



The Florida Patriot

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

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Spring 2026



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.

The Florida Patriot

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2026 Battle of Thomas Creek



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Editor Jeff Sizemore
 Membership Database Scott Breckenridge

Submission Deadline Dates

In order for your news & articles to be published in upcoming issues, please submit before the cutoff dates listed below.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Summer 2026 Issue | 6/15/2026 |
| Fall 2026 Issue | 9/30/2026 |
| Winter 2027 issue | 1/15/2027 |
| Spring 2027 Issue | 3/15/2027 |

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Florida Ladies' Auxiliary Officers

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
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| Registrar | Kathy Markoe |
| Secretary | Joni Laramore |
| Historian | Jeni Hohman |
| Chaplain | Linda Jensen |

For more information, contact Kathy Markoe at daydreamr613@aol.com

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 swampfoxsar@gmail.com or via mail at 1535 Skyline Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34744-6687.

Society President's Message



Compatriots,

This will be my last article in The Florida Patriot as your Society President. I can't believe that my year is coming to an end already. The year genuinely flew past, and I have to say that it's been a lot of fun.

Last Spring, when I was inducted as the Florida Society President, I challenged the Society membership to get out in the community, to get involved, to lead the way as we head to the Semiquincentennial, and to ask one simple question, "Where does your American story begin?"

I can say that from what I have witnessed this year, the compatriots of the Florida Society answered that challenge in a big way! We have accomplished so much this year, and we'll continue to accomplish even more throughout the rest of 2026 and beyond.

During this past year, we finished fundraising for, built, and dedicated the First Amphibious Assault Memorial – a first in the nation monument to the First Amphibious Landing by the Continental Marines. The ceremony was attended by an estimated 700 people in Pompano Beach, and the Florida SAR made a HUGE impact! That, in and of itself, would have marked a very successful year.

On top of that, by the time you read this article, we will have completed 3 of our 4 National Battle Commemorations – Last Naval Battle, Thomas Creek, and Battle of Pensacola. The commemoration of the Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge is our fourth and newest national event – just approved as a National event at the 2025 Fall Leadership. That event will take place this coming June.

Our chapters have conducted numerous Liberty Tree dedication ceremonies this year already, and by the end of 2026, we will have over 30 Liberty Trees in the state of Florida! (I think that's the most of any state other than Georgia.)

By the time you read this, we should have the new Florida Society website up and running finally! I promised at the beginning of my term that we would replace our website with a modern website that would serve as a resource for Compatriots and Chapters as well as a recruiting tool. Thanks to the hard work of many compatriots, we will reach that

American Creed

by William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

—Written 1917, accepted by the United States House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.

Preamble of the U.S. Constitution

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



milestone this spring!

As we continue through the Semiquincentennial and the Florida Society's 130th year, I want to renew my call for each and every one of you to focus on engagement and retention. Stay involved in your chapters, and get your fellow compatriots involved as well! Retention doesn't begin with sending out dues notices.

The Florida Society has proven that we can do great things when we put our hearts into it! We have an exciting future ahead of us, and I can't wait to see how the Florida Society continues to grow as we celebrate America's 250th.

Now is our time as a Society! Get out there and keep doing what you do so well. Encourage Patriotism, serve your communities, and educate and inspire this and future generation – live out our SAR Mission! Let's show the entire state how amazing the Sons of the American Revolution is!

Yours in patriotism,

Chris Washler

Florida Society President, 2025-2026

Event Calendar

May 8, 2026: Battle of Pensacola Commemoration & Galvez Day Celebration

May 15 - 16, 2026: FLSSAR BOM & Annual Meeting - Kissimmee, FL

May 23, 2026: George Rogers Clark Wreath Laying Ceremony & Patriot Grave Marking

June 27, 2026: A Day of Thanksgiving at Washington's Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge

July 2, 2026: 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence - Philadelphia, PA

July 9 - 11, 2026: 136th NSSAR Congress - Greensboro, SC

August 15, 2026: 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks

September 27, 2026: 248th Anniversary of the Battle of Baton Rouge, LA

October 2, 2026: Fall Leadership at the Galt Hotel in Louisville, KY.

July 9, 2027: 137th NSSAR Congress - New Orleans, LA

July 6, 2028: 138th NSSAR Congress - Columbus, OH

New Members

The FLSSAR would like to welcome the following new members that has joined the Sons of the American Revolution since the last publication of the *FLSSAR Florida Patriot*. Please welcome them as they attend one of the local SAR chapter meetings.

| Name | Chapter | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Walker, Richard Stephen | South Shore | Maass, Peter William | Tampa |
| Walker, Stephen Richard | South Shore | Allen III, John Arden | Palm Beach |
| Sparks, Samuel A | Jacksonville | Pejack Jr, William Earl | St Petersburg |
| Ramsey, Jason Glenn | Ft Lauderdale | Snyderburn Jr, Philip John | Caloosa |
| Terry, Kevin Allen | Ft Lauderdale | Hibberd, Peter Martin | St Lucie River |
| Harbour, Lonnie D | Jacksonville | Hibberd III, Edward N | St Lucie River |
| Bullock, Jeffery Allen | St Augustine | Hibberd, Owen C | St Lucie River |
| Cox, Michael Gene | Daytona-Ormond | | |
| Reeder, Patrick David | Ft Lauderdale | Hibberd Jr, Owen Conner | St Lucie River |
| Rowley, Ralph Martin | Tampa | Hibberd, Timothy E | St Lucie River |
| Oehm Jr, Nicholas Joseph | Miami | Hibberd, Blaine Harris | St Lucie River |
| Oehm, Benjamin Nicholas | Miami | Hibberd, Breslen Harris | St Lucie River |
| Brown, Colin William | Tampa | Cain, Daniel William | Gainesville |
| Rabone, Matthew Preston | Tampa | Shoup Jr, Kenneth Joseph | Miami |
| Rapp, Brian Keith | Central Florida | Shoup, Jackson Kenneth | Miami |
| Rapp, Joshua Thomas | Central Florida | Shoup, John Phillip | Miami |
| Wavell III, Kenneth Edward | South Shore | Duncan, Jerry Ellis | Clearwater |
| Thomas, Michael Jarod | Tampa | Macwithey, Jason Everett | Jacksonville |
| Adams, Darrin Mark | Lakeland | Puls, Keith Edward | Ft Lauderdale |
| Blanken, Richard Paul | Daytona-Ormond | Miller, Thomas A | St Augustine |
| Allen, Robert | Emerald Coast | Mangan, Brian McKnight | Caloosa |
| Smith, Derrick H | Jacksonville | Morlot Sr, Edward Frederick | Naples |
| Newcomer, William Adrian | Emerald Coast | Ferguson, Glenn Alan | Naples |
| Acosta, Leonardo Abatayo | Tampa | Ferguson, Colin Glenn | Naples |

The Last Roll

It is with deep sympathy that the FLSSAR announce the passing of the following members since the last publication of the *FLSSAR Florida Patriot*. Please remember & let the families know that we are thinking of them at this time.

| Name | Chapter |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Howard, Richard Arthur | Withlacoochee |
| Mahaffey, Richard Kenneth | Saramana |
| Lukas Jr, Charles Anthony | Withlacoochee |
| Badger, Timothy Martin | Tampa |
| Trusewitsch, Nicholas George | Tampa |

SKELTONS IN THE CLOSET - No 2

Ramblings of a SAR Registrar/Genealogist

By Harry Rinker

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Who is responsible for membership recruitment? There are those who think the responsibility rests with a chapter's registrar/genealogist. Nothing could be further from the truth. **EVERYONE IN THE CHAPTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT.**

Why does the SAR not have the same level of recognition in the community as the DAR? Arguing that it is because the DAR is six times the size of the SAR is just an excuse. The primary reason is that most SAR members are not aggressive in touting their pride in their SAR membership to others, prompting the goals and principles of the organization, and actively seeking other males who may have a Revolutionary War ancestors.. In fairness to SAR members, many SAR chapters, state organizations, and even National are not good at "getting their name in paper" or more correctly in "social media" in today's world.

The good news is that the 250 Anniversary Celebrations are providing a wealth of public exposure for the SAR that has not been available for decades. These events are generating a strong interest in the history of the Revolutionary War period as well as a renewed interest among individuals in their Revolutionary War ancestors and lineage. This year's opportunity to recruit new members for the SAR must not be lost - strike while the iron is hot [I love cliches].

Imagine what can happen if each existing SAR member, even one out of three, recruits a new member. The size of the SAR would double.

Where are the opportunities for member recruitment. First, start with the member's family - sons, grandsons, brothers, nephews, and cousins. They tie-in directly with the member's application. Every chapter registrar/genealogist loves this type of membership application. The primary way to find out if they are interested is to ask.

Also, remember as a recruiter, you are an SAR salesman. Tout the mission and goals of the SAR. Demonstrate the values by sharing your experiences and the rewards that result in being a member of the SAR.

Second, talk about SAR with friends and acquaintances. Don't forget to wear your SAR lapel pin. It attracts attention. Invite them to a meeting to "get the feel" of the SAR.

Third, encourage your chapter or state to create membership recruitment booths. These can occur in a variety of circumstance - at a genealogy event at a local library, a festival at a historic site or park, Pioneer Day event, JROTC competition, ethnic festivals such Scottish Highland Games, and educational meeting and seminars.

Fourth, develop a threefold flyer providing information about the SAR, your chapter, and the contact information for your chapter/registrar genealogist. Use your imagination to add to the above list.

When a lead develops, your chapter/registrar genealogist will need four pieces of information - (1) the full name of the person, (2) a mailing address, (3) a phone number, and (4) an email address. All four are needed if the chapter registrar/genealogist is to respond to the initial contact. If possible, also indicate how the contact was made and the level of interest the person showed. Do not wait to get this information to your chapter registrar/genealogist. Do it immediately.

Finally, you will never know if a person is interested in joining the SAR if you do not ask. Not everyone will say yes. In fact, "no," "not at this time," "I do not have any Revolutionary ancestors," or "my family came to American after the Revolutionary War" are the most frequent responses. But, they are not always the answer. When the answer is 'yes,' get their contact information. You will never know if the answer is "Yes" unless you ask.

Set a personal goal to help the SAR grow in 2026 and beyond.

WHAT'S NEXT - The role of the chapter registrar/genealogist as a Salesman, First Contact, and First Responder.

FLSSAR 2026-27 Officer Nominees

Submitted by the FLSSAR Nominating Committee Compatriots (12/18/2025)

Robert Frank Amason, Jr., PhD – Chair
 Robin Lee Preston
 David Charles Thomas
 Kevin Ray Shurte
 William Lies IV

| Office | Nominee | Nominee |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Jonathan Hunt | |
| WC Regional V.P. | Walter Richard Young | |
| Sr. Vice President | Willard Douglas Gibbens | |
| SE Regional V.P. | Charles Austin Adams, II | |
| EC Regional V.P. | Robin Lee Preston | |
| Secretary | M. Scott Breckenridge | |
| Registrar | Raymond Clyde Lantz | |
| At Large Executive Committee | Hampton Eugene Allen, Jr. | Jeffrey L. Sizemore |
| Historian | Kevin Shurte | |
| Editor | Jeffrey Lee Sizemore | |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Philip B. Markoe | |
| Chaplain | Larry A. Burns, Jr. | |
| NC Regional V.P. | David Hitchcock | |
| Chancellor | Charles Klug | |
| NW Regional V.P. | Graham Fountain | |
| NE Regional V.P. | Robert F. Amason, Jr. | |
| Recording Secretary | Randal Allen | |
| Treasurer | William Wagner-Hart | |
| Genealogist | Mark Leonard Barie | |
| Webmaster | Note 1 | |
| SW Regional V.P. | Phillip R. Thieler | |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| National Trustee | Christopher Edwin Washler | |
| Alt. National Trustee | Jonathan Hunt | |

Note 1: It is our understanding that the Webmaster position will become a paid position and an appropriate bylaws change is forthcoming.

From the Society Secretary

Spring BOM / Annual Meeting

The Spring BOM and Annual Meetings will be held on Friday/Saturday, May 15-16, 2026. Details, including registration and hotel reservations link, are posted on the FLSSAR website under the BOM tab. The schedule has not been finalized, and will be updated as meetings are scheduled. As always, it will be subject to change.

Voting meetings will be on Saturday afternoon. Those two voting meetings are the “Board of Management (BOM) Meeting”, followed by the “Annual Meeting”. These are the voting requirements for those two meetings:

Annual Meeting.

All FLSSAR members in good standing in attendance may vote at the Annual Meeting.

Of particular note for the Annual Meeting, business to be accomplished are proposed by-laws changes (as published in the Patriot magazine) and the election of officers for the next term.

BOM Meeting.

Only members of the Board of Management (BOM) in attendance may vote at the BOM Meeting, in accordance with the FLSSAR by-laws.

Chapter Presidents, if you have more than 40 members in your chapter, and wish to take advantage of any additional BOM members, I need those names, in writing, a week prior to the meeting.

Chapter Challenge Contest

The Florida Society Chapter Challenge Contest is designed to recognize chapters for various activities that meet the goals of the SAR. Chapters are judged against each other based on size (small-red, medium-white, large-blue). The top three winners in each category are recognized at the FLSSAR Annual Meeting. The contest period is the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st.

Scoring for the contest is done using the NSSAR Americanism Award / President General’s Activity Streamer Combined Score Sheet, available on the NSSAR website (<https://www.sar.org/committees/americanism-committee/>).

If you choose to enter your chapter in the Chapter Challenge contest, please submit your scoresheet to the FLSSAR State Secretary (Scott Breckenridge), no later than Apr 1st, 2026, for inclusion in the Florida Society contest.

Congress 2026 Delegates

If any FLSSAR member is thinking about attending the 2026 Congress, and you wish to be a voting delegate from Florida, submit your name to the FLSSAR State Secretary (Scott Breckenridge) prior to April 25, 2026. If I do not get your name by that date, I will NOT be able to submit your name later.

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FLSSAR Webmaster By-Laws Change

Current Wording:

Article III, Officers

Section 1 Titles

The officers of the FLSSAR, who shall be members in good standing, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, and who shall serve upon their installation and until their successors assume office, shall be a President, Senior Vice-President, Regional Vice-President for each Region as from time to time may be established, Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Registrar, Chancellor, Chaplain, Genealogist, Editor, Webmaster, Historian, Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee, and Sergeant-at-Arms. A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the incumbent President.

Proposed Wording:

Article III, Officers

Section 1 Titles

The officers of the FLSSAR, who shall be members in good standing, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, and who shall serve upon their installation and until their successors assume office, shall be a President, Senior Vice-President, Regional Vice-President for each Region as from time to time may be established, Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Registrar, Chancellor, Chaplain, Genealogist, Editor, Historian, Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee, and Sergeant-at-Arms. A Parliamentarian and Webmaster shall be appointed by the incumbent President.

Rationale: It has been recommended that the Webmaster position should be appointed by the FLSSAR President instead of being an elected position due to the special nature of the duties and skill set needed with this position.

PIRATES of FLORIDA and PENSACOLA: LEGENDS & MYTHS

by Ben Findley

Recently, I was giving two presentations at a middle school and a grade school for their Patriots Day and Heritage Day. I was wearing my colonial tricorn hat and colonial garb and representing the Sons of the American Revolution.

After a presentation, I felt a tug on my shirt and looked down. There was a young 4th grade male student looking ambivalent and forlorn. He said "Mister, are you a Pirate?" Well, holding back my laughter, I said "No sir, I am not a pirate, but a colonial patriot wearing a tricorn three-fold hat, like George Washington wore."

PIRATES WERE MARITIME CRIMINALS

Well there can be confusion, but as most know there is a major difference between Patriots, Pirates, and Privateers. Certainly most adults know about patriots, but older and younger folks alike are sometimes confused about the difference between Pirates and Privateers.

A colonial-era Pirate was a maritime criminal who operated during the European colonization of the Americas, stealing cargo, such as sugar, tobacco, flour, cocoa, cloth, spices, rum, and gold and silver bars (rarely) from merchant ships. Pirates were often former Privateers left jobless after wars who wanted to quickly sell items.

In the early 18th Century, Pirates were often under contract with the British Crown as a way to reduce the competition from other European countries hoping to stake a claim in the New American World. Piracy often fueled colonization efforts on behalf of the British Crown and kept competitors at bay. The Spanish in particular were driven from the gulf and the eastern coastline as Pirates harassed and plundered Spanish ships constantly, particularly in Pensacola, the Gulf Coast and throughout most of Florida.

Pirates and Privateers frequently used Pensacola, Florida, the Florida Panhandle, the Gulf Coast, and Florida during and around the "Golden Age of Piracy", from about the earlier 1700s to about the early 1800s.

PIRATES AND THEIR AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY ROLE

Pirates may be viewed today as criminals in American history, but they also played a role in the development and settlement of the colonies and an important role in the American Revolutionary War. In the early era years alone in Pensacola and the Gulf Coast, about 5,000 Pirates operated. Pirates were responsible for recruiting 55,000 sailors to serve in a makeshift navy against the huge British Navy, according to the RealPiratesSalem.com and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

During the Revolutionary War, Pirates seized 600 British vessels, raided loyalists' homes along the coast, and looted \$18 million worth of British and Loyalists' property, worth the equivalent of about \$302 million in modern currency.

PRIVATEERS AND LETTERS OF MARQUE

Often described as "legalized Piracy," individual Privateers and their private vessels were allowed to seize enemy ships and their cargo as "prizes." A colonial Privateer was a privately-owned armed ship authorized by a wartime government (like the Continental Congress) via a "Letter of Marque" to attack and capture enemy merchant vessels. They were crucial for harassing British shipping during the American Revolution, acting as a, essentially, legal form of maritime warfare. The Library of Congress says "Letters of Marque" were issued as historic government licenses authorizing private vessels (Privateers) to attack, capture, or destroy enemy shipping during wartime, being a cost-effective naval supplement.

Privateers were "paid" through prize money, keeping a large portion of the value of captured ships and cargo. The American Congress allowed a 50/50 split of the captured goods and plunder between the Privateer owners and the crew. However, in some instances, Privateer crews were allowed to keep all of their plunder. And it was difficult to record and track then the total plundered ship cargo. While authorized by the U.S. Constitution, they fell out of favor in the 19th century. Letters of Marque were NOT direct monetary payment, but rather government licenses authorizing private vessels to attack and seize enemy shipping. This practice, common in the 18th-century colonies, provided a cost-effective alternative to a full navy. Pirates and Piracy by Privateers differ because Privateers are legal, state-sanctioned actions.

EXAMPLES OF PIRATES AND PRIVATEERS IN PENSACOLA, THE GULF COAST, AND IN FLORIDA:

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE: The beginnings of Florida Pirate history began and was documented in the 1500s. These Pirates were primarily attracted to the Spanish vessels stopping at the Florida shores. The vessels often contained lucrative goods they could quickly sell. Once they heard about them, the Pirates couldn't let these opportunities pass. In June 1586 the first significant Pirate attack in Florida was led by the Englishman Sir Francis Drake. The Florida coast beckoned Drake and he arrived with his 23 ships and 2,000 men. Francis Drake and his men saw the light from a Spanish watchtower and realized they were entering the St. Augustine Harbor. Sensing an excellent opportunity for more plunder, he attacked the Harbor with his raiders and outgunned the Spanish defenders. Drake took whatever he could and burned the whole city to ashes. The Spanish citizens saved their lives by fleeing to the jungle and seeking refuge with Timucuan Indians. Floridians remember this terrible tragedy to this day and reenact the event each June.



JEAN LAFITTE: He was probably the most famous Pirate and Privateer figure linked to the Pensacola area. Before Spain relinquished Florida to the United States in Pensacola, Lafitte and his crew used the hidden inlets of the Pensacola Bay area for Pirate smuggling and Privateering throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. Lafitte was both a Privateer and a Pirate, operating in the Gulf of Mexi-

co and Pensacola area. He used Letters of Marque to legally sanction his attacks on Spanish ships as a Privateer, but often engaged in illegal smuggling and illegal Piracy when those authorizations were not applicable. Lafitte frequently engaged in smuggling, illegal slave trading, and selling stolen cargo, which fell under the category of Piracy, according to the National Park Service. Despite his criminal reputation, he provided crucial aid to the United States during the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812, earning a pardon from President Madison for his past crimes and Piracy.

While primarily operating out of New Orleans, Louisiana and Galveston, his Privateers attempted to take over Spanish-held Pensacola as a base of operations in the early 1800s. Although this effort failed, he caused the Spanish to take arms and be prepared. His legacy is celebrated through the Krewe of Lafitte (founded in 1954) in Pensacola's Mardi Gras and Fiesta of Five Flags celebrations. Local folklore in the Pensacola area and Northwest Florida often connects Lafitte to buried treasure and covert operations, strengthening his legendary status in the region. This may be myth, since no buried treasure has been discovered over the many years in the Pensacola area. Pierre Lafitte, Jean's brother and business partner, was known to have operated in various Gulf locations, including Pensacola. Lafitte was operating a warehouse in New Orleans to help distribute the stolen goods smuggled by his brother Pierre.



WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BOWLES (CAPTAIN BILLY BOWLEGS): Captain Billy (1763-1805) Pirate and Privateer operated in the Pensacola and Gulf Coast area in the late 1700s. He plundered Spanish and English ships, and buried much of his treasuries in the bayous of Pensacola and the Florida Panhandle. His fleet of Privateers attacked the Panton, Leslie and Company trading post in Pensacola. In particular, as a Pirate he favored the region's complex waterways, such as Perdido Key south of Pensacola, because the narrow entrances and treacherous shoals made it difficult for naval vessels to pursue him. Much of his Pirating and Privateering is documented through Spanish colonial records and U.S. Court archives. Known as the "Director General of the Muskogee Nation." Bowles was commissioned into the Maryland Loyalist Battalion at the rank of Ensign, seeing action for the British during the American Revolutionary War, including the 1781 Battle of Pensacola. He established an alliance with the American Muskogee Indian Nation and founded the "State of Muskogee." In 1803, Bowles was betrayed by Native American Creek and Seminole Indians on the British side who disagreed with his alliance strategies and they were aligned with his British trading rivals, Panton and Company. He was handed over to the Spanish, who imprisoned him as a Pirate in Havana's Morro Castle, where he died two years later.



CHARLES GIBBS: His real name was James D. Jeffers (1798-1831) and he used the pseudonym "Charles Gibbs." He was one of the most notorious Pirates and had close ties to Pensacola and the Florida panhandle, for smuggling and staging operations. Jeffers was one of the last active pirates in the Caribbean during the early 19th century and was among the last persons to be executed for Piracy by the United States. His life as a Pirate was marked by violence and brutality. Shortly before his execution, Jeffers admitted to have been involved in the killing of as many as 400 victims. And admitted that he killed one of his own Pirate Crew members in 1837. His confessions during his imprisonment and Piracy trial, detailing his career, were recorded and published following his death and remained popular reading throughout the mid-19th century.



EDWARD TEACH or BLACKBEARD: Blackbeard (c. 1680 – November 22, 1718) whose real name was Edward Teach was a notorious and bloodthirsty English Pirate who operated in the West Indies and the American and Gulf Coast. When folks remember the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies, they think of BlackBeard the Pirate. Blackbeard is famous for his fearsome appearance and use of



modern-day PSYOPS or psychological warfare. He was a unique Pirate who terrorized the American coast and Caribbean in the early 18th century. He is noted for lighting slow-burning hemp fuses in his long black beard during battle covering himself eerily in frightening smoke to intimidate enemies. A few report his smoking fuses as a myth. And he did command his flagship the *Queens Anne's Revenge*, which was originally a French slave ship he captured. It was a heavily armed frigate with 40 cannons. In 1718 off the Florida coast, Blackbeard spent several weeks diving for gold and silver from the sunken 1715 Spanish treasure fleet, but with little success. He operated in the Florida Straits and along the East Coast during his most active period in 1717–1718. While he did operate in Florida, some lo-

cal legends in the Florida Keys recognize a Pirate named "Black Caesar" who is sometimes confused with Blackbeard, as they were contemporaries.

Blackbeard was killed on November 22, 1718 in North Carolina in hand-to-hand combat with British Lt. Robert Maynard. Maynard had two British Naval Ships and several sailors under his command. Blackbeard sustained 5 pistol shots and 20+ sword cuts in close-quarters combat. Following his death, Blackbeard was decapitated and his head was hung from the bowsprit of Maynard's ship.



CARMEN PIRATE SHIP FIRES ON FEDERAL SHIP LOUISIANA

Pensacola took center stage in a Pirate drama in 1822 when accused Pirates aboard a ship called Carmen were brought to the newly established U.S. District Court of West Florida in Pensacola for trial. The Carmen Pirate Ship and sailors were charged with firing on the Louisiana, a federal Revenue Cutter Service vessel, off the coast of Cuba. Sailors aboard the Carmen most likely mistook the American Navy Ship Louisiana for a merchant ship. The U.S.S. Peacock witnessed the Pirate attack and took pursuit. Carmen sailors responded like most Pirates did when seeing a naval ship, they ran to escape and usually did not engage a Navy ship. But they fired on it this time because they mistook it for a merchant ship. They did not realize they were confronting a heavily-armed Naval ship. The Peacock caught up with the Carmen and apprehended its 18 Spanish soldiers and transporting them to Pensacola.

THE TRIAL OF 18 SPANISH SAILORS FOR PIRACY IN PENSACOLA

Eighteen Spanish sailors from the ship Carmen were tried as Pirates for Piracy in the newly established U.S. District Court of West Florida in Pensacola, highlighting Pensacola's role in combating 19th-century Gulf Piracy. Following the U.S. acquisition of Florida, Pensacola became a major hub for prosecuting Pirates and Piracy in the Gulf and Caribbean. These Carmen sailors were accused as Pirates for attacking vessels and firing on a U.S. Revenue Cutter ship. Their case was one of a larger, often unpredictable "lottery" of Piracy trials where many accused actually walked free at the time, according to Visit Pensacola. During this era, there were intense, often blurred lines between legal Privateering and outright Piracy. Their 1823 trial was a significant international event because the sailors were legitimate Spanish subjects.

The Spanish sailors were acquitted, due to insufficient evidence, which led to a formal diplomatic protest by the Spanish government against the United States, according to West Florida court records and newspapers.

The Not Guilty verdict in the case of the Pirate Ship Carmen was delivered in January 1823. That result was not uncommon in such cases at the time, with as many as half of accused Pirates and Privateers being acquitted. Many of the commissions held by Privateers came from countries in Latin America that were in revolt against Spain and some Americans sympathized with their cause. And it was difficult to separate legal Privateers from Pirates and to prove illegal activities.

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Chapter News

Brevard Chapter

At the January meeting, Dr. Thomas Hoffman was our speaker. Several awards were presented to various chapter members.



At the February meeting, we celebrated with holding the George Washington annual luncheon with the various DAR Chapters in Brevard County. The luncheon speaker was Marcea Oetting. A Silver 250th Award was also presented to Brian McWaters



Refer to the further in this magazine of this year's Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution event that was held in Merritt Island, FL.

For the March meeting, Dan McIntyre was our speaker who gave a presentation on the history of the Coast Guard. Note that our speaker was Chief Warrant Officer in the US Coast Guard Reserve (Retired) who enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1960. Served 42 Years in USCGR including eight years of active duty and 2½ years as an instructor at the Coast Guard Academy Leadership Development Institute. Retired in 2005 as a CWO4 Naval Engineer. Worked Xerox Corporation for 32 Years in Product Development, Service Management, Training, and Performance Excellence.

We also had Debora Regan-Smith, Vice Regent from the Rufus Faibanks Chapter NSDAR at our meeto sell tickets to the Rufus Fairbanks Red, White, and Blue Ball, which will be held on 13 Jun 2026 at the Tides Collocated Club, Patrick Space Force Base, 1001 North Hwy A1A. Event will be held from 1700 hrs (5PM) - 2200 hrs (10 PM) celebrating America 250. Formal/ Semi Formal dress.



Caloosa Chapter

On January 14th, the Compatriots of the Caloosa SAR Chapter again gathered at Famous Dave's for the first meeting of the New Year, and were treated to a great meal, another outstanding SAR America 250 Moment given by **Rev. Dr. Randy Moody**, and a special presentation by **Capt. Dale Spain, USMC (ret.)** on his current activities as CEO of Hearts and Homes for Veterans, Inc.

The January SAR America250 moment was given by our Chaplain, **Rev. Dr. Randy Moody**, and for this meeting he delivered another informative and entertaining tale of Revolutionary Colonial grit - this time recounting the attempted sack of Norfolk in January 1776.

As recounted by Rev. Moody, in late 1775, Lord Dunmore together with the Colonial Governor of Virginia fled Norfolk to British ships anchored offshore. They ran out of food and other provisions in a hurry, so they decided they would bombard Norfolk from these ships, then send in a landing party to gather stores. They executed their plan January 1, 1776.



On February 11th, the Chapter met to hear Jan Myles-Brunelle, FLSSAR State Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer, as she outlined the role played by the Ladies Auxiliary in assisting us to fulfill the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. We were also treated to a great meal, listened to our Treasurer, Jeff Brunelle, present the monthly SAR America 250 Moment, and premiered the showing of a video, complete with soundtrack, showcasing the life of Maj. Gen. Henry Knox that was created by Miss Ezrah Hogsed, Caloosa Chapter winner of the Americanism Youth Video Contest.

Jan explained that the Ladies Auxiliary is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support and further the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) - promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations. At the state level, she said that the group proudly supports our FLSSAR Compatriots by encouraging SAR membership and by raising funds to further the Society's objectives.

At our March meeting we presented our chapter's Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the Year Awards to Lehigh Middle school teacher, Rachel Michel and East Lee County High School teacher Anne Hester. Ms. Michel went on to be awarded 1st place in the Florida SAR award, and we learned just before our meeting that she was awarded 3rd place in the national SAR teacher of the year competition. It was great to hear that our history teachers are instilling patriotism in our youth in their lessons.

Vice-President John Maier explained that the annually the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution invites all American History teachers, whose approved curriculum teaches students about the American Revolutionary Era (1750-1800), to apply for the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Grant. The Grant recognizes educators who distinguish themselves in teaching the history of the American Revolution. Anne and Rachel had been named our Chapter winners, with Anne winning at the High School level, and Rachel winning at the Middle School level. A teacher who is selected as a winner at a chapter level (like Caloosa) then competes at the state level and the winner of the state contest will be a finalist for the national grant. Cash prizes are awarded at each level.

Central Florida Chapter



Eight Color Guard members from four different chapters manned the FLSSAR table at the DAR Spring Conference on March 7. There were Jeff Robbins (Saramana), Phil Markoe (Central Florida), and Patrick Thomas (Jacksonville), Kelly Crumley & Bill Elder (Daytona- Ormond), Robin Preston (Central Florida), Tim DeForest (Saramana), and Michael Meyer (Central Florida). A third color guard was conducted on Saturday



Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, Robin Preston, Gary Smith, Harry Rinker, and Randal Allen participated in the color guard at the opening ceremonies of the Pine Castle Pioneer Days on February 21. The chapter treasurer, William Morgan (not pictured), is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Pine Castle Pioneer Days.



Clearwater Chapter



On February 10, 2026, Compatriots from the Clearwater Chapter presented the winners of the Chapter Level Youth Video Contest with their awards at St. Cecelia Parochial School in Clearwater. The First Place Winners were Katriana Witt, Elizabeth Pedraza and Susana Ramos, who received \$500 for their video titled, "Deborah Sampson, The Woman Soldier."

Our SAR Youth Video Contest was a tremendous success thanks to Jill Heinze, a teacher at St. Cecelia Parochial School who thought the contest would be perfect for her eighth-grade students as they were studying the American Revolution at the time. The students gathered in groups of three or four, selected topics pertaining to a person or event of the American Revolution, and researched many sources as they prepared their video. As Mrs. Heinze suspected, the Youth Video Contest offered a wonderful



From left-to-right – Randal Allen, Phil Markoe (Central Florida), Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond), Robin Preston, Harry Rinker, Gary Smith, and Michael Meyer (Central Florida). The members of the SAR were also joined by three members of the CFLSAR Ladies Auxiliary, who are also members of the Mary Virginia Cabell Chapter of the DAR: Kathy Markoe, Linda Rinker, and Maria Preston.

The Central Florida Chapter has conducted two Compatriot Grave Markings and has a third one scheduled for April 11. Once completed, 15 graves of Compatriots from the Central Florida Chapter will have been marked. Randal Allen will be leading a session on how to conduct a Compatriot Grave Marking during the Board of Management meeting on May 16.

educational opportunity for her students to learn more about the American Revolution subject matter they were studying.

We received seven videos for consideration from Mrs. Heinze’s class. There were a variety of topics, four of which won cash awards from the Clearwater Chapter totaling \$1,000.

Fort Lauderdale Chapter



| SAR CHAPTER & ORGANIZATION DONORS | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| AMERICA250 | PLATINUM |
| GEORGE WASHINGTON TRUST FUND | GOLD |
| FLORIDA SOCIETY SAR | GOLD |
| FORT LAUDERDALE SAR | GOLD |
| FLSSAR LADIES AUXILIARY | SILVER |
| MIAMI SAR | SILVER |
| CLEARWATER SAR | SILVER |
| NAPLES SAR | SILVER |
| TAMPA SAR | SILVER |
| FLORIDA SOCIETY SONS OF THE REV. | BRONZE |
| PENSACOLA SAR | BRONZE |
| CALIFORNIA SOCIETY SAR | BRONZE |
| MARINE CORPS LEAGUE | BRONZE |
| LADIES OF THE DAR | BRONZE |
| LAKELAND SAR | BRONZE |

Since the publication of *The Florida Patriot* (Winter 2026), the Fort Lauderdale Chapter has remained actively engaged in advancing the Sons of the American Revolution mission of patriotism, community service, and educational outreach.

The chapter formally launched its participation in the America 250 commemoration on January 31, 2026, through a Liberty Tree dedication held in partnership with the City of Tamarac at Tamarac Veterans' Park. The ceremony drew more than 100 attendees, including compatriots, members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Children of the American Revolution, as well as community residents, families, and students. The Fort Lauderdale Color Guard—joined by members of the Central Florida Chapter SAR—presented the colors. Michelle Gomez delivered an official proclamation, followed by remarks from Chapter President Chuck Adams, FLSSAR Senior Vice President Jonathan Hunt, and Florida DAR State Regent Kim Zeman.

February activities highlighted the chapter’s commitment to youth and education. The Fort Lauderdale Chapter recognized an American History teacher for excellence in teaching American history at the middle school level and honored the top three participants in its second annual Youth Video Contest. Additional recognitions included an award for an outstanding student essay on the Battles of Lexington and Concord and presentation of the chapter’s 2025 Eagle Scout Award. Chapter members also participated in the Florida Society Children of

the American Revolution State Conference in Gainesville, where they hosted an educational display and assisted with the posting of colors during the annual installation banquet. March proved equally active for the Fort Lauderdale Chapter. Members and their spouses provided vital support to the FAAM Committee in the final preparations for the First Amphibious Assault Memorial Dedication. Their efforts included coordinating equipment for the Sons of Liberty Color Guard Brigade, arranging floral tributes, and assisting with hospitality and transportation for visiting NSSAR President General Michael Elston. In recognition of its financial support, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter was honored as a Gold-Level Donor for the FAAM initiative.

On March 21, the chapter participated in the commemoration of the 243rd anniversary of the Last Naval Battle at Veterans Memorial Park in Merritt Island. Representatives placed a commemorative wreath, joined the color guard procession, and documented the event.

The month concluded on March 28 with the chapter's participation in the Scottish Music Festival hosted by the Scottish American Society of South Florida. Members, spouses, and supporters staffed an outreach booth, promoting the SAR mission, engaging prospective members, and highlighting the Society's educational initiatives.

At the time of this writing, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter continues to demonstrate strong engagement in youth and education programs. Three entries have been received for the Enhanced JROTC Contest, with additional submissions anticipated for the oration, poster, and brochure contests from participating public and private schools in Broward County. The state of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter remains strong!

Flagler Chapter



On Saturday, April 11, 2026, the quiet charm of Bunnell was transformed into a vibrant celebration of heritage as the Flagler County Historical Society hosted its second annual Bunnell History Day. Held at the historic Holden House, the event drew residents, history enthusiasts, and community leaders for a full day of immersive learning and local pride. From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., visitors explored a wide array of educational programs, guided museum tours, and engaging historical reenact-

ments. The event highlighted the rich and often overlooked stories that have shaped Flagler County, offering attendees a chance to step back in time while deepening their appreciation for the region's cultural roots.

A key feature of the day was the collaboration between two prominent lineage societies: the Old Kings Chapter NSDAR and the Flagler Chapter NSSAR. Sharing exhibit space, both organizations showcased their missions of historical preservation, education, and patriotism. Their displays provided insight into Revolutionary War ancestry and encouraged community engagement with early American history.

The event also welcomed several distinguished guests, underscoring its importance within the community. Among those in attendance were Rick Staly and a number of local political leaders who showed their support for preserving and promoting regional history.

Members of the SAR Flagler Chapter were well represented, including Chapter President Randall Conway, alongside Dave Bull, Randall Morris, John Feind, and David Watt. Their presence reflected a strong commitment to honoring the legacy of America's founding generation.

Bunnell History Day continues to grow as a meaningful tradition in Flagler County, bridging generations through storytelling, education, and shared heritage. With strong community support and increasing participation, the event stands as a testament to the enduring value of local history—and the people dedicated to preserving it.

Gainesville Chapter





The Gainesville Chapter shared plans to partner with the City of Newberry in planting and dedicating a Liberty Tree as part of the America 250 observance. We are pleased to report that this meaningful event was successfully held on April 11, 2026.

The ceremony took place in conjunction with Newberry’s commemoration of the Battle of Lexington and Concord and provided an opportunity to reflect on one of the most recognizable symbols of early American resistance. In colonial times, Liberty Trees served as gathering places where citizens met, organized, and encouraged one another in the cause of liberty. In that spirit, the Newberry dedication connected local citizens with a powerful part of our nation’s founding story.

We were especially honored to have the Buchholz High School AFJROTC Color Guard participate

in the ceremony. Their presentation of the colors added dignity and patriotic spirit to the occasion and served as a meaningful reminder that the principles of liberty must be passed on to the next generation.

During the ceremony, Gainesville Chapter President Randy Highsmith delivered remarks on the historic significance of the original Liberty Tree in Boston, where colonists gathered in protest of unjust taxation and governmental overreach. Beneath its branches, neighbors became patriots, conversations became convictions, and the idea of liberty took deeper root in America.

Although the original Liberty Tree was destroyed by British soldiers in 1775, the ideals it represented endured. That truth was expressed in one of the key lines from the dedication address: “Liberty does not live in wood and leaves; it lives in the hearts of people.” As America approaches its 250th anniversary, that message continues to resonate.

The newly planted tree in Newberry, together with its commemorative plaque, now stands as a visible and lasting reminder of the principles of freedom, civic courage, and remembrance. It also reflects the continuing commitment of the Sons of the American Revolution to promote patriotism, preserve American history, and educate future generations.

We were also encouraged by the positive press coverage following the event. Local media provided thoughtful attention to the dedication and included portions of the remarks, helping extend the reach of the ceremony and its message to the broader community.

The Gainesville Chapter is thankful to the City of Newberry, Mayor Tim Marden, the Buchholz High School AFJROTC Color Guard, our fellow compatriots, and all who

helped make the day a success. We count it a privilege to take part in this historic observance and to contribute, in a small but meaningful way, to America 250.

Jacksonville Chapter



The Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution—Jacksonville Chapter dedicated a Liberty Tree plaque on Saturday, April 4, 2026, honoring Jacksonville’s historic Treaty Oak at Jessie Ball DuPont Park. Estimated to be more than 250 years old, the Southern Oak tree predates the founding of the city in 1833.

According to 1930’s historical accounts by Florida Times-Union journalist Pat Moran, early treaties between Indig-



enous peoples and European settlers were signed beneath the oak’s branches—giving the tree its enduring name. The Treaty Oak is among the few mature trees nationwide to receive the Liberty Tree designation.

The ceremony included remarks from local and state representatives, including Harrison Conyers, Director of Military and Veterans Affairs for Mayor Donna Deegan, who read a proclamation designating April 4, 2026, as “America’s 250th Liberty Tree Day in Jacksonville Florida”. Greetings were also shared on behalf of U.S. Senator Ashley Moody, along with remarks from Florida SAR President Christopher Washer and Florida CAR President Jaylen Tillman.

Additional presentations included a historical background of the DuPont family by Paul Tucker, Chapter President, Rumbaugh Oration Contest winner by high school student Zender Fontaine, and stories about The Sons of Liberty and Boston Liberty tree by Gray Chandler, Chapter Registrar and past president.

The SAR Liberty Tree plaque joins an existing Daughters of the American Revolution plaque at the park entrance.

For a complete video program of the Liberty Tree in Jacksonville plaque ceremony, please click on: <https://youtu.be/x5TTND3wR4g>

Lake Sumter Chapter



Our chapter always attend the GeorgeFest parade held in the Town of Eustis. This was 124th year. The longest running festival - which celebrates George Washington's birthday - in the entire nation. This week long event ends with a parade in town, Saturday Feb 28, which both the DAR and SAR participate.

The member picture leading the parade at the George Fest 2026 are Compatriot (l to r) Jacob Lane and John Moore. In the background (l to r) is Color guard commander - Paul Pardee, Mathew Carter, Mike Cross, Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter) and drummer Andrew Sechler (Central Florida Chapter).

The George fest participants are (l to r) Compatriots, Jim Carl, Rick Christian, Paul Pardee, Mathew Carter, Mike Cross, Kelly Crumley, Andrew Sechler, Tim Donihi (Lake-Sumter chapter President), Jacob Lane, John Moore. (Not shown is Allan Lane Past President – photographer!)

Okeechobee Chapter

In honor of America 250, the Okeechobee Chapter Color Guard presented the colors at the Battle of Okeechobee reenactment. The Color Guard carried an America 250 flag with the American flag. Okeechobee Chapter members Brian Bray, Don Hanna and Dowling Watford were assisted by Brian Burback of the Withlacoochee Chapter.



The Okeechobee Chapter SAR Color Guard marched in the Speckled Perch Parade carrying the American flag and SAR 250 flag.



The combined Okeechobee and Highlands County SAR Color Guard presented the colors at the Highlands Heritage Festival on Apr. 11 & 12. The Festival is held at the historic Pearce Estate on the Kissimmee River in Ft. Basinger. The 450 year old Liberty Tree is in the photo background.



Compatriot Scott Craig was unanimously voted in as the Chapters Vice President during the March meeting to be installed April 21 by President Bill Garrison.

Palm Beach Chapter

The Chapter supported the SAR Nation's 250 Anniversary by participating in the Monument dedication of the 1st Naval/Marine Assault at Nassau Harbor in 1775 at Pompano Beach Florida. Attending were Compatriots Lanman, Parkinson, Garrison, Bird, Anderson, Johnston, & Palerino.



Compatriot Scott Horne presented an interesting "Patriot Bio" review of his Revolutionary War Patriot John Supler who served on the "Black Brig" war ship also known as the "Andrew Doria" participating in the 1st Naval/Marine Assault at Nassau Harbor in 1775.

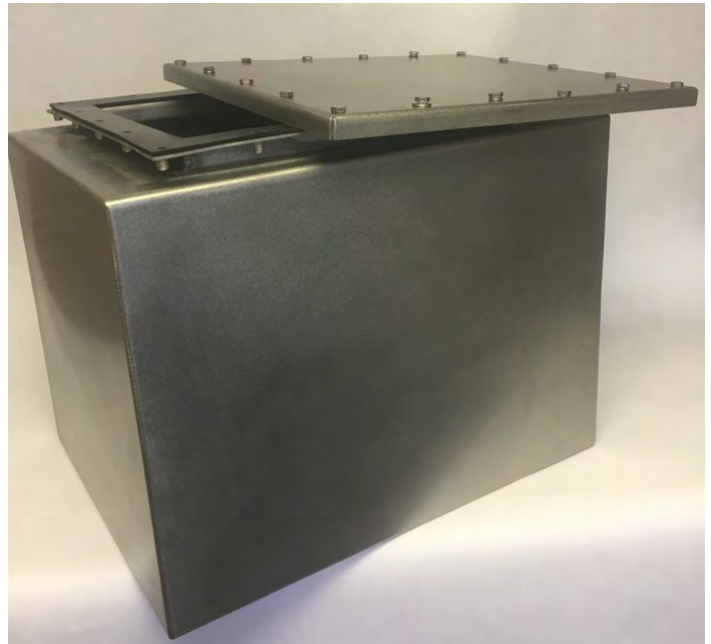


Compatriots Parkinson & Lanman received SAR Color Guard Service Medals for many years providing Color Guard services at SAR, DAR, Schools, & Patriotic functions.

FMR President Lanman, as Vice Chairman of the Florida Veterans Foundation presented special FVF Commemorative Coins to attendees at the March Chapter meeting in appreciation to the Chapter for their Veteran services as FVF Ambassadors.

Pensacola Chapter

On March 16, 2026, the Pensacola Chapter celebrated its 130th Birthday There was a great UWF Historic Trust Speaker, Delicious Birthday Cake, and informative America 250th Minute and Chapter History, etc.



South Shores Chapter

The Chapter along with three area DAR Chapters have been collecting money and artifacts for a 250th Commemoration time capsule. The celebration will take place on July 4, 2026. Preparations have already been in the works and the various artifacts have been collected that will go into the stainless steel box as shown herein. It will be buried at the Santa Roas County Veterans Memorial Plaza located at 5191 Willing Street in Milton, Florida.



Local DAR members (from left) Doug Roderick for Lin Roderick, Nancy Windsor, Beth Clarke, Jan Bassett, Marilyn Flack, & Kay Adkins received the Silver 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution medal from Chapter President Sheldon Ickes (right) for their many patriotic community activities.

St. Augustine Chapter



Putnam County, Florida, recently witnessed the dedication of a powerful symbol of American heritage and civic unity as the **St. Augustine Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)** dedicated its second **Liberty Tree** in St. Johns and Putnam Counties. The initial tree is in the courtyard of the St. Augustine Historical Society's Oldest House Museum.

The project represents far more than the planting of a tree. It stands as a living memorial to the courage, sacrifice, and enduring ideals of the men and women whose determination gave birth to the United States of America. The dedication was the result of a remarkable cooperative effort among three community organizations committed to preserving and celebrating American history: the **St. Augustine Chapter of the SAR**, the **Daughters of the American Revolution William Bartram Chapter**, and the **Rotary International Sunshine Rotary Club**. Together, these groups have transformed a shared vision into a meaningful public space that will inspire generations to come.



The Putnam County Liberty Tree dedication exemplifies what can be achieved when community organizations work together toward a common purpose. Members of the **William Bartram Chapter of the DAR**, descendants of the patriots who secured American independence, partnered with the St. Augustine SAR Chapter to ensure the project honored the memory and legacy of those Revolutionary ancestors.

The **Sunshine Rotary Club**, known for its commitment to community service, supported significant improvements to the park surrounding the Liberty Tree. Through their efforts, the site now includes additional amenities de-

signed to make the park a welcoming gathering place for families, visitors, and students.

These enhancements, along with a brick memorial promenade honoring ancestors, will allow the Liberty Tree site to serve not only as a memorial but also as an educational and civic tribute for the community.

For the members of the St. Augustine SAR Chapter and their partners, the dedication represents a continuation of their mission: to honor those who achieved American independence and to inspire citizens today to preserve the freedoms they secured.

The Liberty Tree in Putnam County is more than a symbol of the past. It is a reminder that the ideals of liberty, self-government, and patriotic service remain as vital today as they were in 1776.

Through cooperation, civic pride, and reverence for our shared history, the Liberty Tree project ensures that the legacy of America's founding generation will continue to take root in the hearts and minds of future generations.

As the young tree grows, its branches will stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of independence that defines our nation, a continuing tribute to the patriots of the Revolution, and a living symbol of the liberty they secured for us all.

St. Petersburg Chapter



At the January 17, 2026 meeting our guest speaker was Compatriot David Randle, who spoke

about his experience with the NASA Futures Team. David presented each attendee a blue marble representing Earth. 11 people attended the meeting.

At the February 21, 2026 meeting our guest speaker was Manny Leto, Executive Director of Preserve the 'Burg, a non-profit organization involved in local preservation efforts. President Harry Fuller presented him a Certificate of Appreciation for being our guest speaker. 11 people attended the meeting.

Tallahassee Chapter

On April 11th, at the 5th annual Tallahassee History Fest, members of the Tallahassee and NW Florida Color Guard, the three local DAR chapters, and the Ponce De Leon Society CAR set up a living history Revolutionary War encampment featuring a colonial wood-working workshop by CAR-SAR Jr. member Aran Corbett, as well as information tables about our organizations.



Withlacoochee Chapter





The Withlacoochee chapter continued to grow its George Washington Tent Travelling Experience. We introduced our newest exhibit, George Washington's four-poster collapsible Bedstead in January. The tent was expertly hand-crafted by Compatriot Charles 'Chuck' Wilson, from photos and drawings. It has become the crown jewel among the travelling tent's exhibits. In thirteen outings to-date we've presented at six to schools (primarily middle schools), and six to public venues, including the Clearwater Historic Society, the Liberty Tree celebration hosted by the St. Augustine Chapter at Palatka, FL, and the DeBary Historic Hall at DeBary, FL. We've also announced two new websites – a rebuild of our main withsar.org site and a new, dedicated site for the George Washington Tent, at gwtent.org. President David Hitchcock, and Compatriot Nelson Peterson contributed a new larger trailer for the George Washington Tent and Compatriot Nathan Taylor donated the beautiful new vinyl wrap which recognizes Revolutionary War Rarities podcast and the Withlacoochee chapter. A QR code links to the new gwtent.org website.

Other events included our Thomas Jefferson Camp 11 Color Guard presenting the colors at a fundraising event for 'Responders First'. This group provides free support and therapeutic services to all veterans and first responders. Founder, Jesse Diaz-Franco and US Congressman Gus Bilirakis welcomed guests who enjoyed a night of enjoyable music, good food, and a robust silent auction to raise funds for the group. In other veteran-related news, President David Hitchcock answered an 'emergency' call from the Baldomero Lopez Veterans home when one of our previously donated flat-screen televisions wore out. Within hours, David was enroute to the home with a new 75in television.

Withlacoochee has also kicked off a chapter-wide commitment to SAR University, focusing first on Youth Protection and elected officer videos. Our Educational Outreach members had already completed the Youth Education certification, connected with our presentations to schools, where we've exposed over 1,500 students to the tent, its exhibits, historical interpreters, and historical topics like the 'First Four Flags' and 'The Barnabus Web Powderhorn and Flag'.



Flagler Chapter

During the height of World War II, on February 3, 1943, a troop carrier ship carrying over 900 soldiers and sailors was heading to Greenland when a German torpedo struck their ship. As the ship sank, panic set in among the men, many of whom had no life jackets. Among these men were four new Army Chaplains: Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Catholic priest Father John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister the Reverend Clark V. Poling. The chaplains helped the other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship and drowned.



Ceremonies and services are held each year on or around February 3, Four Chaplains Day, by numerous military and civilian groups and organizations. In 1998, February 3 was established by Senate Resolution 169-98 as Four Chaplains Day to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army transport *Dorchester* and the subsequent heroism of these men.

At this year's ceremony, hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Chapter 8696 on February 7, 2026, in Palm Coast, Florida, members of the Flagler SAR Chapter were invited to attend and participate in the Color Guard portion of the ceremony. Among the attendees were the Mayor of Palm Coast and other community leaders. Flagler SAR Chapter President Randy Conway, Charlie Hayes, Jeff Schaller, John Feind, and David Watt were also present and participated in the Color Guard.

Okeechobee Chapter

A shout out to Okeechobee S.A.R. chapter member and veteran, Gregg Maynard. Gregg headed a project in the Okeechobee Veterans' Park to restore and raise a Huey Helicopter at the request of numerous

local veterans. Many Okeechobee war time veterans honor the Huey as a symbol of rescue and escape. The local community showed its support for the over a year long project by individuals and businesses volunteering materials and labor to take the battered, often vandalized Huey to beauty and new heights. This is the biggest but not the only project Gregg and his nonprofit 'Thank You For Your Service' provides to local veterans. If a vet needs a ramp, home repairs, or transportation, Gregg makes a way.



From the Endowment Trust Fund Distribution Committee

Over my last 8 years on the Endowment Trust Fund Distribution committee there have been only 3 chapters submitting all 5 requests at the maximum reimbursement. We are pleased to send approved requests from Naples at the new limit of \$750 each for a total of \$3,750. The previous limit was \$500 per request. I love it! The main portion of this request was an awards banquet they held where they presented 23 medals. The banquet included a meal for the recipients, family and associates. What an event. When I first received these requests I could not believe you could present 23 medals in one day so I called Doug Gibbens to find out more. That's when I learned of their banquet. What an impressive event that must have been. The rest of the requests were for JROTC medals and scholarships. Naples is doing an amazing job of reaching out to the community and exposing them to the SAR.

The Florida Society has this wonderful Endowment Trust Fund – the only one of its kind in the SAR. We have been very fortunate that the fund has grown to over \$600,000. The fund trustees can allot 3-5% of it to award chapters for their outreach programs each year. The past few years they have allotted the full 5%. But I am sad to say that each of my years on the disbursement committee we received requests for less than half of that allotment.

The submission process is not difficult! Basically awards have to go to non-SAR members. We want the date the award was presented, the name of the awardee and what school or department they are from. Medals and CAR donations are reimbursed at 100%. Other items like scholarships, meals, history fairs, historic documents and more are reimbursed at 75%. All this is covered in one page of the submission form that is available on the state web site. The

ETF program year is Nov. 1 to Oct. 31 of the current year with Nov. 15 being the deadline to make a submission. And I am available if you have any questions – ron_grove@hotmail.com.

I especially want to encourage small chapters to consider participating. You can make a big impact in your community without a big impact to your treasury. I would say requests are completed within 60 days. I try to prepare requests and send them to the committee for approval within a few days. The committee usually takes about a week to approve them. When approved I send them to the trustees who forward them to Regions bank for payment. Please give it serious consideration!

Ron Grove, Chairman, Endowment Trust Fund Distribution Committee



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBERANCE

It is often said that a person dies twice—once when they take their final breath, & again the last time their name is spoken.

Today, as we honor our departed American veterans, we are given the opportunity to ensure that second death never comes.

When you place a flag upon a veteran's grave, pause for a moment & speak their name aloud. In doing so, you bring them back to the forefront of your thoughts & remind yourself that these patriots gave a part of their lives in service to our nation—worthy always of our enduring gratitude.

Consider writing their name on a slip of paper. Returning home, take a few moments to learn their story & discover the Patriot behind the headstone.

On Memorial Day, we gather as Americans to remember & honor these brave men & women who sacrificed in defense of our freedoms. Many who rest in these quiet gardens of stone have no family left to speak their names—but we stand here today as their family, to remember & to honor them.

Let us join together in a simple prayer for our dear departed Patriots:

*Dear Lord,
Today we honor our veterans—faithful patriots who gave their best when called upon to defend our nation.
We ask Your blessing upon them for their selfless service in the ongoing struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, & our nation's heritage.
May their sacrifice never be forgotten, & may we always be worthy of the liberty they secured.
In Your name we pray, Amen*

2026 Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution Event



2026 Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution Event



2026 Battle of Thomas Creek



FLSSAR Youth Contests At-A-Glance 2026 - 2027

| Contests | Educational Levels | FLSSAR Deadlines | Award Amounts |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Poster | Grades 3, 4, 5 | May 1, 2026 | \$200, \$100, \$50 |
| Brochure | Grades 6, 7, 8 | May 1, 2026 | \$200, \$100, \$50 |
| Youth Video Contest | Grades 6-12 | February 1, 2026 | \$500, \$300, \$200 |
| Oration | Grades 9-12 | March 31, 2026 | \$1000, \$500, \$250 |
| Essay | Grades 9-12 | December 31, 2026 | \$1000, \$500, \$250 |
| Enhanced JROTC | Grade 11 | March 31, 2027 | \$1000, \$500, \$250 |
| Eagle Scout | Below Age 19 | January 15, 2027 | \$1000, \$500, \$250 |
| History Teacher | Grades 6-12 | January 10, 2027 | \$750, \$750 |

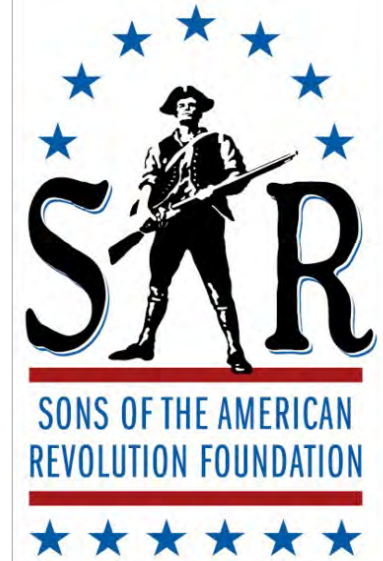
***Please direct contest questions to the corresponding committee chairmen or email Kevin Shurte at kevinshurte2009@comcast.net

First Amphibious Assault Memorial - Pompano Beach FL Monument Dedication



First Amphibious Assault Memorial - Pompano Beach FL

Monument Dedication



**The Pensacola Chapter, Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Invites your group to the
2026 Battle of Pensacola Commemoration
and Galvez Day Celebration**



Friday May 8, 2026

On May 8, the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard will once again present the opening procession for the Galvez Day Celebration **sponsored by the City of Pensacola**. The Color Guard will muster at 09:00 AM (Central) at Fort George (501 N. Palafox Street) and march down Palafox Street to one of the largest monuments in the United States to General Bernardo de Galvez as the opening ceremony of Pensacola’s Galvez Day celebration. This year, we also expect members of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez to join us in the procession as they will be holding their convention in Pensacola.



Additionally, the Pensacola Chapter SAR and Pensacola area DAR chapters will be hosting a wreath laying ceremony in the afternoon at the Minuteman Monument located in Veterans Memorial Park on Bayfront Parkway in Pensacola.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

- 08:30 am – Color Guard Muster begins at Fort George (501 N. Palafox Street)
- 09:30 am (approx.) – Color Guard Procession to Galvez Monument
- 10:00 – 11:30 am – Ceremony at Galvez Monument and a short service at St. Michael’s Basilica
- 12 – 2:00 pm – Luncheon at Pensacola Yacht Club (RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED – details to follow)
- 2:30 pm – Wreath Laying at the Minuteman Monument in Veterans Memorial Park

All participating Color Guard Units will receive a **BATTLE OF PENSACOLA FLAG STREAMER**.

Additional information can be found at: <http://pensacolasar.org/chapter-programs/battle-of-pensacola-commemoration/> Please use the form below to register your participation in the events. Color guard unit position will be based on the order in which reservations are received. **For questions email:** battle@pensacolasar.org

RESERVATION FORM

Society Name: _____

Chapter or Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

How does the group wish to be announced? _____

Number of members attending each event:

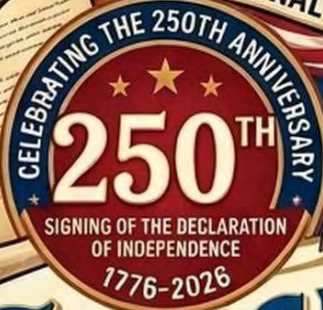
_____ Color Guard Procession (May 8th 9:30 Central – Muster starts at 08:30)

_____ Wreath Laying Ceremony (May 8th at 2:30 pm Central)

Please send your completed form to battle@pensacolasar.org or mail to: Pensacola SAR
c/o Chris Washler 3400 Connell Drive, Pensacola FL 32503

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



SPECIAL REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE

FOR NEW & JR. MEMBER APPLICATIONS DURING **JULY 2026**

NATIONAL APPLICATION FEE:
\$76 IN HONOR OF 1776

— POSTMARKED —
JULY 1 – JULY 31, 2026

To qualify for the reduced fee, New Applications must be postmarked between July 1 and July 31, 2026.

Join the SAR to mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding and honor the patriot ancestors who secured American independence.

ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

- New Member Applications
- Jr. Member (New Lineage) Applications

EXCLUSIONS:

- Family Plan Applications ❌
- Memorial Applications ❌
- Supplemental Applications ❌



Respectfully,
Keith A Weissinger

Keith A Weissinger, MD
Registrar General

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Chapter Meeting Locations

| Chapter | Meeting Location | Monthly Meeting Day | Months Not Meeting |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Brevard | The At-Ease Club at the Indian River Colony Club 1936 Freedom Dr, Melbourne, FL 32940 | 3rd Sat., 11:00 AM | July & August |
| Caloosa | Famous Dave's BBQ 12148 S Cleveland Ave, Ft Myers, FL 33907 | 2nd Tues. 11:45 AM | June - August |
| Central Florida | Winter Park Elk's Club - 4755 Howell Branch Rd, Winter Park, FL 32792 | 2nd Sat. (Typically) | June - August |
| Charlotte | American Legion Post #110 3152 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33952 | 2nd Fri., 11:30am | June - September |
| Clearwater | Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Boulevard Dunedin, FL 34698 | 3rd Wed, 11:30 AM | June - August |
| Daytona-Ormond | Varies | varies | |
| Emerald Coast | Faith Independent Baptist Church, 1309 Valparaiso Blvd, Niceville, FL 32578 | 2nd Sat., 8am | |
| Flagler | Palm Coast Library - 2500 Palm Coast Pkwy, Palm Coast, FL 32137 | 3rd Wed., 1pm | |
| Ft Lauderdale | Outback Steakhouse, 2725 S. University Drive, Davie, FL | 3rd Sat., 11:30 a.m. | August & December |
| Gainesville | Mi Apá Latin Café 14209 W Newberry Rd Suite B, Newberry, FL 32669 | 3rd Tues., 5:30 PM | June - August |
| Highlands | Dee's Restaurant, 138 N. Ridgewood Drive, Sebring Florida 33870 | 3rd Sat., 11:30 am | June - August |
| Jacksonville | Holiday Inn & Suites, 620 Wells Rd, Orange Park, FL | 3rd Tues. | June - August |
| Lake City | Ole Times Country Buffet, Lake City Mall | 2nd Monday 6pm | June - August |
| Lakeland | Cleveland Heights Golf Club, 2900 Buckingham Ave, Lakeland, FL | 3rd Sat., 11:30am | June - August |
| Lake-Sumter | John Gella Memorial American Legion Post 219, Fruitland Park, FL | 1st Sat., 11am | July - September |
| Miami | American Legion Post 98, 303 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, FL 33134 | 3rd Sat., noon | |
| Naples | Tiburón Golf Club 2620 Tiburón Drive Naples, FL 34109 | 2nd Thurs., noon | June - September |
| Ocala | Ocala Elk's Club - 702 NE 25th Ave, Ocala, FL 34470 | 3rd Wed., 11:30am | |
| Okeechobee | Brown Cow Sweetery, 103 SW Park St, Okeechobee, FL 34974 | 2nd Sat. | |
| Palm Beach | Embassy Suites Hotel, 1601 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, FL | 3rd Tues.,noon (Typically) | June - September |
| Panama City | Sonny's BBQ Restaurant at 2240 S. Hwy. 77, Lynn Haven, FL | 4th Tues., 05:30 PM CST | |
| Pensacola | Calverts in the Heights, 670 Scenic Hwy, Pensacola, FL | 3rd Mon., 5:00 PM CST | |
| Sarasota | Der Dutchman Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, FL 34232-2409 | 2nd Sat., 11:45am | June - September |
| South Shore | The Plaza Club at 3932 Upper Creek Drive, Sun City Center, FL | 2nd Sat., 11:30 AM | |
| St Augustine | Chapman Community Education & Conference Center | 2nd Sat., 2:00 pm | June - August |
| St Lucie River | Mission BBQ, Port St Lucie, FL | 2st Sat, 11:00 AM - 1 PM | June - September |
| St Petersburg | St Petersburg Yacht Club; Quarterdeck Room; 11 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 | 3rd Sat, 9am - 11am | June - August |
| Tallahassee | Sauls-Bridges Post 13 229 Lake Ella Drive Tallahassee, FL 32303 | 3rd Sun.,6 pm | |
| Tampa | Arthenia Joyner Community Library, 13619 N 22nd Street, Tampa, FL 33613 | 2nd Sat., 11:30am | June - August |
| The Villages | Captiva Recreation Center, the Village of Sanibel, 658 Pinellas Place The Villages, FL 32163 | 2nd Sat., 10AM to Noon | |
| William Dunaway | Jim's Buffet and Grill, 4329 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL | 2nd Thurs., 6:00pm | |
| Withla- | 22495 Chinsegut Hill Rd, Brooksville, FL 34601 | 2nd Sat., 10:30 AM | June - August |