SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XX Issue VI | *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* | June / July 2025

John L. Maier, Jr., Editor

Continental Congress Adopts The Declaration Of Independence

(Philadelphia, July 4, 1776)



Declaration of Independence
Oil on Canvass painting by John Trumbull depicting the presentation of the draft by the Committee of Five to the Second Continental Congress

It was summer in Philadelphia, and the date was July 2, 1776. The summer heat clung to the air like a fever, thick with the scent of ink, sweat, and revolution. Inside the brick walls of the Pennsylvania State House—later known as Independence Hall—the Continental Congress sat in tense, impassioned debate. The question before them was no longer one of protest, but of separation. Thirteen colonies stood on the edge of a fateful decision.

The motion had already been introduced weeks earlier by Virginia's Richard Henry Lee: "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States." The delegates had danced around it, hesitated, amended, and postponed. Now, the time for words was ending.

John Adams sat ramrod straight, fire behind his eyes, his voice hoarse from endless oration. Beside him, Benjamin Franklin reclined slightly, his age and wisdom cloaked in sardonic calm. [Continued on Page 2]

[Continued from Page 1]
Across the room, Thomas Jefferson silently reviewed the words he had penned. Words that could mean life or death. The Declaration of Independence lay on the table, its elegant script a match for the boldness of its claims.

Outside, the city stirred. Blacksmiths hammered iron into muskets. Farmers brought produce into the markets. Patriots whispered of war. Loyalists whispered of treason.

The vote began. One by one, the colonies gave their voices. Some delegates still trembled at the thought—independence was not just rebellion, it was revolution. But the tide had turned. The suffering at Lexington and Concord, the blood spilled on Bunker Hill, the burning of Norfolk and Falmouth—it all cried out for justice.

When New York, uncertain and cautious, abstained, it was not a "no." And when Pennsylvania's John Dickinson declined to vote, others stepped forward. Caesar Rodney of Delaware rode through the night with asthma and cancer gnawing at him to cast his yes. In the end, the decision was clear.

Twelve colonies voted in favor. The resolution passed. The Congress had just declared independence.

Yet the work was not done. Jefferson's draft of the Declaration, revised by Adams and Franklin and tweaked by Congress, needed final approval. For two more days, edits were made — softening some phrases, clarifying others.

Then, on July 4, they approved the final text.

The room was quiet as Charles Thomson, the secretary, recorded the decision. There was no great cheer, no fireworks. Only the quiet rustle of papers and the scratch of the quill. The moment was heavy, almost sacred.

Outside, a bell would soon toll. In towns across the colonies, the Declaration would be read aloud to crowds who cheered or wept or vowed vengeance. In London, the King would fume in disbelief. And in the minds of men like Adams, Franklin, and Jefferson, the long road ahead was already clear—one of sacrifice, hardship, and possibly the gallows.

But on that day, they chose liberty over fear. John Adams would later write to his wife, Abigail: "The second day of July will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America."

He was almost right. For it was the Fourth of July, 1776, that the world would remember as the birth of a new nation. Not born in peace, but in courage. And in that quiet chamber in Philadelphia, the fire of freedom was lit.


IN CONGRESS. JULY 4. 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America.

On August 2, 1776, members of Congress affixed their signatures to an enlarged ("engrossed") copy of the Declaration of Independence that is sometimes referred to as the "official" or "signed parchment" version, and it is this version that stands on display today in the rotunda of the National Archives Museum providing inspiration to those who, like Abraham Lincoln, view it as a "rebuke and stumbling-block . . . to tyranny and oppression."

As pointed out above, on July 4th the Declaration had been adopted by 12 of the 13 Colonies, with New York having abstained because their delegates had not yet received approval from the New York Provincial Congress – which was delayed due to the intervening evacuation of New York City by reason of the approach of British troops. On July 19th, the New York delegates were able to act and approved the Declaration as the 13th, and last, Colony.

On August 2, 1776, fifty-six members of Congress affixed their signatures, including some who were not present at the vote approving the Declaration. News of the Declaration arrived in London eight days later, on August 10, 1776. Each of the signers knew they were committing an act of high treason against the Crown, which was punishable by torture and death. The Revolutionary War would last five more years with the final victory coming at Yorktown in 1781. Then, in 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris with Britain, the United States formally became a free and independent nation. [Editor's Note: Please see companion story on Page 17 of this issue.]

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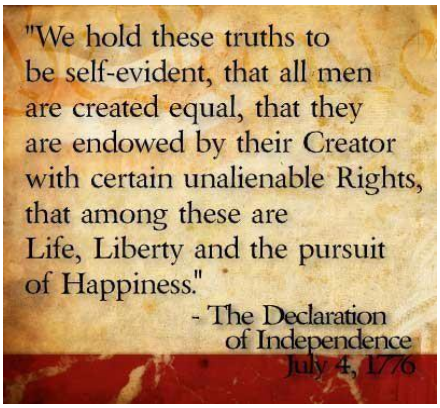
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Chapter Officers for 2024-2025



Immediate Past President
and Treasurer
Edward “Mike” Buff



President
Jeffrey F. Brunelle



Vice-President
Richard “Rick” Parfitt



Genealogist
Dr. Ronald L. Peck



Secretary and Sergeant-
At-Arms
William “Bill” Jenks



Registrar
Chris Jenner



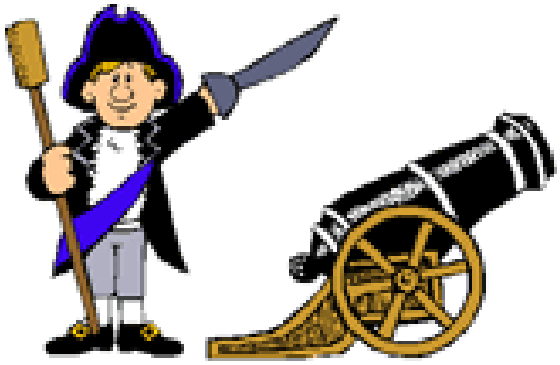
Member-at-Large
Jonathan Hunt



Chaplain
Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

Caloosa Chapter SAR

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! October Meeting Notice



Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Daves

Looking Ahead
Caloosa Chapter SAR
2024-2025 Revised Meeting Schedule

Chapter Meetings		ExCom Meetings	
Wednesday Jan. 8, 2025	CANCELLED	Thursday Jan. 2, 2025	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 8, 2025	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Jan. 28, 2025	11:30a.m.
Wednesday, March 12, 2025	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Mar. 4, 2025	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Apr. 1, 2025	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 10, 2025	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Apr. 29, 2025	11:30a.m.

Summer Break: No Chapter Meetings June through September
ExCom Meetings Begin Again in September

Saturday Oct. 11, 2025	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Sept. 30, 2025	11:30 a.m.
Saturday Nov. 8, 2025	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Oct. 28, 2025	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Dec. 10, 2025	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Dec. 2, 2025	11:30 a.m.

Both Chapter Meetings and ExCom Meetings are held at Famous Dave's BBQ 12148 S. Cleveland Avenue, Ft. Myers FL

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING THE SUMMER BREAK ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, 2025 AT:

FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ RESTAURANT



12148 South Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33903
(At the Intersection of Cleveland Ave. and Crystal Drive)

Menu Choices, Cost of the Dinner, and Registration Information Will be Announced in the next (August/September) Edition of the Caloosa Patriot

Dinner Program Will Be Presented By Pamela Fernandez And Our Own Compatriot, Chapter Registrar Chris Jenner Who Will Discuss How The Lee County Genealogical Society Can Help You!

The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m.

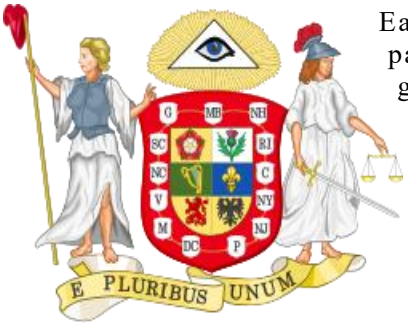
Our meetings are open to all interested persons, and we particularly welcome Compatriots from other parts of the country who are visiting our area. Please note that wives, friends, and guests are welcome to attend.

The Story of the Great Seal of the United States
An Emblem Forged from Vision, Symbolism, and Resolve

On July 4, 1776—the very day the Declaration of Independence was adopted—the Continental Congress took another bold step. It appointed a committee to design a national emblem, a "Great Seal" that would symbolize the sovereignty and spirit of the new United States. It would take six years, three committees, and contributions from some of the brightest minds of the Revolution before the final design emerged—a seal rich in symbolism and crafted for eternity.

The First Committee: Franklin, Jefferson, and Adams

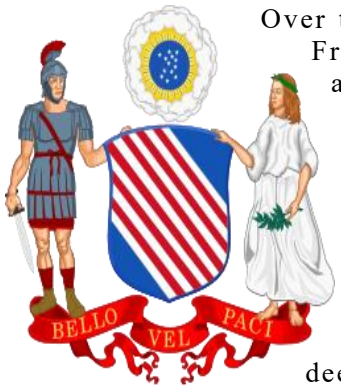
The first men tasked with the design of the Great Seal were no less than Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams. These statesmen were brilliant, but none were artists. To bring their visions to life, they turned to Pierre Eugène du Simitière, a Swiss-born artist living in Philadelphia.



Each man proposed a different theme. Franklin suggested an image of Moses parting the Red Sea. Jefferson preferred the Israelites in the wilderness, guided by a pillar of fire. Adams wanted Hercules choosing between virtue and vice.

Du Simitière submitted a design that combined liberty, war, peace, and the Eye of Providence—symbolizing divine guidance. But Congress found the design too complex and did not approve it.

The Second and Third Committees



Over the next few years, two more committees were formed. The second included Francis Hopkinson, who had designed the American flag. His proposal included a red, white, and blue shield supported by a warrior and a maiden, and a crest featuring a constellation of stars.

Still, Congress remained unsatisfied.

In 1782, a third committee formed. This time, the task fell to Charles Thomson, the long-serving Secretary of the Continental Congress. He gathered ideas from the earlier committees and worked with a heraldic expert, William Barton, to forge a design that was symbolic, elegant, and deeply American.

The Final Design



On June 20, 1782, Congress approved Thomson's final proposal. On one side of the Great Seal—the obverse—an American bald eagle spreads its wings. In its talons, it clutches a bundle of 13 arrows in one claw, symbolizing war, and an olive branch in the other, symbolizing peace. The eagle faces the olive branch, signaling the nation's preference for peace, though ready for war.

Over its head floats a glory of 13 stars, forming a constellation—representing a new nation taking its place among others. On its breast, a shield of red and white stripes with a blue chief represents the states unified under Congress.

Clutched in the eagle's beak is a banner with the Latin motto:
"E Pluribus Unum" — "Out of many, one."

[Continued on Page 8]

[Continued from Page 7]



On the reverse of the seal, less commonly used but equally rich in meaning, is an unfinished pyramid with 13 steps, symbolizing strength and duration.

Above it floats the all-seeing Eye of Providence, enclosed in a triangle and surrounded by rays of light. Around the pyramid are the words:

- "Annuit Coeptis" — "He has favored our undertakings."
- "Novus Ordo Seclorum" — "A new order of the ages."

Legacy and Use

The Great Seal became the official emblem of the United States, used to authenticate treaties, commissions, and other important documents. The physical die was first cut in 1782 and is still in use today, kept by the U.S. Department of State.

Though it has appeared on official papers and passports, the most familiar place Americans see the Great Seal is the back of the one-dollar bill, where both sides—obverse and reverse—have been displayed since 1935.



A Symbol for the Ages

The Great Seal is not simply an image—it is the symbol of our sovereignty as a nation. It tells the story of a young republic grounded in unity, committed to peace but prepared for defense, guided by divine providence, and striving for a future built step by step.

It stands today as it did in 1782: a visual declaration that the United States of America is a nation conceived in liberty, fortified by unity, and destined for endurance. The Great Seal's design, our national coat of arms, is used to authenticate official documents, treaties, Presidential proclamations, commissions for ambassadors and cabinet members, and as a decoration on military uniform buttons, on plaques above the entrances to U.S. embassies and consulates, and in many other places. The seal is physically affixed using an embossing press on 2.5-inch golden disks known as wafer seals. Only a select few officials have the authority to use the actual seal, which is kept under secure conditions at the Department of State.

A simple image, yes—but behind it lies a powerful story of symbolism, identity, and the dream of a nation born free.

If You Are Interested . . .

BECOME A GENEALOGICAL SLUETH AND SHARPEN YOUR INVESTIGATIVE SKILLS BY JOINING THE LEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY !!

For Compatriots who haven't finished their genealogy search and are still curious – or for those who may be working on supplementals, the Lee County Genealogical Society has a lot to offer, and you can join for a bargain. Annual membership cost is only $25 -- and gets you 16 programs, some hybrid and some virtual only. There are recordings of past programs, handouts, and assistance from other genealogists. And a real bonus connection is that our own Registrar, Chris Jenner, is the current Vice-President of the LCGS!



Chris Jenner, Registrar, Caloosa Chapter SAR, and Vice-President, LCGS

In addition to the monthly meetings, there are Society-sponsored events including Special Interest Group Meetings, workshops, seminars and meetings of other societies and genealogy-related organizations in Southwest Florida. The Special Interest Groups provide a forum for LCGS members to share research, ask questions and participate in problem-solving. There is also member-only access to local and exclusive resources as well as a bi-monthly newsletter ("The Scribe") which contains articles of interest to researchers on a variety of current topics, announces future programs, and provides helpful hints on computer-assisted research.

Chris commented: "Time and again, I've benefitted from local experts and fellow researchers, who have guided me past seemingly impossible obstacles to find answers to my questions, and then join with you in the delight of your progress. And I can't stop there. I've gotten a lot of advice from other members on using the most current genealogy software, researching international family lines, as well as utilizing DNR research in my investigations."

Joining is easy. The Society maintains a website: https://lcgsfl.org/ which has all the information necessary to apply for membership online, or, in the alternative, you can print the application and send it in with your dues.

DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution

GREAT SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGENTS COUNCIL HOSTS CONSTITUTION WEEK LUNCHEON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

The United States Constitution stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties and freedoms and to ensure those unalienable rights to every American. The tradition of celebrating the Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside September 17 – 23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The Resolution was later adopted by the US Congress and signed into public law on August 2, 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The aims of the celebration are to: (a) emphasize a citizen's responsibility for protecting and defending the Constitution; and (b) inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life; and (c) encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the US Constitution in September, 1787. Constitution Week is a great time to learn more about this important document and to celebrate the freedoms it gave us. You are cordially invited to attend the Great Southwest Florida Regents Council Constitution Week Luncheon, which is being held this year on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025. The Invitation, including the Luncheon Menu, follows on the next page. **Reservation deadline is September 1, 2025.**

THE CONSTITUTION WEEK LUNCHEON 2025

When: September 20, 2025…… Check in: Between 10:30a.m. – 11:30a.m.
Where: Heritage Bay Golf and Country Club 10154 Heritage Naples, Florida

Discounted price $50 if paid with check: payable to Big Cypress Chapter NSDAR

Mail to Maryann Buma, 3575 Laurel Greens Lane N, #202, Naples, Fl 34119- 8055
Complete this form with luncheon choice and names of people you want to sit with.

Full price $51.00 if paid by PayPal: Go to PAYPAL.ME/BIGCYPRESSDAR
Follow the easy instructions. Provide name, menu choice, and payment ($51.00)

RSVP by September 1, 2025
Cancellations after that date will not be refunded!

MENU
All menu choices start with a baby spinach and Gorgonzola Salad
With champagne vinaigrette dressing

Choice 1: Citrus roasted chicken

Choice 2: Herb de Provence salmon

Choice 3: Portabella pasta stroganoff

All choices accompanied by Yukon Gold whipped potatoes
& roasted veggie medley

Dessert: Strawberry shortcake with whipped cream and blueberries

[Anyone with strict dietary restrictions should call or text Liz Haines
for modifications at: (513) 300 – 9506]

Member: _____ ***Menu #___ Chapter:*** _____

PM: _____ ***Menu #___ Chapter:*** _____

Guest: _____ ***Menu#___***

Compatriots Corner

The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" page is to follow the mission and goals of the SAR by recounting our patriot ancestor's participation in the War for Independence. I would like everyone to consider writing that story and share it with me. *But fear not - if you need assistance, genealogist Christine Racine, and her husband, award winning author Mark Barie, can help you get your story down on paper. Just let me know. We can help – see page 14 of this issue for more information.* Then, with your permission, the personal account of your own ancestor's participation in the Revolutionary War will be published. Each of our patriot ancestors' contributions combined so that the end result was the birth of the United States of America. So, when you are finished, email them to me (John Maier) at: jmaier@wisclaw.com. What follows is a recounting of the Revolutionary War exploits of the patriot ancestor of our Compatriot, Mike Hopkins.

My Patriot Ancestor: Lewis Sublett
Soldier and Sutler

By Compatriot Mike Hopkins (with Christine Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

My patriot, Lewis Sublett, mustered into the Chesterfield County Militia in Virginia, on or about March 1, 1781. His contribution to the cause of liberty included his service at the Battle of Yorktown as well as his work as a sutler. The record shows that, among other things, he furnished horses to Brigadier General Peter Muhlenburg.

Sutlers were commonplace during the American Revolutionary War. The Continental Army was rarely able to fully supply their soldiers with the food, clothing, and supplies they required. Sutlers stepped in offering foodstuffs, dry goods, clothing, utensils, tools and, perhaps of greatest importance to a soldier, alcohol. My patriot's brother-in-law, William, was a very successful sutler and soldier in the same militia unit, and gave my patriot a bird's eye view of the sutler life.

Neither of them began their military career as a sutler. In fact, my patriot very nearly lost his life in one of his first encounters with the British. The notoriously ruthless General Banastre Tarleton paid an unexpected visit on the militia men, leading a mounted calvary of 500 men plus a large infantry unit of almost 500 soldiers. Lewis barely had time to retrieve his rifle and a box of cartridges before the charge. A nearby swamp gave the volunteer soldier and part time sutler an effective escape route. Unlike 40 of his colleagues, Sublett avoided capture and almost certain death.

Sutlers were not allowed to operate without the written permission of the camp's commanding officer. In his diary, Sublett's brother-in-law describes how his permission slip to work as a sutler selling alcohol was approved and signed by none other than the Marquis de Lafayette. Hours later, William, now a newly minted sutler, encountered a Dutchman selling alcohol without the General's permission.

"But your horses, your wagon, and your spirits will be impressed," (seized) said William.

The illegal sutler rejected William's offer to go "halves" with him and spurned the warning about seizure of his goods. Ironically, the illegal sutler was accosted, just hours later, by one of Lafayette's aides who immediately announced his intent to seize the man's horse, wagon, and inventory of booze. When my patriot's kin whispered the same offer into the desperate man's ears, there was an immediate response: **"Yes. And thank you, sir."**

The inexperienced sutlers did very well. William specialized in the sale of spirits, which was a heavily supervised trade. George Washington himself was involved in its strict regulation. In 1778, the commander-in-chief issued specific orders announcing that any sutler who charged more than the approved prices for his booze or worse, altered the potency of the alcohol in anyway, would have his horse, wagon, and inventory immediately seized and distributed free of charge to the men.

At that time, a quart of rum sold for one dollar. Whiskey was more expensive. My patriot's brother-in-law racked up more than $1000 in specie (silver and gold coins) plus $163,000 pounds of British currency. The paper money was worth $550. The sutlers also received several horses, a wagon, and a cart, totaling about $1000 in value. All told, in less than one year, sales exceeded $2150. In today's money that would be more than $82,000.

My patriot, Lewis Sublett, sold mostly horses. Either way, he was there as a sutler for the army when the men needed a mount. He was there when Cornwallis surrendered to Washington. And he was there when the men needed a stiff drink.

A true patriot!

Calling for Volunteers to Step Forward and Become Caloosa Chapter Color Guard Members

The Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15 Color Guard is made up of Caloosa Chapter SAR members who come to meetings and events properly uniformed as either Continental Soldiers or Militiamen or attired as Revolution era clergymen. Our Color Guard is available for participation in community events locally, as well as Regional and National celebrations. We are always looking for additional Color Guard members, according to our current Chapter President, Jeff Brunelle.



Caloosa Chapter SAR Color Guard Members: Mike Buff, Tom Thompson, and Ron Peck at the Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony (April 29, 2023)

There are typically one or two requests for our Color Guard per month and are most often within driving distance and do not include overnight stays. The Guardsmen who volunteer arrive at the site early enough so that Color Guard Commander Mike Buff is able to run through the plan for what their participation at the event will consist of.

There is no need to be concerned, according to Commander Mike Buff, about complicated marches or ceremonies. "If there is a need for any training," he said, "we provide it, and no one needs to be afraid that they will be unprepared."

There are currently six to eight Caloosa Color Guardsmen who serve, but as with any organization, people come and go so there is a constant need for new recruits. "The personal rewards for volunteering come immediately," said President Brunelle. "The looks on the faces of young and old when they see us in our Revolutionary War attire bring a lot of joy and satisfaction to each of us.

If you are interested in joining the Color Guard, or have questions about it, contact our Caloosa Chapter SAR President Jeff Brunelle at: jfbrunelle55@comcast.net. We need you to help us to carry our mission forward.



(L to R) Mike Buff, Ron Peck, Andy Petrson and Jeff Brunelle at the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration (March 29, 2024)



(L to R) Andy Peterson, Ron Peck, Mike Buff Posting the Colors at the Constitution Week Luncheon (September 21, 2024)

Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15



The Caloosa Chapter Color Guard is named in honor of Henry Lee III, a Virginia patrician (and father of Confederate General Robert E. Lee) who became a captain in a Virginia dragoon detachment at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. In 1778, he was promoted to Major and given command of a mixed corps of cavalry and infantry known as Lee's Legion. During this period, he earned the sobriquet of "**Light Horse Harry**" for his horsemanship.



This unit became one of the best-known in the Continental Army's history, and in 1780 Lee was given authorization to form a formal Legionary Corps. Many of the best soldiers from other units either volunteered or were specially invited to join its ranks. In 1780, Lee was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and on January 1, 1781, the Legion was re-designated as the 2nd Partisan Corps, organized with 3 troops of horse and 3 troops of infantry. It was assigned to General Nathaniel Greene for service in the southern theater.

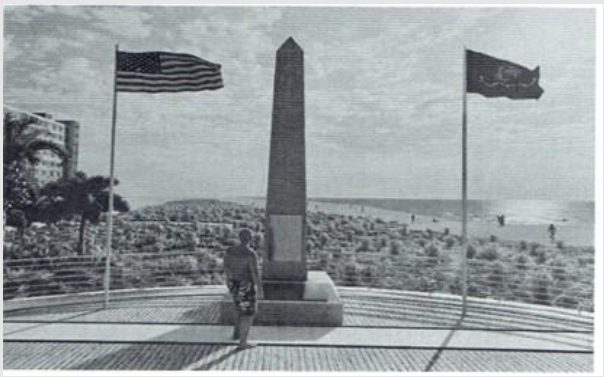


One of his most legendary victories occurred on February 25, 1781 in North Carolina, when he and his force were mistaken for British cavalrymen by Loyalist John Pyle. Lee caught on and rode directly into the midst of the Loyalist ranks and ordered his men to fire. When the smoke had cleared, Lee and his men were seen to have killed or injured most of the enemy militia, while suffering no loss of life of their own. Lee went on to participate in many more Revolutionary War battles and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. After the War, he served as: (a) a delegate to the Confederation Congress; (b) a three-term governor of Virginia: (c) a Major General, appointed by George Washington to put down the tax protest known as the 'Whiskey Rebellion' in Pennsylvania; and (d) a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Virginia.

Compatriot John C. Jones wrote a full biography of Harry Lee III when he served as our Newsletter Editor. If you go to our Caloosa SAR Web Page, you can read it if you "click on" the July 2020 Edition of the SAR Patriot.

FLSSAR First Amphibious Assault Landing Memorial (1776 – Battle of Nassau, Bahamas) "250 for the 250th"

ANSWER THE CALL !!!



The Florida Society has taken the initiative to establish a memorial commemorating the **First Amphibious Assault Landing** of the American Revolution. The memorial will honor the Continental Marines and Sailors that risked their lives to attach and capture two forts from the British and local militia in Nassau.

FLSSAR is working in partnership with the City of Pompano Beach to construct a permanent memorial which will consist of an approximate 20' tall obelisk to honor the marines and sailors that took part in the landing. In addition to capturing the forts and occupying Nassau, the Continental Marines seized badly needed military supplies that had been evacuated from Virginia by order of the English governor. This successful raid represents the first time the Continental Marines had successfully made a marine landing and the first time an American flag was raised over foreign soil. The monument will cost approximately $125,000 and is planned to be completed by March 3, 2026, to mark the 250th anniversary of the raid. Charitable contributions are being sought by FLSSAR to fund the project.

Mail your "250 for the 250th" checks (Payable to FLSSAR) to Committee Secretary Robbie Robinson 20210 Moss Hill Way, Tampa, FL 33747. For more information, email Robinson at: Robbierobinson56@yahoo.com

A Continuing Offer to You From Christine Racine and Mark Barie Christine Racine and Mark Barie

So, are you having some difficulty getting a "kick-start" on fleshing-out more of the detail on the life of your patriot ancestor? Or do you need help in getting started on taking the information you already have gathered together and putting it down in storybook fashion? We need your stories for the Compatriot Corner section of our monthly newsletter, and now there is a way to help you out with your research and writing. Our Compatriot Mark Barie, an award-winning author, and his wife, Christine Racine, an expert genealogist (both pictured below), have offered to assist any member of our Caloosa Chapter SAR with the research and written summary of your patriot ancestor's biography. These mini biographies will then be published in our monthly newsletter, as space allows. And there is no fee for this service! You can't get a better deal than that! If you are interested, and wish to avail yourself of this complimentary service, please feel free to contact Compatriot Barie directly at his email address: Authormarkbarie@gmail.com.



Caloosa Chapter SAR Announcements

President Brunelle has announced that: (a) meetings for the balance of the calendar year will be held at Famous Dave's; and (b) awards for the 2024 Chapter's Poster and Brochure Contest will be made at the October Chapter meeting; and (c) nominations for members to serve as Officers for 2026 are being sought, and that any questions should be directed to President Brunelle or Vice-President Parfitt; and (d) volunteers to serve on the Chapter's Color Guard are sorely needed; and (e) a $1500 scholarship was awarded to Cadet Megan Pedron from Ida S. Baker High School from our Caloosa Chapter, as well as 16 Bronze Outstanding JROTC Medals to sixteen additional cadets who were highly deserving of the recognition. Cadet Pedron served as Cadet Commander and had a 5+ High

Unsung Heroes of the Revolutionary Period:
Col. Commandant Michael Kovats de Fabriczy

The Hungarian Hussar Who Died for American Liberty
A Founding Horseman of the U.S. Cavalry



Colonel Michael Kovats
The Hungarian Co-founder of the American Cavalry
"Most Faithful Until Death"

Among the foreign-born leaders who played crucial roles in the American Revolution, Colonel Commandant Michael Kovats de Fabriczy stands out for his significant, yet often overlooked, contributions to the Continental Army. Kovats played a key role in the establishment and development of the cavalry, overseeing the recruitment, training, and organization of regular cavalry units. His efforts helped transform an underdeveloped force into a formidable military asset, earning recognition from a British contemporary who described his cavalry as "the best the rebels ever had."

Born in 1724 into a noble family in the windswept plains of Hungary, where cavalrymen were bred from tradition and steel, Michael Kovats de Fabriczy rose through the ranks of Europe's fiercest horsemen—the Hussars. But his destiny lay not on the fields of Europe, but across the ocean, in a land struggling to be born.

Though he was a nobleman and officer in the armies of Austria and Prussia, Kovats believed in a radical idea: freedom. When he heard that a band of rebels in the American colonies was fighting for independence against the British Empire, he saw not only a just cause—but a call to action.

A Letter to a Founding Father

In 1777, inspired by the articles he read detailing the conflict between the British redcoats and the Continental Army, Kovats penned a letter to Benjamin Franklin, then serving as a diplomat in Paris. Written in Latin, the language of scholars and diplomats, the letter was passionate and clear: "Golden freedom cannot be purchased with yellow gold. I offer myself… I am willing to sacrifice my life wholly and faithfully."

Kovats requested a commission in the American forces, not for glory, but to train and lead cavalry—a branch the young Continental Army desperately lacked. His military pedigree was formidable: he had trained under Frederick the Great of Prussia and fought in some of Europe's fiercest wars.

Franklin and Congress accepted his offer. Kovats sailed for America.

Arrival and Purpose

Upon arriving in the rebellious colonies, Kovats joined forces with General Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman who had also answered the American call for help. [Continued on Page 16]

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They spent the winter of 1777 working together in Trenton, New Jersey, where they laid the groundwork for what would become the Continental Light Dragoons—the beginnings of the U.S. Cavalry.



Kovats brought with him not only courage but military science. He trained American riders in the lightning-fast tactics of the Hungarian hussars—swift attacks, sudden retreats, and deadly charges. He taught discipline, horsemanship, and the art of mounted warfare.

The ragtag American cavalry began to transform under his leadership. With the arrival of spring in 1778, the war took on a new sense of urgency and momentum. With a strong recommendation from Pulaski, Gen. George Washington formally appointed Kovats to the rank of Colonel, to serve the "Pulaski Legion."

Interestingly, the first combat mission of the Pulaski Legion is more closely associated with the Col. Kovats than with Brigadier Gen. Pulaski. In July of 1778, British, Hessian and Native American allies had invaded northeastern Pennsylvania. The British and their allies inflicted heavy casualties, and the governor of Pennsylvania called on the Pulaski Legion to intervene. While Pulaski remained in Trenton, Kovats took command of a small cavalry force and was dispatched to see to the British. Kovats' leadership in organizing the response highlighted his growing influence within the Legion.

The Final Stand at Charleston

By 1779, British forces had turned their attention to the South. In defense of Charleston, South Carolina, Colonel Kovats led his cavalry into battle against a vastly superior British force. Outnumbered and outgunned, the Americans fought bravely.

On May 11, 1779, in a desperate charge during the Siege of Charleston, Colonel Michael Kovats was killed in action. He fell with saber in hand, leading from the front.

He was buried near the battlefield, far from his Hungarian homeland, but among the people whose freedom he had embraced as his own.

A Legacy Forged in Honor

Though his name is not as widely known as other Revolutionary War heroes, Michael Kovats left an enduring legacy. He was a co-founder of the U.S. Cavalry, a foreign volunteer who gave his life for a cause he believed in. His training and leadership helped mold the mounted forces that would become vital in America's military tradition.

Hungarians and Americans alike honor his memory. At the U.S. Army's Cavalry School in Fort Riley, Kansas, a plaque commemorates Kovats, and in 1955, Hungary honored him with a statue as a symbol of freedom's universality.

His words still echo in the annals of American history:
"I am prepared to sacrifice everything for the freedom of your country."

And sacrifice he did. Michael Kovats—Hussar, patriot, and American by choice—rode into legend as one of the first true horsemen of American liberty.

The All Veterans Memorial Monument: Fundraising Is Ongoing!!!



Compatriot, Earl Kennedy, and the Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc., of which he is a member, have joined to bring a monument dedicated to all veterans, and those presently serving the nation, to Fort Myers. The group named their proposed sculpture the ***All Veterans Memorial Monument*** (the "AVMM"). A site at Centennial Park in Fort Myers has been finalized, work on the sculptures and the bases for the sculptures is ongoing, and construction will commence once the funds necessary have been raised. Fundraising is ongoing, and all donations are 100% deductible under current tax laws. For more information, and to donate, control + click here to follow link: Home | AVM, Inc.

Or, alternately, click here to follow link: [https://www.avmemorial.org]

In Memoriam: Our Compatriot Dr. Kenneth A. Tabler, PhD Husband, Father, Scientist, Author, And Friend To All

We only recently learned that Kenneth A. Tabler, age 98, of Naples, Florida, passed away on July 25, 2024. For those of us who have only recently joined the Caloosa Chapter of the FLSSAR, his name might not be familiar. But for those of us who are a little older, and got to know Kenneth, his will always be remembered as the type of person that we strive to be (but always seem to slip a bit). Slipping, however, was not something that occurred with Ken Tabler.



Photo (L to R) of Past Sec/Treasurer and Paste Caloosa Patriot Editor John Jones engaged in discussion with Past Secretary Ken Tabler, and Ken's daughter, Bonnie, at Caloosa Chapter meeting in January,2017 [Photo courtesy of Bob McGuire]

He grew up on a small farm in West VA, and, from there, he began a life of education, earning a Master of Science in Dairy Science, and then a PhD in Dairy Genetics. Ken worked as a research scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture, where he worked with the earliest computers, and later developed a specialty as a statistician with the National Center for Education Statistics in Washington, D.C. After retiring, he moved to Fort Myers, where he lived for 30 years. That's where he found out about our Caloosa Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and joined up. He is remembered by his friends in the SAR as "a remarkable gentleman" who, even when Ken was well into his 90's, volunteered to serve as Secretary of the Caloosa Chapter when we were having difficulty finding members to serve as officers.

Ken was also a family man, beekeeper, master gardener, and involved with Toastmasters, Inc, Freemasonry, Friendship Force, several protestant churches and bible study groups. He even found time to do research for three books written by his son, and published his own autobiography, "The Day Is Far Spent". Even with all that under his belt, he never lost his appreciation for the value of education, and the importance of living "the Golden Rule." Ken gave thanks daily for the opportunities that God had brought into his life. And we at the Caloosa SAR will never lose our gratitude to God for having had Ken Tabler as a Chapter Member for the time we did.

Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

We will all soon celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Is there a more fitting tribute to those who secured the liberties we enjoy than to share their story? Help ensure that the SAR Education Center and Museum is completed in time for the celebration.

The SAR Foundation, Inc. asks you to support the SAR Education Center and Museum through ***The Liberty Tree Campaign.*** While few of us can make a $1,000 gift without pause, you could, budget monthly support of $25 save American's history? Think of it as a utility bill, but instead of water, gas, or cable TV, you will be helping the SAR.

The Liberty Tree Campaign has four levels.

Bronze – A one-time gift of $1,250 (or $25 monthly until total is reached)

Silver- A one-time gift of $2,500 (or $50 monthly until total is reached)

Gold – A one-time gift of $25,000 (or $500 monthly until the total is reached)

Diamond – Please contact the SAR Foundation to arrange for a $250,000 gift

Donors receive a lapel pin like the one pictured above. Donors at the Gold and Diamond Levels will also be recognized with an appropriate naming opportunity in the SAR Education Center and Museum. Call **Phil Bloyd** in the SAR Foundation Office at **(502) 315-1777** to pledge to the Liberty Tree Campaign today! For those who need to hold onto their cash, the Founders Circle allows Compatriots to remember the SAR in their estate. Call Phil Bloyd or email him at pbloyd@sar.org for assistance.

The SAR 1776 Campaign, started in 2015, is also available and recognizes donations in the amount of $1,776 and fractions and multiples thereof. The SAR has a story to tell, and your continued support will allow the SAR to champion our rich heritage for all to appreciate by building The SAR Education Center and Museum.

The Printing and Protection of the Declaration of Independence
An American Story of Ink, Risk, and Revolution

Today, the signed copy of the Declaration of Independence stands on display in the rotunda of the National Archives Museum, sealed in a gold-plated titanium frame, with bulletproof glass and cutting-edge safeguards against light and moisture. It remains under constant surveillance by armed guards and security cameras. Every night it is lowered into a vault (along with the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights which are considered the other essential founding documents of the United States). Arguably no other texts in the world receive the same level of protection. Yet this has been a relatively newfound manner of display and storage. Prior to arriving at the National Archives, the "signed parchment" Declaration of Independence survived numerous trials and tribulations, including war, fire, casual mistreatment, insects and the ravages of time. But what is the story of its care and custody during the years immediately following its passage, printing, and then during the Revolutionary War years and thereafter?



The National Archives Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom where, between two murals, the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and other American founding documents are publicly exhibited

That story begins on a humid July day in 1776. In the heart of Philadelphia, the air was heavy with anticipation and revolution. Inside the Pennsylvania State House, known today as Independence Hall, fifty-six delegates from thirteen rebellious colonies reached a momentous decision: to sever all political ties with Great Britain. With ink, courage, and conviction, they had created a new nation's birth certificate—the Declaration of Independence.

But declaring independence was not enough. The world had to know it. And that meant the words had to be printed—boldly, legibly, and swiftly.

The Printer: John Dunlap

Enter John Dunlap, a 29-year-old Irish immigrant and the official printer to the Continental Congress. On the night of July 4th, 1776, clerk Charles Thomson handed Dunlap a handwritten copy of the approved Declaration. Dunlap set to work immediately in his print shop just a few blocks from the State House. By the morning of July 5th, Dunlap had printed an estimated 200 copies of what would come to be known as the "Dunlap Broadsides"—the first printed version of the Declaration of Independence. These poster-sized sheets were rushed across the colonies and even across the Atlantic. They were read aloud in town squares, posted in taverns, and delivered to military commanders and foreign diplomats. The words were clear: the colonies were now "free and independent States."

Protection Amid Danger

These printed copies were more than ink on paper—they were treasonous acts in the eyes of the British Crown. Possessing or distributing a copy of the Declaration could be punishable by death. To protect the document and its message, patriots took extraordinary measures. Couriers such as express rider Israel Bissell and others risked ambush and imprisonment to carry the broadsides from Massachusetts to the Carolinas. In New York, General George Washington ordered a reading of the Declaration to the Continental Army, stirring men to tear down a statue of King George III in a moment of rebellious triumph.
The original handwritten document, drafted by Thomas Jefferson and finalized by Congress, was entrusted to Charles Thomson, the Secretary of the Continental Congress, until a formal, engrossed copy could be produced for signing.

That copy—the one eventually signed by most of the delegates—was penned on parchment by Timothy Matlack, a skilled calligrapher, and signed on August 2, 1776. This engrossed version was also hidden and protected throughout the Revolutionary War, moved with the Congress from city to city as British troops advanced.

A Symbol Survives

As the war raged on, copies of the Declaration were secreted away in attics, trunks, and behind false walls. Many were lost. Only 26 Dunlap Broadsides are known to survive today. [Continued on Page 20]

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The signed parchment itself faced its own perilous journey—evacuated from Philadelphia in 1777, hidden in York, Pennsylvania, and later carried through cities like Baltimore and Princeton. Following a stop back in Philadelphia from 1790 to 1800, the Declaration of Independence was taken by boat to Washington, D.C., the newly-built capital, where it has remained for all but a few years ever since.

As the National Archives points out, it was probably rolled and unrolled many times during its years on the road, thereby starting a process in which gradually became more creased, stained, ripped and faded. There is even a mysterious faint handprint on the parchment's lower left side.

It eventually made its way to the State Department and housed in various government buildings until the closing stages of the War of 1812, when British soldiers marched on Washington, D.C. Just prior to the City going up in flames, State Dept. Clerk Stephen Pleasonton stuffed the Declaration and other important documents into linen bags and whisked them off to Leesburg, VA. There they remained safe at a private dwelling until returning to D.C. the following month.

Again, the Declaration "bounced around" various office buildings, most notably the old Patent Office (now the National Portrait Gallery) where it was exposed (according to Amy Lubick, Senior Conservator at the National Archives) to "high light levels and extreme temperature and humidity fluctuations" which took a significant toll on the ink and general condition. Because of concern over its deterioration, the State Department took it down in the 1890's and locked it away in a steel safe. But it was returned to public display in the 1920's after being transferred to the Library of Congress.

In December 1941 just after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Declaration was rushed to Fort Knox in Ky, where it stayed until 1944. While there, two Harvard-affiliated conservators undertook the first documented attempt to mend it. [Additional restoration work would later take place in 2003.]

Subsequently, it was moved back to the Library of Congress after WWII. However, although there were plenty of steps taken to try and protect it, light and air pollution, humidity and the presence of insects still remained a problem. So, in 1952, under military escort, the Declaration, Constitution and Bill of Rights were moved to their current home at the National Archives. Our Declaration of Independence now rests in a sealed, argon-filled case.

Legacy of Ink and Fire

The Declaration of Independence was not just written—it was broadcast, defended, hidden, and cherished.

The act of printing it gave the Revolution its voice.

The act of protecting it has given that voice permanence.

In the end, it was not simply the bold words of Jefferson, nor the signatures of Adams and Franklin and the other founding fathers, that made history—but the courage of printers, riders, and patriots who ensured those words could be read, remembered, and revered.

From the inky hands of John Dunlap to the sealed chambers of the Archives, the Declaration endures as both a document and a daring act of rebellion.

It is more than a piece of paper.

It is the visual representation of the soul of our nation, born in ink, pen and parchment, and protected by resolve.



In March, 2025, President Donald J. Trump requested that a copy of the Declaration of Independence be placed on display in the Oval Office of the White House.

If You Are Interested . . .

FLSSAR Archives Committee

The Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is recruiting experienced technologists and passionate Compatriots to serve on the FLSSAR Archive Committee.

Based on the current charter, the Archives Committee serves the following purposes:

- To gather, sort, collate, and index official and other significant documents and artifacts of the Florida Society, and similar materials from individual chapters, compatriots, and related organizations, of significance to the Society.
- To establish and maintain a secure and accessible repository of these documents and artifacts. To publicize to the members of the Society the existence of the Archives, as necessary.
- To store, catalogue, and preserve these materials; to maintain a master catalogue and index.
- To keep its index, catalogue, and the materials in its custody available for reference and study.

If this is something that interests you or you have ideas on how we would ensure the successful implementation of these goals, consider serving on this Committee by reaching out to Committee Chair Steve Hohman (Withlacoochee Chapter) at shohman@withsar.org or by calling 352-738-7838 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

FLSSAR Technology Committee

The Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is sending out a call for experienced technologists who want to serve on the FLSSAR Technology Committee. This committee will meet to discuss and implement an updated website for the state, make recommendations for improved communications through email, and help chapters embrace new technologies.

Some skills that could be helpful to this committee include:

- Recent experience in website development using well-known platforms such as Club Express, WordPress, HTML5, etc.
- Recent experience managing an enterprise email and communications platform such as Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace.
- Graphics design experience in platforms such as Adobe Creative Suite or similar platforms.
- Video editing experience in platforms such as Davinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro, or similar software packages.

For more information, contact Committee Chair Steve Hohman (Withlacoochee Chapter) at shohman@withsar.org or by calling 352-738-7838 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

FLSSAR Youth Video Contest Committee

Would you like to serve on what could easily be the best (and easiest) way to connect with Florida's public schools and youth? **The Sons of the American Revolution's newest youth contest, the Youth Video Contest, is looking for Compatriots to serve on the Youth Video Contest Committee.**

All across Florida, school systems publish the success of their Adobe certification programs (which include Premiere Pro), their in-house video production facilities, and even their internal newscasts. Kids these days will record anything and get millions of "clicks" in the process. All we have to do is get them to do what they are already doing and relate it to the American Revolution. No memorization. No writing essays. No checklist of achievements. Just be creative and make it factual, based on references you submit with your entry.

If you want to be a part of the newest youth contest in the SAR, reach out to Committee Chair Steve Hohman (Withlacoochee Chapter) at shohman@withsar.org or by calling 352-738-7838 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Chapter Web Site



Compatriot Lawrence J. Hughes has now taken over duties as the Caloosa Chapter Webmaster, and the website is available at https://caloosasar.org/. It is also available through a link on the Florida Society web page. (www.flssar.org) where you would click on the "Chapters" tab, then "Caloosa." You may also be interested in visiting the National Society Sons of the American Revolution webpage: www.sar.org which includes a "members only" section and access to the SAR Merchandise Store.

Larry is anxious to hear from you and would be grateful for any suggestions you might have to help him continue the fine tradition established by the prior Webmasters and make the Webpage everything you would like it to be. His email address is: lawrencejhughes@gmail.com.

Chapter Facebook Page

Many thanks to our Compatriot Albert Myers for keeping our Facebook page up to date with current activities in the last few years. Newsletter Editor John Maier has volunteered to take over these duties. The following link to the page can be entered into your web browser's navigation bar (some recipients of the newsletter may be able to click on the link):

https://www.facebook.com/CaloosaChapteroftheSAR

The Caloosa SAR Facebook page strives to provide the most current and timely information and images covering Chapter programs and local happenings. If members have items of interest, John Maier welcomes email submission of photos and information. Send it to jmaier@wisclaw.com.

Our mission is to transport local Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice. We were established on September 25th, 2013 to bring this program to the Collier and Lee County areas in Southwest Florida. Six short weeks after forming, a remarkably successful inaugural flight (Mission 1) took place on November 9th, 2013. To date we have transported over 1200 WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans on this deeply emotional and well-deserved trip. Support for these trips is provided by volunteers and is at no cost to the veterans. Top priority is given to our most senior heroes.

DATE FOR MISSION 29 (FALL 2025): OCTOBER 18, 2025



We would love to hear from you. Please contact us using the information provided below for any questions about signing up, volunteering or anything else.

PO Box 8001
Naples, FL 34101
(239) 777-9295
info@collierhonorflight.org

Next Flight: Mission 29
Has Been Scheduled For October 18, 2025
If You Or Your Vet Are Interested In Being Part Of This Next (Or Future) Missions
As An Honored Participant, Or As A Guardian Or Volunteer
See Our Website And Sign Up Now!

The SAR Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating, and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

The SAR Pledge

We, the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifice, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.