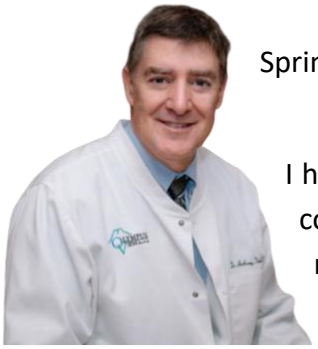
NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, Monday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.
at the ***National Headquarters, 3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, Utah***

BOARD MESSAGE

Tony Tidwell, Mills Chapter Board of Directors



Spring has Sprung, Fall has Fell, Winter's here,.. and it's Cold as Usual!

I hope all of you are getting out to see the leaves changing. The canyons are ablaze with color. With our President on SUP Trek in Washington DC, I've been asked to write the message this month.

Last week, DeVaughn Simper gave an incredible presentation on the history of our Nation's flag. We were touched by the respect and honor he showed to our flag. As a high school trumpet player, I was often called to accompany the American Legion Color Guard to play taps at the funeral of an old veteran or soldier lost in Viet Nam. I would stand by the grave, or hide in the trees, and after a "Twenty One Gun Salute", play taps like an slow echo, while the soldiers ceremoniously folded the flag and presented it to the fallen hero's family. Now, each time we recite the Pledge of Allegiance, I am reminded of all those sacrifices made so that I can enjoy the freedoms of today. There are debts we can never pay, and our flag symbolizes that obligation.

I thought that saying the pledge was much more significant when we said it after hearing about all that our flag represents.

November's presenter is our own Jeff Edwards, speaking about the Italian Saints, Lorenzo Snow's mission and the impact of the Italian converts. This and a good meal with friends you do not want to miss ts!

You can use our Chapter Website to let us know that you are coming to our upcoming meeting by your RSVP. This helps us plan for enough food and tables for everyone. Go to the Chapter Dinner tab. You can also watch videos of many past meetings and see previous editions of the newsletter Go to https://supmills.org

Past Meeting

October 12, 2026

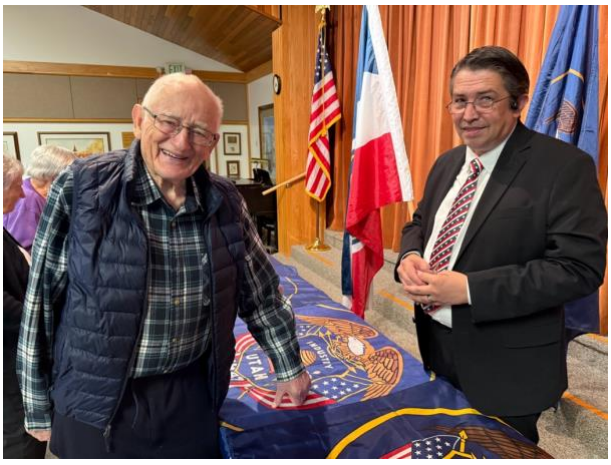
Symbols of a People: What Flags Reveal

1DeVaughn Simper and his son show collection of Utah state flags

DeVaughn Simper, a nationally recognized vexillologist and historical educator, addressed Mills Chapter on October 12 as our featured speaker. With extensive experience in civic symbolism, museum interpretation, and the study of American heraldic and vexillological traditions, he talked about how flags function as meaningful historical sources.

He brought some of his extensive collection of state and federal flags including a sample of each of Utah's flags from before statehood to the newest one approved by the legislature in 2024.

He also talked about the Mormon Battalion Flag that was donated to the National SUP collection in 2022. It is known as the "Life Guards" Flag and was restored and is now prominently displayed in front entrance lobby of the National SUP Headquarters building.



Upcoming Meeting

November 9, 2026

The First Italian Mission 1848 - 1865

Jeff and Kara at Fort Bridger Mountain Man Rendezvous

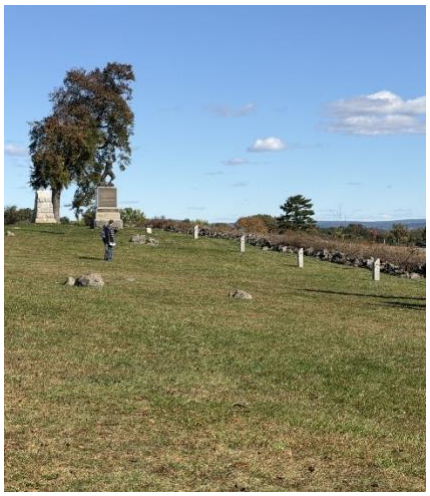
Our speaker for November will be Jeff Edwards, a member of the Mills Chapter. He will speak about the story of the first mission to Italy, led by Lorenzo Snow in 1848. In this deeply Catholic country, he felt directed to preach to the Waldensian people in the northwestern corner of the country. They were the first Protestants, predating Martin Luther by more than 400 years, and were persecuted by the Pope for centuries. The effort of these early missionaries resulted in the conversion of 14 families who eventually emigrated to Utah beginning in 1854 and added to the fabric of early Utah pioneer heritage. Jeff is a descendant of one of those families and will recount their fascinating history and his family story to us.

He grew up in the Cottonwood Stake, attended the U of U, had a career in the aerospace industry and state government and lives today with Karamea Evans Edwards in the Yalecrest area of Salt Lake.

The 2026 SUP National Trek – by Randy Baker

National SUP sponsored a trek to historic U.S. sites in celebration of 250 Years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Rona and I decided to go this year and enjoyed it very much. We flew to Philadelphia, PA on Tuesday, October 13. Places we visited in the area were Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, National Constitution Center, Museum of the American Revolution, Washington's Crossing of the Delaware, Valley Forge, and Hopewell Furnace (location where steel was made from the early 1700s to late 1800s). We then traveled by bus on Saturday to Washington, DC and stopped at Gettysburg on the way. After touring the Nation's Capital by bus and seeing the lay of the city we had individual stops throughout the week at Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, The People's House (a White House experience exhibit), Smithsonian National Museum of American History, US Capitol Building, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Ford's Theater, Peterson House (where Lincoln died), Smithsonian Museum of Natural History , and National Archives. We were also able to attend the Washington, DC Temple, and returned home on Friday, October 23. Our tour guides were SUP members John M. Beck, Jr, Steve Kruman (who grew up in Philadelphia and lives minutes from where Washington crossed the Delaware River) and Paul Wright (who worked in DC for years).

Life size statue of George Washington in a constitutional hall exhibit. He was taller than me, and I appreciate his courage.



A Gettysburg Battlefield. Many lost their lives in the cause of abolishing slavery.

Our group in front of Capital Building.

Delaware River where Washington crossed. Sunny October day compared to cold Christmas day.

Ford's Theatre sign still stands.

Rona and I behind a former Oval Office desk in a mock-up room of the office.