



# The Florida Patriot

Official Magazine of the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

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Fall 2016

## *NSSAR 126th Congress - Boston, Massachusetts*



## SAR

The Sons of the American Revolution is a historical, educational, & patriotic non-profit, United States 501 (c) 3 corporation that seeks to maintain and extend (1) the institution of American freedom, (2) an 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.

We do this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions.

## Florida Patriot

The *Florida Patriot* is the official magazine of the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR). It is published quarterly. The subscription to this magazine is part of the Florida Society SAR dues. Products and services advertised do not carry the FLSSAR nor the NSSAR endorsement. The Florida Society reserves the right to reject content of any copy.



Florida Society SAR Group Picture



(L-R): Society President - Ray Wess, NSSAR Knight Essay Chair - Michael Elston, Anita Nusbaum, Winner of 2015 NSSAR Knight Essay Contest - Joseph Nusbaum, and FLSSAR Knight Essay Chair - John M. Stewart



(L-R): Knight Essay Chair - Micheal Elston, Knight Essay Contest Winner - Joseph, Nusbaum, and NSSAR President General Tom Lawrence

## *Florida Society Officers*

Society President	Ray Wess
Senior Vice President	Robert J. Folks
Secretary	Hal Riediger
Treasurer	Richard Young
RVP NW Region	Decody Brad Marble
RVP NC Region	Scott Bushnell
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RVP SE Region	Lee Popham
RPV SW Region	Lee William Matson
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Chancellor	Carl K. Hoffman
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Chaplain	Dwight Donald Elam
Genealogist	Richard Cardell
Historian	Bob McGuire
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Sgt. At Arms	John L. McCullough
Webmaster	Scott Bushnell
Past President	Larry Fehrenbaker
National Trustee	Ray Wess
Alternate National Trustee	Robert J. Folks
Appointed Parliamentarian	Rev. Randy Moody
Executive Administrator	Steve Williams

## *Color Guard*

Commander	Charles L. Day, Jr.
Vice Commander	Hall Riediger

## *Florida Patriot Staff*

Editor	Jeff Sizemore
Circulations Manager	Steve Williams
Membership Database	Hal Riediger

## *Submission Deadline Dates*

Winter 2017 Issue	November 20, 2016
Spring 2017 Issue	March 20, 2017
Summer 2017 Issue	June 30, 2017

## *Table of Content*

- 2 - 126th Annual NSSAR Congress Pictures
- 4 - Society President's Message
- 6 - From the Patriot Medals Committee
- 6 - Congress Trustee Report
- 6 - From the Nominating Committee
- 7 - Compatriot Joe H. Hill (1936-2016)
- 7 - Compatriot Milton L. Krom (1919-2016)
- 9 - Florida Society Children of the American Revolution
- 9 - Flag Certificate Challenge
- 9 - From the Medals and Awards Committee
- 10 - SAR Events First to Last
- 11 - Natural Rights by Joseph D. Nusbaum
- 12 - New SAR Members
- 13 - Patriot Biography Program
- 15 - Chapter News
- 19 - Barbara Jean "Barb" Hodalski (1936-2016)
- 19 - Good Citizenship Award
- 20 - The Grapevine: FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary
- 21 - The Power of the Newspaper by Talia Fradkin
- 21 - With Deepest Regret: Edward McDowell Duvall, Jr.
- 22 - Habbarton Battle: Rear Guard Action Battle Saved a Patriot Army by Don Lanman
- 23 - Declaration of Independence: Surprising Fact You May Not Know! By Don Lanman
- 27 - More 126th Annual NSSAR Congress Pictures

*Florida Ladies'  
Auxiliary Officers,  
2016 - 2017*

President	Naomi Wess
Vice President	Jeanne Fehrenbaker
Treasurer	Anne McGuire
Registrar	Becky Elam
Secretary	Cathy Thomas
Historian	Dianna Lantz
Chaplain	Joy Sizemore
Parliamentarian	Billie Brock

*Content Submission*

The Editor of the Florida Patriot actively seeks manuscripts and articles for publication. Suitable topics are articles about the state and local SAR, their activities, and members. Articles should be approximately 100 to 500 words and photos should be included when possible. All submissions will be printed in a timely manner. Chapter News submissions should be 150 to 200 words; single photo size should be at least 600x600 pixels. Other article submission should be original material or submit other author's articles with publication releases accompanying the submission.

The Florida Society assumes no responsibility for statements made or opinions of contributors. All submissions are requested by email. The Society is not responsible for items sent through the mail. Please do not send original or irreplaceable materials or photographs.

The Editor reserves the right to make any editorial conformity of style. Authors grant the Florida Society print & electronic publication rights. To submit material to the Editor via email at [swampfoxeditor@cfl.rr.com](mailto:swampfoxeditor@cfl.rr.com) or via mail at 1535 Skyline Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34744.

*Society President's  
Message*

Beloved Compatriots and Friends,

I sincerely hope that everyone is having a relaxing summer. Nomi and I have just returned from Boston after attending the 126<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution. We really enjoyed Congress and in the words of Founding Father, John Adams, it was a "genteel event". We stayed two extra days and toured some of the historical sites. Our favorites were Lexington and Concord. We had an excellent tour guide who was born and raised in Boston and was extremely knowledgeable of Revolutionary War history. It was interesting to hear him declare that most of the local Boston area residents are ignorant with regards to Revolutionary War history.



**The 126<sup>th</sup> National Congress** was extremely kind to the Florida Society in many ways. The Florida Society and many of our membership received awards and recognition during the Patriot Medal/Awards Ceremony. Joseph Nusbaum from Pensacola won first place in the George and Stella Knight Essay Contest. Joseph's essay title was, "Natural Rights". Florida was recognized at the youth awards luncheon for having the most entries in the essay contest with 103. **Florida Knight Essay Chairman John Stewart was recognized by the NSSAR Youth Awards Chairman, Michael Elston, for his exemplary efforts in obtaining more entries than any other State Society.**

Talia Fradkin came up short in making the finals and placed seventh out of eighteen contestants in the Joseph Rumbaugh Historical Oration contest. This was Talia's third trip to Congress as the Florida Society representative and although Talia put on a spectacular performance, she was unable to beat one of the strongest oration fields in years. Talia will not be eligible to compete next year because of age and she will be missed. Talia begins college in the fall and will major in pre-med.

As a result of Joseph Nusbaum's first place finish in the essay contest, the Florida Society received a \$200.00 gift from President General Thomas Lawrence and his wife Mickey Jo. The Lawrence's also gifted Florida another \$200.00 for sponsoring six youth contestants in seven youth contests.

The Florida Society also received \$250.00 first place prize money for producing the best State Society magazine. **We owe Florida Patriot Editor Jeff Sizemore our sincere gratitude for this significant achievement.**

Florida was again recognized for outstanding achievement by President General Lawrence when we received first place certificates for admitting the most, new members under the age of forty (117), the most approved supplemental patriot applications (147) and a second place certificate for the second most new, net regular members (104). This is a clear sign that the Florida Society continues to grow.

**The new NSSAR President General, J. Michael Tomme Sr.** is a member of the Florida Society. President General Tomme was installed in a moving George Washington Ring ceremony and gave an extremely sincere and meaningful installation speech and announced his primary initiative of emphasizing and expanding SAR youth programs. President General Tomme issued a challenge to each State Society to donate \$1000.00 to the prize money pool of the NSSAR Youth Programs so that each contest prize can be enhanced at the national level.

## *What is an E-Book?*

The Florida Society has created and continuing to add to a new, for us, type of publication - an e-Book. The electronic Book, or e-Book, contains articles and content concerning specific subject matter. We have created two e-Books. One based around the military experiences of our Florida compatriots in whichever field of military life they experienced be it WWII, the Korean Conflict, VietNam, or later conflicts. The second is centered on Genealogical and Historical subject matter. It might be information on historical artifacts or people and battles in the Revolutionary War, or genealogical analysis or research reports.

Take advantage of these e-Books and spend a few minutes reading their stories or reports. They can be found on the Florida Website at <http://flssar.org/Forms.htm>.

## *Calling All Color Guardsmen!*

Here's a chance to strut your stuff by attending the BOM wearing your colorful attire, be it a Military uniform, militia outfit, or civilian clothing. If you haven't started marching with the Florida Brigade and have earned your Bronze Color Guard medal, do so starting this year! Show the dashing side to your personality by joining the other members of the Florida Brigade as they present the colors at the banquet. Staying for the banquet is optional, but it is more fun to mingle with the ordinarily dressed folks.

**In addition to the election of Florida Society Member, J. Michael Tomme** to NSSAR President General, Past Florida State Society President Lawrence G. Fehrenbaker Sr. was elected to Vice President General of the South Atlantic District and appointed to Chairman of the Vice President's General Council by President General Tomme. Additional Florida Society appointments made by President General Tomme were: Dr. Randy Moody to NSSAR Parliamentarian and current Florida Society President Raymond Wess to NSSAR Deputy Inspector General. The Florida Society will have a significant presence at the national level during the immediate future.

**The National Society is transitioning** to a new website and electronic member application. The new website has been launched and many of the bugs are being worked out on a daily basis. The new electronic member application is in "beta testing" currently with a proposed roll out implementation date of May 2017. It is unknown as to whether the roll out will be incremental or complete. The Florida Society Registrar, Ray Lantz, will be distributing information to the Chapter Registrars as it becomes available. Ray plans on an instructional seminar for Chapter Registrars at next May's Board of Management Meeting/Annual Meeting.

**I am extremely pleased with the response** that I have received from the Regional Vice Presidents with regards to my request for each of the seven regions to hold a regional meeting. So far we have four regional meetings booked and another in the works.

### **Currently Scheduled:**

**Southwest Region – 13 August, 2016**

**West Central Region – 27 August, 2016**

**Northeast Region – 03 September, 2016**

**North Central Region – 17 September, 2016**

If you are a member of one of the above listed regions, please make every attempt possible to attend your region's meeting. Previously held meetings have been extremely productive. Generally, the Regional Vice President will ask members for their questions or comments prior to the meeting.

**We are moving to a new venue for our fall Board of Management Meeting.** As previously mentioned in the last issue of the Florida Patriot, our new venue will be the Embassy Suites Orlando Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs (spelled correctly) Heath Road, Kissimmee, Florida, 34746. The new registration form and hotel registration information can be found on the Florida Society website, [www.flssar.org](http://www.flssar.org). The society has a room block of 30 rooms so make your reservations early so you can take advantage of the group discount rate.

**We are making a bid to host the National Congress in Florida for the year 2021.** I will be submitting a bid for hosting the Congress in Jacksonville. The National Congress Host Committee contracts with a private company to conduct hotel surveys. A request has been made for a survey and list of host hotels in the Jacksonville area that meets the space and lodging criteria of a National Congress. When the survey is received, a formal written bid will be submitted at the fall SAR Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY during the last week of September.

**Finally, we conducted a memorial service at the 126<sup>th</sup> National Congress** for the five hundred sixty-two brothers who have passed since the last Congress in Louisville, KY. The memorial service was a sincere tribute to the many years of exemplary volunteer service rendered by these departed brothers. Let us remember that **all lives matter. Let us keep the families and especially the widows of these dear brothers in our thoughts and prayers.**

I remain your current and constant humble servant,

Respectfully,

**Ray Wess**

## *From the Patriot Medals Committee*

With fewer Board of Management meetings it is important to keep in mind the deadline for sending in Patriot Medal Nominations. The last three years we have been allowed four nominations each year and only nominated three. Our Charter states "Nominations of persons to be considered by the Committee for the Patriot Medal may be made by any member of the FLS-SAR. Such nomination should include a statement detailing the qualifications of the nominee for such consideration, and must be sent to the Chairman of the Committee at or before January 31st of each year." (before January 31, 2017)

Send your nominations to: Patriot Chairman – Charles Day, 4278 California Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604.

## *Congress Trustee Report*

Meeting Date: Sunday, July 10, 2016, 9:00 AM; Boston Massachusetts.

Trustee: Steven Williams

Alternate Trustee: Lawrence G. Fehrenbaker, Sr. (Trustee-in-Fact for Meeting)

At the Trustees' Meeting held on July 10, 2016 during the Boston Congress, upon the recommendation of the NSSAR Executive Committee, and following discussion, the Trustees voted and approved three motions which will fund (\$70K) the completion of the Patriot Index for 2016. The Patriot Index is the basis for a Genealogical Research System (GRS) and must be completed prior to implementing any future additional components for the GRS. Three motions were approved: use of \$36K from the Kings College Project (KCP) contingency fund, KCP fund having been funded mostly by private donations; twenty-five thousand dollars from the "line-item" funds for paying down the 5<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Bank debt (having an excess over budgeted funds) and nine thousand dollars from the Building and Outreach Education (B&OE) fund (having an excess over budgeted funding).

Project Manager, PG White, discussed the status of improvements to the electrical system and the sewer line that runs from our new headquarters building and transverses under the property (Michter's Distillery) next door. The electrical improvements were funded previously and the Trustees approved the final funding (\$7,600 from the PP&E fund) for the sewer repair.

A discussion concerning the Ramsey Estate Adhoc Committee Report and an error in distributing \$100K to the King Eagle Scout Fund was resolved following a discussion and passage of a motion by the Trustees, from Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Dr. Ed Rigel, Sr. that \$50K be distributed to the King Eagle Scout Fund and \$50K to the NSSAR to be used as the Society determines.

According to NSSAR Bylaw No. 1, changes to the Membership Application must be approved by the Trustees. The Trustees voted to accept the modifications to the Membership Application that currently appears on the new website.

The complete official minutes of the Trustee Meeting will appear at a future date on the NSSAR ShareFile site.

Respectfully submitted: Lawrence G. Fehrenbaker, Sr.

## *From the Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee of the Florida Society is accepting Nominations from Compatriots for the Florida Society SAR Officer positions for the 2017-2018 term. The officer positions are: President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, East Central Regional VP, North Central Regional VP, North West Regional VP, North East Regional VP, West Central Regional VP, South East Regional VP, South West Regional VP, Chancellor, Chaplain, Genealogist, Registrar, Sgt-at-Arms, ExCom Member-at-Large, Editor, Historian, Webmaster, National Trustee, and Alternate National Trustee. All compatriots who seek nomination for the officer positions are asked to review the Bylaws of the Florida Society Governing Documents for specific officer qualifications and duties of the respective offices (Articles III and IV). The Florida Governing Documents can be found at the Florida Society website [www.flssar.org](http://www.flssar.org) and clicking on the blue tab labelled "Governing Docs."

All officer candidates and those seeking re-election for an incumbent office must complete the appropriate nomination form that can be found at [www.flssar.org](http://www.flssar.org) by accessing the "members only," tab (log-in is not necessary) and clicking on the "Forms" option under the "Reporting," button. Both the "Officer Nomination Form" and the "Officer Re-Nomination Form" are fill-able PDF forms and are to be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Lawrence G. Fehrenbaker, Sr. Nominating Committee, Chairman

## *NSSAR Congress Hotel Registration Information*

If you are planning to attend next year's Congress in Knoxville, TN, please consider making your reservations soon if you would like to stay in the host hotel. This Congress will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown Knoxville. The hotel telephone number is 865-522-2800. The contract room rates are \$130.00 per night for a king size bed room or \$150.00 per night for a two-room suite.

## *Membership Information Updates Requested*

Several years ago, the FLSSAR made a decision to transmit *The Florida Patriot* electronically to cut down on the cost of mailing; as well as, make the magazine readily available to our membership that otherwise could take up to 4 to 6 weeks for mail copies to arrive. An opt-out provision was made available, but it required your chapter secretary to inform the FLSSAR State Secretary of such request. Sending such request to other FLSSAR officers or committee chairmen may not get handled in the most optimum manner.

The savings of the electronic version has helped the FLSSAR has extra funds for other SAR projects; as well as, provide funding for the Endowment Fund in which your chapter can get money back from the FLSSAR to help fund projects locally.

As with all membership address changes, email changes, notifications, please have your chapter secretary forward them to the FLSSAR State Secretary, Hall Reidinger. So, that the FLSSAR can communicate with all our Florida Society members in a timely manner, please remember to keep us updated with the latest member contact information.

## *Compatriot Joe H. Hill* (1936-2016)



Sadness has visited the Lakeland Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution with the passing of Compatriot Joe H. Hill on July 21, 2016. The news brought shock to the members of this chapter. He has been a faithful member from his registration on May 28, 2009. He served as Lakeland Chapter President for three years (2013-2015).

During his tenure as president he guided the chapter with good advice and directions. Also during this time in the chapter he was the escort for Colonel John Dame on the Veteran's Honor Flight from Florida to Washington, DC. He was also installed to serve as Sergeant at Arms for the Florida Society for at least one term.

Shortly after Joe became a member of the SAR he began helping to gather genealogical data to help his wife of 32 years, Judith Davis Hill, to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Joe was also a member of the Imperial Polk Genealogical Society in Lakeland, Florida with his full support and attendance.

Joe was a long time employee of Ryder Truck Lines and enjoyed his farm life in Tennessee and San Antonio, Florida.

Compatriot Hill was survived by his wife Judith, three children, Tina (Mrs. Greg) Clary, Ken Hill, Terry (Charlene) Hill, three step-children, Allan (Jan) Toney, Julie Toney, and Frankie (Joanna) Genco, as well as two sisters Barbara Poe and Nancy Hopper.

On July 25, 2016 a host of family and friends gathered at Russell Haven of Rest Funeral Home in Green Cove Springs, Florida for a celebration of life.

## *Compatriot Milton L. Krom* (1919 - 2016)

It is with deep sympathy that the Highlands SAR Chapter announce the passing of Milton Lorenzo Krom of Avon Park. He was born May 5, 1919 in New Britain, CT to John David and Emily (Manke) Krom.

His military experience in World War II appeared in an article called "The Price of Freedom" that appeared in Highlands Today on May 28, 2012. In that article, Compatriot Krom's experience was summed up as follows: Waves and rough weather battered the landing ship carrying Sgt. Milton L. Krom and the unit that was delivering ammunition to the Allied troops on Omaha Beach. It was 9 a.m. June 6, 1944. This key World War II battle to secure a beachhead in Normandy, France had been raging for three hours. Artillery fire from bunkers at the top of the bluffs rained down on the vehicles and the combatants, who were swimming and fighting their way to shore through the deep water. "An airburst exploded ... there were eight people wounded so we had to pull off the landing ship," Krom recalled. "I was holding up the intake valve so we could get the truck to shore."



They were running into artillery fire. "The wounded and dead were all over the beach ..." he trailed off, the strain of the memories evident in his voice. Haunting images of war are the price of freedom paid by Krom, a 93-year-old Avon Park resident. "Memorial Day isn't just in memory of the dead; it is in memory of what this country stands for — freedom," declared his wife, Marie. "Our flag represents to me all the soldiers that have died upholding that flag. ... If it wasn't for all of them, I wouldn't be alive today," Milton Krom added. Krom joined the Army right after high school graduation. It was June 26, 1940. As part of the Army's First Infantry Division, known as the "Big Red One," Krom was among the first U.S. troops to enter into combat in World War II. In "Operation Torch," his division led the assault into North Africa, the first of many battles. A canteen that he carried throughout his five years of service bears dozens of etched names of towns and countries liberated by the men he fought beside. His discharge papers list the names of campaigns he was in, including Sicily, Tunisia, Algeria-French Morocco, northern France, Rhineland and Normandy."

He had served as a Lebanon County Constable, was a member of the Local 35 IBEW, the CT State Police Auxiliary and the Southington Police Auxiliary. Milton retired from Baldwin Stuart Electric Company and moved to Avon Park in 1988 from Lebanon, CT. He was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Avon Park and the Highlands SAR Chapter. Survivors include his children, John and Denise Krom of Spartanburg, SC, George and Vivian Krom of Southington, CT; step-children, Arthur and Linda Clement of FL and Kathleen Proctor of FL; sister, Delphine Gray of Southington, CT along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Foundation offers new **SAR** pin to members

How often have we been asked who we are? Now, we can show our friends. "We are SAR!"

The SAR Foundation has adopted a new campaign to support the National Society's initiative to help BRAND SAR. The Foundation is offering a new SAR lapel pin for members. With this new tool to promote SAR, chapter members will be more visible, which makes it easier to promote SAR and build membership. And, the pin can be presented to new members. Simply stated, each chapter member deserves one of these pins.

**Why give?** Many members believe that after the old Headquarters building was sold and staff moved to the new building that the new Headquarters building was complete. But, it is not complete, there is much that remains to be done to complete the three-level building. Staff occupies about one-half of the top floor. The main level has been cleaned out, has modern, new restrooms, solid floors covered with wooden underlayment, temporary paint on the walls, and some lights, but it is far from being complete. And the lower level, the location of the Education Center, lacks even

more to be complete. We are required to have a new elevator, light fixtures, an updated electrical system and a complete refurbishment before the facility is complete and widely usable. It is our Headquarters, so your gift at this time will go a long way towards completing the building.

Our goal is participation from 500 chapters before the 2016 Congress in Boston.



**How the campaign will work.** Your participation is important. All State SAR Society Presidents are requested to encourage each of their Chapters to consider making a group donation to the SAR Foundation in the amount of \$10 for each member. If there are 15 members, the donation would be \$150; 100 members, the donation would be \$1,000. The Foundation will return a SAR lapel pin to be distributed to each member. The advantage of a group donation, with one Chapter check, is that donations are maximized while shipping expenses are minimized.

**How to give - we need your help.** Please discuss your Chapter's plan for participation and send a donation soon. We look forward to announcing your Chapter's participation at the 2016 Spring Leadership.

Please send your SAR Chapter Check to:

**SAR Foundation, 809 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202-2619**

**Want more information?** Please contact SARF Board Member Rick Hollis at [tnssar@bellsouth.net](mailto:tnssar@bellsouth.net) or 615.812.2648. Your support of this project and participation will make a difference! Thank you!



Enthusied by the prospect of touring a completed Headquarters Building in Louisville, JL Brown (right) of the Rome, Georgia SAR Chapter presents Chapter Treasurer Dick Richter (left) a \$10 donation for a SAR Foundation Lapel Pin.



## *Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution*

The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) is the nation's oldest and largest patriotic youth organization.



In 1895, Harriett Lothrop, a prominent citizen, a children's author and a member of the DAR presented the idea of a children's organization to the DAR Continental Congress. The C.A.R. was then organized "for the training of young people in true patri-

otism and love of country" and was chartered by the United States Congress. Their Mission Statement reads: *"The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution trains good citizens, develops leaders, and promotes love of the United States of America and its heritage among young people."* The C.A.R. is well into its second century of training and developing young men and women who are and will be the leaders of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Membership is open to anyone under the age of 22, lineally descended from someone who rendered material aid to the cause of American Independence. As with the SAR and DAR, proof must be provided and will be evaluated on its merits by the

C.A.R. Their website at [www.nscar.org](http://www.nscar.org) has more information on the history, mission and current projects of the C.A.R. You can also search for the various local societies in the State of Florida.

The 2016-2017 national theme is **Freedom's Thunder**. The current year's project is to raise funds for



the creation of an enhanced outdoor interpretive program at the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The C.A.R. will fund the procurement of artillery pieces as well as the creation of a related educational program.

The Florida Society, C.A.R. has 29 local societies within the state; not all of those are presently active. The current State President is Adrian Schell of Quincy and the current Senior State President is Ginny Poffenberger of Pensacola. The President's project for the year is "Remember the Arsenal". His objective is to raise \$14,000 for one of the planned interactive exhibits at the Apalachicola Arsenal Museum in Chattahoochee. The museum is located in a restored gunpowder magazine of the US arsenal built on the east bank of the Apalachicola River in the 1830s. President Schell attended the FLSSAR Youth Banquet in Orlando on May 7 to represent the C.A.R. and to present his project for the 2016/2017 year.

At the FSCAR Annual Banquet in March, the FLSSAR Color Guard was asked to present the National, State and C.A.R. colors at the opening of the banquet. The current FLSSAR Treas-

urer participated in the Color Guard and also represented the Florida Society, SAR at the meeting by delivering "greetings" from President Fehrenbaker. On behalf of the FLSSAR, he presented a cash donation to the C.A.R. as well as the SAR/CAR Bronze Medal to out-going State President Bonnie Sopher (daughter of Tampa Compatriot Terry Sopher) and the SAR/CAR Silver Medal to out-going Senior State President Annelies Mouring.

The Florida Society, C.A.R. needs and deserves the support of the FLSSAR. Locate a local C.A.R. Society and invite them to an SAR meeting, ask about the State Project and do what you can to support them. Consider assisting your sons, daughters, nieces and nephews or their sons and daughters in preparing a C.A.R. membership application. A copy of the application can be found on their website. Consider presenting interesting programs to your local C.A.R. society. Consider becoming a Senior Member of your local society and assisting in the training and developing the future members and leaders of the SAR and DAR.

Submitted by Dick Young, Tampa Chapter, SAR & Senior Member, Fort Brooke Society, C.A.R.

## *Flag Certificate Challenge*

The Admiral William F Furlong Award is the award in which we are to strive for this year. Please consider making several Flag Certificate Presentations in your area!! This award is presented annually at the SAR Congress to the state societies that have fulfilled the qualifications during the previous year. To qualify each state society and the majority of its chapters must present, during the previous year, at least one NSSAR Flag Certificate to a person or organization who qualifies.

State societies are to advise the chairman of the Flag Committee of their qualifications by April 15 each year. Societies that qualify will be selected and their names sent to the President General for awarding. The first year, a certificate and streamer will be awarded to the state society. The streamer is thirty-six (36) inches in length and one and one-half (1 1/2) inches wide with parallel red, white and blue stripes of equal width with a grommet at the top. Each succeeding year that a society qualifies, it will receive a certificate and a white star one (1) inch in diameter to be placed at the top of the streamer.

## *From the Medals and Awards Committee*

To facilitate the prompt fulfillment of requests, all nominating/awarding entities, are requested to consult the NSSAR Handbook, Vol. 5 (effective: May 11, 2015), for the correct protocol in awarding specific medals and awards. This specific NSSAR Handbook can be found at the new NSSAR website by following the link below. <https://members.sar.org/media/uploads/pages/55/yiIbIe0J0gU.pdf>

It is requested that medals and awards which require prior approval by the FLSSAR

MAC, the nominating authority, submit all necessary information to the FLSSAR MAC no later than 4-6 weeks prior to the anticipated presentation date. Doing such will permit ample time for the MAC to review the required documentation and for the submission and review of any additional requested information. Chapters are reminded that the costs of medals and awards are the responsibility of the individual presenting authority, unless otherwise stated. Note that some medals, such as the Meritorious Service Medal, may only be presented once by each presenting entity (National, State, District, and Chapter), and subsequent awards are identified by the presentation of an Oak Leaf Cluster. Some medals and awards, such as the Silver Good Citizenship and Bronze Color Guard Medal, may only be presented once to an individual or compatriot regardless of the presenting authority. Presentation of the Silver Good Citizenship Medal **requires prior approval** from the MAC.

The FLSSAR Medals and Awards Committee, again requests that all compatriots, and chapter secretaries, notify the FLSSAR Secretary of all awards, past and current, presented to individual compatriots for updating of ones Medals and Awards profile on flssar.org . As stated previously, having the Medals and Awards profile current will assure that compatriots receive their proper recognition.

## *SAR Events First to Last*

I learned of the “action at Machias” through the regular listing of National Color Guard Events in the NSSAR Guardsmen. Many call the “action at Machias” *The First Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War, it took place June 11-12 of 1775.* (a Battle off *Fairhaven* also makes note it is the first naval engagement



of the American Revolutionary War. It took place on May 14, 1775, in Buzzards Bay off Fairhaven, Massachusetts.) At any rate *The United States Navy Blue Jacket Manual* (and Machias residents) call the Machias encounter the first Naval battle of the

American Revolution. I wanted to go to Machias. To be sure I had a way of making contact for the event I asked President General, Thomas Lawrence, if he could hook me up with someone for making the event connections. He in turn emailed, New England, Regional Vice President General, Doug Wood and myself in a mutual email and wished us well. Doug was a very knowledgeable and gracious host for the event. He provided all information for lodging, eating, locations and time of events. Shortly after arriving Friday evening, my wife Dot and I were invited to supper with MASSAR 1st V.P.; Chaplain, Garrett Lear and his wife Kathi, along with Doug Wood and his wife Linda. Supper was at the famous, Helen’s (Blue Berry Pie) Restaurant. Helen’s is also known for its fantastic Sea food dinners.

We enjoyed both fine food and company that evening.

Our first activity consisted of a Saturday Morning Wreath Laying at the Tablet and Stone located at the Court House. The tablet notes “*The First Naval Battle of the American Revolution on June 12, 1775 a gallant Force of Machias Men led by Capt. Jeremiah O’Brien in the Sloop “Unity” pursued and captured the British Sloop of War “Margaretta” in Machias Bay.*” The Margaretta was in the area for other things but also with the thought of loading up with lumber to take to



Boston to build barracks for the British forces. The story is larger than these few words so please pursue looking it up. There is a good account in the *April 16 issue of the SAR Guardsman*. This Machias wreath laying is a big community event. It is also design-

ated as the local school’s last school day and large groups of Children walk to the Court House to attend. The Group present for making the Wreath Presentation included Regional VPG Doug Wood, MESSAR president Wayne Millar, NHS-SAR, MASSAR States Chaplin, Pastor Garrett Lear, FL State Color Guard Commander, Charlie Day, Maine Representative, Will Tuell, Robert Coles, a WWII and Pearl Harbor Survivor and Ret. Navy Captain Wayne Peters.

At the end of the Wreath Laying the Presentation Group left from the Court House to meet the parade forming at Helen’s Restaurant on Main Street. The Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, State and local dignitaries, community men, women and children were joining together to form the parade. Many of the town’s people have Machias ancestors that helped in some way with the capture of the HMS Margaretta. This is also true of New England SAR RVPG Doug Wood. The Parade march is down Main Street and across the Jeremiah O’Brien Memorial



Bridge, then up the hill to University of Maine at Machias, (UMM) recreational field for festivities.

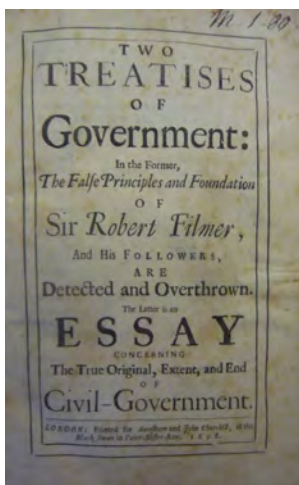
There were a number of speakers through the afternoon, also vendors, crafts and stories. The “Hannah Weston, Revolutionary War Heroine” story is also part of the Machias action and worth your time to look up. Machias was also proclaimed *A Military Friendly Community* by the Maine Military & Community Network. There were many people of all ages in colonial dress. It was a fun afternoon and quickly passed. The fact that so many of the town’s people are involved in this celebration make it special. It is not celebrated at just one or two locations. We are also reminded that In James Fenimore Cooper’s *History of the United States Navy* he calls this capture of the Margaretta the “*Lexington of the Sea.*”

Saturday evening found several of us gathered again at Helen’s for supper, recounting the great times spent through the day. It was also time for me to bring up the fact that the Florida SAR celebrates *The Last Naval Battle* of the American Revolution in March each year. I told about Captain John Barry and his broadside fight with his ship the Alliance. I noted the story continues several days at sea but allows the Alliance to take on a *valuable cargo of gold in a transfer on March 11, 1783.* Then

with smart maneuvering by Captain Berry, continues for a number more days, and on March 20, 1783, the Alliance sailed into New Port, Rhode Island with treasure to help the American Cause. “The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War” By: Compatriots Lindsey C. Brock, President Florida Society and Lindsey C. Brock III, Esq. Jacksonville Chapter, Florida Society, gives a good account of some very savvy American naval actions at sea. I think what impressed me most about these outings was that the time from the First Naval Battle to the Last Naval Battle was about 7 years 9 months, started in Maine and ended off the Coast of Florida about 1624 miles apart. What history fell in between! I feel very fortunate that my wife Dot and I were able to attend both of these events this year. I encourage our Patriots, men and ladies, to take on a new event when the opportunity presents itself.

Thank You for the opportunity to share.

Charlie Day – Commander, The Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade



## Natural Rights

By Joseph Drake Nusbaum

The concept of natural rights appears in numerous times in the original founding documents of the United States of America. Natural rights are those God-given fundamental rights that cannot be taken away by the government. The founding fathers fought and bled to do something revolutionary with natural rights – to create a large nation led by the people, rather than by the tyrants from which they had come. Many men were highly influential in developing this future of defense of natural rights for the United States, but

paramount among them were John Locke and Thomas Paine.

John Locke, an Englishman born in the early 1630s, was a philosopher and advent crusader for the then-revolutionary idea of natural rights well known for his text Two Treatises of Government (1689). In colonial England, the current monarch, who exerted control to a great degree over his subjects, granted all rights to the people. There was no concept of basic human rights; rather, anything that the people received was to be viewed as a gracious gift from their lofty ruler, not as a fulfillment of the duty expected of the ruler. In those days, the English people served their ruler, not the other way around. The problem with that way of thinking was that if government can grant rights, then government can later take them away. John Locke was among the first philosophers to rethink this method of government. In his book Two Treatises of Government, Locke expressed a revolutionary view that the direction of service in government should be reversed – that government exists to serve the people. In his Two Treatises of Government (1689), Locke expressed his idea that those in power were to serve their subjects and attempt to guide them as best they could. His writings express the idea that rulers were to protect the common good first and their personal good last. More specifically, he wrote that it was the duty of government to protect natural rights, not grant them. When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence years later, he borrowed heavily from the ideas of John Locke. When he wrote that “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”, he was speaking of Locke’s ideas of natural rights. Jefferson also followed Locke when he wrote in the Declaration that it is government’s responsibility to protect these rights. Among the first orders provisioned in

the document is that the people shall lead the country. It was decided that the government should not appear as a separate entity that exerted complete control over the people, but rather as a raw expression and representation of the masses. The Founding Fathers used the ideas written years earlier in an attempt to “form a more perfect union” by adopting this revolutionary way of thinking about government and leadership.

Another founding father who was influential in promoting the concept of natural rights was born a century later. Thomas Paine was born in England, the land he would eventually pit the United States against. Indeed, after emigrating in 1774, Paine quickly became involved in the revolutionist movement, and wrote two pamphlets, *Common Sense* (1776) and *The American Crisis* (1774), in an attempt to inspire the colonists toward revolution. These texts were met with immediate success in Colonial America, despite being simply signed “by an Englishman.”

*Common Sense* was especially influential as it came into circulation shortly after the beginning of the Revolutionary War and was key in spreading the idea of a peaceful, democratic republican post-war government once independence was achieved (Raphael, 237). The pamphlet did well to compare the senseless bloodshed brought by a tyrannical monarch with the peaceful proposed system of democratic government that would protect the natural rights of all its citizens. The rhetoric conveyed by Thomas Paine was hugely successful; the American people were so inspired by his words that John Adams remarked that “Without the pen of the author of *Common Sense*, the sword of Washington would have been raised in vain” (Commanger, 273). However, his writings during the American Revolution were not the only thing in which he displayed his zeal for the protection of natural rights. Indeed, Paine was imprisoned for a year in France late 1793 for spreading the concept of free thought and freedom of religion. Though he was released the following year, he did not stop writing on the subjects. In 1797, Paine published *Agrarian Justice*, which outlined his beliefs regarding the right to private property and even discussed the concept of government defense of personal income, though the latter would not be incorporated into United States law until around a century later (Paine, 3). Regardless, his spreading of ideas central to modern American democracy was key to igniting the Revolutionary War and guiding the nation to the system of government that is still in use today.

The concept of natural rights was later incorporated into the Constitution via the Bill of Rights. This is illustrated best by the First Amendment which states in part that “Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech.” Note that it does not say “Congress hereby grants to the people the right of free speech.” Instead, it is written to protect the fundamental natural rights of free speech from being infringed upon by the government. Thus, the influence of Locke, Paine, and others can be seen in the Constitution as well.

Despite being men separated by great spans of time, John Locke and Thomas Paine shared a goal; the defense of natural rights for all. They both condemned tyranny and declared that equality and justice were vital to the protection of natural rights. They believed that a land could exist where the people would lead themselves and rights were not granted by the mercy of an all-powerful leader, but rather by God himself. The dreams of Locke and Paine were realized by the growing United States, a country where all citizens desired on one thing; a land where natural rights were indeed natural, not gifts from the government. The

Constitution and its first Amendments stood to realize this and protect citizens from a tyrannical government. The Founding Fathers immortalized the ideas of Locke and Paine in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, documents that forever stand to protect the natural rights for all people in the United States.

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*The author of this essay is the 2016 NSSAR winner of the George and Stella Knight Essay Contest; as well as, the 2015 FLSSAR George and Stella Knight Essay winner. Presently, he lives in Pensacola, Florida and is a student at the Pensacola Catholic High School.*

## *New SAR Members*

It is herein this publication that we would like to formally recognize the following individuals who have joined the Sons of the American Revolution, the Florida Society SAR and their respective chapters.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Chapter:</u>
James H. Abernathy	Jacksonville
Steven A. Accurso	The Villages
Aaron A. Accurso	Jacksonville
Jason W. Accurso	The Villages
Anthony A. Accurso	Jacksonville
Dominic J. Accurso	Jacksonville
Jayce L. Accurso	The Villages
David George-Wayne Adams	Clearwater
Charles F. Allen	Clearwater
Luke D. Amos	Jacksonville
Robert L. Amos	Jacksonville
Wayne E. Anderson	Lake-Sumter
Dane M. Anderson	Lake-Sumter
Theodor D. Anderson	Lake-Sumter
Mark D. Anderson	Lake-Sumter
Robert J. Anderson	Clearwater
Philip J. Avant	St. Lucie River
Richard T. Bailey	Naples
Aaron C. Bailey	Naples
George E. Bartley	St. Lucie River
Michael A. Bazanos	Flagler
Tyler L. Bosco	Tampa
Maury E. Brassert	Lake-Sumter

William L. Bristol	Withlacoochee
Jacob C. Buckwalter	St. Augustine
Pete Castella	Lake-Sumter
Wilson T. Clark	Tallahassee
Conner D. Clements	Saramana
Roland W. Clements	Saramana
Roland Emory Clements	Saramana
Charles R. Clore	Brevard
Devon Holloway Beryl Clouse	Palm Beach
Anderson P. Clouse	Palm Beach
Richard S. Coffin	The Villages
Paul T. Cook	Clearwater
Jonathan M. Dale	Palm Beach
Michael L. Dale	Palm Beach
Stanley L. Daniel	Ft. Lauderdale
William Conrad Dutton	Ocala
Austin R. Dyer	The Villages
William A. Dyer	The Villages
Brandon D. Dyer	The Villages
Robert M. Dyer	The Villages
Barry A. Dyer	The Villages
Barry A. Dyer, Jr.	The Villages
Charles B. Dyer	The Villages
Charles B. Dyer, Jr.	The Villages
Wright C. Dyer	The Villages
William M. Dyer	The Villages
Peter P. Dzieken	The Villages
John D. Ellis	Flagler
Jay S. Emmans	St. Augustine
Kevin B. Fenn	The Villages
Jeffery R. Fenn	The Villages
Arthur G. Fenn	The Villages
William D. Ferguson	Withlacoochee
John G. Flinn	Central Florida
Clay D. Folsom	Brevard
Norman H. Fontaine	Naples
Jerry D. Fortune	Aaron Snowden
Gregory W. Foster	Lake-Sumter
Gregory C. Frazier	Jacksonville
Alan Walker Frost	Naples
Aaron D. Gaither	Jacksonville
Blake K. Gaither	Jacksonville
Robert W. Gant	Jacksonville
John M. Georgiades	St. Petersburg
Russell W. Gibson	Withlacoochee
Thomas A. Gittings	The Villages
Matthew C. Glass	Tampa
John W. Glass	Tampa
Gerald F. Greene	Lake City
Roger S. Greenlee	Clearwater
Robert W. Greenlee	Clearwater
Roger Dean Gresham	Clearwater
Austin J. Gresham	Clearwater
Brent W. Gunter	Palm Beach
Martin R. Hall	St. Augustine
Victor B. Hanna	Tallahassee
James M. Hardwich	Lake-Sumter
Carlos T. Hassenbrock	Pensacola
Donald R. Hassenbrock	Pensacola
Charles M. Hazen	Jacksonville
Charles R. Heckman	Central Florida
James W. Heitman	Palm Beach
Jackson P. Herring	Lake-Sumter
Rodney A. Hildebrandt	Ft. Lauderdale
Raymond C. Hildreth	Clearwater
Clint A. Hill	Brevard
Jon Caleb Houghton	Saramana

Chase C. Houghton  
 Roscoe A. Howard  
 John E. Hugus  
 Charles L. Hutchison  
 Richard S. Hutter  
 Robert T. Jackson  
 Robert T. Jackson, Jr.  
 Wayne R. Jacobs  
 Wayne R. Jacobs, Jr.  
 Jason M. Jones  
 Kevin C. Kauffman  
 Christopher T. Kauffman  
 Christopher M. Keating  
 Carl M. Keating  
 Stephen S. Kelly  
 Anthony R. Kennedy  
 Timothy C. Kraut  
 Raymond T. Kraut, Jr.  
 Christopher M. LeConte  
 Nicholas M. LeConte  
 Billy J. Ledbetter  
 James P. Ledbetter  
 John W. Ledbetter  
 Peyton A. Ledbetter  
 James E. Ledbetter  
 James L. Lingo  
 David L. Lott  
 Jay C. Martin  
 Jason D. Mattingly  
 Eric R. McCook  
 Walter S. McGill  
 Kyle M. McKee  
 Charles R. Murphy  
 Steven K. Nagy  
 Clifton W. Nivison  
 Robert M. O'Neal  
 William D. Osborn  
 James L. Owen  
 William L. Owen  
 Curtis P. Parks  
 Paxton L. Parks  
 Lawrence R. Patterson  
 William M. Pellerin  
 Chase M. Pellerin  
 Robert B. Pelton  
 Frank H. Peterman  
 Frederick H. Printiss  
 David C. Purviance  
 Staten Mitchell Rall  
 John H. Ressler  
 Robert N. Richardson  
 Harold H. Richburg  
 Thomas H. Richburg  
 William S. Riehl  
 William S. Riehl, Jr.  
 Edgar F. Riley  
 Bryan E. Robinson  
 John R. Schaerffer  
 Lawrence C. Scott  
 Lawrence C. Scott, Jr.  
 Christopher K. Scott  
 Garrett N. Scott  
 Glenn D. Sears  
 Robert A. Sileo  
 Charles R. Simpson  
 John S. Sowards  
 Christopher J. Sowards

Saramana  
 Lakeland  
 Jacksonville  
 Tampa  
 The Villages  
 The Villages  
 The Villages  
 Emerald Coast  
 Emerald Coast  
 Jacksonville  
 Miami  
 Naples  
 Brevard  
 Brevard  
 The Villages  
 Naples  
 Clearwater  
 Clearwater  
 Caloosa  
 Caloosa  
 Tampa  
 Tampa  
 Tampa  
 Tampa  
 Tampa  
 Aaron Snowden  
 Ft. Lauderdale  
 Lakeland  
 Ft. Lauderdale  
 Lake-Sumter  
 Pensacola  
 Lake-Sumter  
 The Villages  
 The Villages  
 Caloosa  
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 Aaron Snowden  
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 St. Petersburg  
 Aaron Snowden  
 Saramana  
 Emerald Coast  
 The Villages  
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 Clearwater  
 Jacksonville  
 Jacksonville  
 Jacksonville  
 Saramana  
 Lake-Sumter  
 Aaron Snowden  
 Jacksonville  
 Jacksonville

Nathaniel T. Sowards  
 Earl James Frederick Stanley  
 Gary L Stone  
 Ernest M Stricklin  
 Thomas A. Szydiowski  
 David E. Thomas  
 William E. Thompson  
 Thomas S. Tonnelier  
 Hunter D. Toth  
 Richard H. Trout  
 Bruce F. Wells  
 Matthew J. Wells  
 William R. Wicks  
 Matthew S. Wiltshire  
 William G. Winegar  
 Richard S. Woodruff

Jacksonville  
 Lake City  
 Caloosa  
 Jacksonville  
 South Shore  
 The Villages  
 Lakeland  
 Gainesville  
 St. Augustine  
 Withlacoochee  
 Pensacola  
 Pensacola  
 Miami  
 Lake-Sumter  
 Jacksonville  
 Highlands

## *Patriot Biographies Program*

At this time, 4,358 biographical sketches have been loaded to the Patriot and Grave Index. Submissions for biographical sketches should be forwarded to [patriotbios@sar.org](mailto:patriotbios@sar.org). The information should be provided in a file that is Microsoft WORD compatible. Please help us spread the word. With your help NSSAR will continue to expand the database to build the best data source that we can.

Please note that there is no defined format for your submission. We ask that the information be between 200 – 500 words and be sent in a Microsoft WORD-compatible format. This is no need for documentation references. As noted on the database, it is the sole responsibility of the author to research the facts and data contained in the submission. Citing sources is not required. The sketch cannot be used for proof of lineage. It can, however, serve as a guide for the continuation of research. The Patriot Ancestor Database is one way you can honor your ancestor's for perpetuity.

For those Chapters/State Societies presented a streamer during 2014-2015 or 2015 - 2016, a Star will be presented for each additional 20% achievement. This Star will be affixed to the Streamer.

For clarification on how the achievement levels are calculated: Example - A chapter has obtained a 12% submission rate. If they hit a total of 20% during the current year, they will be presented a Streamer. Stars will be presented at each additional 20% level - 40% - 1 Star; 60% - 2 Stars; 80% - 3 Stars, etc.

For the member counts, we will use the December 31, 2016 membership that has paid their 2017 dues. National Headquarters will provide this information as they did last year. All Streamers and Stars will be presented at the 2017 National Congress in Knoxville.

The NSSAR do have a method to identify the listing of all the Patriot Biographies that have been entered into the database. We have established a Patriot named "Index" - #P-334038 within the Patriot and Grave Index. We have expanded the Index to alphabetize by State of service for the Patriots. Hopefully, this will enable a more specific search when looking for a biography entry.

In order to access: 1. Enter the Patriot and Grave Index ( <http://patriot.sar.org/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=Grave%20Registry&-loadframes> ) and input "Index" in the box labeled Full or Partial Surname and then click the SEARCH box. 2. Patriot Index with Ancestor # P-334038 will come up. Click on the "Read Biography" box in the lower left corner of the page to access the listing of biographies in the database.



*The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on behalf of a grateful nation cordially invites you to a special commemoration ceremony of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. As a member of the Armed Forces of the United States serving during the period November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, the Florida Society will officially welcome you home with honor and respect and make a special presentation to you.*

*The celebration ceremony will take place on Saturday, 15 October 2016 at the Embassy Suites Orlando Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kings Heath Rd., Kissimmee, FL 33476. Social hour will be from 5:00PM to 6:00PM with dinner served immediately afterward.*

*The Florida Society has arranged for a block of rooms at a special discounted rate of \$139.00 per night. You may book on-line at:*

[https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=14508591](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=14508591)

*or by phone: 407-597-4000*

*Registration and reservations must be returned by 30 September, 2016.*

Registration forms and schedules may be found at the FLSSAR Website (Tab BOM)

<http://www.flssar.org/FLSSAR/Tabs.asp>

*Additional information can be obtained from:*

FLSSAR Meetings Arrangements Committee % Steve Williams 3403 Caraway St Cocoa, FL 32926

Phone: 321-632-5663 email: [swilliams16@cfl.rr.com](mailto:swilliams16@cfl.rr.com)

*The Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution is not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense.*

# Chapter News

## Aaron Snowden Chapter

Aaron Snowden Chapter has added the following members since January: Jim Lingo, Fred Printiss, Chuck Simpson, and Doug Fortune. Recently approved applications are Charles Pelligam, Brad Pelligam, Bruce Wells, Matthew Wells, for a total of eight new members.

New Officers elected for the 2016 year: President- Bert Outlaw, 1<sup>st</sup> VP- Ned France, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- Lonnie Jones, Secretary- David Hillsman, Treasurer- Dale Matthews, Register- Lonnie Jones.

Aaron Snowden Chapter has taken a short summer break as we prepare to focus on new ideas/ programs for the upcoming year particularly between August and January 2017. Using Chuck Sweeney's article on "Don't Let Your Chapter Die", and other selected material from BOM to determine what programs we can do well with our members, then adds new ones as we grow.

We have made personal one on one contact with County Sheriff, local Police, Fire Departments, and other offices to become more involved in the community.

## Caloosa Chapter

The Caloosa Chapter finished the regular season program on April 16 with a presentation by Thomas Jefferson regarding the contested election of 1800. We will resume our regular meetings on October 12 with a presentation from Ben Franklin. Several of us attended the FLSSAR BOM meeting in May, and additionally the NSSAR Congress in Boston this July.

Our past president Lee Matson is busy coordinating the upcoming FLSSAR Southwest Florida Region Meeting scheduled for Saturday August 13 in Port Charlotte, hosted by the Charlotte Chapter.

On Saturday March 26 our color guard attended and supported a DAR function in Alva, a Chartering ceremony for a new chapter, to be known as the USS Hannah chapter. Our color guard also participated in a Southwest Florida Veteran's Museum and Library function over the Memorial Day weekend, which included a gala ball, reenactment of the Civil War Battle of Fort Myers, and reenactments of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and General George Washington's Farewell Address.

We look forward to a busy fall season. Several new membership applications are in progress.

## Flagler Chapter

Flagler Charter Members Remembered By President Randall Morris



On Saturday, May 28, 2016, American Legion Post #115 received assistance from the Flagler Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution during the placement of US

Flags on the graves of Veterans at the Espanola Cemetery. The cemetery is located in the Espanola Community, the oldest existing community in Flagler County along the Old Kings Highway which was built by British soldiers circa 1765. Assisting with the flag placement were Boy Scout Troop #402 and Cub Scout Pack #402 (both sponsored by the United Methodist Church of Palm Coast, Florida) and Florida Highway Patrol Corporal Pete Young (recipient of the 2015 SAR Law Enforcement Award). Corporal Young also serves as the Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #115.



The American Legion Post #115 conducted a ceremony honoring deceased veterans after the US Flags had been placed on the 185 plus veteran graves located in the cemetery. The Reverend Terry Wines,

First United Methodist Church of Bunnell, provided spiritual support for the ceremony and Brian Ray, Flagler Palm Coast High School Band, played taps at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Flagler Chapter Compatriots (also Legionnaires) President Randall Morris, Past President David Kelsey, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President David Hammond decorated with a Betsy Ross Flag the graves of Flagler Chapter 1984 Charter Members Judge H. T. Cook and David Harold Emery.

JOHN DUANE ELLIS - Memorial Membership Induction Ceremony By Compatriot David Kelsey

John Duane Ellis was born on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1968 in Orlando, FL to Joann Morris Ellis & John Ellis. John is President Randall Morris' nephew. John passed away on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in Farmington, New Mexico.



He was an honor student and a member of the National Honor Society. He attended Lake City Community College on a baseball scholarship where he was the scholar athlete for each year at LCCC. John graduated with honors at the University of Central Florida and then attended Florida A&M University where he received his Doctor of Pharmacy with honors.



ANDREW PUTNAM is the Patriot ancestor of the Morris family. Patriot Andrew Putnam was a Selectman in Greenfield, Massachusetts in 1781. He also

headed the committee to furnish beef and supplies to the Continental Army. Undoubtedly, Patriot Putnam met under a Liberty Tree at Greenfield, Massachusetts to discuss Liberty, Independence, and Self-rule during the Revolutionary War. Appropriately, John Duane Ellis became a member of the Flagler Chapter FOREVER under our Liberty Tree on May 16, 2016.

## *Lake-Sumter Chapter*

The presiding Regional Vice President and former chapter president, Scott Bushnell, installed these Chapter Officers for the 2016-2017 chapter years: President - Gerald C. Hardwich; 1st Vice President - H. Allan Lane; 2nd Vice President - George W. Chaffee; Secretary - Edward J. Riley; and Treasurer - Ronald L. Grove. Regional Vice President Bushnell was assisted by Ralph D. Nelson, preceding chapter President, and Stephen C. Offutt, former chapter President.

The May meeting attendance was 20 members and 9 guests; June meeting attendance was 17 members and 12 guests. Chapter meeting attendance has been reduced by about half since the spinning off of The Villages Chapter in January. We are in the process of moving a series of applications through the system. Current membership is up to 76 members. Requests have been made for potential volunteers and future officer candidates to step up to the challenge of rebuilding the chapter.

A pledge was made by the President to contact members, especially those that have not been seen recently at chapter meetings, or those that have been dropped from the roles, to see what can be done to entice them to come to meetings, and hopefully volunteer. If nothing else, good wishes can be conveyed to the members. The May chapter meeting program was given by David Shuckstes who spoke on the James Webb Space Telescope. While the June chapter meeting program was given by Tom Wilcox who spoke on Revolutionary War Women (1775-1783).

The Lake-Sumter SAR chapter, assisted by The Villages chapter, took the lead in presenting the colors at the 100th Anniversary of the Ocklawaha Chapter DAR. The chapter participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade in The Villages, FL.

A variety of awards were made during this period: (a) Chuck White received a certificate for 46 years of continuous service in the NSSAR, and the longest membership with the chapter. (b) Ms. Renata Gomes Martine presented her Rumbaugh Oration submission to the chapter, and received her winner's certificate and medal. (c) Bill Hayes was honored by the Lake District of the Boy Scouts for his over 50 years of continuous years of service with the Boy Scouts where he worked with over 300 Eagle Scout candidates, and spent some 14,000 hours in the process of his duties. (e) Laney Uzailko was determined to be the winner of the Americanism Elementary Poster Contest which focused on The Last Naval Battle of the Revolution.

The chapter was represented by Ralph Nelson at the Leesburg "Family History Fair" with visitors learning about the SAR and receiving promotional material. Ralph also led the charge with the Americanism Poster Contest, and the Rumbaugh Oration Contest. He has been a master at both of these important activities. The chapter paraded in the GeorgeFest Celebration in Eustis, FL. Participation has been continuous since inception of the chapter in 1988. Tom Wilcox spoke about SAR and manned a recruiting table at a gathering of veterans on Armed Forces Day at Royal Highlands. Flag placement at Lone Oak Cemetery in Leesburg, FL for Armed Forces Day. Remembrance was made regarding the Liberty Tree that was planted in Tavares, FL on

February 17, 2002. Memorial Day Ceremony with the American Legion in Fruitland Park, FL. Glenn Langston, Color Guard Commander, led almost a dozen members in the Tavares Independence Day Parade.

Compatriot Bill Hayes reported that there are 24 potential Eagle Scouts that he is preparing for recognition. Bill also works with the JROTC Awards Committee which coordinates awards to the outstanding JROTC cadet in each school.

Eagle Scout Andre James Keegan received the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Award for his essay on "Being an American."

Spring of 2016 saw the chapter recognize six JROTC Cadets with the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal: CDT Chris Haynes; CDT 1LT Austin Stowell; CDT 1LT Kofi Blake; CDT Diego Urhan; CDT Bryan Weller; CDT Michael Powers

Lake-Sumter is fortunate to have four World War II veterans who were recognized: Glenn Langston, Don Voorhees, Fred Harrison, and Glenn Bowron.

The anticipated chapter meeting programs are as follows: October 1 - Glenn Langston: Memories of the Army of Occupation of Japan: 1945 - 1946; November 5 - Scott Bushnell: Battle of Oriskany and the Siege of Fort Stanwix; and December 3 - Jim Brown: Boat Building in New York during the Revolution.

## *Palm Beach Chapter*



Palm Beach Compatriots join new Society President Ray Wess at Induction Ceremony



PB Chapter Officers Local Join DAR Sisters at Flag Day Ceremony





PB Chapter President Lanman & Past President Green at annual Flag Day Ceremony

The Palm Beach Chapter continued its aggressive new member initiatives adding two new members this quarter and growing to 164 members, with an additional 15 applications in process.

Chapter Officers and Compatriots participated in many local & state activities including the *Memorial Day* and *Flag Day* ceremonies and active participation at local & state DAR events.

Chapter President, *Don Lanman* continues to serve on the local WPB VA Hospital Veteran Services Advisory Council and State Society Veterans Committees.

Youth activities continued to be a key Chapter initiative with **Ms. Talia Fradkin**, the Chapter & State Rumbaugh winner, representing the Chapter & State at the National Rumbaugh competition in Boston.

State Society President and Past Palm Beach Chapter President *Ray Wess*, was appointed by the National Society President General, *Mike Tomme*, to two major National Society executive positions including Deputy Inspector General of the Society and the Society Ethics Investigator for three-year terms. Congratulations Ray!

### *Pensacola Chapter*



The June 7th meeting of the Pensacola Chapter was one of our busiest of the year so far! We had over 30 members and guests in attendance this month including members from the Aaron Snowden Chapter and the Emerald Coast Chapter. Also among our guests were past NSSAR President General, Judge Ed Butler and his wife, Robin, as well as the current DAR State Regent, Ginger Poffenberger.

One of the main reasons for such fantastic attendance was that we were honored this month to have the 2009-10



Following the British surrender at Yorktown in 2006, I ended nearly 25 years of traveling and selling my wares. Since that time my focus has been to make clothing items on demand for both re-enactors and museums. Whether I was The Little Village Tailors, Heritage Clothiers or now, I wish to create for you, impeccable, historical clothing to fit the 20th century physique. Please explore my web site at [www.just2tailors.com](http://www.just2tailors.com) and see what I have to offer YOU.

**CALLING HOURS:** 9am - 7pm EST, but I prefer e-mails so that I can keep sewing.

**5elves@bellsouth.net**



NSSAR President General, Ed Butler, as our guest speaker. Judge Butler has been touring southern SAR Chapters to discuss his new book, and Pensacola was his final stop before he headed home to Texas. Judge Butler presented a fascinating lecture on his book, *Galvez/Spain—Our Forgotten Ally in the American Revolutionary War*.

Judge Butler also assisted with the induction of five new compatriots into the Sons of the American Revolution. Walter McGill, Ted Hassebrock, and Donald Hassebrock all joined the Pensacola Chapter, and Chase and William Pellerin joined the Aaron Snowden Chapter. All five compatriots had the honor of having their rosette pinned on them by President General Butler.

Compatriot Lonnie Jones presented three awards from the FLSSAR Annual meeting. Compatriots Ray Lantz and Bill Lies were recognized by the state for their significant contributions over the past year, and Ray's wife, Dianna, was also recognized for her contributions. After those awards were presented, the chapter presented a patch and certificate of recognition to new Eagle Scout, Alex Esenwein.

### Tampa Chapter



At its April Meeting the Tampa Chapter had its annual JROTC Recognition Meeting. Each year the Chapter presents the SAR Bronze ROTC medal at 16 high schools in Hillsborough County and the SAR Silver ROTC medal to two units at the University of South Florida. Each year, the Chapter invites all JROTC recipients to join us at the April meeting for additional recognition. This year four cadets were able to join and are pictured above on the left. In 2016, for the first time, Tampa Chapter invited all 16 high school units to participate in the Enhanced JROTC Award. Only a few chose to do so this year. Also pictured above is the 2016 Chapter Award winner Christopher DiBias of Wharton High School in Tampa, with Past President Dick Young, who made the presentation.



On May 21, President General Judge Edward Butler visited the Tampa Chapter to make a presentation "Without the Assistance of Spain, We Would Still be Under the British Flag". PG Butler based his presentation on his book *Galvez: Spain - Our Forgotten Ally In The American Revolutionary War: A Consise Summary of Spain's Assistance*. He enlightened the Chapter with many facts and statistics related to General Galvez' leadership of the Spanish assistance to the Colonial cause for independence. The meeting was (appropriately) held at the Tampa Bay History Center. The Chapter purchased two copies of PG

Butler's book for presentation to the History Center and the Hillsborough County Public Library System. Pictured above are Tampa Chaper President Charles Klug and his wife Victoria and PG Butler and his wife Robin. After the presentation, Judge Butler and Robin joined some of the members and guests for a relaxing lunch at the Cloumbia Restaurant inside the History Center.

On June 7, Honor Flight of West Central Florida took 60 or more veterans to Washington, DC for a tour of the WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War monuments and more. Veterans (men and women) from all three wars were represented on this flight, some having served in more than one conflict. The flight took off from the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport at 6:15 AM and returned at 9:00 PM. The Tampa Chapter Color Guard met the return flight to meet, greet and honor those veterans. Pictured below (l-r) are David Bryant, David Chestnut (St. Petersburg Chapter), Dick Young and Commander Alan Bell.



### Withlacoochee Chapter



On May 30, 2016, Color Guardsmen Larry Sturgeon, Richard Young, Jack Townsend and Leonard Crawford performed the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the 2016 Memorial Day event

along with the American Legion Post 225 of Floral City, Florida at the Hills of Rest Cemetery.



## 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Thomas Creek Jacksonville, Florida May 13, 2017



On Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Florida Society led by the Jacksonville Chapter along with other South Atlantic District compatriots will commemorate the 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Thomas Creek. This will mark the third ceremony of the battle and the fourth Anniversary of the dedication of the 864 acre park that was purchased by the City of Jacksonville and the Trust for Public Land Corporation in 2014. This "Southernmost Battlefield of the American Revolutionary War" was the second of three failed attempts to break the British occupation of Northeast Florida. Our speaker Dr. Roger Smith, of Colonial Research Assoc., Inc at our March 2016 ceremony gave an excellent presentation on; "The American Revolution's Best Kept Secret: Why the Southern Colonies Mattered". He is really a very good educator and those in attendance bought out all his books will be our speaker again at our 2017 ceremony. The Black Powder Salute was led by our Georgia Militia Color Guard and supported by our National Park Rangers and was very honoring event to those Patriots who fought and died in this battle on May 17, 1777. Please mark your calendar to attend this Florida Commemorative event next May 13, 2017.

### Barbara Jean "Barb" Hodalski (1937-2016)

It is with deep regret that the FLSSAR announce the passing of Barbara Jean Hodalski, wife of Frank Hodalski. Barb went to be with her Lord on Thursday, Sept 1, at Heartland Rehab Center at 5:30 AM. She was scheduled to go home that day. Her son, Michael, predeceased her by 4 days, dying at Hospice House in Sarasota.



Barbara was a member of many women's organizations in Sarasota; Sara De Soto Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames of America Chapter XXX Venice, Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century. She was a huge supporter of the troops; collecting supplies to send them every holiday. She will be buried in the National Cemetery in Sarasota. Watch for the obituary in the Herald-Tribune. Condolences may

be sent to Frank Hodalski, 4164 Center Gate Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34233

### Good Citizenship Award



At the West Central Regional Meeting on August 27, 2016, FLS-SAR President Ray Wess presented the Good Citizenship award to teen hero Jordon Litowchak of Palm Harbor, FL. While riding in a car driven by his mother, they witnessed a car driving into a large retention pond. Jordon told his mother to stop the car and without hesitation he jumped out of the car and dove into the retention pond and swam 50 feet to the submerged car. Jordon was able to free the senior citizen driver and bring him to safety on shore where first responders took over the rescue. Without Jordon's actions the driver would have surely drowned. The Clearwater Chapter SAR prepared the certificate for presentation at the WC Regional meeting.

# The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution

**MARCH 4, 2017**

**9:30am Assembly - 10:00am Step-off**

*At the Brevard Veterans Council*

*400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, FL 32952*

*After the event feel free to visit their Military Museum and Memorial Plaza*

THE HOST CHAPTER, THE BREVARD CHAPTER OF THE SAR, INVITES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THIS HISTORIC EVENT. ALL PATRIOTIC COLOR GUARD UNITS ARE INVITED.

**Contact: Steve Williams at [swilliams16@cfl.rr.com](mailto:swilliams16@cfl.rr.com) / 321-632-5663  
Or Phil Wright at [wright.gen@gmail.com](mailto:wright.gen@gmail.com)**

**We will gladly put you on our email reminder list**

**EVERY unit will receive a commemorative flag streamer.**

**Each year since 2007 we have mustered a color guard review representing dozens of patriotic organizations. Plus hundreds of spectators are in attendance. We MUST be doing something right! In case of rain we move inside.**

**Visit the website <http://www.flssar.org/FLSSAR/LNBR.html>**

## *The Grapevine*

### *FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary*

Hi Ladies! I hope that have been having a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Ray and I have been very busy with SAR events and our granddaughter, Nalani Mai. We traveled as very proud grandparents to Houston, Texas in July to watch her compete in the AAU Junior Olympics as a swimming athlete. She represented her country and her swim club by winning five medals.

After Ray's installation at the May Board of Management meeting, we traveled to the Brevard Chapter where Ray installed their new chapter officers. I spoke briefly to the attending ladies and passed out applications for joining the Ladies Auxiliary. I wish to thank the Brevard Chapter for their hospitality and for allowing me to promote the auxiliary.

Also in July we traveled to Boston for the 126<sup>th</sup> SAR National Congress where the Massachusetts Society exhibited great hospitality to us and all of the attendees. There were many highlights during the week, however, one of the most emotional

and heartfelt experiences of the week was the Memorial Service held on Sunday at the Old South Church for all of the departed SAR brothers. We remembered 562 departed SAR members from 47 of the 58 Societies of the SAR. The service is always conducted by the SAR Chaplain's Committee and is performed very professionally. After the memorial service, the ladies remained at the church and attended a "Ladies Tea" hosted by the SAR First Lady, Mickey Jo Lawrence. It was wonderful.

Another highlight of Congress was the SAR Youth Awards Luncheon where the winner of the George S. and Stella Knight Essay contest was announced as Joseph Nusbbaum, from Pensacola Florida. It was also announced that the Florida Society had received over 100 entries, almost twice as many as any other State Society. Ray and I were extremely proud of the Florida society and especially Knight Essay Chairman, John Stewart, for all of his hard work in running the program.

As the men are moving to their new venue at the Embassy Suites Orlando Lake Buena Vista South in October, nothing will change with regards to our auxiliary meeting and our charitable cause of raffling off the gift baskets at

the banquet on Saturday night.

We are bringing back by popular demand the “First Ladies Tea Luncheon”. At this Board of Management meeting, we will be honoring our new First Lady, Cilla Tomme. We are also going to honor the living Florida Past SAR First Ladies, Patricia Hoffman, Norma Downing, and Billy Brock. Following our tea luncheon, we will have our auxiliary meeting.

The auxiliary will be assisting the men in any way needed at the October meeting as they hold their Official “Welcome Home” celebration for Vietnam and Vietnam era veterans in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. This welcome home is long overdue and the Ladies Auxiliary are honored to help in any way possible.

In closing, I want to remind you of my primary initiative of growing the membership of the auxiliary. I am asking each of our members to recruit at least one lady from their husband’s home chapter and sign them up as a new auxiliary member. The annual dues are only \$5.00. I look forward to seeing many new members.

Thank you for your friendship and all of the hard work that you perform for the SAR and the auxiliary,

**Nomi Wess**

## *With Deepest Regret*



It is with deepest regret that the FLSSAR and the Panama City Chapter announce the passing of Com-patriot Edward McDowell “Eddy” Duvall, Jr. He joined the Panama City Chapter on August 15, 2002 and helped to build the chapter’s first website. His American Revolution descendent was William Lee, Jr.

## *The Power of the Newspaper*

By Talia Fradkin  
FLSSAR Rumbaugh Oration Contest Winner

American patriots fought for their independence with guns, cannons, and ... newspapers? A colonial super weapon, newspapers had an unlimited range, the ability to target both the “minds and hearts of the people,” and in the words of Dr. Benjamin Rush, they were as powerful as “at least two regiments.” Continental Congress delegate David Ramsay once said, “In establishing American independence, the pen and the press had merit equal to that of the sword.” Since there were no cameras or televised streaming in the 1700’s, those who wished to learn about current events put their trust in the written word, and those who wrote the words controlled the world. Newspapers helped people visualize the struggle. The American Revolution depicted in British newspapers at the time was virtually unrecognizable compared to the revolution simultaneously depicted in colonial American presses, illustrating a bias-issue that continues to manifest itself in today’s media.

Thomas Jefferson famously summed up the importance of newspapers when he said that if he had to choose between a

“government without newspapers or newspapers without a government,” he would “not hesitate a moment to prefer the later”. Before the war, approximately forty newspapers each served about 600 to 1000 readers. Newspapers like the *Connecticut Courant*, which still publishes today, were so influential and crucial to the success of the American Revolution that when Tories allegedly burned down their main printing headquarters, Connecticut lawmakers offered colonists the opportunity to purchase tickets as a way of funding the restoration. Newspapers were the Facebook of their day, offering colonists a chance to unite behind a cause and “transform society”. Both the patriots and the British were quick to capitalize on their usefulness. On one side of the Atlantic, The *New Hampshire Gazette* reported the sheer destruction that would result from laws like the Sugar Act and Stamp Act. On the other side, The *London Chronicle* marginalized their impact by referring to the colonists’ “uneasiness” about the measures. When violent mobs protested the Stamp Act, colonial newspapers encouraged public support by publicizing the resignations of stamp officers, while the *London Chronicle* chose to focus on the damage to the Lieutenant Governor’s home.

The Boston Massacre clearly illustrates the immense differences between how the same events were reported in both the colonies and Great Britain. Paul Revere promoted the patriots’ cause in the newspapers by selling his engraving depicting British soldiers in red uniforms shooting at colonists, some of whom lay at the soldier’s feet in a pool of red blood. The magnitude of the event was minimalized in Great Britain when Londoners read about an “Unhappy Disturbance” in which “rope workers beat an off-duty soldier.” To sway public opinion and maintain support for independence, colonial newspapers like the *New England Chronicle* printed Thomas Paines’ *Common Sense*. To counter his arguments for independence, *The London Chronicle* disparaged the colonist’s ability to defeat the British Navy. As the conflict continued, British newspapers published vague stories that purposely left it unclear which side had won battles, especially when Britain had clearly lost. Colonial papers, on the other hand, often inflated the number of British troops while underestimating the number of colonial soldiers. Since newspapers at this time did not include photos, what were those absent or far away from the events to do but believe?

This bears a strong relationship to America today. Media bias and the use of newspapers and now television and on-line magazines as propaganda tools are still prevalent. Consider how liberal and conservative media outlets present their views to the public. The media feeds the people the perspective it was them to support. For example in April 2016, ABC chose George Stephanopoulos, a former member of President Clinton’s staff, to interview and confront the author of *Clinton Cash*, a book that revealed foreign governments that made donations to the Clinton Foundation in an attempt to gain political influence. Stephanopoulos, however, neglected to reveal that he himself was a donor to the Clinton Foundation. Additionally, in a blatant effort to discredit his campaign, the notoriously liberal *Huffington Post* declared that it would only cover politically conservative Donald Trump in the entertainment section, diminishing his credibility as a presidential candidate.

More powerful than anyone ever imagined, today’s media can affect global change in a matter of seconds, causing stock markets to plummet or bringing nations to the brink of war. Americans, both then and now, continue to align them-

selves with forums that represent their beliefs. Free speech and freedom of the press continue to imbue every American with the power to speak his mind and the power to affect change. The days of Paul Revere's famous engravings may be gone, but the idea of expressing your opinions remains as relevant as ever. It is not important whether you access the literature via tablet, phone, or print. What remains important is that we continue to follow in the footsteps of our Founding Fathers and use our words to better our world.

## *Hubbardton Battle... Rear Guard Action Battle Saved a Patriot Army!*

By Don Lanman, President, SAR Palm Beach Chapter



During the decisive Saratoga campaign of the Revolutionary War, British and Patriot forces engaged in the only battle fought in Vermont near the current day town of Hubbardton.

On July 1, 1777, British General John Burgoyne launched his campaign to divide the colonies and control of the Hudson River valley by moving his professional army of 8,000 south from Lake Champlain to capture Fort Ticonderoga and destroy the Northern Colonial Army.

However, on July 5, General Arthur St. Clair's Colonial forces defending Fort Ticonderoga discovered that Burgoyne's army had deployed cannons on the high ground overlooking the Fort.



Launching a strategic withdrawal to save the Northern army, St. Clair ordered his forces to evacuate the Fort, under cover of darkness, toward Hubbardton.

The colonials forced marched over 30 miles down a rough road (now referred to as the "1776 Hubbardton Military

Road") before making camp on the evening of July 6 at Monument Hill near Hubbardton.

British Brigadier General Simon Fraser discovered early on July 6 that the Americans abandoned Fort Ticonderoga, and pursued the Colonials with an impressive army of Grenadiers, Light Infantry, Loyalists Militia, and Indian allies.

To reinforce General Fraser's army, General Burgoyne ordered several companies of Hessian mercenaries including the famed *Brunswick Regiment* and grenadiers, commanded by famed German General Friedrich Riedesel, into the Hubbardton battle.

Colonial General St. Clair ordered Colonel Seth Warner's Green Mountain Boys, Colonel Ebenezer Francis' 11<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment, and Colonel Nathan Hale's 2nd New Hampshire Regiment to serve a rear guard delaying action to allow the main force of his army to withdraw to the southeast.

Colonel Warner, who had experience in rear-guard actions while serving in the invasion of Quebec, deployed his



soldiers in defensive positions on Monument Hill, and set patrols to defend the British axis of advance from Fort Ticonderoga.

Early on July 7 in 1777, Hessians and British surprised American forces and launched a surprise attack on the Patriot's rear guard defenders. Rapidly reforming into a line behind embattlements, the brave Massachusetts soldiers unleashed a withering volley of musket fire at the advancing Redcoats.

Hoping to hold the field until the Hessian reinforcements arrived, General Fraser ordered his soldiers to flank the Americans at the risk of exposing his own left flank. General Fraser's soldiers fought bravely but the Patriots repelled the attacks and held Monument Hill for over an hour until General Riedesel attacked with his hymn-singing *Brunswick Grenadiers*.

Observing that the Americans were pressing on Fraser's left flank, General Riedesel sent his grenadiers to reinforce Fraser's flank and directed his storied "*Jägers*" to attack the American's center defense.

The disciplined and battle-hardened German mercenaries gained the field slaughtering the 11<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment and killing its commander, Colonel Ebenezer Francis.



The Americans were defeated, and had to make a desperate race across an open field to avoid capture. The scattered remnants of the American rear guard laboriously made their way toward Rutland City, VT in order to rejoin the main army.

Despite heavy losses of 41 killed, 96 wounded, and 234 captured, the valiant colonial rear guard action succeeded in its goal of covering St. Clair's strategic retreat to Castleton,

Vermont.

Fresh from his success at the Hubbardton battle, British General Simon Fraser was wounded and died exactly three months later at the decisive Battle of Bemis Heights on October 7, 1777! General Burgoyne's attack at Bemis Heights met with a fierce American resistance, spearheaded by Major General Benedict Arnold, in the wooded area south of Saratoga that ended in defeat for the British.

The American victory at the Battle of Bemis Heights, or the Second Battle of Saratoga, proved a major turning point in the Revolutionary War.



British General John Burgoyne's formal surrender at Saratoga on October 17, 1777, included the capture both Riedesel and his wife, Luise Charlotte. Mrs. Riedesel's memoirs of her experiences during the War for Independence published in German and English provided remarkable insight into the northern battles and aftermath.

The state of Vermont commissioned a monument on the battlefield site in 1859, and the state began acquiring surrounding battlefield lands in the 1930s as a state historic site.

The Hubbardton battlefield is on the *National Register of Historic Places* since 1971, and is the site of annual Revolutionary War reenactments.



## Declaration of Independence Surprising Facts You May Not Know!

By Don Lanman, SAR Palm Beach Chapter

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the *Declaration of Independence*, which proclaimed that the 13 colonies were no longer part of the British Empire but were now independent and sovereign states of a sovereign nation known as the *United States of America*.

The *Declaration of Independence*, adopted more than a year after the Revolutionary War began, formally declared the independence of the *United States of America*.



Thomas Jefferson, considered by many to be the author of this important document, was actually a member of five-person committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and John Adams.

Robert Livingston, however, did not sign the *Declaration of Independence* even though he contributed to its creation. He did not agree with the timing of declaring independence



### Are You Eligible?

*Do you have a Revolutionary Patriot in your family tree? Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) honors and preserves the legacy of your Patriot Ancestor. Over two hundred years ago, American Patriots fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. As a member of SAR, through participation in the Society's various programs and activities, you can continue this legacy by actively supporting historic preservation, promotion of education, and patriotic endeavors. For membership information, go to <http://www.fhssar.org/Helper.htm>.*



from England.

The Continental Congress declared independence from England on July 2, 1776, approving the final text of the document on July 4 and formally signing the *Declaration of Independence* document between July 4 and August 2, 1776.

Historians argue that the congressional representatives had to sign the document between July 4 and August 2 since not all were present at the July congress.

But, who were the signers of this remarkable document?

- \* 56 men representing 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence!
- \* 8 of the 56 men were from Britain.
- \* Benjamin Franklin was the oldest at the age of 70.
- \* Edward Rutledge was the youngest at 26 years old.
- \* Thomas Jefferson and John Adams signed the Declaration of Independence:
- \* Both became United States Presidents.
- \* Both died on July 4th, 1826, on the 50th anniversary



of independence.

- \* 6 people signed both the *Declaration of Independence* and the *US Constitution*: George Read, Robert Morris, George Clymer, James Wilson, and Roger Sherman.

Richard Stockton, a lawyer from Princeton, New Jersey, became the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to recant his support of the revolution.

On November 30, 1776, Stockton was captured by the British, and imprisoned for months, suffering meager rations and harsh treatment.

Under duress, Stockton was forced to repudiate his signature on the Declaration of Independence, and swear his allegiance to King George III. An ill and broken man, Stockton finally regained his freedom, and took a new oath of loyalty to the United States in December 1777.

The copy of the Declaration of Independence on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. is not the original draft approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Library of Congress has the first draft of the document.

The official signing ceremony took place on August 2, 1776. Those who were not present or did not sign on that date but signed later include Matthew Thornton, Thomas McKean, Lewis Morris, Oliver Wolcott, and Elbridge Gerry.

Of interest is a notation written upside-down across the bottom of the original signed document: "*Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776.*" While the purpose for the notation remains unclear, it seems likely that the notation represents a transport label frequently used on documents during the colonial period.

After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the "Committee of Five", Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston, oversaw the printing and distribution of the signed document. Philadelphia printer John Dunlap printed and dispatched 200 official copies throughout the 13 colonies to newspapers, local officials, and Continental Army Commanders on July 5, 1776. England, France, Spain, European, and South American governments also received copies.



These rare and valuable documents, known as "Dunlap Broadside," predate the engrossed version signed by the delegates. Of the hundreds produced on July 5, only 26 copies survive. Most are in museum and library collections, with three privately owned.

In 1989, a Philadelphia man found an original Dunlap Broadside hidden in the back of a picture frame he bought at a flea market for \$4. One of the few surviving copies from the official first printing; it was in excellent condition and sold for a record \$8.1 million in 2000.

A 26<sup>th</sup> known Dunlap Broadside emerged at the British National Archives in 2009, hidden for centuries in a box of pa-



pers captured from American colonists during the Revolutionary War.

In 1777, Congress commissioned Baltimore printer and postmaster, *Mary K. Goddard*, to print a new broadside that, unlike the Dunlap broadside, listed the signers of the Declaration. Only nine copies of the Goddard broadside exist. Over the years, several states also printed broadsides.

With hundreds of British ships occupying New York Harbor, the revolutionary spirit and tensions were running high. On July 9, George Washington, commander of the Continental forces in New York, read the document aloud in front of City Hall.

A raucous crowd, cheered by the inspiring words of the Declaration of Independence, broke into spontaneous displays of civil disobedience. Patriots marched, burned British flags, and tore down a statue of George III and melted it into 42,000 musket balls for the fledgling Colonial Army.

What became of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence?

- \* 5 captured by the British.
- \* 12 had their homes occupied, ransacked, or burned.
- \* 2 had two sons captured and imprisoned, and 1 lost his son in battle.

Who were the men who signed, and pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor!

- \* 24 were lawyers and jurists.
- \* 11 were merchants.
- \* 9 were farmers or plantation owners.

All were men of means, well educated, and signed the Declaration of Independence knowing that the penalty could be loss of property, imprisonment, or death.

Perhaps one of the most inspiring tales of "patriot resolution" was at the Battle of Yorktown, when Thomas Nelson, Jr., returning from Philadelphia to become Governor of Virginia, joined General Washington outside of Yorktown.

Nelson then noted that British General Cornwallis was using his home as his headquarters and that Washington directed the artillery to fire on the entire battle area except for Nelson's home.

Nelson urged General Washington to open fire on this important enemy target, and stepping forward to the nearest cannon, aimed it at his house, and fired. The other guns joined in, and the Nelson home, while damaged, remains to this day as part of the Colonial National Historical Park.

Francis Lewis represented New York in the Continental Congress, and shortly after he signed the Declaration of Independence, the British raided his Long Island estate and took his wife prisoner. After several months, her confinement ended with an exchange for the wives of British officials captured by the Americans. In poor health, she died sometime later. John Hart's New Jersey farm was looted in the course of the Revolutionary War, and he had to remain in hiding in nearby mountains until the Continental Army recaptured the area following Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River.

Surviving the war, Hart was re-elected to the New Jersey assembly and died of kidney stones in May 1779.

Lewis Morris saw his Westchester County, New York, property appropriated, looted, and burned by the British when they occupied New York.

Philip Livingston lost several properties to the British occupation of New York, sold other property to support the war effort, but never recovered his property because he died suddenly in 1778, before the end of the war. Among the first to sign had been John Hancock, who wrote in big, bold script so that King George III could... *"read my name without spectacles and could now double his reward for 500 pounds for my head."*

Hancock also declared, *"If the cause of the revolution commands it, roared Hancock, "Burn Boston, and make John Hancock a beggar!"*

These are just some of the stories of the remarkable Declaration of Independence and the sacrifices of our Patriot ancestors during the America revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing radicals, but serious, soft-spoken men of means, education, and foresight.

These men had security and position, but valued liberty more. They believed in a cause beyond self, and standing tall, straight, and unwavering, Pledged...

*"For the support of this Declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."*



*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.*

## SAR 1776 Campaign Advancing America's Heritage

*Please Help us Finish Construction of Our Visionary Outreach Education Center, Museum Exhibits and National Headquarters*

*The SAR 1776 Campaign recognizes donations in the amount of \$1,776 and fractions or multiples thereof. Based on the cost of museum exhibits of the type we are building at about \$600 per square foot, a donation of \$1,776 will build approximately three square feet. Donation recognitions start at \$25 for our car or refrigerator magnet.*

*The Sons of the American Revolution Society has a story to tell, and your continued support will allow us to champion our rich heritage for all to hear and see.*

### Donation Recognition Levels (Please Circle Category Desired):



**\$25**  
Car/Refrigerator  
Magnet



**\$148 Silver**  
**\$296 Gold**  
Sons of  
Liberty Pin



**\$592**  
Delegate  
Lapel Pin  
1 sq.ft.



**\$1,184**  
Drafter  
Lapel Pin  
2 sq.ft.



**\$1,776**  
Signer  
Lapel Pin  
3 sq.ft.

### Wall-Mounted Quills will Recognize Donations at the levels of:



**\$5,328**  
Bronze Quill

**\$8,880**  
Silver Quill

**\$17,760**  
Gold Quill

**Streamers: \$592 for Chapter Societies, \$1,184 for State Societies**

**Total Donation Amount:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ National SAR Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Zip \_\_\_\_\_, telephone: \_\_\_\_\_, email: \_\_\_\_\_

The SAR Foundation, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a 501 c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**Please make checks payable to:**

*The SAR Foundation, Inc. 809 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202-2619*

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Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_, Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_, Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Pictures from 2016 NSSAR Congress in Boston Massachusetts*





*The Florida Patriot*

1535 Skyline Drive,  
Kissimmee, FL 34744-6687

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ALL SERVICE GRAPHICS



FLSSAR Board of Management Meeting  
Embassy Suites - Orlando Lake Buena Vista South

***October 14 - 16, 2016***

*(Room Rate = \$139 per night RSVP by 9/30/2016)*

***4955 Kyngs Heath Road Kissimmee, FL 34746***

*FROM INTERSTATE 4 WEST - (from Tampa):* From I-4, take exit #67 (SR 536/Epcot). At the bottom of the ramp, turn right and continue on SR536 approximately 2 miles to SR535. Turn right at this traffic light and go almost 2 miles and turn right onto Kyngs Heath Rd at traffic light. The hotel is on the corner of SR535 & Kyngs Heath Rd.

*FROM INTERSTATE 4 EAST - (from Daytona Beach and downtown Orlando):* From I-4, take exit #68 (SR535). Turn left from the ramp traffic light & head to Kissimmee. Upon going about 3.5 miles, turn right onto Kyngs Heath Rd at traffic light. The hotel is on the right.

*FROM THE FLORIDA TURNPIKE, NORTH OR SOUTH:* From the Florida Turnpike, take exit #249 (Osceola Parkway Exit), Head west upon getting on Osceola Parkway. Upon going across the Shingle Creek bridge after the toll booth, the next exit is SR535. Turn left onto SR535, and go to the next traffic light (Kyngs Heath Rd) and turn right. The hotel is on the right.

*FROM MELBOURNE ON US192:* From I-95, head west on US192 and go roughly 54 miles. Then turn right at the SR535 traffic light. At the next traffic light on SR535, turn left onto Kyngs Heath Rd. The hotel is on the right.