protecting freedom of speech on the Internet. The student orator addressed the problem of hate speech, anonymous posts, and "the potential of subversion and abuse of freedom." She quoted George Washington's words, "if freedom of speech is taken away, dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." She concluded that the Bill of Rights "still offers insight" that can guide laws governing the Internet. "For it is more important that the United States continues to be the land of the free than to run the risk of falling into the grasp of tyranny." Winning the live speech competition sponsored by SFSAR, Ms. Zaidi has advanced to compete in CASSAR's statewide contest. She will present her speech live at the SFSAR lunch meeting at the Presidio Cafe on Memorial Day--details of that meeting will be announced in the chapter's May newsletter.

SINBAD'S GETS A BIG THANK-YOU AND VOWS TO STAY OPEN

Tom and Duane Stinson, the proprietors of Sinbad's, received a certificate of appreciation for hosting SFSAR meetings over the years. President Dan Ashley, presenting the award on March 26, said the chapter plans to continue meeting at Sinbad's for as long as the restaurant on San Francisco's Pier 2 stays in business. Tom Stinson said he and his brother are strong believers in the values promoted by SAR, including the ideal that "governments and bureaucracies are here to serve the people and not themselves." The Port Authority has announced its intention to tear down the historic landmark, but Tom said Sinbad's--some of whose employees have been there for 35 years--are not ready to shut down. Cindy Bothwell of the CASSAR Ladies Auxiliary spoke with Duane Stinson on April 10, and he said the restaurant will be open for SFSAR's April 23 meeting and plans to stay in business "for a long time."

BATAAN HISTORIAN RECOUNTS FILIPINOS' ROLE IN WWII



The history of the relationship between the United States, Japan and the Philippines was outlined by Cecelia Gaerlan, guest speaker at SFSAR's March 26 meeting at Sinbad's. Ms. Gaerlan, executive director of the Bataan Legacy Historical Society, reviewed events that led to the Japanese takeover of the Philippines in World War II, and the liberation of the archipelago nation by Allied forces. Some 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died on the Bataan death march, which began April 9, 1942, a 60-mile forced march of POWs under Imperial Japanese control, the

speaker noted. An exhibition by the Bataan Legacy Historical Society will continue until January 2016 at the San Francisco Public Library, she said. The exhibition highlights, inter alia, the role of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the U.S. Army in the Second World War.



TO LEARN MORE...

For more information, visit www.sfsar.webs.com, or send an email to SFSAR President Dan Ashley at dan.ashley@abc.com; Webmaster Keith Shuerholz at keith.418@gmail.com; or Contributing Editor Tony Bothwell Sr. at apxb007@msn.com.

SF SAR and the GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Annual Celebration

Social media pages of **Dan Ashley** and ABC7 beamed breaking news from George Washington High School Feb. 18 where SAR and DAR leaders joined with students and teachers celebrating the Feb. 22, 1732 birth of the father of our country.

From Dan Ashley's Channel 7 ABC News Facebook page:

I had a nice experience today at George Washington High School in San Francisco. The local chapters of Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution held an annual wreath laying observance for President's Day and George Washington's birthday.

It was so moving to see young people engaged in honoring our first President with student speeches and a patriotic song. I was honored to give the keynote remarks.

I reminded the students that history is not just a class they take in school. It is from whence we came, defines where we are today, and can guide where we will be in the future. The statue of George Washington in the school is not just a central place to meet a friend, but something that should inspire.

Speaking for the adults in attendance today, it was inspiring to see so many bright young faces who clearly appreciated the chance to pause and remember the contributions of George Washington and so many others who literally created the country we are so fortunate to live in today.



DAN ASHLEY ADDRESSES G.W. STUDENTS. The SFSAR President is flanked on the dais by (from left) Presidio DAR First Vice Regent Rebecca Pringle and Founding Regent Judy Kimball, Compatriots Bob Ebert, Chris Hays and Marston Watson, and Jane Sebree, a member of the Presidio and Puerta de Oro DAR chapters.



PATRIOTIC MUSIC played by the GWHS band. The George Washington birthday event was held on a Wednesday, Feb. 18 (a school day) because the 22nd fell on a Sunday this year.



GENERAL WASHINGTON'S STATUE is ceremoniously honored on or about each February 22nd. The statue is seen by G.W. students every day as they walk through the school lobby between classes.

SPEAKERS AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CELEBRATION

Our speakers included **Jerel Boromeo**, a veteran of the school's speech team, as well as GWHS Principal **Erica Lovrin**, SFSAR President **Dan Ashley** and First Vice President **Chris Hays**. Also featured was a Revolutionary playlet starring Judy Kimball, founding regent, and **Rebecca Pringle**, First vice regent of Presidio Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. The school drum corps and color guard escorted visiting dignitaries along the esplanade and into the main lobby where the proceedings were held. Earlier a Continental breakfast was set up in the principal's conference room. After the ceremonies, SAR and DAR members and guests assembled for lunch at the Presidio Cafe, with SFSAR President Dan Ashley presiding.